



NPCK JULY/AUGUST 2018 E-NEWSLETTER

THE SOUTH RIFT REGION POTATO FAIR

The South Rift region potato fair held on 31st August 2018 at the Baraka Agricultural College in Nakuru brought together over 1,000 farmers from within and outside Nakuru county, 29 farm input companies as exhibitors and other various potato stakeholders including agricultural officials from County and the National governments. The event was organized by NPCK in partnership with the County government of Nakuru, AGRA, Baraka Agricultural College and Egerton University. The regional potato fair provides a platform for one-on-one interaction between potato farmers and farm input and service providers as well as practical demonstration on proper potato agronomic practices. It gives the exhibiting companies an opportunity to showcase latest innovations and sell their products. Farmers received training on the basics of potato farming and updates on the subsector developments including highlights on development of the potato packaging and marketing regulations.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 2nd devolution for sustainable development conference from 26th – 28th September 2018 at USIU– Nairobi
2. Laikipia west potato field day at Mr. Joseph Wakahiu farm, Mahiga- Meru farm on 5th October 2018
3. Chebororwa ATC, Uasin Gishu field day on 12th October 2018
4. World food day, at KALRO Njoro on 15th & 16th October 2018
5. 2nd international conference on food safety and security 15-17 October 2018. Pretoria
6. RUFORUM biennial conference and sixth African higher education week, 22nd-26th October 2018, Nairobi, Kenya
7. North Rift region potato fair, on 30th November 2018

INVITATION TO 2018 POTATO STANDARD

Left: A portion of the exhibitors. Middle:Potato planter. Right:Demonstrations fields at the Fair

Farmers and other stakeholders were also trained on Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Principles and budget making processes where public participation was emphasized in order to develop suitable regulations and policies for the subsector. The exhibitors were impressed by the high level of interest by farmers who wanted to learn more, network and purchase inputs with some inputs running out of stock before the end of the day. Farmers were delighted by the performance of the crop at the demo plots and appreciated the practical knowledge provided at the farm. The event was graced by his Excellency the deputy governor of Nakuru Dr. Erick Korir who represented the governor. He appreciated those present and assured the constituents and the subsector of full support by the county government. He revealed that the County had established an agricultural customer care center with agricultural experts who attend to questions, concerns, and suggestions on Agriculture by the constituents. Other guests at the event were Nakuru CECMs for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives Dr. Immaculate Maina, NPCK C.E.O Mr. Wachira Kaguongo, Ms. Virginia Nyamu Principal of Baraka College, KALRO Tigoni director Dr. Peter Nyongesa, AG DVC Research Egerton Prof Isabel Wagala amongst others.

KNOW YOUR INDUSTRY: KENYA POTATO INDUSTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (ISP)

TechnoServe, in partnership with AGRA and Syngenta Foundation, undertook a six-month survey between mid-January and July 2018 to analyze the potato industry in order to increase understanding of the entire value chain and cost various investment opportunities. TechnoServe presented the Industry Strategic Plan (ISP) findings to industry stakeholders that included development organizations, private sector companies, donors and the national and county government representatives on 19th July, 2018 at Jacaranda Hotel. Further, TechnoServe also presented the potato ISP report to the National Potato Taskforce on 25th July, 2018. This meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including representatives from: AGRA, NPCK, AFA, KEPHIS, KALRO, and MoALF. In addition, TechnoServe shared the findings with key donors and the implementing partners including the World Bank, FAO, Kenya Market Trust, Dutch Embassy, GIZ, SNV, and RTI among others. To be competitive, the potato ISP recommends that the top priority interventions should focus on seed, farmer organization and aggregation, while

CHARTERED MARATHON TEAM

The 2018 Standard Chartered Marathon is set for 28th October 2018. The objectives of the marathon are to: Raise the profile of Kenya internationally, help identify and provide opportunity for the local athletic talent to excel, help boost tourism to the country, create a community event for everyone's enjoyment and raise funds through "Seeing is Believing" global initiative aimed at tackling avoidable blindness and visual impairment. The marathon has four races: 5km, 10km, half marathon (21 km) and full marathon (42km) races.

Once again NPCK has organized the potato subsector stakeholders to participate in the Marathon under the umbrella "**Potato Team**". The idea behind the "potato team" is to raise the profile of Potato in Kenya as the second most important food crop and create cohesiveness and team work between the various potato stakeholders. The team will participate in fully branded potato team kits (T-shirt and Caps). **7th October 2018.**

It is in this regard that NPCK invites you and your team to join us in forming the "2018 Potato Team". Please get in touch on or before 7th to get registered.

