



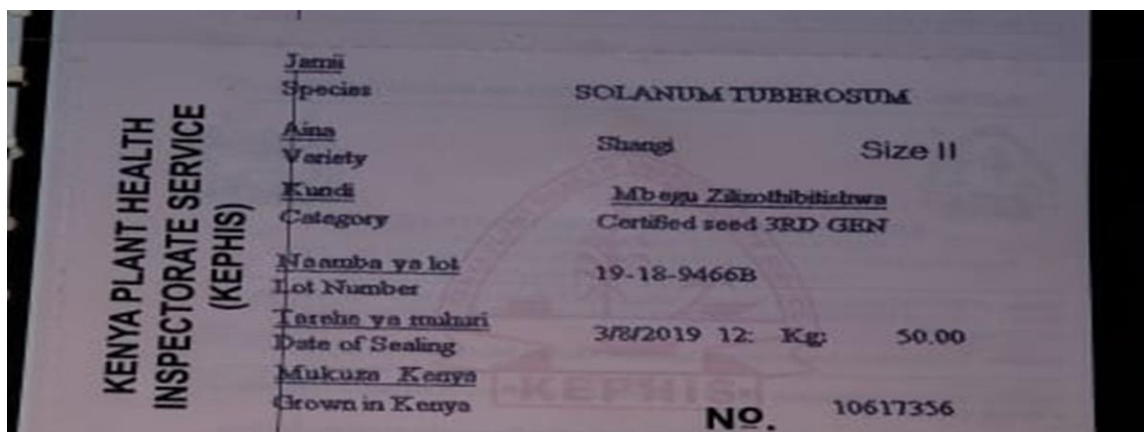
GUIDELINES FOR MONITORING QUALITY OF CERTIFIED SEED POTATO



Potato yields are affected by several factors of which the most important one is the quality of seed used. The average yield increase from the use of good quality seed ranges from 30 to 50 per cent compared to farmers who use recycled seeds. Farmers face challenges getting certified seed potato since seed production has remained low at less than four per cent of the national requirement. Low seed production is due to challenges such as few numbers of certified seed multipliers and the cost involved in multiplying. However, demand for certified seed potato is growing with increasing awareness on the importance of using certified seeds.

To guarantee the quality of the seeds, potato farmers are encouraged to check the quality of certified seed before they purchase from a registered seed merchant. The seed potato packaging bag must have a KEPHIS label inside with the following information:

- Name of the potato variety e.g. Shangi, Unica, Sherekea, Asante etc.
- Seed size e.g. size I, size II, or mini-tubers
- Net weight (the weight should not exceed 50 Kg) e.g. 20 Kg, 50kg
- Certified seed generation e.g. BASIC, C1G, 2ND GEN etc.
- Lot number e.g. 17-17344H
- Date of sealing e.g. 10/23/2017
- Label colour: Breeder's/Basic (White), C1G (Blue), 2ND – 3RD GEN (Pink)
- The label should look like the sample below



Farmers are also advised to observe the following:

- Purchase seed potato from registered seed producers only.
 - You can confirm with KEPHIS or NPCK through the contacts provided below.
- Do not buy certified seed which has no KEPHIS label stitched to the package.
- Obtain an official receipt on purchase of seed.
- Keep the receipts and the label throughout the growing season for reference in case of complaints. Keep all useful evidence such as seed potato packaging, receipts, label etc.
- Do not plant seed tubers that are rotten, over sprouted, damaged or mis-shaped.
- Report any strange diseases, pests or any other anomaly found on certified seed potato to KEPHIS, NPCK or agricultural extension officers for mitigation/ management action
 - The reporting should be done immediately the anomaly is discovered and should be within the growing season and affected tubers or anomaly should be preserved as evidence
 - Do not tamper with any information on the label or interfere with the package

In case of any complaints on seed quality, farmers should contact KEPHIS and NPCK immediately on the following telephone numbers or email:

- KEPHIS HQ - Tel: 0709891000, Email: director@kephis.org, kephisinfo@kephis.org**
 - KEPHIS Regional Offices: Kitale - 0722209502, Nakuru - 0722209503, Embu - 0728600092, Mombasa - 0722209501, Kisumu - 0728607093
- NPCK - Tel: 0799739578, Email: complaints@npck.org**