



NPCK APRIL 2018,E-NEWSLETTER

THE 2018 NATIONAL POTATO CONFERENCE IS HERE!

The preparation for this year's National Potato conference is in top gear. The event which brings together all potato stakeholders from all over the country is used as a platform to create awareness of new technologies, demonstrate innovations in the subsector and to provide networking opportunities for stakeholders in the potato sub sector.

The theme is : **"The big four Agenda: Enhancing PotatoAgribusinesses for improved food and nutrition security"**

To back the exhibitions, plenary sessions will be held where the following topics on current trends in the sector will be discussed.

- i. Technologies and innovations in potato subsector*
- ii. Availability and seed potato distribution*
- iii. Policy and regulatory framework*
- iv. Contribution of potatoes to food and nutrition security and income*

Potato value chain actors will showcase their products in the open field. It is here where business to business interaction will take place.

Booking of space for exhibitions at the event is ongoing through the: tmuchiri@npck.org or 0799 739578. The fair will be held on 24th -25th of May at KALRO headquarters in Loresho, you are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Cropping systems and irrigation technologies field day at Egerton university on 29th June 2018
2. South rift region potato fair at Baraka agricultural training college Molo on 31st august 2018
3. National potato conference and trade fair on 24th and 25th may 2018

SEED POTATO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON NPCK WEBSITE

Availability and accessibility of quality seed potato among potato farmers remains a challenge in the industry. The Council being a center of reference by various stakeholders has gone further to avail seed information on its website. The seed information page is updated weekly and allows for specific search of

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2018

Available potato seeds from registered seed potato merchants for the month of May 2018 are as highlighted in the table. For more information, farmers and customers can reach the companies through the contacts provided.

Seed company	Variety available	Location	Contacts
ADC Molo	➤ <i>Kenya Karibu</i>	Nakuru Molo	0721 202 565
Kisima farm	➤ <i>Panamera, Voyager</i> ➤ <i>Sigatta, Unica</i> ➤ <i>Asante and Dutch robijin</i>	Timau Meru	0716 968 766
Syngenta E.A/ Charvi Investment	✓ <i>Jelly</i> ✓ <i>Rumba</i>	Nakuru Mau Narok	0729 347 163 0724 739 739
Agrico E.A	➤ <i>Markies</i> ➤ <i>Destiny</i> ➤ <i>Manitou</i>	Nakuru	0741 788 380
Baraka agricultural college	✓ <i>Shangi</i>	Nakuru Molo	0724 775 769
Stockman Rozen	➤ <i>Cuttings of Unica</i> ➤ <i>Taurus, Dutch robjin</i> ➤ <i>Konjo, Shangi</i> ➤ <i>Kenya Mpya</i> ➤ <i>Desiree and Asante</i>	Naivasha	0720 603 990
Stockman Rozen	✓ <i>Minitubers of Unica</i> ✓ <i>Dutch robjin,</i> ✓ <i>Konjo</i> ✓ <i>Tigoni and Shangi</i>	Naivasha	0720 603 990
		Nakuru	

varieties of choice. NPCK appreciates the efforts by seed producers in multiplication, distribution and availing of information for regular update. To access the seed information page click [here](#)

HARNESSING IDEAS TO ENRICH BUNGOMA COUNTY POTATO STRATEGY

After national government declaration on the big four agenda, the new Agriculture transformation and Growth strategy (ATGS), and after prioritization of Potatoes as one of the flagship crops, Bungoma county is preparing to position itself to align its priorities in this regard.

Spearheaded by the County government and National Potato Council of Kenya, Stakeholders meeting to review the Bungoma strategy was held at Mabanga ATC in Bungoma County. In support to this agenda is GIZ and County Agriculture department.



Charvi Investment	✓ <i>Shangi Clean seed</i>	Mau Narok	0724 739 739
Julius Kandie	✓ <i>Shangi clean seed</i>	Uasin Gishu	0720 874 575
David Maingi	✓ <i>Asante clean seed</i>	Meru	0722 816 281
Kimingi farm	✓ <i>Shangi clean seed</i>	Kimingi farm	0700 769 780

FARMER FIELD AND BUSINESS SCHOOLS ENTERS ITS THIRD SEASON

GIZ- NuSePPP (a project commissioned by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development) is currently in the third season of farmer capacity building using the farmer field and business school methodology. This approach is based on the premise of participatory learning and training where learning is based on generation of new knowledge from current farmers' experiences through joint decision making. Currently, there are 98 FFBS (44 staff led & 54 Farmer led) in different stages of implementation in the project areas of Nyandarua and Bungoma, with total reach of 1900 farmers.

