



NPCK MAY 2018,E-NEWSLETTER

THE NATIONAL POTATO CONFERENCE 2018

The 2018 National Potato conference took place on 24th and 25th of May at KALRO Headquarters, Loresho. This year's event saw participation of over 800 participants drawn from the entire value chain. The conference was graced by the Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture Dr. Richard Leresian Lesiyampe, CBS and the Governor of Elgeyo Marakwet H.E Alex Tolgos among other dignitaries.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. National Public participation on Potato Regulations on 4th July 2018 at KALRO Headquarters Loresho
2. South Rift Region Potato Fair on 31st August 2018 at Baraka Agricultural training college Nakuru County, Molo

RELEASE OF NEW POTATO VARIETIES

Recently the National Varieties Release Committee (NVRC) released three more Dutch potato varieties (Kenyan Gazette of April 2018)

Farida from HCPC -a good table variety

Rock from meijer- a good table variety

Lady Terra from Meijer-a variety suitable for producing french fries

More information on HZPC varieties can be obtained from Kisima where some of the varieties are available

From right Dr. Richard Leresian Lesiyampe, CBS, PS MoA&I, HE Alex Tolgos Governor of Elgeiyo Marakwet and Mr. Wachira Kaguongo CEO, NPCK

The first day of the event (24th) was mainly exhibitions where different value chains were represented which included, Mechanization, Irrigation, Seed Potato Production Technologies, Potato varieties, Crop protection, Soil Nutrition, Insurance and Finance, Storage, regulators, women in Agriculture and Nutrition, which was showcased for the first time. During this day, farmer group's representatives were also trained on CAADP Principles and budget making processes where public participation was emphasized in order to develop suitable regulations and policies for the subsector.



Photo: Farmers listening keenly to one of the exhibitors explaining about their products

On the second day, the plenary sessions ran concurrently with the exhibitions. Four thematic areas were discussed each by a panel of experts representing different interests in the subsector.

as locally multiplied seed. Contact: John Kibet via kibet@kisima.co.ke.

Information on the Meijer varieties can be obtained via Suera farms: suera.flowers@gmail.com

POTATO MARKETING AT A GLANCE

Potato marketing at the beginning of May was characterized by relatively low potato supply in the market. This was influenced by exceptionally high continuous rainfall experienced throughout the month that resulted to crop damage by the excess water hence low yields. The wet weather experienced led to increased cases of potato blight, a fungal disease that greatly reduces yield. The low supply consequently led to increased potato market prices, that ranged between Ksh. 38 per kg to Ksh. 45 per kg in Nairobi. However, the situation changed at the end of the month as more potatoes started to flood the market as glut season commenced resulting in drastic fall in prices, to between Ksh. 28 to 33 per Kg. The glut season is expected to continue to the month of June as more farmers continue to harvest.

AFRICA CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

The Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Summit was held on 15th to 16th May 2018 at the trademark hotel, Village Market, Nairobi Kenya under the theme "Partnerships, innovations, and financing for climate

The four areas were building a Supportive Business Environment for Potato Sub Sector in Kenya through Policy and Regulation; Optimizing Potato Production in Kenya to Match Global Standards; Improving Market Efficiency for the Potato Sub-Sector in Kenya and Innovation in the Potato Value Chain. Discussions were based on current trends in the sector, opportunities for growth and perceived threats. [Read more](#)

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2018

Available potato seeds from registered seed potato merchants for the month of June 2018 are as highlighted in the table. For more information, farmers and customers can reach the companies through the contacts provided.

Seed company	Variety available	Location	Contacts
Kisima farm	Voyager, Challenger Unica, Sherekea, Dutch Robijn	Timau Meru	0716 968 766
Syngenta E.A/ Charvi Investment	Jelly	Nakuru Mau Narok	0729 347 163 0724 739 739
Agrico E.A	Markies, Destiny, Manitou	Nakuru	0741 788 380
Stockman Rozen	<i>Cuttings of:</i> Unica, Taurus, Dutch Robijn Konjo, Shanghi, Kenya Mpya, Desiree, Asante	Naivasha	0720 603 990

Agriculture". The annual summit aimed at fast tracking Africa climate Smart Agriculture strategy through: Capacity building and knowledge transfer in the areas of Innovations, best practice and policy updates; mobilizing investments and initiating new financing models and products and facilitating partnerships between stakeholders present.

