

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here to view on your browser](#)



NPCK DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Seed potato stakeholder meeting

NPCK successfully organized for a seed potato stakeholders meeting supported by GIZ through “Promotion of Nutrition Sensitive Potato Value Chains in East Africa” project. Participants proposed and approved the seed potato sub-committee members and their Terms of References. The sub-committee was tasked to develop a 3 year roadmap for seed potato production and distribution and address the critical issues affecting the seed potato. The sub-committee will also oversee implementation of the roadmap and recommendations from the industry.

CFA-Insight workshop meeting 13th December 2016 at Safaricom Head office, Westlands

NPCK has entered into partnership with Safaricom and will be using Safaricom Connected Farmer Alliance (CFA)

PAST /ONGOING / UPCOMING

Potato training standardization meeting, held on 8th December, 2016 at AIRC

NPCK organized for a potato training standardization meeting supported by GIZ through “Promotion of Nutrition Sensitive Potato Value Chains in East Africa”



project.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the need to harmonize training materials for trainers and farmers and the approach to use for quality control of

solution for registering and profiling potato farmers in order to support them with production and marketing information, and also link them to the



market. The workshop was organized by Safaricom and participants discussed about the operationalization of CFA. The commencement of the initiative is scheduled to take place late January 2017 followed by

training of potato farmers on how to use the platform using their mobile phones. CIP and NPCK will be training farmers on how to use the software in Meru and Nyandarua Counties.

New Irish-funded project led by International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)

A new project funded by the government of Ireland, aims to strengthen the potato value chain in Kenya. The project was announced by Ireland's Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Joe McHugh, on 29th November, 2016. Implementation will begin in January 2017.

Through the project, IFDC will combine several components: construction of low-cost potato stores (capacity 40-50 tons), improved varieties and

the trainings. This was as a result of many concerns from stakeholders about the skewed and varied contents of trainings going on at the county which is causing confusion to the recipients. A training committee of 11 members representing key organizations in the sub-sector were proposed and TOR for the sub-committee defined.

Development of the Potato Variety catalogue 2017

NPCK is in the process of developing the 2017 Potato Variety Catalogue. This is an initiative aimed at enhancing awareness about the released varieties and helping create linkages between the seed growers and ware potato producers.

The variety catalogue has increasingly continued to attract high demand from both farmers and stakeholders in the sector. The number of copies being printed and distributed increased from 2000 in 2013 to 6000 in 2015 while in 2017 9000 copies will be printed and distributed. This initiative has been made possible through the support of the Syngenta

Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, IFDC, CIP, Kenya –Netherlands Seed Potato Development project and Syngenta East Africa Company.

We appreciate the commitment for support already received from CIP, GIZ and SNV for production of 2017 edition. Support from other partners is welcome.

crop management methods, farmer training, and business linkages between farmers, processors and other market actors. The new project builds on a previous phase in which low-cost storage facilities were built in six counties across Kenya, and 1,200 ‘lead’ farmers trained.

Launch of the Kenya National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) Appraisal and Formulation Process in the Context of CAADP-Malabo Declaration

NPCK participated in the 3 days CAADP workshop held at Crown Plaza, Nairobi on 7th-9th December 2016. The objective of the workshop was to formulate, appraise and to launch NAIP. The plan is to target enhancement of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and investment financing for agriculture to sustain the momentum of allocating and increasing percentage of National annual budgets to agriculture, in line with 10% minimum commitment of Malabo declaration and also put in place measures to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of these investments. Moreover to establish and/or strengthen PPP inclusiveness for at least five priorities agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture. The chairman of Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK), Dr. John Mutunga, represented Agricultural sector’s Non-State Actors in the workshop.

International Potato Center (CIP) Potato initiatives

The CIP develops technologies to improve productivity and efficiency along seed and ware potato value chains. Interventions focus largely on breeding for smallholder farmer conditions, and seed system development to support seed systems to improve accessibility and availability of high-

Partnership between NPCK and Value Farm Limited.

The NPCK has entered into a partnership with Value Farm Limited (VFL) with the aim of supporting potato farmers in Western



region.

The areas of collaboration include, but not limited to: Field trials of heat tolerant and processing varieties such UNICA, a new variety introduced by CIP. The partnership will also help support potato farmers in target areas and link them to market.

quality seed of improved potato varieties to potato farmers. Engaging with national institutions and private sector to diversify seed systems and develop business opportunities for the diverse players along seed value chains. CIP's work goes beyond seed systems to support farmers to improve productivity on farm and markets to develop formal marketing systems. Current projects in Kenya include the Feed the Future Kenya 'Accelerated Value Chain Development' project and BMZ/GIZ-funded 'Improved Diagnostics and Genotypic/Epidemiological Mapping Potato Bacterial Wilt Disease to Enhance Food Security of Smallholder Farmers'.