

THE POTATO

MAGAZINE KENYA

Issue No. 5

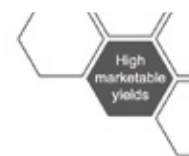
September 2022



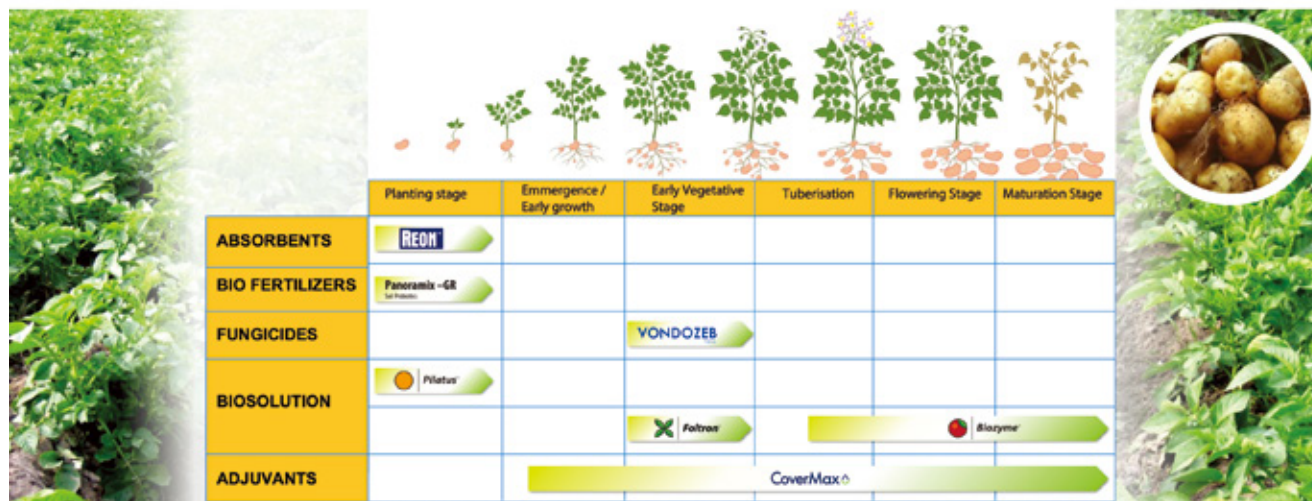
Theme : Promoting sustainable potato production and accelerated economic growth through modern technologies and innovations



Potato pronutiva®



Crop protection + Bio-solutions for high marketable yields



What is Pronutiva?

ProNutiva® is an exclusive program that integrates natural biosolutions (bioprotection, biostimulants and bionutrition) with conventional crop protection products to meet or exceed the real-world needs of today's growers.

The integration of biosolutions with conventional plant protection products answers the latest challenges in agriculture by:

- Supporting sustainable agricultural practices
- Improving grower economics
- Meeting evolving food chain requirements

A ProNutiva program is intended to cover plant needs throughout the season or at specific development stage of the crop.



REON is a Revolutionary patented starch-based, Super Hydrating Granule Absorbs 450 times water volume. It Holds leaching of nutrients and Releases water based on requirement of the plant



BENEFITS

- Increases the water holding capacity of soils
- Reduces leaching of key nutrients
- Maintains a level of moisture in the applied root zone
- Supports soil microbial communities

RATE PER
HECTARE
5kg/acre
OR
12kg/Ha

Panoramix-GR is a 100% natural product based on beneficial microorganisms for use in production of various agricultural crops.



BENEFITS

- Boosts plants resistant to drought
- Promotes growth for stronger plants
- Natural and safe for people & the environment
- Increased crop nutrition value
- Promotes root growth

RATE PER
HECTARE
3kg/acre
OR
7.5kg/Ha

Pilatus is a Starter Biostimulant



Pilatus®

BENEFITS

- Promotes good root system establishment
- Promotes maximum nutrient absorption
- Root rejuvenation of perennial crops
- Promotes good root system establishment
- Promotes maximum nutrient absorption
- Root rejuvenation of perennial crops

RATE PER
HECTARE
Drench:
1-2ltr/Ha

Biozyme is a Fruit and Flower Biostimulant



Biozyme®

BENEFITS

- Formation of many flowers & early flowering
- Maximum fruit-set
- Fruit uniformity & high quality yields
- Extended production
- Reduces plant stress

RATE PER
HECTARE
Foliar spray:
1ltr/Ha

Unique formulation fungicide for highly effective control of blight and other fungal disease in vegetables, fruits, field crops and ornamentals.



