



## SEED POTATO PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS

### 1. Registration as a seed merchant/grower

- a) To produce seed potato, one can register as a seed merchant at Ksh75, 000 with an annual renewal of Ksh10, 000 or as an out-grower of a registered seed merchant at Ksh500 with an annual registration of Ksh300.
- b) To apply to be a seed merchant, fill in the seed merchant registration form (SR1 on the KEPHIS website) and submit to KEPHIS with the prescribed fees shown in 'a' above.

### 2. Preparation for planting

- a) Soil testing must be conducted by KEPHIS to test for Bacterial Wilt and Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) before planting. The cost for testing for Bacterial Wilt and PCN is Ksh3,000 and Ksh1,000 respectively.
- b) Identify the source of your basic seed. Out-growers are advised to have an MOU with the seed merchant for the assurance of getting the quantity of basic seeds they want.
- c) Ensure isolation distance between the seed crop and other potato crops
  - i. A seed crop shall be separated from neighboring ware potato crops or those whose sources are unknown by distances of:
    - 100 meters for breeders, pre-basic and basic seed
    - 50 meters for certified seed classes I, II and III

### 3. Inspection

- a) After planting, apply for field inspection by filling in the Seed Regulation Form (serialized booklet issued by KEPHIS) and submit to KEPHIS. Application should be done not more than 30 days after planting. The following details are captured in the booklet:
  - i. The acreage planted
  - ii. The history of the land where the seed has been planted {what crops you have planted in the last 3 seasons, etc} and related information will be needed.
  - iii. Class and origin/source of the seed used(Label – proof of origin); lot number of seed used
  - iv. Date planted
  - v. Approximate date of harvesting
  - vi. Species and variety

### 4. Field inspections

- a) Once the forms are received by the KEPHIS inspection unit, they are arranged based on the planting dates to enable them schedule for field inspection accordingly. Timing of field inspection is important to ensure that inspectors are able to check for:

- i. Isolation distance between the seed crop and other potato crops
- ii. Morphological characters for trueness to type of the variety and for off-types
- iii. Symptoms and incidences of specified diseases
  - A minimum of 2 field inspections are done. More inspections may be included if the seed multiplier does not comply with instructions given during certification.
    - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> field inspection is done when the crop is flowering or at canopy cover for non-flowering varieties or at tuber initiation. Isolation, off types and diseased plant levels are identified guided by the Seed and Plant Varieties Act (CAP 326) and the seed multiplier advised on what to do.
    - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> field inspection is done at tuber development stage. The inspector verifies that problems identified during the 1<sup>st</sup> inspection have been dealt with.
- iv. Cost of each field inspection is Ksh430 per hectare (Ha) and a minimum fee of Ksh1, 935 per seed field plus a mileage fee of Ksh58.50 per km.

#### **5. Pre-harvest inspection**

- a) After dehauling, KEPHIS takes a sample of tubers (400 tubers per Ha) to test for Bacterial Wilt. If Bacterial Wilt is absent from the sample, then the seed multiplier is allowed to harvest and grade their seed.
- b) For seed fields less than 0.5 ha, a sample representing 1% of the total plant population is taken.
- c) Testing for Bacterial Wilt: a sample will be taken from each variety (if you grow more than 1 variety) and from each seed field if your seed fields are scattered.

#### **6. Post-harvest inspection**

- a) Lot inspection is done to ensure that grading has been done properly as per the two recommended sizes (Size I i.e. 28 to 45 mm and Size II - 45 to 60 mm) and that no damaged potatoes or diseased tubers have been included.
- b) If grading has been done properly then the seed multiplier applies for the number of labels needed:
  - i. Label specifies potato variety, seed size, net weight, seed generation, lot number, date of sealing, region grown; so multiplier applies according to what they have.
  - ii. Label cost Ksh15 per label at a minimum cost of Ksh990
- c) Sealing and labeling is the final stage done by KEPHIS
- d) Seed merchant is now free to sell their certified seeds.

**NB: The seed grower should be knowledgeable in potato production and should have adequate sorting, grading and storage facility approved by KEPHIS.**

For more information, please contact:

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