



NPCK DECEMBER 2017, E-NEWSLETTER

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2018

The table below summarizes availability of seed potatoes from registered seed potato merchants for the month of January 2018. 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	Contacts
Kisima farm	❖ <i>Sherekea</i>	Meru	0716968766
	❖ <i>Dutch robjin</i>	Timau	
	❖ <i>Panamera</i>		
ADC Molo	❖ <i>Tigoni</i>	Nakuru Molo	0721202565
Benjamin Cheruiyot	❖ <i>Dutch Robjin</i>	Uasin Gishu	0726619426
Leah Rono	❖ <i>Dutch robjin</i>	Nandi	0722-662037
Grace Rono	❖ <i>Shangi</i>	Trans-nzoia	0722460326
Singus enterprises	❖ <i>Shangi</i>	Nakuru	0722691245
Syngenta E.A	❖ <i>Jelly,</i>	Timau	0729347163
	❖ <i>Rumba</i>		
	❖ <i>Shangi</i>		
Agrico E.A	❖ <i>Markies</i>	Nakuru	0722206179

NPCK 2018 EVENTS

17th February

- Eastern and Central region Potato Fair

24th and 25th May

- National Potato Conference

September

- North Rift region Potato Fair

KENYA STANDING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (KSTCIE)

KSTCIE committee was constituted under the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and fisheries (MoALF) in 1998 with MoALF as the Chair while KEPHIS is the secretariat. Currently, its membership comprises of representatives from Regulatory, scientific institutions, public institutions and private industry players including NPCK.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Rudolph</i> ❖ <i>Destiny</i> ❖ <i>Manitou</i> 		
Stockman Rozen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Apical potato cuttings of Unica, Konjo, Asante Dutch Robijn, Sherekea, Desiree, Kenya Mpya, Tigoni</i> ❖ <i>Minitubers of Tigoni, Unica, Dutch Robijn, Sherekea, Konjo</i> 	Naivasha	0720603990

GREEN INNOVATION CENTRES GLOBAL CONFERENCE

The global programme Green innovation Centers for the Agriculture and food sector held its Annual Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. As part of the Conference activities, field visits to GIZ Nutrition Sensitive Potato Partners Project (NuSePPP) project areas were conducted on 15th Dec 2017. The NPCK was privileged to host a team of 30 delegates from 11 different countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe. The team with an interest in potato production was taken through sector coordination activities conducted by the NPCK.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH STRATEGY (ASTGS) FORUM

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), the Kenya Agribusiness and Agro-industry Alliance (KAAA) held a consultative forum on ASTGS at KCB Leadership Center on 19th December 2017. The objective was to engage private sectors in contributing towards the development of ASTGS and the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP). Both the Strategy and the NAIP will guide the sector in line with the existing constitution and legal

The role of the committee is to:

- Facilitate the safe import, shipment and release of biological control agents and other organisms through risk assessment.
- Provide recommendations for approval that address the safe handling, assessment and use of the organisms or products containing organisms while implementing appropriate sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures under existing regulations.
- Encourage responsible trade practices.

KEPHIS in support of International Bio-control manufacturers Association (IBMA) and SNV held a forum on 5th December to sensitize the stakeholders on biological control as the 'future for Agriculture' and the mandate of the committee.

Twenty five (25) individuals representing different organisations undertook the training on the use, importance and regulatory component of biological control agents on 6th and 7th December.

The biological control agents as integrated pest management package, is useful in reducing the chemical residue level, improving the crop yield and reducing the crop resistance to chemical pesticides.

FARMER GROUPS AND COOPERATIVES ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT (OCA)

The Farmer groups organizational capacity assessment

frameworks, policies, devolved system of the governance as well as regional and international commitment and treaties.

To achieve Agriculture Transformation the ASTGS is anchored on three pillars where both private sector and the government identify their roles. The first pillar is Food, feed and nutrition safety and security; second pillar is sustainable natural resources management for agricultural transformation (land and land use planning; water, energy and inclusive green growth); and lastly markets, trade and export competitiveness. The private sector representation suggested that consultative meeting if held twice annually will help keep track on the implementation of initiatives to achieve Agricultural transformation.

