



NPCK OCTOBER 2017 E-NEWSLETTER

TRAINING ON NUTRITION-SENSITIVE POTATO PARTNERSHIP PROJECT TAKES SHAPE

The Nutrition-Sensitive Potato Partnership Project (NuSePPP) implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) has operationalized its Nutrition Component. The objective of the component is to improve the Individual Diet Diversity Score (IDDS) of 15,000 people living in the potato growing regions of Bungoma and Nyandarua County. In September and October 2017, a total of 62 community health extension workers and 700 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) have been trained.



(Left) Kevina Wangai of NuSePPP explains a point to Community Health Volunteers during a workshop at ATC Njabini in Nyandarua County (Right) A Community Health Volunteer washes her hands at an improvised tap as her colleagues look on

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUNGOMA COUNTY POTATO STRATEGY (CPS) PROGRESS

Bungoma County Government has partnered with NPCK and other key partners in developing the County Potato Strategy. A technical team comprising of Bungoma County officers, NPCK and other key partners has developed the first draft document that provides the structure and key issues of the strategy. As a key stage in its development, a stakeholders' meeting will be held in Bungoma during the month of November 2017. Farmers, inputs providers, traders, processors, regulatory agents, Ministry of Agriculture, development partners and other stakeholders will be expected to contribute to the process. The participants will analyze the original draft and come up with appropriate interventions and innovations while aligning the whole document to the National Potato Strategy, County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) and vision 2030.

POTATO STORAGE AT FARM LEVEL

One of the challenges facing potato production in

The training is based on a handbook with topics such as nutrition in a life cycle, diet diversification, nutrient conservation during food preservation and cooking, Food hygiene and safety; and household food production (kitchen gardening technologies). After the training, the 700 CHVs will be expected to conduct dialogues in their communities which will empower local people with new knowledge on nutrition with special emphasis being placed on the potential utilization of the main crop potato. At the same time, kitchen gardening technologies and cooking demonstrations will be conducted while recipes will be shared.

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2017

The table below summarizes availability of seed potatoes from registered seed potato merchants for the month of November 2017.

It gives details on the current varieties available; location and contacts of each seed producer. For more information, customers can get in touch with the companies through the contacts provided.

| Seed Company | Varieties available | Location | Contacts |
|--------------|--|-------------|------------|
| Kisima farm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherekea • Dutch robijn • Taurus • Voyager • Challenger • Unica | Meru | 0716968766 |
| | | Timau | |
| KALRO Tigoni | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shangii • Unica • Dutch robijn | Limuru | 0712456653 |
| ADC Molo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tigoni • Dutch Robijn | Nakuru Molo | 0721202565 |

Kenya is low investment in storage. This has affected stability of prices and supply during glut and scarcity periods. Consequently, the need to address this gap in the industry has attracted several actors and development partners, notably the IFDC, Techno-serve etc. NPCK supported Groups such as Green Silver Cooperative and Tunza Afya SHG (Nyandarua County), Kirimara Potato Growers and Marathi Potato Growers (Meru County) as well as the Marakwet Highland Potato Farmers Association (E/Marakwet) have benefitted from the storage interventions at farmer group level.



(Marathi Potato growers in Meru county getting trained in front of their cold storage facility)

The initiative brings together the partner(s) and farmer groups to co-invest hence encourage ownership, allow aggregation and boost supply of potatoes to markets in a consistent manner. The third quarter of 2017 saw Tunza Afya SHG filling

| | | | |
|----------------|--|-------------------|------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minitubers for Dutch Robijn, Shangi and Sherekea | | |
| Gene Biotech | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shangi | Kajiado Isinya | 0739532993 |
| Stockman Rozen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apical potato cuttings of Shangi, Unica, Kojo, Dutch Robjyn, Kenya Mpya, Asante, Sherekea • Minitubers of Unica, Dutch Robijn and Konjo | Naivasha | 0720603990 |

POTATO MARKETING AT A GLANCE

The last three months experienced a high supply of potatoes and consequently relatively low market prices. However, October marked the end of this year's potato glut season, with prices steadily increasing from the second week of the month. The onset of short rains made it difficult for harvesting and transportation of the crop to the market and this has contributed to scarcity and higher prices. Through its market linkage initiative, NPCK has linked several farmer groups from Molo and Ol-Kalou areas to the market. The initiative targets organized farmer groups as well as individual large-scale farmers. [Read more](#)

POTATO TRACEABILITY SYSTEM FOR QUALITY POTATO MARKETING

Driven by concerns about food safety, quality, authenticity and reliability of information along the entire supply chain, traceability for the agricultural produce has become increasingly important and a requirement in food safety and quality regulations. Traceability is thus a means to create confidence, trust and sustainability in produce trade.

