



NPCK MARCH 2018,E-NEWSLETTER

NPCK PARTNERS WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAKURU

In recognition of devolvement of agriculture functions, NPCK has been collaborating with the Potato growing Counties in assisting planning, organizing, coordinating, and implementing activities in potato value chains with the aim of improving potato growth from the grassroots. It is in line with this that NPCK have partnered with the County government of Nakuru in activities that are aimed at unearthing the potential growth of potato value chain in the County. The partnership was entered into during a meeting held on 9th March 2018 at the CEC's office with the County Executive Committee member in Agriculture. The partnership seeks to offer technical support in developing the Nakuru County Potato Strategy, Share farmers data and provide relevant extension and information regarding seed and ware potato production , Assisting farmers in marketing ware potato using Viazi Soko ICT platform and Planning for the South Rift Potato trade fair which will be held in Nakuru.

IFDC LAUNCHES "POTATO VALUE CHAIN CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT." IN NYANDARUA COUNTY

The Potato Sector Capacity Building Project was launched at the Olkalou Stadium on 14th March 2018 in an event that was graced by H.E the governor of Nyandarua County Hon Francis Kimemia, Ireland's Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, Kevin Boxer Moran T.D , the ambassador of Ireland to Kenya Dr. Vincent O'Neill and the PS Ministry of Agriculture Dr. Richard Lesiyampe among many dignitaries.

The three-year pilot project aims to increase revenue for 3,000 small holder farmers through

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th - 25 May 2018: National Potato Conference at KALRO-HQ Loresho

NPCK is convening the third Annual National potato conference and trade fair on 24th and 25th May 2018 under the theme "*Enhancing potato productivity and agribusiness for improved food and nutrition security*" at KALRO-HQ Loresho. During the conference, top issues facing the potato industry and the progress made in the sector will be discussed. This event will be key for the industry as the potato farmers and other stakeholders present will be given an opportunity to contribute to the development of regulations on potato marketing (touching on packaging and pricing). This is in fulfillment of the requirement by the Kenyan constitution that the stakeholders should participate in law making process, which will then culminate in a gazette notice by the Cabinet secretary in the ministry of agriculture and irrigation.

The Objectives are:

training on good agricultural practices, facilitating access to affordable certified seed potato and creating linkages with formal and non-formal markets for their produce. The objective of the project is to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty among households in the targeted populations. It also aims at increasing productivity, introducing improved potato varieties and linking farmers



to reliable markets to increase the level of income. Partners in the project include County Government of Nyandarua, International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), TEAGASC, IPM Potato group, Kevian Kenya and NPCK.

Photo: H.E the governor of Nyandarua County Hon Francis Kimemia

and Mr. Alexandar Ronaldo the deputy Director Eastern and Southern Africa IFDC, signs the MOU of cooperation between IFDC and the County Government of Nyandarua

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2018

The table below summarizes availability of seed potatoes from registered seed potato merchants for the month of April 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.

1.To create awareness and demonstrate Potato technologies and innovations.

2.To enhance partnership and information sharing for improved agribusinesses

3.To provide a networking platform for stakeholders.

4.Support development of regulations on potato packing, pricing and marketing

The thematic areas are:

1.Potato production

2.Seed potato roadmap/ action plans

3.Storage, Marketing and processing

4.Policy and regulatory framework

5.Stakeholder profiling and inventory

6.Nutrition, standards and packaging

7.Insurance and finance

Our target participants

1.National and County government representatives in Agriculture and industrialization