PRODUCING POTATO ROOTED APICAL CUTTINGS: STOKMAN ROZEN KENYA

Stokman Rozen Kenya Ltd (SRK) is in the second commercial season of producing rooted potato cuttings having been involved in the trial phase with CIP as a partner.

SRK has been in young plants propagation business for the past 20 years, mainly in the flower industry. Recently, the company chose to diversify its enterprise to contribute to food security in Kenya by embracing potato cuttings.

Backed by experienced staff in one of the best tissue culture laboratories in the country, it's possible to multiply any potato variety that a client would want.

At present in-vitro plants of Dutch Robijn, Unica, Konjo, Sherekea, Kenya Mpya, Asante and Desiree are readily available for cuttings production. Shanghi, Lenana, Nyota, Chulu and Wanjiku varieties will be introduced and availed to clients soon. In-vitro mother plants of these varieties are grown in a restricted access net house.

ROOTED APICAL CUTTINGS TO BOOST POTATO SEED SYSTEMS IN KENYA

Seed potato farmers in Kenya's potato growing regions are adopting a new technology with potential to boost quality seed availability. The farmers are using rooted apical cuttings as

(OCA), which aims to determine areas of weaknesses in farmer groups (FGs) that need priority support to develop and sustain the groups in business, started in Nyandarua county. Five farmer cooperatives and associations that were interviewed include Green silver cooperative in Mirangine, Umathi farmers association in Rurii and Tunza Afya in Oljoroork. The OCA study used purposive sampling design in selecting target geographic areas, choosing FGs from these target areas, and randomly selecting the respondents from each sample. The exercise was conducted by enumerators from NPCK and the information collected included: group governance, production and marketing amongst other key aspects. We look forward to sharing the results with stakeholders in order to assist them in planning the type of priority support that the groups need. The exercise is on-going and targets 15 potato farmer cooperatives in 9 counties.

TRAINING OF EXTENSION OFFICERS IN ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY ON VIAZI SOKO

NPCK continues to train on its Viazi Soko platform this time targeting extension officers i.e. Ward agricultural officers (WAOs) and Sub-county agricultural officers (SCAOs) in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The training conducted at Elgon Valley resort Iten on 15th December 2017 aimed at:

- i). Increasing awareness and use of ICT in seed and ware potato marketing
- ii). Building the capacities of WAOs and SCAOs on Viazi Soko software to be able to train farmers on the same

starter material for seed production as opposed to certified seed. The cuttings technology has been introduced by the International Potato Center (CIP) through Feed the Future, Kenya Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD) program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

A cutting is similar to a nursery-grown seedling except that it is produced through vegetative means and does not originate from a seed. Cuttings are produced from tissue culture plantlets in the screen house, rather than minitubers, and after rooting, are planted in the field. Each cutting produces 7 to 10, and up to 15+ tubers which are multiplied a further season or two, then the harvest is used and/or sold as seed.

This means that the seed that farmers buy is high quality seed, equivalent to basic or certified 1 seed in seed certification systems, and will produce high yielding crops. With seed being available for farmers after two to three field generations of multiplication, seed tubers produced from cuttings are high quality planting material and can be multiplied on farm for a further few seasons without risk of significant seed degeneration. In Kenya, within one year from planting the initial trial to test rooted cuttings, two private sector enterprises have invested in cuttings and KALRO (Tigoni) seed potato unit has adopted the technology. [Read more](#)

iii). Encourage selling of potatoes by weight and

iv). Increase accessibility and use of quality certified seed hence higher yields.

Training of extension officers in Elgeyo Marakwet county on viazi soko

Reception of the technology amongst extension officers was positive. All 24 WAOs and SCAOs from the potato growing wards in the county registered successfully in the training. The officers complimented the convenience and cost-cutting in accessing information via the system.

ENHANCING ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY SEED POTATO FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN NAKURU COUNTY

The Nakuru County potato stakeholders stands to benefit from a four year community action research programme plus (CARP+) Seed potato value chain (SPVC) project funded by RUFORUM and MasterCard foundation. Under the project, NPCK and other partners will work with Nakuru County to develop a Potato strategy and link farmers to market outlets. Farmers will benefit from the project through increased potato productivity and incomes whereas market outlets are expected to benefit by timely accessing high quality processing potato varieties. The project is also expected to promote research in potato industry and enhance involvement of students and lecturers in NPCK's and industry's activities.