BENEFITS

- Special formulation with no dust hence safe in handling.
- Easy to measure - flows like a liquid.
- Easily disperses in water, no agitation required
- Excellent coverage of foliage for better disease control.

RATE PER
HECTARE
1kg/acre
OR
2.5kg/Ha

Goodman Tower, 4th Floor, Waiyaki Way, Westlands
Tel: +254 717 432 174, www.upl-ltd.com/ke

UPL Kenya @KenyaUpl upl_kenya



Content

.....
Annual cashcrop
conference Page 4

.....
National Potato Conference
and Trade Fair 2022 -
Page 6

.....
Launch of Jumuiya Potato
Platform
Page 7

Editorial Team

Milkah Kimani
Henry Chemjor
Wachira Kaguongo
Prof. John Nderitu
Grace Dama
Jack Odhiambo

Designer

Anko Graffix Ltd

Printed by

Anko Graffix Ltd

.....
Published annually by National
Potato Council of Kenya,
KALRO Kabete,
Waiyaki Way
P.O Box 29982 - 00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 712338633
+254799739578
E: npck@npck.org

Status of potato production

The last two years have been challenging for the potato industry and Kenyan agriculture in general. Coming from disastrous effects of Covid-19 pandemic and navigating through the calamities of drought and erratic rains plus Russia and Ukraine war which led to increased fuel and input prices, potato farmers and the entire agriculture has been highly affected. To reverse the effects of these calamities and boost productivity policies, lowering prices of inputs, farm machinery and increasing credit availability and extension services are key. Although there have been a number of interventions by the government of Kenya, development partners and donors, there is need for more efforts geared towards lowering and stabilizing prices for inputs, machinery and other factors of production. The current government intervention in form of fertilizer subsidy is highly welcome and will go a long way in helping lower the cost of production. However, more interventions such as removal or reduction of taxes and cess on inputs would provide a more sustainable, cost-effective and less corruption-prone approach compared to the existing practice of taxing inputs on one side and subsidizing the same on the other side! It is very unfortunate to find some counties charging cess on seed potato instead of putting efforts in ensuring the price of high-quality seed is lowered in order to increase access for farmers which would lead to increased production of marketable ware potato, providing more cess to the county. This is an area that requires more interrogation and consideration.



Potato regulations

Despite the high potential of the Potato Regulation 2019 to help transform the potato industry, its implementation has been bogged down by lack of coordination. The potato producing counties have failed to harmonize their efforts with counties adopting different aspects of regulations at different levels and at different times, hence confusing the market and its actors. Traders add to this confusion by misinforming farmers and other key stakeholders in order to exploit the situation. This has slowed down the adoption despite the regulations having been launched almost 4 years ago. Although the regulations have other important elements that include capacity building, sorting and grading, market linkage, food safety and hygiene in handling and collection centers, to many people the mention of regulations is synonymous to talking about the weight limit of 50 kg per bag. A key element lacking in implementation is capacity building of farmers and stakeholders in order to own and adopt the regulations premised on principles of self-regulation. This calls for the need to mobilize and train farmers to come together and market potato collectively following the guidelines provided by the regulations with the aim of improving their businesses. The National Potato Strategy 2021-2025, which was launched in December 2021 is also aimed at guiding development of potato industry in the country. Counties are expected and

encouraged to use the National Potato Strategy to inform the development of county potato

strategies ensuring the opportunities and challenges in potato subsector are considered while the CIDPs and the aspirations of the county government are factored in.