Seed company	Variety available	Location	Contacts
Certified seeds/ Minitubers and Cuttings			
ADC Molo	<i>Kenya Karibu, Desiree, Kenya MpyaAlka</i>	Nakuru Molo	0721202565
Syngenta E.A/ Charvi Investment	<i>Jelly, Rumba</i>	Nakuru Mau Narok	0729347163 0724739739
Agrico E.A	<i>Markies, Destiny, Manitou</i>	Nakuru Kabarak	0722-206179
Kisima farm	<i>Panamera, Dutch robijn, Sagitta, Asante</i>	Meru Timau	0721202565
Stockman Rozen (Cuttings)	<i>Unica, Dutch, robijn, Taurus, Sherekea, Konjo, Shangi, Kenya Mpya, Desiree, Asante</i>	Naivasha	0720603990
Stockman Rozen (Minitubers)	<i>Dutch robijn, Konjo, Tigoni, Unica, Shangi</i>	Naivasha	0720603990
Clean seeds			
Julius Kandie	<i>Shangi</i>	Trans Nzoia	0720874575
David Maingi	<i>Asante</i>	Meru	0722816281
Naomi Wanjiku	<i>Shangi</i>	Nyandarua	0723846965

MAPPING OF MARKET OUTLETS IN NANYUKI, ELDORET, ISIOLO AND MERU

NPCK in collaboration with International Potato Center (CIP) has completed the mapping of market outlets in Eldoret, Nanyuki, Isiolo and Meru towns. The exercise sought to establish potato requirements of potato buyers in these towns as well as the challenges faced by these outlets in procuring of potatoes with an aim of finding farmer groups that can meet them and finally link them for business. The outlets interviewed included Grocery Shops, Hotels, fast food joints, wholesalers, Supermarkets, crisps and ready cut potato processors as well as the open market. The findings of this exercise are of relevance to famer groups currently serving these

2.Large scale and Small Scale Farmers

3.Traders

4.Processors

5.Regulators

6.Input providers

7.Seed Potato Producers

8.Ware Potato producers

9.Financial and insurance Institutions

10.Educational institutions

11.Researchers and breeders

12.Agricultural machinery Companies and all other value chain actor

For more information on exhibitions, sponsorships and participating in the plenary, contact Mr. Muchiri through tmuchiri@npck.org, Phone Number **0799739578**

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH STRATEGY FORUM

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation undertook a

towns and those that intend to serve them.

Potato scarcity in some season and the related price fluctuations as well as poor potato quality (disease infected, cut potatoes and immature potatoes) were some of the challenges mentioned. Most outlets are enthusiastic to have a direct linkage with farmers, sighting the price advantage expected.

The next stage of this exercise is to work with the farmer groups to ensure they meet the needs of these outlets and link them up for business. Farmers are bound to benefit from such an arrangement by getting relatively better prices due to the shortened chain. The council encourages and oversees creation of such formal potato supply arrangements between farmer groups and market outlets.

WANJOHI COOPERATIVE SOCIETY FARMERS' MECHANIZATION FIELD DAY

Pomp and colour greeted this year's edition of the Farmer's Mechanization field day held in Wanjohi, Nyandarua County. The event was organized by Agriculture Mechanization Manager for Nyandarua County, Engineer Kariuki Njung'e, and supported by the GIZ- NuSePPP (on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). Being the third such event held in Nyandarua since 2015, this year's event focused on increasing the total area under potato, increase efficiency as well as cut losses during harvesting in a county that is referred to as the potato hub of Kenya.

The event was attended by 632 farmers and attracted several partners and service providers such as KALRO-Tigoni, AHA, MFARM, GRIMME among many others. The mechanization field day provided farmers with a knowledge sharing platform. In attendance were prominent personalities such as Dr Thomas Wilde of AHA, Dr. James Karitu, CEC for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries for Nyandarua County.

consultative process of development of the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) and the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) that will guide the sector. This is in line with the existing constitutional and legal frameworks, policies, devolved system of governance as well as regional and international commitment and treaties. The development of the strategy takes apprehension of the fact that agricultural growth and transformation depends on collaborative and coordinated efforts of multi-stakeholder's contribution and of the vibrant private sector in Kenya. NPCK and other stakeholders who took part in the forum will help in the process of identifying the key flagships that will lead to the transformation of the sector and economic growth for the next 10 years. NPCK will also aid in developing an action plan for the private sector role in Agriculture Transformation.