For more information kindly contact Henry on 0725 626 763 or mail to hchemjor@npck.org

MARKETING AT A GLANCE

Potato prices at Marikiti market in Nairobi continued to rise as supply reduced and the demand of potatoes

encouraging increased investments in processing, irrigation and mechanization. [Read more](#)

UPDATE ON PARTNERS PLATFORM

The partner's platform (PP) is made up of organizations that are supporting initiatives in the potato value chain in various parts of the country. The aim of the forum is to create a cohesive industry while offering the members an opportunity to share information, plan and harmonize subsector initiatives, engage on regular basis to support and monitor the subsector development and help consolidate support for the industry. On 23rd July 2018, the partners met at the AIRC Centre where they discussed the management of the platform and unanimously agreed that NPCK takes lead as the coordinating body since its strategy is in line with the objectives of the platform. Members identified 6 subgroups where various agendas will be tackled.

The sub-groups include Seed Potato production and distribution, Finance and Resource Mobilization, Policy, regulations and standards, Market access and trade, Information, communication and knowledge sharing, Ware potato production and technological support.



Participant of the partner's platform meeting

increased. The price ranged between KSh. 47- 54 per kilo during the month of August. The reduction in supply was attributed to adverse weather conditions experienced in the country. However, potato prices started to drop during the first week of September from KSh 47 per kg to KSh 37 per kg in the second week. This was attributed to importation of Tanzanian potatoes to Kenya. The price is expected to abate further in the coming months as more farmers from different producing counties' start to harvest. Despite the shortage experienced in the past three months NPCK has been able to link several farmers from Nyandarua and Narok Counties to market outlets where 46,050kg of ware potatoes was traded. NPCK in partnership with CIP through AVCD, USAID funded project is also organizing County potato marketing forums in four potato growing counties (Meru, Nandi, Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet).

A Core Group selected from the subgroup will drive the overall agenda of the platform. The partners present during the meeting were: Technoserve Kenya, Kilimo Trust, Food Agricultural Organization (FAO), MoA&I, K-Netherlands Seeds Potato project, GIZ-NUSSEP, Kenya Market Trust (KMT), Groots-Kenya, CARP+ SPVC Egerton University, Grow Africa and NPCK. The partner's information is available online, on the Council's website, partners page. NPCK looks forward to bringing on board all the partners by November 2018. For more information, kindly get in touch with NPCK through npck@npck.org/tmuchiri@npck.org and/or by phone 0799739578.

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2018

Available potato seeds from registered seed potato merchants for the month of September 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	Panamera,Sherekea,Asante	Timau,Meru	0721325269
ADC Molo	Shangi,Kenya Mpya ,Dutch robijn	Nakuru Molo	0721 202 565
Stockman Rozen	Cuttingsof; Unica, Sherekea,Shangi and Asante	Naivasha	0720 603 990

KEPHIS POTATO VARIETY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN MERU

Widely regarded as the second important staple food and nutrition crop in Kenya, potato is grown largely by small-scale farmers using recycled seed, which is often diseased leading to very low yields. Insufficient certified seed, declining soil fertility and poor agronomic practices have been associated with reduced yields. Variety release and registration is necessary in availing high performing potato variety that is key in fighting food and nutrition insecurity in the country. However public awareness and adoption of high yielding varieties suitable for processing remains low. KEPHIS took a lead role in collaboration with other stakeholders on potato variety awareness campaign in eastern region event on 10th August 2018 at Marimba farm, Meru County. Those present were; guest of honour the



Mr. Kennedy Muiruri, NPCK staff (left), Mr. Rufus Yenko, and colleague (right) from Mau Farmer Initiative CBO in Narok, after a successful linkage to the potato market

The forums will offer both farmers and potato buyers an opportunity to engage and agree on various aspects of marketing which is expected to lead to market driven potato production. The forums will be holding meetings before the onset of each season in the pilot counties. Current potato market prices in major towns of Kenya can now be viewed from NPCK website. The prices are updated twice a week, on Tuesday and Friday. This information will be valuable to stakeholders in the industry

Cabinet Secretary in charge of agriculture and irrigation Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri. The cabinet secretary sighted seed shortage in the country as one of the biggest challenge facing the sector's development. He promised to lobby for more lands from public institution for seed multiplication with the aim of boosting certified seed availability by 30% in the next 3 years. NPCK took part at the event and issued the latest potato variety catalogue (containing 55 varieties) as well as training of farmers on the county and national budget making process.