Several private companies including Revisoil, Syngenta, Baraka fertilizer, AGRICHEM, ADS Western were represented in the strategy meeting. [Read more](#)

VIAZI SOKO PLATFORM CONTINUES TO GROW

NPCK's viazi soko, a platform that was developed to enhance exchange of information on seed and ware potato marketing and also to disseminate advisories messages from NPCK and partners, continues to grow. As at 1st April 2018, 35,190 farmers had been registered to the platform. This is an increase of 22,223 from the initial figure of 12,567 in the beginning of 2018. The number is expected to have reached 50,000 by end of May. The platform encourages buying and selling of potatoes in Kilograms. Upon collection, the potatoes are packed in 50 kg's bags and an instant payment is made through the Safaricom connected farmer system which makes the process safer and efficient. Stakeholders and partners are increasingly using the platform to disseminate short advisory messages to potato farmers.

FARMER GROUPS SUPPORT

The NPCK provides continued support to potato farmer groups and cooperatives under a partnership framework that offers training on better cropping systems, seed selection, harvesting, post-harvest handling and marketing. This kicks off by carrying out Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) of the registered groups to identify areas of weakness which informs intervention



Above: Farmers preparing their FFBS demo plot in Mt. Elgon Sub-county

The FFBS approach recognizes rural innovations as a complex, multifaceted process which requires balanced partnerships of multiple stakeholders with interdisciplinary and inter institutional team. NuSePPP has partnered with the County Government of Nyandarua and Bungoma who provide the technical staff to implement the training while International Potato Centre (CIP) will manage innovation farms. KALRO Tigoni is entrusted with conducting master training and backstop trainers as well as input providers like Toyota Tshusho & BASF.

DEVELOPMENT OF ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY POTATO STRATEGY

by the Council, development and business partners.

A number of groups have benefited from collective marketing of ware potatoes as well as collective purchase of farm inputs. Consolidating requirements of group members into single order reduces delivery costs of inputs and services allowing discounted prices.

BENEATH THE SKIN OF THE POTATOES

Did you ever ask yourself what is beneath and on the skin of the potatoes? Just before I tell you that, note that Potato is the second most important food in Kenya and no wonder it has entered in the big four Agenda! It is grown by about 800,000 smallholder farmers, employs 2.7 million actors along the marketing channels and contributes over Kshs 50 billion to the economy. Potato provides carbohydrate and potassium needed for you to perform at your best. It is more energy-packed than any other popular vegetable and has more potassium than a banana. Potatoes are naturally fat and cholesterol free and low in sodium. Potatoes are also rich in vitamin C while the edible skin is a good source of potassium. Being rich in potassium and low in sodium, its consumption may reduce the risk of high blood pressure and stroke.

Consider including potatoes in your meal every day to fuel your body and brain throughout the day!

KEVIAN AND GIZ ENTER INTO A NEW COOPERATION

NPCK has partnered with Elgeyo Marakwet County to develop the County potato strategy. In a meeting held on 20th April 2018 at Iten, a team constituting of County officers and NPCK was tasked to review 2014-2018 Elgeyo Marakwet Potato strategies to capture the recent challenges and opportunities in potato value chain in the County while aligning it to national potato strategy, Agricultural Transformation Strategy and vision 2030. The strategy is intended to harmonize the activities of potatoes, provide road maps towards addressing opportunities and challenges unique to Elgeyo Marakwet County. The strategy will recognize roles played by different development partners and stakeholders and provide a framework for implementation of identified initiatives under the leadership of County government and with the identified partners.



PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA SEED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITY (PASTTA)

PASTTA is a project under the Global Development Alliance between USAID and Syngenta Foundation, which was launched to improve farmer access to improved quality seed varieties for

In January 2018 the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Ireland based Potato Seed Company IPM and KEVIAN, the popular Kenyan food processing Company currently investing in a Potato processing plant, entered into cooperation whose main objective is to help improve the incomes of small scale Potato Farmers through professionalization of Potato farming. The cooperation aims at building capacity of small scale Potato Farmers in order to help them improve productivities through adoption of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and access to quality Seed Potato through Kirinyaga Seed (KEVIAN/IPM Joint Venture). This will ensure improved productivity and enhanced farmers' incomes.

The cooperation also targets improved market linkage for the potato farmers. By KEVIAN investing in a processing plant, it will ensure that farmers access direct markets for produce which for a long time has been a major challenge to many farmers. The cooperation further targets Nyandarua County.

the crops they need. The project purposes to support public to private technology transfer with focus of adding value to feed the future investments. The objective of the project is to develop and implement models for the delivery of improved seed varieties (including from public breeding sources and building South-South links) through private channels. In Kenya, the project will focus on tomato, Sweet Pepper, Brassica/Cabbage, Onion, Watermelon, Potato, Soybean and Sorghum. Detailed information will be availed through contacting Syngenta foundation and/or USAID.