



NPCK JUNE 2018,E-NEWSLETTER

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR POTATO REGULATIONS

During the 2018 National Potato conference organized by NPCK and held on 24th and 25th May at KALRO Headquarters, Loresho; the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation through the Principal Secretary Crops, Dr. Richard Leresian Lesiyampe, announced that by 1st July 2018, potatoes would be sold by weight and packed in maximum 50 kilograms packaging. He launched the public participation for stakeholder's involvement in the process of developing regulations that would support his pronouncement. Agriculture Food Authority (AFA) and NPCK resorted to countrywide public participation exercise on 14 potato-growing counties and three major consuming cities i.e. Nairobi, Kisumu and Mombasa. This began with County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) Agriculture meeting held on 8th June 2018, which was organized by the Council of Governors. The main aim of the meeting was to lobby for support of county governments in organizing and mobilizing stakeholders for public participation for the support of Irish potato regulations development and implementation. Mr. Wachira from NPCK and Mr. Leonard Kubok from AFA gave a brief history and the facts on importance of potato regulations and the urgency of undertaking the public participation process for the same in 14 major Potato producing Counties and 3 major consuming cities. The CECMs embraced and supported the process by agreeing to work together to ensure development and implementation of the potato regulations.

The public participations took place on 18th to 22nd June 2018 as follows;

DATE	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3	TEAM 4
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- South Rift Region Potato Fair on 31st August 2018 at Baraka Agricultural training college Nakuru County, Molo
- Meru County Potato business to business (B2B) and industry analysis meeting 14th August 2018, at ALBA hotel Meru 8.30a.m -4.00 p.m.

POTATO FARMERS CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM VIAZI SOKO PLATFORM

Viazi Soko platform is an online and SMS based platform that allows potato farmers to get information on certified seed and market ware potatoes. NPCK and partners use the platform to send advisory messages to the farmers. Currently, it has 36,962 registered farmers, 21 seed producers and 55 market outlets. Among the beneficiaries of Viazi Soko is Mr. Stephen Mbaya, a potato farmer in Meru County. Being a registered member in the system, he was able to query for seed potato information whereby he procured certified seeds of Sherekea variety from a certified seed producer registered in the platform.

18/6/2018	Uasin Gishu	Bungoma	Bomet	Meru
19/6/2018	Nandi	Trans Nzoia	Nakuru	Laikipia
20/6/2018	Kisumu	E/Marakwet	Nyandarua	Nyeri
21/6/2018	Narok	Kiambu	Travel to Mombasa	Travel to T/Taveta
22/6/2018	Nairobi Stakeholders Meeting		Mombasa	Taita Taveta
04/7/2018	National Consultative and Validation Forum, Nairobi			

The results obtained from the public participation process indicated that almost all the stakeholders involved (traders, producers, transporters, processors and traders) were in agreement with the proposed regulations.

The feedback from the public participation was consolidated by a team of experts during a retreat held at Agricultural Training Center (ATC) in Machakos County while a validation workshop was held on 4th July at KALRO Headquarters in Loresho. Implementation issues will be addressed after Gazetment of the regulations.

TRAINING ON BUDGET MAKING PROCESSES AND CAADP PRINCIPLES

The NPCK through the support from Africa Lead held farmers training on policy and budget making process and CAAPP principles during the National Potato Conference and Trade Fair 2018. Fifty Two farmers drawn from different farmer groups in the counties were trained. They were sensitized on their obligation and constitutional rights to participate in the budget making process both at County and National level. This right is anchored in the constitution Art 201 of public finance principles and public finance management Act of 2012, sec 125, (2) of public participation. It was evident that most farmers had no prior knowledge on both the budget and policy making process, how, when and why they should participate. The budget making processes happen at different steps and timing each producing different document. The County Executive Committee Member for finance issues a Budget Circular by every 30th August that



A happy Mr. Mbaya with NPCK value chain Officer Kennedy Muiruri, after a successful purchase of his potatoes

The farmer used the same platform to market ware potatoes to a Naivasha based exporter of red-skinned potatoes. The payment was effected through Mpesa. The whole process included pricing by weight, direct market linkage and convenient payment. Other individuals and groups that have benefited from Viazi Soko platform this month include Green Silver cooperative, Kirimara Potato growers association, Merigi Vision, among others.

POTATO STAKEHOLDER FORUM IN NAKURU COUNTY

gives;

- Key timelines for various activities
- Procedures for review and projection of revenues and expenditures
- Key policy areas to be taken into consideration
- Procedures for public consultation
- Format for budget documentation.



