



NPCK MAY/JUNE 2017,E-NEWSLETTER

THE NATIONAL POTATO CONFERENCE AND TRADE FAIR 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

NPCK in collaboration with partners organized and convened the 2017 National Potato Conference and Trade Fair that was held on 24th and 25th May 2017 at Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization Head Quarters Loresho under the theme: *Optimizing opportunities in the potato value chains through innovations and partnerships*. The event had over 1000 participants and 26 exhibitors drawn from the entire potato value chain including National and County government representatives, Large and Small Scale Farmers, Traders, Processors, Regulators, Input providers, Seed Potato Producers, Financial and Insurance Institutions, Agricultural machinery companies and other value chain actors.



The conference was officially opened by the Honorable Mr. Willy Bett, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, & Fisheries, who expressed his pleasure, of knowing that potato is the second most important crop in the country. The Cabinet Secretary hoped that in future, potato would be considered as an alternative to maize so that the Kenyan consumers would not only concentrate on maize meal as staple food but would

equally diversify into other food crops such as potato. This would help alleviate the perceived hunger caused by shortage of maize. The event also saw the official launch of the NPCK Viazi Soko marketing platform. The SMS based mobile phone service portal, enables users to query for seed potato as well as link producers to markets for ware potatoes. The platform is able to inform the user on seed variety availability, price, and contacts of sellers. Market outlets and farmers who tested the system were impressed by

THE PRECONFERENCE LEADERS BUSINESS MEETING HELD AT THE HOTEL ROYAL ORCHIDS AZURE

NPCK in partnership with Safaricom Limited held a leaders networking meeting on 24th May 2017, evening, at the Royal orchid hotel in Westlands, Nairobi that saw over 80 business leaders across the potato value chain network and exchange

contacts. The guest speaker was Mr. Kimani Rugendo,



the Managing Director of Kevian Kenya limited whose talking notes centered on investment opportunities in the potato value chains. The participants exchanged ideas and discussed on ways of improving businesses.

NPCK AND PARTNERS EMBARK ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUNGOMA COUNTY POTATO STRATEGY

Following the development of the Nyandarua County Potato strategy that was launched during the Nyandarua County Potato fair in March 2017,

the innovation. The Viazi soko marketing platform <https://www.npckviazisoko.com/> has been developed through the support from CIP, GIZ and ASARECA. The system charges Ksh.1.00 per SMS. Information shared through the platform is verified by NPCK before transmission.

NPCK PREPARATION FOR PRIVATE ACCREDITATION FOR SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION

The Seeds and Plant Varieties Act, 2012 provides the legal basis for authorization of competent private or public persons to undertake specified certification activities. Seed potato industry has grown tremendously in Kenya with increase in registration of both the local and new potato varieties. With several initiatives underway to increase production of certified seed potato, establishment of private seed inspectorate services will help to ensure efficiency of inspection services is not curtailed. NPCK through the support of the stakeholders is preparing to be accredited to undertake seed potato certification services. Through the support of CRS, NPCK received a volunteer Expert on seed certification from USA to advise the Council on the process of establishing an effective private accreditation.

FARM INPUTS ACCESSIBILITY INITIATIVE

NPCK has started negotiations with Toyota Tshusho, Syngenta and Bayer Company with a goal of creating a one-stop shop system where farmers can acquire all farm inputs in one package. Currently, NPCK is reaching out to respective farm input providers with a goal of forming strategic partnership that aim at enhancing the access and supply of their inputs to potato farmers as well as farmer training on proper input application. Farmers will therefore aggregate demanded inputs then NPCK will negotiate for wholesale price for the aggregated inputs from the respective company. The initiative will be piloted in three counties (Nyandarua, Nakuru, and Meru) and is expected to kick off in August 2017. It is envisaged that improvement in access and use of quality seeds potato, appropriate fertilizer, and effective agro-chemicals will significantly raise yields and quality hence high income for the farmers.

NPCK together with other partners and stakeholders, through the support of GIZ, are collaborating with Bungoma County Government to develop the Bungoma County Potato Strategy. The strategy will be aligned with The National Potato Strategy, 2016-2020, vision 2030 and Bungoma County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) with the intention of harmonizing the activities geared towards development of potato sub sector in the county.

VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE BIENNIAL REPORT ON MALABO COMMITMENT

The Potato Council participated in stakeholder validation workshop on Biennial report on Malabo commitments. The aim of the workshop was to validate the 1st draft report developed by major stakeholders, which had been further synthesized by the key stakeholders on 21st and 22nd June 2017 at Morendat, Naivasha.

The biennial report is a mutual accountability requirement of the AU Malabo declaration on accelerated agriculture growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods. The accountability process involves tracking, monitoring, and reporting on country progress. The head of state presents this report to member states on Biennial basis. The next report will be presented on January 2018 at AU summit.

EFFECTIVENESS OF NETWORKS IN SEED POTATO SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WORKSHOP ON TO BE

THE CONSULTATION WORKSHOP FOR ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS ON THE ONGOING AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (ASDS) REVIEW

The Potato Council also participated in the academia and research institutions consultation workshop on the ongoing agriculture development strategy (ASDS) review organized by the Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK) on 10th and 11th May 2017 at Lukenya Gate Away. The AgCK, having been recognized as a key player representing the non-state Actors (NSA) towards the development of a new strategy for agriculture in Kenya, convened the review workshop with an aim of getting to know the NSA's views and putting them into perspective. The specific goal of the workshop was to review the current ASDS with an aim of developing a new strategy for agriculture in Kenya. The stakeholders were convened under specific themes critical to policy issues to make their contributions and develop key messages towards enriching the ASDS document under the theme: **Kenya agricultural sector growth and transformation strategy'**

HELD ON 15th 2017, 9AM-1PM AT AIRC (KALRO-KABETE) IN NAIROBI

NPCK in collaboration with Radboud University in the Netherlands has organized for a results dissemination workshop to be held on 15th Sep 2017 from 9am- 1pm at the Agricultural Information Resource Centre (AIRC), KALRO-Kabete in Nairobi. The aim of the workshop is to share the results of the project on 'Effectiveness of Networks in Seed Potato Sector Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Pilot Study on Agro-based Clustering for Sustainable Up scaling in Low to Middle Income Countries'. The pilot study spearheaded by NPCK and Radboud Research fellow was carried out from 17th March to 13th April 2017. Key partners and stakeholders in potato sub-sector were interviewed from both the National and the county government level (Meru, Nyandarua, and Bomet).

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