The summit provided for round table discussions where delegates participated in topic-specific interactive networking sessions to discuss themes in a more detailed and off the record version. Among the Roundtable discussions were Why Potatoes are a Nutritious and a Climate Smart Crop, which was facilitated by the National Potato Council of Kenya. [Read more](#)

LAUNCH OF MERU COUNTY POTATO CO-OPERATIVE UNION LTD

The Meru County Potato Co-operative Union Ltd was launched on 7th April 2018 at Mitoone Primary School, Kiirua by H.E the Governor of Meru County, Hon. Kiraitu Murungi.

Stockman Rozen	<i>Minituberof:</i> Unica ,Dutch Robijn Konjo,Tigoni ,Shangi	Naivasha	0720 603 990
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GEODATA FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATER (G4AW) PROGRAM

The Geodata for Agriculture and Water (G4AW) program was launched by the Netherlands Space Office (NSO) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in 2016 with the aim of ensuring effective use of agricultural inputs, improved outputs of agricultural, pastoral and fishing sector and increased sustainable food production. G4AW program promotes and supports private investments for large scale, demand driven and satellite based information services. It provides platform for partnerships of public organizations, research institutions, private sector operators, NGOs, Farmer cooperatives, satellite data/service operators, the private (agricultural) sector and transmission operators developing space for food security. The satellite data on potato growth requirements such as soil types and rainfall availability and distribution can be used for planning of input provision to farmers depending on their agro-ecological zones. The program aids to plan farmer trainings on potato agronomy as well as harvesting and handling practices depending on predicted prevailing environmental conditions at harvesting time. It also organizes market linkages for the produce prior to harvesting. If this program is incorporated with the creation of market linkages program being implemented by NPCK, then potato farmers can make huge profits every season since they will be aware of when to produce and which market to target for their produce. Read more

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF POTATO REGULATIONS

The Agriculture and Food Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, County governments and the National Potato Council of Kenya has embarked on a countrywide exercise of public participation for the development of the potato regulations. The



HE the Governor of Meru County Hon Kiraitu Murungi Launching the Meru County Potato Co-operative Union Ltd

The Creation of the cooperative has been successful through The County Government of Meru together with Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD) agency of USAID who identified and developed a strategy to assist Potato farmers to promote the production and marketing of the produce in all potato-growing areas of the County. The strategy led to sensitization meetings with farmers to promote the formation of potato Co-operative Societies amongst potato growers which was done by the County Government officials comprising of Departments of Co-operatives and Agriculture during the months of November, December and January 2018. The sensitization meetings culminated to the registration of seven Potato Co-operatives by the end of

exercise will be done in Uasin Gishu, Bungoma, Bomet, Meru, Nandi, Transzoia, Laikipia, Nakuru, Kisumu, Elgeyo Marakwet, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Narok, Kiambu, Mombasa and Taita Taveta Counties which are the major potato producing counties and Consumer markets. There will also be two National Stakeholders meetings. Interested members of the public are invited to submit any representations on the Potato Regulations to the Interim Director General, Agriculture and Food Authority, P.O. Box 37962-00100, 5th Floor, Tea House, Naivasha Road off Ngong Road, Nairobi Kenya or by email; info@agricultureauthority.go.ke

The draft regulations are accessible on the Authority's Website: www.agricultureauthority.go.ke and the National Potato Council of Kenya's website: www.npck.org

Name of Regulations

1. The Agriculture and Food Authority (Potatoes Handling and Marketing) Regulations, 2018
2. The Crops (Potatoes Production, Handling, and Marketing) Regulations, 2018

February, 2018. Together with two other societies that had been registered earlier, the number of societies grew to nine (9) (as at April 7th 2018) in the County.

The nine Potato Co-operatives societies with a membership of 7614 then formed the Meru County Potato Co-operative Union Ltd.

The main objective of the union is to ensure proper production and marketing of potatoes in Meru County. [Read more](#)