NEW POTATO PROJECT TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOOD IN NYANDARUA AND WEST POKOT COUNTIES

The National Research Fund (NRF) has funded a research project titled *Improved livelihood through integrated potato production and marketing innovations in Kenya* to be implemented in West Pokot and Nyandarua counties. The choice of the project implementation areas is strategic as West Pokot has relatively low potato prevalence of common diseases like *Potato Cyst Nematode* (PCN), *Bacterial wilt* and *Late blight* and the area will be suitable for seed potato production. On the other hand, Nyandarua is a major potato growing county with high potential to increase productivity and profitability thorough enhancing adoption of suitable technologies. The objectives of the project are;

- To increase the availability of specialized varieties of breeder seed and high quality seed potato at an affordable price.
- To increase smallholder potato farmer's income by boosting potato yields through enhanced adoption of specialized potato varieties, use of high quality seed potato and good crop management practices.
- To improve market linkages and communication between potato value chain actors.
- To share project report result and lessons learnt through publications, conferences, workshop and other communication channels.

The project will be implemented by Kenya Agricultural Livestock & Research Organization

e.g. farmers and buyers.

ORGANIZING FARMERS FOR COLLECTIVE INPUT PROCUREMENT AND POTATO MARKETING

The initiative of sourcing inputs and services collectively and group marketing which was started a few months ago by NPCK is growing with more partners joining hands to work together. About 22 farmer groups from 12 counties (Meru, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Kiambu, Nakuru, Narok, Bomet, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet and Bungoma) are set to benefit from collective input and services procurement and market linkages. Currently the council has prioritized 22 farmer groups with about 5,000 acres for the linkages. In the next 2 years 92 farmer groups with 12,000 acres will be targeted while 220 farmer groups with a total of 50,000 acres of land are expected to be reached in 4 years. An implementation strategy was arrived at during a meeting held between NPCK and the farmer group officials on 29th June at AIRC Nairobi. This was followed by a business planning meeting with experts from input and service providers (agro-chemicals, fertilizer, mechanization, soil testing, finance and insurance) held on 27th July 2018 at AIRC Nairobi to discuss on the modalities of linking farmers and necessary logistics. During the meeting concerns of conflicting information from multiple sources that mislead farmers when choosing farm input was discussed and it was suggested that farm input providers should develop a complete usage program, which will guide farmers on choice and safe use of

(KALRO) in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture, West Pokot and Nyandarua (MOA), University of Nairobi (UON) and National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK).

REGIONAL EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY TRADE IN STAPLES (REACTS-II)

REACTS-II project is an initiative implemented in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda by Kilimo Trust (KT) with funding from Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) while leveraging investments by National government and other partners. Though the project is aligned to AGRA's focus for the three countries as stated in the AGRA Strategy and Business Plan (2017 – 2021), it is also meant to supplement governments' efforts in promoting food security and agricultural trade within East Africa Community (EAC). The project will focus on; a) Maize value chain in Uganda; b) Pulses in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda c) Rice in Rwanda d) Potatoes in Kenya. Potato was chosen as a priority value chain in Kenya because of high productivity potential and the need to increase farmers' and other value chain actors' food and income security.

REACTS-II has two key objectives: 1) Strengthen access to inclusive and sustainable input and output markets; and 2) Improve value chain coordination and efficiency. Particularly under the second objective, KT is working on a partnership with NPCK and Techno Serve to leverage each partner's resources and efforts in the potato value chain. This was as a result of a joint planning meeting held on 6th July, 2018 at NPCK to explore opportunities for collaboration, synergizing, complementing and/or up-scaling aimed at aligning of initiatives by NPCK, TNS and KT to avoid duplication of efforts and resources. The project is expected to last for three years, from 2018-2021.

KENYA INITIATIVE FOR LONG TERM INTEGRATION OF MARKET OPERATORS IN VALUE CHAINS (KILIMO-VC)

Self Help Africa and Imani Development Limited are currently implementing a EUR 24 million Kenya Initiative for Long Term Integration of Market Operators in Value Chains (KILIMO-VC) Challenge Fund Programme. This action is part of the European Union's AgriFI program 'Support to productive, adapted and market integrated smallholder agriculture', including a contribution to the Africa Investment Facility aimed at leveraging investment with a value chain approach on smallholder inclusivity and agri-business development. The KILIMO-VC Challenge Fund is

products.

NPCK SHOWCASE VIAZI SOKO AT WESTERN REGION YOUTH CONFERENCE

Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Giz) GmbH in partnership with Bukura Agricultural College, County governments of Bungoma, Siaya and Kakamega organized a youth Agribusiness western region conference held at Bukura Agriculture College on 2nd and 3rd August 2018 where over 600 youth participated. The purpose of the event was to bring together youths in Agribusiness in the region to enhance knowledge sharing and networking. VIAZI SOKO, an innovative ICT platform of NPCK was presented.



designed to integrate 100,000 smallholder farmers and pastoralists into regional and international value chains by addressing their identified needs, challenges and opportunities through agri-enterprises.