Traceability of ware potato is crucial for accessing some lucrative local and international potato markets because of the nutritive and health concerns of end consumers. In Kenya, a Horticultural Traceability System has been successfully piloted for the export products and a pilot for domestic markets is in progress. The Potato subsector has seen the need for a traceability system in improving the quality of the marketed potatoes and promoting the best practices in production and distribution. In turn, this is

its store to its full capacity of 40 tons while Green Silver Cooperative managed to stock 44 tons of Shangi potato variety and waited for prices to rise before offloading into the market. The farm-level storage initiative ensures that market outlets have a reliable supply even in times of scarcity and this leads to farmers expanding their scale of production.

2018 EASTERN AND CENTRAL REGION POTATO FAIR

The County government of Nyeri, in partnership with the NPCK, is planning for the Eastern and Central Regions Potato Fair on **19th January 2018** at the famous Wambugu Agricultural Training Center (ATC) in the County. The theme will be "*Enhancing technologies in Potato value chains for food security and agribusiness.*" The fair will focus on creating awareness for potato varieties, ware and certified seed potato production and marketing, mechanization, good agronomical practices amongst others. The event will provide a good opportunity for input and service providers to show case and interact with farmers and other actors and players in the market. New technologies and innovations will be in display while it will be a good day for the companies in the industry to interact and do businesses.

NPCK's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The seventh NPCK's Annual General Meeting is

expected to build the confidence of the market outlets. [Read more](#)

PARTNERS PLATFORM CREATED

The Potato subsector has experienced tremendous changes in the recent past with many development partners supporting a number of initiatives at different levels of the Value Chain in different counties. This has created the need to promote actors' interface and build synergies to eliminate duplication and concentrate resources in identified initiatives. Consequently, this is expected to increase the impacts of all initiatives. NPCK has embarked on a process of condensing information and centralizing access of the same by all actors through a Partners Platform Page on the NPCK Website. [Read more](#)

STANDARD CHARTERED MARATHON, 2017

The 2017 Standard chartered marathon is set to be held on 26th November 2017. This year, the Potato Council will feature in a more prominent way, as the *Potato Team*. In this year's race, the team will comprise of Development Partners, Processors, staff and board members of NPCK. The team will participate in the 5 km, 10 km and half marathon races. The objective behind the *Potato Team* is to create awareness about the importance of potato as food and cash crop in Kenya. The potato team also targets to give back to the community through "Seeing is believing" initiative in which Standard Chartered bank has partnered with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and leading international eye-care non-governmental organizations to improve access to eye-care. The team also seeks to bring on board more stakeholders in future which will help continue strengthening partnerships in the industry.

THE PUSH FOR 50-KG STANDARDIZED PACKAGING OF POTATOES IS ON COURSE

The implementation of the regulation on maximum 50-kg packaging bag and pricing by weight was challenged in court in 2014. This was done by traders who argued that they were not involved in its development that resulted in enactment of AFFA Act 2013. The Act has since been amended giving the Cabinet Secretary and the State Department of Agriculture the power to guide the maximum weights for each crop through a legal notices. The process of development and gazettelement of a legal notice calls for the participation of stakeholders to provide their inputs/views.

scheduled for **November 30th 2017**. It will be held at **Agricultural Information and Research Center (AIRC)** located at **The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Kabete**. The AGM is an important forum which oversees the operations of the Council and also aids in monitoring and evaluation of its activities. The meeting brings together development partners, stakeholders, farmers, traders and friends of the Council to deliberate and approve the proposed projects, initiatives and budgets.

THE 2017 POTATO MAGAZINE

The Potato Magazine which was due for release in the month of September will now be released this month (November). We regret this delay which has been occasioned by unavoidable circumstances. The magazine is a strategic initiative aimed at creating awareness about the activities of the sub-sector. It covers snap shots of the Industry's events, News, research and development, mechanization, seed technologies and other issues related to potato production, marketing, processing and consumption. The hard copies can be collected from NPCK offices beginning 5th of December 2017 while the soft copies will be available from our website and will also be distributed using our mailing list by 30th November, 2017.

THE NPCK'S BULK SMS SERVICES

The service has been developed to enhance exchange of information on seed and ware potato Production, Marketing and Storage as well as sending advisory messages from NPCK and partners. Currently it has over 3, 679-registered potato farmers and the number is set to accelerate as we adopt a more robust way of recruitment. Partners and stakeholders are requested to use the platform to provide advisory and other useful information to the potato farmers. ***N.B the messages sent to farmers must be factual.***

