



## NPCK APRIL 2017, E-NEWSLETTER

### THE NATIONAL POTATO CONFERENCE AND TRADE FAIR ON 24<sup>TH</sup> AND 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017

The NPCK is convening the second National potato conference and trade fair on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO-HQ) Loresho. During the conference top issues, facing the potato industry and the progress made in the sector will be discussed. The event will provide a great opportunity for actors and players to network through the plenary sessions, matchmaking sessions, exhibitions, and evening networking sessions. The exhibition will start on 24<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm whereas the main event where the plenary sessions, facilitated discussions and exhibitions will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 8.00 am

Over 1,000 participants drawn from all potato-growing counties are expected. They will include: Large scale and Small Scale Seed and Ware potato Farmers, Traders, Processors, , Input providers, Financial and insurance Institutions, Knowledge and Research institutions, Agricultural machinery Companies, Regulators, National and County government representatives in Agriculture and industrialization, and other stakeholders. During the Conference business opportunities in potato subsector will be highlighted for any willing entrepreneurs to invest. [Read invitation letter here](#)

### LAUNCH OF THE GREEN SILVER FARMERS COOPERATIVE AT MIRANGINE, NYANDARUA COUNTY

Following the successful potato trade fair event at Ol Joro Orok, Nyandarua County in March 2017, organized by NPCK and other stakeholders, farmers have embarked on formation of new groups and upgrading of existing groups into business units such as cooperatives and producer business groups. Groups such as *Good-times* self-help group and *Good hour* self-help group from Mirangine have merged to form the '**Green Silver**

### ELDORET AGRIBUSINESS FAIR 2017

The Eldoret Agribusiness Fair is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017. Potatoes will feature yet again in the event that drew 50,000 visitors last year. Also this year Dutch potato varieties will be at display in the very successful Holland Pavilion that will host exhibitors from the dairy, horticulture, food and agro-inputs sector such as storage, mechanization and logistics. There will be a potato harvesting demonstration and different seed companies will display their seed potatoes.

### BUNGOMA COUNTY POTATO STRATEGY

NPCK has partnered with Bungoma County Government to develop Bungoma County Potato Strategy. The strategy will be aligned to The National Potato Strategy, 2016-2020 and vision 2030 with the intention of harmonizing the activities geared towards development of potato sub sector in the county. Road maps will be provided towards addressing opportunities and challenges unique in Bungoma County. The strategy will also recognize the role played by

**farmers' cooperative'** which was officially launched on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 by the Agricultural Chief Officer in the county, Mr. Chepkwony. The cooperative has 176 active members and targets to have 500 members by end of 2017. NPCK has been organizing farmers to access structured markets and some of the major beneficiaries are the good times and good hour SHGs.

### **TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON FACILITATION SKILLS, GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND BUSSINESS SKILLS**

A veritable 10 day in-house and practical training of trainers workshop, which brought together 30 participants working with the county departments of Agriculture from Nyandarua and Bungoma counties, was organized by Deutesche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH "Promotion of nutrition sensitive potato value chains in East Africa", as a first step to equip Ward Agricultural Officers (WAO) and Subject Matter Specialists employed under the County Department of Agriculture (CDA) with skills on facilitation, good agricultural practices and business skills. The training was implemented by KALRO-Tigoni.

The training's objectives included:

- To develop participants' capacity to plan, organize, and conduct training
- To provide participants with knowledge and skills in participatory techniques for effective facilitation of adult learning processes
- To provide participants refresher knowledge and skills on good agricultural practices on potato production including on-farm seed selection, establishment and management of potato fields, potato crop nutrition, and post-harvest management.

### **EFFECTIVENESS OF NETWORKS IN SEED POTATO SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

different development partners and stakeholders and provide a framework for implementation of identified initiatives under the leadership of County governments in partnership with NPCK and other key partners.

### **REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (ASDS)**

NPCK through the membership of Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK) will be participating in the ongoing review of ASDS strategy. The process will involve identifying the success and weak areas of the strategy and give proper and informed guidance for public and private sectors' efforts in overcoming the outstanding challenges facing the agricultural sector in Kenya. It will also ensure food and nutritional security for all Kenyans, and aims at generating higher incomes as well as employment, especially in the rural areas. Moreover, it is expected to position the agricultural sector as a key driver in achieving the 10 per cent annual economic growth rate envisaged under the economic pillar of Vision 2030.

### **SEED POTATO SHORTAGE**

One of the major challenges currently facing the potato sub-sector is the acute shortage of

NPCK partnered with Radboud University, from the Netherlands to assess the Effectiveness of Networks in Seed Potato Sector Development in Kenya. The project is investigating the impact of firm network characteristics and institutional conditions on sustainable up scaling performance in value chain clusters to understand the role of agro-based clustering in competitiveness. The pilot study spearheaded by NPCK and Radboud Research fellow started on 17<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Key stakeholders in potato sub-sector were sampled and interviewed from both the National and the county levels (Meru, Nyandarua and Bomet). Interviewees included small seed potato farmers, farmer groups, large-scale multipliers, processors, researchers, education institutes, NGOs, private extension officers and the Dutch Consulate.

The feedback workshop will be held in September 2017, in Kenya to present and discuss the results with relevant stakeholders in potato sub-sector. [Read More](#)

high quality seed potato This is evidenced by increasing number of farmers inquiring about availability of seeds from all over the country. To address this challenge of seed shortage, NPCK continues to encourage more private companies and entrepreneurs to invest in seed potato production to take advantage of the business opportunities created by this high demand for seed potato. NPCK is working closely with the seed companies, County governments, KEPHIS and other relevant institutions to address the issue and improve on availability and accessibility of seed potato.

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