Partnerships in improving farmers' access to quality inputs

The Potato Council has been working in collaboration with a number of partners in improving access and use of quality inputs. Recently, NPCK has collaborated with the government and other partners in implementation of input subsidy programmes, such as the E-voucher program and the GoK-IFAD Project (Revitalization of Potato Production Project). The Viazi Soko digital platform, an e-commerce ecosystem, developed and operated by NPCK and partners is being used to enhance access and use of high quality seed potatoes. It also provides information on marketing, weather forecasting and extension. In procurement, orders are aggregated and inputs bought and delivered to farmers' respective pickup points. The platform is also being enhanced to support supply of fertilizers, agrochemicals and services such as soil testing, mechanization and spraying services and also to provide ware potato market linkages. The potato magazine which is produced annually continues to be key in informing stakeholders on existing opportunities, innovations and on-going projects in the industry. I humbly welcome you to read the many informative and interesting articles in this magazine, which can be downloaded for free from our website or get a copy from our office. You are also cordially invited to share your articles for our next issue of 2023.

Wachira Kaguongo
Chief Executive Officer



ANNUAL CASH CROP CONFERENCE



Participants in the Annual Cash crop conference, Poland

Since 2014, NPCK has been a member of the Agri Benchmark's global network. Agri Benchmark is a global, non-profit network of agricultural economists, advisors, producers, and specialists in key sectors of the agricultural and horticultural value chains. They collaborate with key partners in various countries to form a global network, collect data on typical farms, and provide unique farm-level data-based analysis of strategic issues for decision-makers in policy, agriculture, and agribusiness. NPCK being a member of the global network has been collecting and updating data on typical potato production in the country.

Since 2007, Agri Benchmark and its global network partners have been holding annual Cash Crop Conferences around the globe; . The Cash Crop Conference 2022 was held in Poland, Pozna, from 5th to 11th June 2022. Over 40 global network states were represented at the conference and Kenya was represented by the NPCK. During the conference, the results generated from global typical farm data were presented and partners had the opportunity to critique, suggest new topics, and make recommendations on future developments in global crop production, trade, and farm management. Furthermore, partners showcased their involvement in the global network and the benefits of being in the network. The program also included several farm visits in the host country, where participants had in-depth discussions with farm managers regarding crop production practices, crop patterns, farm management strategies, and post-harvest management and marketing.

The participants present at the conference were allowed to propose the country to host the next conference and Kenya was given the privilege. NPCK and its local partners are proud to host the Cash Crop Conference 2023 in Kenya.

Henry Chemjor
Value Chain Manager, NPCK



ELGON KENYA LIMITED



THABITI
Super FERTILIZER

NPK Blend Fertilisers With Balanced Nutrition

**Tumia Mbolea Ya Thabiti
Super Kwa Mazao Mengi**



ELGON KENYA
TRANSFORMING FARMS & LIVES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

East Gate Road, Off Mombasa Road
P.O BOX 46826 - 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 110 094 464 , +254 722 203 089
info@elgonkenya.com www.elgonkenya.com



NATIONAL POTATO CONFERENCE AND TRADE FAIR 2022

The 5th National Potato Conference was held on the 19th and 20th of May 2022 at KALRO HQ. The event provided an opportunity for networking, showcasing, and sharing information about potato value chain issues, technologies, and innovations.

The conference's goal was to discuss the most pressing issues confronting the potato industry as well as the sector's progress. The event was important for the industry because it provided an opportunity for potato farmers and other stakeholders to discuss and provide feedback on the adoption of the national potato strategy, the implementation and enforcement of potato regulations, potato subsidy programs, new technologies and innovations and other potato initiatives. Over 50 exhibitors and over 800 participants attended the conference.

The event was graced by Mr. Douglas Kangi from the state department of Agriculture who represented the Cabinet Secretary. The theme of the conference was: *“Transforming potato value chain through partnerships, climate-smart technologies and innovation for sustainable food systems and accelerated economic growth”*. The thematic areas discussed during the conference were; 1) Production and sustainable food systems, 2) Marketing, value addition, and post-harvest handling, 3) Digital solutions, 4) Finance and insurance, 5) Policy and regulatory framework and 6)

Opportunities for Youth and SMEs in Potato Value Chain. Day 1 of the conference was dedicated to youth and SMEs where opportunities for Youth in Potato Value Chain were discussed led by experts from various fields. The second day was the main event.

