



NPCK JANUARY 2018,E-NEWSLETTER

THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL REGION POTATO FAIR ON 16TH FEBRUARY AT WAMBUGU AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTER NYERI

Potato Fair, which is set to be held on 16th February, has brought together different actors and players in the potato value chain, which includes seed producers, Input providers, Fertilizer Companies, organic farming, Finance, value addition and soil testing companies. There are 19 Potato Demonstration plots, which will be used for the learning purposes. Participants are invited to come and learn more about

1. New and improved Potato Varieties for better yields- showcased by **AGRICO East Africa Ltd, International Potato Center, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Genetics Technologies, IPM Potato group, Agricultural Development Corporation(ADC) ,KEPHIS and Kisima Farm.**
2. Methods of Farming and Input application-showcased by **Koppert Kenya Limited, Hangzhou Agrochemical Industry, Bayer, Syngenta, Hygrotech, Coopers, Green Life Crop Protection, Travetis Tech Solutions,Elogon Kenya,Hichem and BASF**
3. Soil Nutrition-showcased by **Soil Cares, ICL, Baraka Fertilizers, Mavuno Fertilizers Yara,Elgon Kenya and Livatty Africa**
4. New Innovation and technologies in seed potato production- showcased by **CIP and Hygrotech Kenya Limited**
5. Organic Farming-showcased by **Lachlan Kenya Limited, Antrix International and Growing star agri ventures**
6. Crop Financing-showcased by **Wananchi Sacco,Tifa Sacco,Dodore and AFC.**
7. Crop Insurance- showcased by **Acre Africa and UAP/old mutual**

PARTNERSHIPS IN ENHANCING FARMERS ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND SERVICES

In recognition of the challenges faced by farmers in accessing affordable and quality inputs for improved potato production, NPCK has embarked on an integrated process of bringing together the various actors involved such as, crop protection, crop insurance, fertilizer, mechanization and soil testing and nutrition with a goal of forming a strategic partnership that aim at enhancing timely access and supply of these inputs and services to potato farmers. The Potato council has formed partnership with seed potato producers,fertilizer companies, insurance, mechanization and soil testing companies. The other companies in negotiation with are financial institutions and agrochemical companies. This initiative is expected to improve the quality and quantity of the potato produced as well as the wellbeing of the potato farmers. The pilot test is ongoing in three Counties Nyandarua, Meru and Nakuru and aggregation of demand for these inputs/services and supply of the same is ongoing.

During the event, Soil cares will be conducting Soil nutrition tests at a cost of KSH 1,000 per sample hence interested parties are requested to carry soil samples for testing purposes and there after get crop specific fertilizer recommendation as per the test results.



Photo: From left Hon. Henry Kinyua, CEC Agriculture, Nyeri County, H.E. Mutahi Kahiga Governor Nyeri County, Mr. Wachira Kaguongo CEO NPCK and Mr. Valentine Miheso Programme officer and Partnerships AGRA during a partnership meeting.

NATIONAL POTATO COUNCIL PARTNERS WITH TINGA

National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) have partnered with Tinga with the objective of strategically providing farmers with information about mechanization in potato farming, providing knowledge and innovative ways of yield improvement. The two partners look forward to collaborate and deliver unique services focused on improved efficiency and productivity.

Low uptake of mechanized potato farming is among the challenges facing potato farmers in Kenya today, which has been attributed to cost of purchasing or hiring of the equipment. Through the partnership, farmer groups and cooperatives registered with NPCK will get subsidized services from Tinga, the East Africa's Largest Network of tractors. The services to be availed to farmers include, Chiseling, Hallowing, planting and drenching, ridging and harvesting. Currently, Tinga and the Potato Council are working on ways and logistics to reach out to many farmers in potato producing zones with objective of training them on mechanization and good agronomic practices.

FARMER FIELD AND BUSINESS SCHOOL (FFBS) HARVEST

The second season of the Farmer Field and Business School

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2018

The table below summarizes availability of seed potatoes from registered seed potato merchants for the month of February 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	Variety available	Location	Contacts
ADC Molo	Tigoni	Nakuru Molo	0721202565
Kisima farm	Sherekea, Panamera, Dutch robijn, Unica		0716968766
Benjamin Cheruiyot	Dutch robjin	Uasin gishu	0726619426
Leah Rono	Dutch robjin	Nandi	0722-662037
Singus Enterprises	Shangi	Nakuru	0722691245
Syngenta E.A	Jelly ,Rumba ,Shangi	Nakuru, Mau narok	0729347163
Agrico E.A	Markies,Rudolph,Destiny, Manitou	Nakuru	0741788380
Stockman Rozen	Apical potato cuttings of Unica, Konjo, Asante Dutch Robijn, Sherekea, Desiree, Kenya Mpya.	Naivasha	0720603990

cycle, which began in August, is coming to a close. The cycle which incorporated fifteen training sessions for a total of 1305 farmers, enters its final stage as farmers begin harvesting their potatoes planted using the FFBS technology. Last season the farmers reaped handsomely, getting as much as 19800kg/ha of the Shangi variety in some areas.



Photo: A farmer field day in Machinery FFBS in Kipipiri sub-county

Having mastered the FFBS technology and employed it more efficiently than before, farmers expect this season to be much more impressive and the figures could be eclipsed in a season which is expected to offer a bumper harvest and prove one of the most productive in recent memory. The harvesting is

expected to be completed early February and farmers are optimistic about the expected yields. Having had respectable results in the previous season, farmers have a reason to smile this time given the improvement that their crops are exhibiting.