



## NPCK NOVEMBER 2017, E-NEWSLETTER

### SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2017

The table below summarizes availability of seed potatoes from registered seed potato merchants for the month of December 2017. It details 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
Kisima farm	➤ <i>Sherekea</i>	Meru
	➤ <i>Dutch robijn</i>	Timau
	➤ <i>Panamera</i>	
ADC Molo	➤ <i>Tigoni</i>	Nakuru M
	➤ <i>Dutch Robijn</i>	
	➤ <i>Sherekea minitubers</i>	
Benjamin Cheruiyot	➤ <i>Dutch Robijn</i>	Uasin Gisi
Leah Rono	➤ <i>Dutch robijn</i>	Nandi
Grace Rono	➤ <i>Shangi</i>	Trans-nzoia
Syngenta E.A	➤ <i>Jelly,</i>	Mau Naro
	➤ <i>Rumba</i>	
	➤ <i>Shangi</i>	
Stockman Rozen	➤ <i>Apical potato cuttings of Shangi, Unica, Konjo, Dutch Robijn, Desiree, Kenya Mpya, Asante, Sherekea</i>	Naivasha
	➤ <i>Minitubers of Unica, Dutch Robijn, Tigoni, unicaand Konjo</i>	

### THE NPCK MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Monthly newsletter is a strategic initiative aimed at creating awareness about the activities of the sub-sector. The initiative started in September 2016 and has been ongoing since then. It covers Industry's News, developments, project News, and upcoming events. In order to enrich the newsletter, NPCK invites stakeholders involved in the Potato value chain to use the channel to disseminate information. For more details kindly contact [ekaguora@npck.org](mailto:ekaguora@npck.org) or call **0799739578/0723620640**

### LAUNCH OF THE KALRO STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

Kenya Agricultural and livestock Research Organization (KALRO) launched its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan on 19th October 2017 at its headquarters in Loresho. The five-year Strategic Plan was unveiled during a stakeholders' breakfast meeting. The Planning, Monitoring and Performance Management Unit, will use the strategy for structured planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning coupled with provision of advice to inform subsequent activities and necessary adjustments. NPCK was represented by the C.E.O, Mr. Wachira Kaguongo, during this important meeting for the agricultural research in the country.

### THE TUBERS AND TUBER PRODUCTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Tubers and tuber products Technical Committee (TC), where NPCK is a member, is

## POTATO TEAM PARTICIPATION IN THE STANDARD CHARTERED MARATHON, 2017

The Standard Chartered marathon was eventful with all the participants of the Potato team completing their respective races. This was the first time NPCK's partners came together as a team to participate in this kind of event while promoting potato for food security and agribusiness in Kenya. The team was sponsored by Sereni fries (a potato processor) and friends of NPCK. Afterwards, the team had lunch meeting where they excitedly shared their experiences of the day and declared their intentions to participate in the 2018 marathon in a bigger and better way. In next year's event, stakeholders in the potato industry are encouraged to join or support the team to cause a much greater impact.



**Left:** Potato Team ready and set for the Nairobi 2017 Standard Chartered Marathon. **Right:** Potato Team pose at Finish Line after making NPCK visible at StanChart 2017 Marathon in Nairobi

## NPCK 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2017

The NPCK appreciates the participation of the stakeholders and development partners to its 5th Annual General Meeting on 30th November 2017. The meeting brought together development partners, farmers, traders and friends of the Council to deliberate on proposed projects, budget, initiatives, and activities that the Council has been undertaking during the year.

Discussion on the strides that had been made in the sector and what needed to be done to the sector denominated the session. Among the issues discussed were;

- i. Packaging of Potatoes.
- ii. Quality seeds for high yield
- iii. Importation of ready-cut potato chips by franchises

one of the Technical Committees at Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS). The TC is responsible for development and maintenance of standards related to root and tuber products. Currently, it's developing standards on Warehousing and storage of these crops which will guide the construction of storage facilities at farm and market levels. This process of standards development is informed by science, technological innovation and expertise. Other standards currently being developed by the TC include processing of sweet potato chips and Cassava bread.

## OPERATIONALIZATION OF CONNECTED FARMER (CF) PAYMENT SYSTEM

NPCK commenced the use of the connected farmer Alliance (CFA) platform to enable fast and secure payment to farmers for their marketed potatoes. With this platform, purchase of Potatoes from a registered farmer and payment is done immediately via M-Pesa.

It also captures farmer details digitally including personal information and farm details. Farmers have responded positively to this solution describing it as convenient, fast and secure.

The platform has been developed by NPCK in collaboration with Safaricom and registration of farmers for its use is ongoing.