The exhibitions: stakeholders, service providers, farmers and the key industry players got a chance to interact, share information and network for the purposes of improving their fields of engagement

Evelynn Kamau

Communication & Events Officer, NPCK



Day One: Participant registering at the entrance



Day Two: Stakeholders and farmers engaged in discussions about policy and regulatory framework



LAUNCH OF JUMUIYA POTATO PLATFORM



Members of Jumuiya potato platform

The executive board members appointed during the official launch of the Jumuiya potato platform. Jumuiya Potato Platform (a potato platform for East Africa Community), which is a public-private partnership was launched on the 24th- 26th June 2022 in Kampala, Uganda. Kenya is the chair (Wachira Kaguongo - NPCK being the chairman and Simon Maina -KEPHIS being the co-chairman) while Burundi holds the Secretary. The platform is supported by EAC and GIZ.

The platform aims at achieving various objectives in line with the potato subsector including but not limited to; develop a register of all actors and key stakeholders in the seed potato value chain, discuss the necessary support and assistance required to build up domestic supply capacity for affordable and high-quality seed potato produce and products to meet the demand for the region, promotion of investment in seed potato value chain, advocate for technological advancement in the seed potato value chain, annually commission a review of key potato sector development indicators and facilitate dialogue between the private and public sector to strengthen the sector, maintain a strong public-private-dialogue (PPD) through periodic meetings with high level policy makers to strategize on ways to position the regional seed potato sector as a regional and global player in the sector, regional multi-stakeholder apex organ for monitoring and overseeing implementation of the action plan for the development of seed potatoes sector in the region, coordinate and jointly plan for capacity building for its members across the region through training, institutional development and information sharing.

Jack Odhiambo

Policy & Partnership, NPCK



FRESHCROP

POTATO FARMERS FIELD DAY

1st Annual FreshCrop Limited Potato Farmers Field Day



On July 21st, FreshCrop Limited hosted their 1st Annual Potato Farmers Field Day (PFFD). The event was held at FreshCrop Limited's hubsite in Mwisho wa Lami, Nakuru. The PFFD was attended by more than 2,500 potato farmers from 7 different counties along with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture from Narok, Nakuru, and Nyandarua Counties. Other special guests included representatives from KEPHIS, National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK), International Center for Potatoes (CIP), Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) and more than 20 other potato value chain stakeholders, from agrochemical companies to mechanization demonstrations.

"The potato farmer field day was a massive success," said Christopher Gasperi, Managing Director. "Bringing our fellow potato farmers together and connecting them with the products and practices that will help them succeed is the forefront of our mission of creating a much more inclusive approach to the Potato Value Chain Management. The FreshCrop Team is already excited about what will be possible at next year's event!"



The 10-Acre demo farm featured at the PFFD was just an idea in 2021 and evolved into one of the largest potato-specific events in Kenya. "The original idea was to create our own agrochemical programs for internal research using wide variety of products and different science-based approaches to see what combination of organics and other agrochemical products produced the healthiest potatoes, while also ensuring to contribute to healthier soil conditions. That little internal idea evolved into this great learning event," FreshCrop Extension Officer Eward Njoki explained. With more than 25 stakeholders in the potato industry in attendance, farmers were

able to directly connect and learn more about certified seed, climate smart mechanization, soil nutrition and health, agrochemical programs from fertilizers and organics to science-based feeding strategies, and much more about the potato industry.

"FreshCrop Limited is focused on continually learning so that we can provide our farmers with the best certified potato seed along with valuable science and technology-based information. From the importance of using certified seed and understanding climate smart agriculture to agrochemical programs, best practices and marketing, the (10) 1-Acre demos really showcased that commitment," says Brendan Ireland, Chief Operating Officer.

At FreshCrop's 1st Annual Potato Farmers Field Day, both farmers and vendors came ready to learn from each other. "I have been farming potatoes for almost 30 years, even pioneering new varieties, and I have never attended such a large event solely focussed on potato farmers. The farmers were able to learn directly from the source about certified seed, mechanization strategies, sustainable chemical programs, and so much more in one place," said Charles Mahwa, a farmer from Charigita, Nyandarua.





