



NPCK SEPTEMBER 2017 E-NEWSLETTER

AWARENESS CREATION OF NPCK ICT PLATFORM-VIAZI SOKO

Following the launch of the ICT platform, NPCK has embarked on awareness creation targeting all the potato-producing counties. Currently the software has over 3500 registered potato farmers, 15 seed producers who provide their seed information and 24 processors. The software has had over 200 transactional sms that include querying for seed information and potato orders. Training of farmers and extension officers on the use of the platform has been conducted in Meru and Elgeyo Marakwet. Among the trained groups are; Mt Kenya Buuri cooperative, Timuko farmer group and Meru potato cooperative in Meru County while in Elgeyo Marakwet County, Marakwet highland Cooperative, Pamoja vision CBO and Cheptobot CBO were trained.



THE 2017 AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION FORUM

NPCK participated in the 2017 African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) which was held on 4th to 8th September in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The focus of the forum was on the capacity of agriculture and agribusiness in driving inclusive and sustainable rural development in Africa. The theme of the event was *'Accelerating Africa's Path to Prosperity: Growing Inclusive Economies and Jobs through Agriculture'*.

The event was held under the patronage of Côte d'Ivoire **President Alassane Ouattara** and was hosted by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) in collaboration with its partners. The NPCK participated in a number of sessions important to the potato industry, courtesy of support from Grow Africa. Sessions of interest to the potato industry in Africa included: 1) *Growing Regional Value Chains: the Case of the Potato Value Chains in Africa - AfDB, AGRA and ABG*, 2) *Country Agribusiness Partnerships Framework (CAP-F)-Grow Africa*, 3) *Enabling the Business of Agriculture: Improving the Policy and Regulatory Environment for Agricultural Inputs, Finance, Services and Market Access in Africa - AGRA and World Bank*, 4) *Open for Business: Inclusive Models for African Smallholder*

The platform will help address the perennial challenges of limited accessibility to quality seed potato among farmers and marketing challenges through linking ware potato farmers to seed potato suppliers and market outlets. Fliers and local FM stations will also be used to further create awareness. Subsequent farmers' trainings in different counties are in the pipeline. Access the platform [here](#).

PARTNER'S INITIATIVES ONLINE PLATFORM

NPCK has developed a partner's project/initiative platform that will help capture information of partner's activities/initiatives in the potato value chain. This will include a short description of the partner, the project, Funding organization, period, target counties, the implementing partners and the project news/achievement. This will help investors and donors make informed decision on areas that need interventions thus reducing duplication of efforts. NPCK will contact the partners for the provision of the information as per the template, which will later be uploaded into the platform. Click [here](#) and select partners information from the menu.

NUTRITION SENSITIVE POTATO PARTNERSHIP (NUSEPPP) IN PRACTICE

Jane Wamwathi Maina is a 60-year-old potato farmer living in Nyandarua County in central Kenya. She has been growing potatoes on about 0.4 hectares of land for 25 years. As the potato has a short growing period of only three months, she is normally able to feed her family and pay the school fees for her children. However, Jane has no access to disease-free seed potato, she often uses her own seed potatoes from the previous crop which more often than not are already infected with diseases. Moreover, she is unfamiliar with many of the types of diseases that can affect potatoes, and is unsure of how she can combat them effectively. As a result, her yields have been dwindling with time. Together with other potato farmers, Jane has therefore taken part in the training courses covering innovative, resource-friendly, and appropriate cultivation methods. She has also

Productivity. [Read more](#)

VIAZI SOKO BULK SMS

You can now disseminate short advisory messages through the NPCK Bulk SMS service. The service has been developed to enhance dissemination of information on production and marketing and also relevant advisory messages to farmers.

Currently it has over 3500 registered potato farmers with the numbers increasing daily. Partners and stakeholders are encouraged to take advantage of this strategic platform. Contact bomondi@npck.org for further details.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NETWORKS IN SEED POTATO SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The Sust Upscaling project, funded by the Food and Business Knowledge Platform in the Netherlands, was launched on Feb 2017 to investigate the impact of firm networks and institutional conditions on sustainable up scaling performance in the seed potato sector in Kenya and Ethiopia. The project was implemented with NPCK and Vita Ethiopia.

been able to improve her entrepreneurial skills.[Read more](#)

UPDATE ON CERTIFIED SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY

The table below summarizes the seed potato varieties currently available and their respective producers.

Multiplier	Varieties
ADC Molo	Tigoni and Dutch Robijn. Minitubers of Dutch robijn, Shangi and Sherekea.
Kisima farm	Panamera, Asante, Challenger and Sherekea.
Gene biotech	Shangi



A validation workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 15th September 2015 at Agricultural Information Resource Center to present the survey results to the stakeholders. The survey report can be found.[Read more](#)