A group of farmers during the training by the NPCK Policy, Lobby, and Advocacy officer Ms. Sarah Kuria

On 22nd June 2018, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in charge of Agriculture Dr. Immaculate Maina convened Nakuru County potato stakeholders meeting at Egerton University. Stakeholders in the potato value chain present included KEPHIS, Egerton University, NPCK, Food Agriculture Organization, County Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade and Cooperative, Jubilee Insurance, Techno serve, SNV, Fresh Care E.A Ltd and starlight cooperative. The objective of the meeting was to discuss synergy among partners in order to improve efficiency and service delivery in the County. Other key issues discussed included how to address the current shortage of quality seed potato and marketing inefficiencies. The county government promised to support seed potato production through collaboration and utilization of big idle lands owned by public institutions such as ADC, KALRO and Egerton University to produce seed potato for the County. The County government will also allocate some funds to boost potato marketing through establishment of storage facilities and collection centers.

NPCK CONTINUES TO SUPPORT FARMER GROUPS

One of the initiatives by NPCK of supporting potato farmers to improve potato productivity and incomes include organizing farmers into groups and cooperatives and enabling them collectively source for inputs and services, and aggregate potatoes for marketing. The success of the group approach depends on a number of factors such as good governance, regular meetings, and

The public participations are held by various County Departments and ministries such as Ministry of Agriculture during budget estimates and at County budget committee level through public hearing. The public forums on budget making are publicized in National gazette by the County executive committee and also announced in various forums such as Churches. Farmers are also made aware of their role in achieving the CAADP principles through improved use of quality inputs and adoption of new ways of commercialized farming such as irrigation, mechanized farming, soil testing and use of quality seed potato.

SEED POTATO PRODUCTION AS A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Potato is the second most important food crop after maize in Kenya; it grown by roughly 800,000 smallholder farmers who are distributed in the 13 major potato-growing counties. More than 50 potato varieties are grown but only a few of these are widely distributed in the country. The dominance of certain varieties shifts over time due to the specific uses and seed availability. By 2014, total annual potato production was estimated to be 2.9 Million MT worth about 50 billion Kenyan shillings (USAID-KAVES, 2014). Average potato production in Kenya is estimated at 7 to 10 MT per hectare compared to a global average yield of 17 MT per hectare (FAOSTAT, 2014). Low productivity in Kenya is partly attributed to limited seed related challenges and sub-optimal use of inputs. The informal seed system currently dominates the sub-sector supplying about 95% of the seed. However, both the formal and informal seed systems supply less than 5 percent of the National Seed potato requirement (Kaguongo et al., 2010). This is attributed to limited seed production, lack of suitable varieties and insufficient distribution network for certified and clean seed potato. Demand of potatoes has increased due to the rising urban cities, diversification of potato utilization, and the shift to potato production as rotational crop for maize. The Seed industry is thus expected to grow with increase in both the local and imported varieties. Certified seed potato is not sold by Agro dealers like other crops due to the bulkiness but sold by multipliers from their farms. Currently about 10 seed potato multipliers have been registered by KEPHIS with many counties having either one or no local seed potato multiplier. A kilo of certified seed potato is sold between 50- 75 Ksh depending on the generation. With Optimum production, seed potato production can be the Next Gold mine for any investor. To become a seed multiplier one needs to register with KEPHIS and have

having a production plan in all seasons. To support and encourage the initiative, NPCK is working with input and service providers in helping such groups to access farm inputs and services more efficiently and at lower costs. This is achievable through bulk purchases, which gives a higher bargaining power at purchase point as well as reaping the benefits of economies of scale. During March-July season, NPCK supported Green silver cooperative from Nyandarua to access capital from Tower Sacco at 1% interest rate per month. Using the loan, the cooperative invested in more than 10 acres of potato production. In addition, Kirimara potato growers (Meru) and Nandi Potato Growers (Nandi) have collectively procured 20 tons of certified seed potato from Syngenta East Africa and 10 tons of clean Shangi seed from Kimingi Farm respectively. NPCK will continue supporting more farmer groups to access quality seed potatoes, fertilizer, agrochemicals, finance, insurance, and mechanization.

INVITATION TO MAKE USE OF THE NPCK BULK SMS SERVICES

NPCK continues to find more ways of enhancing communication among the potato subsector players in line with its strategic objective of capacity building of the various chain actors through information management. Through its website, print publications and adverts, the Council invites sector players to utilize its SMS based platform to pass on information to potato farmers. The nature of the message can be an advertisement, announcement, advisory e.t.c that is

sufficient land for multiplication, about 10 ha and above, while to be an Out-grower one needs to have an agreement with a registered Seed merchant eg KALRO, ADC etc. During production of certified seed potato a seed multiplier or out-grower apply for inspection services from KEPHIS after which KEPHIS provide a label as prove of certification and quality. To become a seed merchant, please contact KEPHIS more details can be found [here](#)

NUTRITION SENSITIVE POTATO PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT

The Nutrition-Sensitive Potato Partnership Project (NuSePPP) funded by GIZ which commenced in 2016 held a steering committee meeting on June 20th 2018 to present progress made in last one year. The project aims to support smallholder farmers, increase their potato yields and improve nutritional status of malnourished people in Nyandarua and Bungoma County. The project has three components: Agriculture Extension, Nutrition Advisory and Sector Coordination. The partners implementing the project include KALRO, CIP, NPCK, County Department Agriculture and Health of Nyandarua and Bungoma. In attendance were CECM of both Nyandarua and Bungoma Counties.