The learning was not left only to the farmers as FreshCrop was able to gather a lot of data from the trial plots and looks forward to sharing that with the “FreshCrop Family” as they call it. “It was such a unique experience to partner with so many different agrochemical companies for this huge event. We have learned so much from each other and were so pleased to bring serious potato farmers from all over the country to continue to learn and grow with the FreshCrop Family,” Field Promotions Officer Joseph Ndirangu explained.

At the PFFD, FreshCrop Limited also celebrated the graduation of the company's 3rd class of Train the Trainers (TOTs). The group of 50 graduates was brought to the field day and recognized in front of the 2,500 farmers in attendance! The program, in partnership with SNV/CRAFT, provides the farmer group leaders with education on Climate Smart Agriculture Practice for Potato Production along with certified seed and a complete agrochemical regimen to execute a successful demo plot with their respective groups. The 3 groups of FreshCrop ToTs are now hosting more than 100 demo sites throughout 9 different counties have been in the fields introducing the importance of using certified potato seed and CSA practices such as land preparation, crop management, harvesting, storing, and marketing to their group members. To date more than 4000 potato farmers have been trained through the support from FreshCrop. “We invest a lot of time and resources to ensure the success of our ToTs and our customers

because they are integral to the FreshCrop business model. With their success and growth, the FreshCrop mission is possible,” added Ashley Gasperi, Director at FreshCrop.



Contact Us
for Certified
Potato Seeds:
Shangi, Unica,
Dutch Robijn
0795122648
0719761029

**We invite you to become a part of
the FreshCrop Family!**

SPONSORS: Twiga Chemicals – SNV/CRAFT – Bayer East Africa
DEMO PLOTS: Twiga Chemicals – Bayer East Africa – TruVet – Cortiva Agriscience – Elgon Chemicals – EcoFix – CKL Africa Omnia Specialties – Greenlife Crop Protection – Juanco
IN ATTENDANCE: Amiran (K) – ETG/Kynoch Kibo Motorcycles – Koppert – Hardi Kenya – Automobile Warehouse Limited – Ndume Engineers – Baraka Fertilizer EFKen Financing – Zetor Tractors – Stokman Rozen – Hydroponic Africa – Rainbow Chemicals – Yara Kenya – StepBooser Organic Foliars





EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SEED SYSTEMS IN KENYA



Kenya Seed Systems Assessment Tool Validation Workshop

The importance of quality seeds has been recognized since time in memorial. Good seed in good soil yields abundantly. Seed quality has been treated as sacred, being a critical factor in the improvement of agriculture. Although the importance of quality seeds was recognized in ancient agriculture, the need for organized seed production systems was identified only at the beginning of the 20th century. In the 21st century, the production, distribution and adoption of quality seeds is still a challenge in most countries, Kenya among them. The government of Kenya and other key stakeholders has put in place various supportive measures to improve the production and distribution of improved varieties to farmers for improved productivity and food security. Among them is Kenya Seed Systems Assessment Tool for identifying gaps in the seed system and making recommendations. Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has been implementing the Seed Systems Assessment Tool (SeedSAT) program in the first four African countries, namely Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, and Ghana. The assessment adopted the use of eight thematic areas to assess the status and health of the seed system. The eight thematic areas are:

- 1) seed markets and distribution;
- 2) early generation seeds;
- 3) quality commercial seed production;
- 4) quality assurance;
- 5) farmer awareness and participation;
- 6) breeding, variety release, and maintenance;
- 7) policy royal and regulatory
- 8) national planning and coordination.

Each of these thematic areas was critically assessed through a lens of a set of indicators and gaps were identified for action. Through this initiative, a strategic plan for improving seed systems in the country will be drawn and implemented. NPCK participated in Kenya Seed Systems Assessment Tool Validation Workshop, which took place at the Movenpick Hotel in Westlands on May 23rd, 2022. The workshop was convened by AGRA with the objective of validating the outcome of the Kenya seed systems assessment tool and recommendations. KEPHIS, KALRO, STAK, KENAFF, the National Government, Kenya Seed Systems, universities, and seed growers were among those present.