POTATO MARKETING AT A GLANCE – MARCH 2018

One of the Potato Council's initiatives aimed at improving farmers' business is to help link them to various market outlets. This is achieved through organizing small scale potato farmers into groups for collective marketing. NPCK is negotiating better prices for both farmers and market outlets by shortening the typical potato trade chain and ensuring pricing is by weight (Kg).

Potato business in the month of March was unique with a glut at the beginning of the month that was attributed



Photo: Dr. Thomas Wilde, Manager Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA) (left) in a discussion with the CECM for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Nyandarua County, Dr. James Karitu (extreme right). Looking on is Engineer Njung'e.

SEED AND WARE POTATO STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Potato storage is one intervention that will go a long way in solving marketing challenges within the value chain such as price fluctuations during glut and shortage; control delivery to market

by early onset of rains, which prompted farmers to harvest early in avoidance of spoilage and to prepare for the next season crop. This resulted to surplus supply and low market prices at the beginning of March. However, by the end of the month majority of farmers had sold their produce leading to scarcity and increased potato prices in the market. The situation is expected to continue to the months of April and May. This perennial scarcity problem can partly be addressed by investment in irrigation and good potato storage systems for continuous supply and quality maintenance.

POTATO TRANSFORMATION TECHNICAL WORKING COMMITTEE

The State Department for Crops Development in the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation in collaboration with key stakeholders in the potato industry has formed a potato transformation task force to address the key challenges faced by various actors in the industry. The team visited six counties (Meru, Nyandarua, Bomet, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu & Elgeyo Marakwet) where they interacted with various actors and came up with a detailed report on key challenges faced and comprehensive action points for the next 6 months. Among the challenges reported were ineffective legislation and regulation on packaging, poor coordination of value chain actors, inadequate supply of certified seed potato, low production & productivity, slow development of SMEs along the potato value chain and inadequate market infrastructure and governance. The taskforce will aim at enhancing food security and

and improve farm operations planning. Collaboration with University of Wageningen and Agrico East Africa conducted one week training for potato value chain actors on seed and ware potato storage in March 2018 at Merica Hotel, Nakuru County. The training entailed seed and ware potato considerations prior to storage and storage solutions available for different production scales. These included maturity of tubers and dormancy periods as per variety type.

The storage strategy generally follows three stages: *curing*, *cooling down* and *storage period*.

- a) **Curing:** This stage lasts 7-15 days depending on the status of tubers at harvest. Its goal is to ensure the skin is properly set and bruises are completely healed to stop disease infestation before storage. This stage is also paramount to gradually balance the tuber temperature at harvest time with that of the temperature inside the store to ensure the tubers don't get "shocked" with sudden drop in temperatures.
- b) **Cooling:** For a period of time, the potatoes have to be gradually cooled at a rate of 0.3⁰c-0.5⁰c per day until the ideal storage temperature is achieved.
- c) **Storage period:** The ideal storage temperature depends on length of storage period and utilization of final produce (seed at 4⁰c; table at 4⁰c; chips 6-7⁰c and crisps 6-7⁰c).

Available storage solutions used in the world today were presented at the training and included:[Read more](#)

nutrition, poverty eradication, and economic development as well as creating a more vibrant and self-reliant sub sector.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTE TO BUNGOMA POTATO STRATEGY

Stakeholders' workshop to review the Bungoma County potato strategy was conducted on 22nd March 2018. The workshop which was convened by Bungoma County and National Potato Council of Kenya with facilitation from GIZ-NuSePPP and support from GIZ Food Security Program Western (both projects commissioned by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) was called to give an opportunity to stakeholders from private and public sector to make the strategy more inclusive, participatory and align it to the National Potato Strategy. During the meeting Mr. Alex Waithaka, the liaison officer from state department of Agriculture emphasized the need to work towards conformity to the Government's crop priorities which saw potato among the top three most important crops in the country alongside maize and rice. Farmers representatives from Bungoma County attend the event which was graced by the CEC for Agriculture, livestock, fisheries, irrigation and cooperatives, Mr. Mathews Wanjala.