The NuSePPP Steering Committee members

factual and not exceed 160 characters. Currently the platform has about 40,000 subscribers mainly farmers from the potato growing areas. The system can be configured to target recipients in a specific County as desired by the sender and/or filter the number of recipients reached. The individual or company (farm input provider/company, agricultural NGOs, government institutions or farmer groups) wishing to communicate to farmers submits the message to the Council which then uploads into the system for distribution. For more information kindly get in touch with the Potato council.

PARTNERSHIP IN ADDRESSING SEED SHORTAGE AND WARE POTATO MARKETING

Smallholder Potato Farming has continued to contribute greatly to the Kenyan economy and specifically on improvement of Food and Nutrition security. However, access to certified seeds and better markets has been a key challenge to the smallholder farmers. Recently, the GIZ, IPM and KEVIAN has created a partnership that seeks to address these challenges through improving Small Scale Potato Farmer Business through increased access to quality seed potato and enhanced market access through farmer organization to undertake collective marketing. IPM through Kirinyaga Seed has started production of the first batch of Dutch Robjin seeds, expected to be available to farmers for the August planting season. 300 farmers have been profiled for piloting of collective marketing in November and December. These farmers will be trained on collective

It was reported that 3,690 farmers have been trained since April 2017, using the Farmer Field and Business School (FFBS) approach. KALRO-Tigoni had conducted ToT training for 62 WAOs and Sub-county Crop Officers (SCCOs). During the meeting, KALRO reported positive feedback regarding FFBS, confirming receipt of well-packaged information resulting from three ToT trainings conducted over the one-year period. The CIP also reported on the establishment of innovation sites and provision of apical stem cuttings to 12 FFBSs.

On nutrition advisory, 13,605 people were reported to have been trained on nutrition education since November 2017 in the frame of Community Nutrition Dialogues. Further, the importance of coordinating all actors along the potato value chain was emphasized. By support of NuSePPP the development and launching of the Nyandarua County Potato, strategy was completed in 2017 while the Bungoma County Strategy is still on Progress.[Read more](#)

THE LAUNCH OF THE POTATO PRODUCTION HANDBOOK

The potato production handbook was launched during the National Potato Conference 2018. The handbook provides insights into the ware potato production, pest and disease management, and market requirements. It also provides alternative approaches of some practices that may require different considerations such as land preparation, planting methods, seed rates and timing of agronomic activities like earthing and Dehauling.

The hard book was developed by a potato training committee which was coordinated by NPCK and comprises of key stakeholders in the value chain namely: Agriculture Food Authority (AFA), State Department of Agriculture, County Governments, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organization (KALRO), Pest Control Product Board (PCPB), University of Nairobi (UON), International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), International Potato Center (CIP), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and SNV Netherlands Development Organisation.[Read more](#)

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2018

marketing aspects and later linked to a Processor (KEVIAN) for contract farming. Plans are underway to bring more processors and bulk buyers on board for fresh potato markets to help widen the scope of linkage and expand market access.

FARMERS TRAINING ON CROPPING AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY AT EGERTON UNIVERSITY

Egerton University in collaboration with NPCK and other partners organized a farmers training on cropping and irrigation systems technology.



Participants of Nakuru County Potato stakeholders forum

Available potato seeds from registered seed potato merchants for the month of July 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
Kisima farm	<i>Voyager, Panamera, Challenger, Unica Sherekea, and Dutch robijn</i>	Timau Meru	0721 325 269
Syngenta E.A/Charvi Investment	<i>Jelly</i>	Nakuru Mau Narok	07293471630 724 739 739
Agrico E.A	<i>Markies, Destiny, Manitou</i>	Nakuru	0741 788 380
Stockman Rozen	<i>Cuttings of ; Unica, Taurus, Dutch robijn, Konjo, Shanghi, Kenya Mpya, Desiree and Asante</i>	Naivasha	0720 603 990

AGRICULTURAL POLICY PRIVATE SECTOR CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP

The Agriculture Industry Network (AIN) in collaboration with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) held the Agricultural Policy Private Sector Consultative workshop on Friday, 8th June 2018. The main objectives of the workshop was to review the Agricultural Policy draft (2016) by identifying existing gaps within the document and providing remedial measures and concurrence with the proposed policy provisions. Development of action plan that would state how private sector would do further engagement to advocate for amendments on the policy was reviewed. The Cabinet Secretary has constituted a Committee comprising the Ministry officials and the private sector to help finalize the review of the Agricultural Policy and provide direction on the Sub sector policies and strategies.

The event was held on 22nd June 2018 at Egerton University with the objective of addressing challenges of seasonality, low market prices and low technology adoption. Recently, climate change has led to unpredictable weather conditions, which can be solved, by adoption and use of irrigation systems. During the conference, NPCK was given an opportunity to educate farmers on collective input sourcing and marketing of potatoes.