Henry Chemjor
Value Chain Manager, NPCK



Java



KIRINYAGA SEEDS

AINA YA KI-AYALANDI | USTAWI WA KI-KENYA

+254 113710462

info@kirinyagaseeds.com

www.kirinyagaseeds.com



AGRICO POTATO SERVICES AFRICA: YEAR-ROUND SEED POTATOES ON FARMERS' DOORSTEP



Agrico Potato Services Africa is the leading producer of certified potato seed in Kenya. All year round, we produce and supply large quantities of top-quality certified

potato seed on our farms in Nakuru county. Our seed potatoes are available everywhere in Kenya throughout our dozens of 'potato collection points'. We see these local potato collection points as a key element for creating a healthy sustainable potato value chain in Kenya. In short: we deliver Kenyan-grown potato seed to all farmers whenever they need it and – almost - on their doorstep!

Markies, Kenya's number 1 variety for the chips industry



For Kenya, we have 4 varieties that match all market demands and are suitable for all types of farmers, their specific climate zones, altitudes and other conditions. Our most renowned

variety, Markies, has become the number 1 potato variety in Kenya for French fries (chips) and is now also used as a benchmark variety for KEPHIS Intensive National Potato Trials (INPT). Naturally, we continue introducing innovative potato varieties to the Kenyan markets, all high-yielding and proven potato champions!

Potato training: free of charge

We provide potato training for all knowledge levels, from farmers starting with potato crops, to highly experienced ones. All potato training is provided by our agronomy and finance specialists and all are *free of charge*. Agrico PSA offers training in various forms: Video tutorials (allows you to learn when and where it suits you); Group training by our agronomist on our farm in Nakuru at our Potato Centre



of Excellence (PCE), and On-site training in collaboration with our partners at a location near you. More information can be found on our Facebook page /

[AgricoEA](#) and on our website www.agrico.co.ke

Increasing potato farmers' income

From the very beginning Agrico PSA has been aware that providing Kenyan farmers access to certified potato seed was one important piece of the 'farmer's puzzle'. Yet in order to create a sustainable value chain, a "farmer ecosystem" is needed that provides farmers access to certified potato seed, crop protection, crop nutrition, knowledge, technology, markets & finance. Over the years, various collaborations have been established between companies that create such a farmer ecosystem. A good example is the partnership that was established in July 2022 between Yara, Bayer, Cooperative Bank, Simplifine and Agrico PSA, which will result in higher yields, better prices and thus a higher income for potato farmers. Yara provides access to crop nutrition solutions, Agrico PSA secures the right potato seed varieties for the off-taker, and Bayer provides its crop protection solutions. Co-operative Bank of Kenya will provide affordable financing options for the farmers to ensure timely access to quality inputs. Finally, Simplifine provides market access for the financed farmers by buying their produce. It goes without saying that we all acknowledge that boosting the farmers' income from potatoes is our key success factor and we act accordingly. By improving farmer income, we directly impact various UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we make a significant contribution to Kenya's Big Four Agenda.



Corien Herweijer - AGRICO PSA



PCB PROJECT LEARNING DAY



The Deputy Regional Director -Esia,East and Southern Africa, Bastiaan Huesken highlighting IFDC contribution to the Potato sector

The Potato Value Chain Capacity Building (PCB) project learning day in Nakuru, Tumaini Center, on July 21, 2022 was successful in showcasing what potato farmers in Nyandarua County have learned during the project's trainings and more. The International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) has been working with the Nyandarua County Government Department of Agriculture in implementing the PCB project since 2018. Representatives from all partners in the project were present and they encouraged farmers to embrace the new technologies trained which will help improve their productivity. Farmers were addressed by Dr. John Karitu, County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture in Nyandarua County, IFDC's Deputy Regional Director, Bastiaan Huesken, the Programme Officer at the Embassy of Ireland Caroline Ng'ang'a, Henry Chemjor, Value Chain Support Manager at National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK), Humphrey Mburu – the Managing Director of Sereni Fries Limited, Josephat Musau, the PCB Project Manager, Josline Nyaga, PCB Project agronomist/field officer, Derek Roulston, a consultant for IFDC and Linet Echesa who represented Nakuru County Government. The topics addressed included Marketing, access to inputs, the importance of adopting new technologies, opportunities in the potato sector, ways of dealing with challenges facing potato farmers, proper storage, need for partnerships among other topics. Farmers were also able to hear testimonies from fellow farmers who have embraced the good agricultural practices promoted by the project.