The program will provide grants to agro-enterprises and the selected agro-enterprises will be liable to benefit from complementary technical advisory services to improve on their business operations and loans through the European Investment Bank (EIB) partner banks to the tune of EUR 50 million. The initiative is therefore a catalytic blended financing through grants and loans/own funds. The program intends to support at least 50 agro-enterprises to increase their turnover (by at least 25%) which will in turn create 10,000 jobs and contribute to a 70% increase in crop and livestock production. It is expected that 20,000 hectares of land will be under the climate-smart land management practices resulting in increased incomes and food security for smallholder farmers and pastoralists. Self Help Africa is currently conducting sensitization meetings with various organizations like NPCK that work with the potential agro-SMEs with an objective of profiling their enterprises ahead of the call for applications see Kilimo-vc profile [here](#)

DEVELOPMENT OF NAKURU POTATO STRATEGY

The County Government of Nakuru, NPCK, Egerton University and other potato stakeholders in potato value chain in Nakuru have teamed up to develop the Nakuru County Potato Strategy. The core objective of the strategy is to harmonize potato activities and offer a blueprint towards addressing opportunities and challenges in Nakuru County while recognizing unique roles played by different stakeholders and development partners.

A youth participant being taken through the registration process by an ICT officer from NPCK - Obed Tum

The platform helps potato farmers to query and receive seed potato information and links them to market outlets. Participants were taken through the registration process, how to query seed potato information and the benefits of the platform. With the youth being at fore front in technology adoption, they are expected to play a central role in integration of the platform into the farming communities.

REGULATORY AGENCIES SERVICES MEETING

The Agriculture Food Authority (AFA), Kenya Plant and Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) who are all government regulatory bodies, organised for a meeting to discuss the Challenges faced by stakeholders when accessing services with the aim of improving service delivery. The meeting was held at KEPHIS headquarter, Karen on 19th July 2018 where the participants interrogated and identified key challenges and opportunities for efficient service delivery. The meeting was attended by the stakeholders who use the services the represented agencies. Among the issues discussed and identified for improvement in potato subsector were:

- i. Data availability on certified seed potato, ii. Guidelines on certification procedures
- iii. Funding of National performance trials for public varieties by national government under the research kitty



Nakuru potato Strategy development working group

The potato strategy document will highlight bottlenecks and opportunities in potato value chain in the county and will be aligned to the National Potato Strategy, Agricultural Transformation Strategy (ATS) and vision 2030. It will also take into account the strategies in Big 4 agenda. The first meeting for developing the strategy was held on 16th and 17th August 2018 at Dairy Training Institute Naivasha.

UPDATES OF POTATO MARKETING REGULATIONS

After a successful validation workshop that was held at KALRO on 4th July 2018, the draft

- iv. Breeding rights for potato varieties
- v. Low production of breeder seed
- vi. Lack of clear policy and direction for alternative seed

FARMERS AND SEED INSPECTORS IN NAKURU RECEIVE TRAINING ON PRINCIPLES OF SEED POTATO PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The Kenya/The Netherlands seed potato development project offered a 4-day short course on seed potato production and certification: principles and practices, which was held in Nakuru on 11th – 14th June 2018. The target participants were primarily from medium to large scale seed potato growers, private inspectors and KEPHIS inspectors. Other participants were drawn from County government staff, universities and private extension providers drawn from Agro chemical companies. The training focused on the phytosanitary aspects of seed potato production with the aim of training seed growers to produce high quality seed and to understand field inspection methods applied in seed certification. This should enable the growers apply KEPHIS field inspection standards and at the same time to understand seed crop management practices while producing seed potato. By having seed growers and seed inspectors mixed in the same group, it was hoped that the two groups will learn and understand each other. The course combined both class work and field excursion. Three seed farms visited were small, medium and large scale farms. Participants also had a chance to visit KEPHIS Lanet regional office where they

regulations have since gone through the following stages:

1. Regulation impact assessment
2. Legal review and comments by the Attorney general's office

The draft regulations are in the process of undergoing a 14 days public review after which they will undergo a parliamentary review. It is expected that after this stage they will be approved and gazetted by the Attorney general through Kenya gazette for implementation. AFA, NPCK and other key stakeholders will then carry out sensitization workshops and capacity building of the relevant stakeholders who will be instrumental in implementation.

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were taken through quality control and post-harvest lab tests that are done before seed is certified.

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