2018 EASTERN AND CENTRAL REGION POTATO TRADE FAIR

National Potato council in partnership with the County government of Nyeri organized for the Eastern and central region Potato trade fair under the theme Enhancing technologies in Potato value chains for food security and agribusiness, at Wambugu Farm Agricultural Training Centre in Nyeri. The event held on February 16th 2018 brought together various stakeholders in the potato value chain. The players included seed potato producers, fertilizer companies, organic farming input providers, financial institutions, value addition and soil testing companies among others.

The objectives of the trade fair were:

i. To create awareness on technologies and innovations.

ii. To provide a networking platform for service providers and other stakeholders.

iii. Enlighten stakeholders on potato policy, regulations, and standards.

Different potato varieties and seed potato technologies were showcased on the 19 potato demonstration plots while 36 exhibitors from across the value chain, displayed their products and services under the following themes;

1. New Innovation and technologies in seed potato production

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 24th - 25 May 2018: National Potato Conference at KALRO-HQ Loresho
2. June 22nd 2019: South Rift potato fair Nakuru
3. 28th September 2018: North region Potato fair Eldoret

NPCK COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

a) Potato Events

As part of our efforts to transform the Potato Industry, NPCK has established fora for information sharing, showcasing technologies and innovations and for business-to-business interactions. These initiatives are aimed at increasing awareness and sharing knowledge, establishing and/or strengthening market linkages, improving productivity e.t.c, which aims to transform the potato subsector. Please find our calendar of events here.

Partners platform
The trade fair was officially opened by the Director of Agricultural Schools, Dr. Henry Ndege, who represented the Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Hon Mwangi Kiunjuri. The event was graced by 34 partners, over 1,000 farmers, County executive member in charge of Agriculture from Nyandarua County and the potato consortium. Among the development partners who supported the trade fair were Grow Africa, Alliance for Green Revolution (AGRA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization and the County government of Nyeri. The event was officially closed by the Governor of Nyeri County, Hon Mutahi Kahiga.

**SOIL CLINIC 2018 BY SOIL CARES LTD.**

Soil plays an important role in food production and agriculture. In this regard, Soil Cares Limited held a one day soil clinic training on the 1st of February 2018 at Karen Country house inn. The objectives of the forum were to share new developments of soil testing tools, discuss possible partnership areas and offer refresher courses for scanner and ‘Lab-in-a box’ users in Africa. In attendance were international NGOs in agriculture, government representatives, and...
local and international franchises.

**SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018**

The table below summarizes available potato seeds from registered seed potato merchants for the month of March 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seed company</th>
<th>Variety available</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADC Molo</td>
<td> <em>Tigoni</em></td>
<td>Nakuru Molo</td>
<td>0721202565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisima farm</td>
<td> <em>Panamera and Dutch robijin</em></td>
<td>Timau, Meru</td>
<td>0716968766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Cheruiyot</td>
<td> <em>Dutch robjin</em></td>
<td>Uasin Gishu</td>
<td>0726619426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leah Rono</td>
<td> <em>Dutch robjin</em></td>
<td>Nandi</td>
<td>0722-662037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singus Enterprises</td>
<td> <em>Shangi (certified and clean)</em></td>
<td>Nakuru</td>
<td>0722691245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syngenta E.A</td>
<td> <em>Jelly and Rumba</em></td>
<td>Nakuru, Mau Narok</td>
<td>0729347163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrico E.A</td>
<td> <em>Markies, Rudolph, Destiny, Manitou</em></td>
<td>Nakuru</td>
<td>0741788380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockman Rozen</td>
<td> <em>Minitubers of Unica, Dutch robjin, Konjo, Tigoni</em></td>
<td>Naivasha</td>
<td>0720603990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

eligibility of using the system, its goals and actual process were explained and demonstrated to the participants. The process advocates for buying and selling of potatoes in Kilograms. Upon collection the potatoes are packed in 50 kg’s bags and instant payments made through the Safaricom connected farmer system. Currently the platform has 12,678 registered potato farmers with the number increasing daily.

**Monthly e-newsletter**

The NPCK monthly newsletter is aimed at creating awareness about the activities of the sub-sector. The initiative started in September 2016 and has been on-going since then. The newsletter covers industry news, developments, potato seeds, project news and upcoming events. In order to enrich the newsletter, the Council invites stakeholders involved in the Potato value chain to use the platform to disseminate potato related information.

**The Annual Potato Magazine**

The preparation for development of this year’s magazine is ongoing and is expected to be released in November 2018. The annual magazine is a strategic initiative aimed at creating awareness about the activities of the sub-sector.
SUPPORTING THE WARE POTATO MARKET CHAIN IN KENYA

The challenges facing the smallholder potato farmers in Kenya is ‘how to increase competitiveness’ in accessing premium markets directly such as high-end hotels and processing companies for chips, crisps, dehydrated products etc. The factors that prevent farmers from accessing and reaping from the high value markets are many and varied. Existing markets are fragmented and crowded with exploitative cartels that contribute to high transaction costs and high supply risks. This in turn affects the nutritive and economic value of what the final consumer gets. The problem is further exacerbated by little coordination, poor information flow and barriers of entry to organized markets. Barriers are brought about by factors such as varietal or size demands of produce, legal requirements such as group accounts and tax compliance certificates. Read more

KENYA POTATO STAKEHOLDER MEETING

The Kenya potato stakeholder meeting organized by TechnoServe, titled the ‘Kenya potato subsector transformation initiative’ brought together various stakeholders in the potato value chain with the goal of identifying solutions for commercialization and opportunities for growth and grass root wealth creation. The project which is supported by AGRA aims at catalyzing potato value chain transformation to increase income and improve food security for 83,000 farmers. It was noted that potato is critical for the economy and key in food security and creating wealth for smallholder farmers. Read more

POTATO MARKETING AT A GLANCE

Potato prices in the month of February ranged between Ksh. 25 and Ksh.34 per kilogram for the Shangi variety in Nairobi. Having been majorly grown under the short rains which were

where stakeholders and partners are requested to provide articles that cover a wide range of interests in the sector. The magazine aims to cover seed technologies, supportive regulations in the industry, mechanization, marketing and storage of potatoes, crop protection, organic farming, insurance and financing amongst others. It will also feature corporate profiles of businesses in the subsector and helps share the outcome of the workshops and trade fairs organized by NPCK throughout the year. Any article in the magazine is attributed to the contributing author and the organization she/he works for.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRISPACE CENTRE IN KENYA

Strathmore Business School in collaboration with Water Watch from Netherlands and VITO from Belgium aim to set-up AgriSpaces centre in Nairobi. AgriSpaces is a centre of excellence, which purpose to develop and accelerate satellite data applications to match the information needs of farmers and other parties within the Agricultural value chain in Kenya. The development of the application also aims at helping farmers increase their yields and income and reduce use of pesticides, fertilizers and water. Through the CEO, Mr. Wachira, NPCK provided expert input on the
generally inadequate, the tuber sizes have been smaller compared to the ones grown under the long rains harvested in the months of June and July. Supplementing the short rains with irrigation can go a long way in increasing the tuber sizes which generally fetch a higher price in the market.

Potato prices are generally expected to go higher as we get into the scarcity season expected to last until May. Going by experience heavy rains are expected in March and this is expected to increase the cost of transportation of the bulky crop which also contributes to higher prices during the period.

Most pressing information needs that potato farmers and other parties in the value chain face and if addressed, could help the farmers to improve yields, expand income and minimize costs.