Through roundtable discussions and one-on-one interactions, farmers were able to share their experiences and network. Ann Muigai and David Kiarie, farmers participating in the project were given the opportunity to discuss what they have achieved by adopting these practices. "Following the practices taught by IFDC, through the PCB project, has enabled me to increase my potato production. I have used the proceeds from potato farming to purchase a van that will help me take my produce to market." Muigai stated. Kiarie expressed his gratefulness for the impact the project has had on his life and the lives of his family. "Introduction to contract farming through Sereni Fries Limited and Kinangop Fries Limited has helped create a sustainable market for our potato produce. In addition to

being trained on good agricultural practices, IFDC has linked us with different markets. This has earned me more profit, which enabled me to purchase my own land." Kiarie said. The PCB Project is funded by Irish Aid, through the Embassy of Ireland here in Kenya. Programme Officer, Caroline Ngaanga highlighted how the Embassy has worked with IFDC to strengthen the potato value chain in Nyandarua with an overall objective of reducing poverty and increasing smallholder farmers income. She emphasized that production and marketing of potatoes in Kenya is a significant pathway in addressing food insecurity in Kenya due to its high productivity per unit area and increasing demand. The PCB project Manager Josephat Musau highlighted the success that the project has had in the four years. Through the support of Embassy of Ireland and by working together with the county government of Nyandarua, the project has been able to reach close to 1500 farmers.

Through IFDC and the Government of Kenya, we have been able to reach close to 15,000 farmers and help them acquire skills on improved farming practices, access to quality potato seeds, and managing post-harvest losses which are being addressed through the storage facilities that have been put up, supporting farmers in the marketing process, financial support, and many other interventions." Ng'ang'a explained. With 28 stakeholders and 175 farmers from Nyandarua County present, many interactions and networking opportunities allowed farmers to return to their community with crucial knowledge. Stakeholders displayed their products in the exhibition tents. They explained to farmers the different services they offer and the advantages of using specific products. Partners present at the learning included processing companies such as Sereni Fries;- seed dealers such as Kirinyaga Seeds and Riari Agri Hub;- research institutes such as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE);- financial institutions such as Equity Bank;- agrochemical companies such as Amiran and Syngenta;- and fertilizer companies such as Yara and Hygrow.



EXPLOITING IRRIGATION TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF KENYA'S POTATO INDUSTRY



National
Irrigation
Authority

Irish potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) is the world's 4th leading food crop (Liu, et al., 2020) with some 360 million tons produced annually (FAO, 2021), and the

third most consumed food after rice and wheat (CIP, 2020). In Kenya, potato ranks second to maize as a food and economic crop with 2-3 million tons produced against a potential of 8-10 million tons annually (NPCK, 2022). It is therefore a strategic staple crop in the food-deficit Kenya. The country's potato production system is dominated by small-scale growers, a rain-fed system and is carried out in regions of 1,200-3,000 meters above sea level with suitable soils and ample rainfall.

The socioeconomic value of potato in Kenya is significant: nearly 800,000 farmers producing, 2.7 million constitute the potato value chain, and contributes over KES50 billion to the economy annually through the value chain and export (TrendEconomy, 2021).

Kenya's potato lacks adequate quality seeds. Only 7,000 tons of clean seed is produced against demand of 30,000 tons annually (Potato supply chain news, 2021). In addition, the predominantly rain-fed production systems explain the low yield and quality of tubers of 7-10t/ha compared to 17t/ha globally. Rapid population increase in potato-growing regions have increased land subdivision and hence increasing reduced yields. Also, emerging economic trends have an impact of increasing consumption of particular varieties of potato. Consequently, Kenya loses foreign exchange through imports to fill the demand deficit. In fact, local high-end fast-food consumers in the country rely entirely on fresh/chilled potato imports from as far as Egypt and South Africa. The country's foreseeable future is characterized by fluctuating (if not declining!) annual productivity which undermines the sustainable production capacity of the country. This calls for adoption of productivity-enhancing technologies and/or production systems in order to realize further gains in production of this vital crop in Kenya.