## LEAD FARMER TRAINING IN NYANDARUA AND BUNGOMA COUNTIES

Under the NuSePPP Project implemented by GIZ, two 'Lead Farmer' Trainings were conducted in October 2017. The Lead Farmer Training is part of the Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS) approach, where Ward Agricultural Officers (WAO) from Bungoma and Nyandarua counties trains

It was agreed that the Council and its partners should continue pushing for the development, Gazetment, and enforcement of regulations on maximum 50kg Potato packaging and pricing by weight. Further it was noted that the country needed to improve on quality seed potato and storage facilities by encouraging more investors in the industry. Value addition was also noted as key to improving the potato subsector.

### **COMMUNITY ACTION RESEARCH PROGRAMME PLUS (CARP+) SEED POTATO VALUE CHAIN (SPVC) IN NAKURU COUNTY**

CARP+ SPVC at Egerton University is a four year project funded by Ruforum and MasterCard foundation. The project titled "Enhancing access to high quality seed potato for improved productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers in Nakuru County," started in August 2017 and will end in August 2021. In this project, Egerton University has partnered with NPCK, Baraka Agricultural College, Agriprofocus, MoAL&F Nakuru, ASDSP Nakuru, Nakuru Smallholder Farmers Association (NASFA) and ADC Molo. The project aims to transform the seed potato value chain within Nakuru County into a vibrant commercialized sub-sector for improved income and livelihoods of smallholder farmers. The main objectives;

1.Improve research and practical skills of Faculty and students at Egerton University and Baraka Agricultural College through collaborative action research within the seed potato value chain. This will enhance research capacity in the seed potato value chain at faculty, PhD and MSc levels at Egerton University. Graduate and undergraduate students at Egerton University and Baraka Agricultural College (BAC) will gain research and agri-business skills through joint experiential learning by engaging smallholder farmers and relevant value chain actors.

2.Enhance production skills and access to quality seed potato for improved incomes of smallholder farmer in Nakuru County. The project will build capacity in seed potato multiplication and production thereby improving access and use of quality seed by smallholder farmers in Nakuru County. Farmers will also be trained on postharvest management to reduce losses and improve quality of their produce. They will also be trained on enterprise development and linked to markets through the value chain platform to increase their incomes.[Read more](#)

### **CAPACITY ASSESSMENT OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS**

Farmer Organizations engaged in Agribusiness such as cooperatives, can be characterized in many different ways and their need for support services varies depending on their level of growth and gaps that exist within them. Three clusters of attributes have been used to distinguish them in gauging their ability to sustain membership growth, business acumen and focus on

farmers. The first schools were set up in April 2017 and continued up to August 2017 – with a total number of 475 farmers trained. After the farmer groups were trained , three top farmers (lead farmers) per group were selected and further trained for one week.



*Newly trained Lead farmers display their certificates at Tabor Hill in Nyandarua County*

The Lead Farmer training focused on: facilitation skills, FFB methodology, principles of participatory technological development, leadership and communication skills, and marketing [Read more](#)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Announcement!-Change of date**

The Eastern and Central Counties Potato Fair, which had been scheduled for 19th January 2018 at the Wambugu Farm Agricultural Training Center (ATC) Nyeri, has been rescheduled to 16th February 2018. This was after consultation with Stakeholders who found it necessary to reschedule to the said dates.

This move will allow the exhibitors to have a mature crop on the ground hence it will be very effective for the stakeholders and the farmer at large. The theme of the Fair is "Enhancing technologies in Potato value

product quality and they include:

- i. Governance structure
- ii. Strategy
- iii. Quality control system.

The three attributes need complement each other to develop commercially robust farmer cooperatives that target lucrative markets. It is in this regard that NPCK is planning to assess the organizational capacities, productive potential and business strategies of 15 potato farmers' cooperatives. The objective of this exercise is to determine the type of support needed to boost each one of them to benefit from production and market interventions and inform different value chain actors on areas of investments. The 15 cooperatives are distributed in 9 potato growing counties of Meru, Nyandarua, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Narok, Elgeyo Marakwet, Bomet and Bungoma counties. NPCK plans to conduct this exercise between December 2017 and January 2018 using Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT), a questionnaire developed specifically to assess and identify areas requiring training and support.

chains for food security and agribusiness."

The fair will focus on Potato Varieties awareness, Ware and certified seed potato production and marketing, mechanization, good agronomical practices among others. For more details on the Trade fair, and booking of exhibition stands, please contact [ekaguora@npck.org](mailto:ekaguora@npck.org) or call **0799739578 /0723620640**