Kenyan farmers have responded to the aforementioned challenges by recycling of seeds which is associated with reduced yields. Crop diversification too is practiced in order to help manage weeds, pests and diseases. Additionally, farmers have exploited the rapidly expanding

agrochemical industry to manage pest and disease problems. The market is getting segmented and potato products are getting differentiated through value addition. However, there still persists challenges of declining land availability in favorable climates and fluctuating production as well as productivity associated with climate change.

The solution to the declining productivity of Kenya's potato industry due to declining land availability in the high-rainfall areas and variability in rainfall patterns in medium to low rainfall regions lies in adoption of resilience-enhancing strategies. These include intensive potato cropping systems, development of new crop varieties and soil moisture management in drier climates. The increasing climate variability and the prevalent bimodal rainfall patterns make soil moisture management the most viable option. This can be achieved easily through irrigation.

The rapidly expanding irrigation in Kenya offers opportunity to improve potato productivity, improve tuber yield and quality, and ensure supply of good quality seeds. Irrigation positively affects the entire potato value chain, and thus holds the key to reversing the current trends and rejuvenating the country's potato industry. Irrigation is a multi-pronged enabler in the potato value chain with great potential in several ways: Research has shown that Kenya's commercial varieties adapt well to irrigation and give high yields of good market value, even in hot climates. In fact, the World Potato Council has identified regions with dry climates, high solar radiation and irrigation water as having a comparative advantage for potato production. Further, tuber size uniformity which are key quality parameters in potato marketing are assured in irrigated more than in rain-fed production systems. Irrigation therefore has the potential for helping bridge the seed deficit gap and thus save the potato industry the time and money spent in out-sourcing quality seeds. The fact that Kenya's irrigation development is characterized by rapid expansion in hot and dry climates therefore offers relief and provides a great opportunity for the potato industry to take a transformative trajectory of production that will in turn stimulate large-scale processing for local and export markets.

The National Irrigation Authority is a strategic partner in Kenya's potato industry. Potato is one of the potential high-value crops for many of the irrigation projects in the country. The rapidly expanding irrigation in Kenya creates new frontiers for the industry to exploit for irrigated potato production. Irrigated seed production in these areas is particularly a potential hanging fruit for the industry.

Benedict Owilla - NIA



FreshCrop

Plant. Certified. Seeds.

FreshCrop Limited is Committed to an Inclusive Approach to Providing Solutions to the Potato Value Chain From Tissue Culture to Consumption



**Contact Us for Certified Potato Seeds: Shangri, Unica, Wanjiku, Dutch Robijn
0795122648 – 0719761029**



ABOUT POTATO CAPACITY BUILDING(PCB) PROJECT

PCB is a project implemented by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) with funding from Irish Aid through the Embassy of Ireland in Kenya. The project's overall objective is to improve productivity and incomes and link smallholder farmers(SHFs) to inputs and markets in Nyandarua County.

PCB APPROACH AND PARTNERSHIP ROLES

PCB utilizes an inclusive, locally driven market systems approach to pull farmers more effectively into the potato value chain, increasing access to and use of quality inputs and catalyzing market growth through the promotion and deepening of forward and backward linkages along the potato value chain.

PCB's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model relies on market forces, linkages, and knowledge to spur demand and ensure lasting, sustainable impact rather than subsidies or other market disruptors.

THE PARTNERS AND THEIR ROLES

The project is working with public and private sector partners, including.

- 1.Kirinyaga Seed Limited, a joint venture between Irish and Kenyan companies to facilitate the registration of Irish potato varieties in Kenya,
- 2.IPM Potato Group is focusing on the development of new varieties,
- 3.TEAGASC (The Agriculture and Food Development Authority, Ireland)- R&D support and farmer education,
4. SFSI (Sustainable Food Systems Ireland)- Institutional Capacity strengthening,
- 5.County Government of Nyandarua: extension, policy support, infrastructure,
- 6.KEPHIS (Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services): variety registration, seed certification,
- 7.KALRO (Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization): variety testing, agronomy training, research on storage,
- 8.NPCK (National Potato Council of Kenya): Sector coordination and
- 9.IFDC (International Fertilizer Development Center): soil fertility management, agribusiness development, links to credit providers,



10. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) - carrying out research and educating farmers on potato cyst nematode (PCN), which is an upcoming threat to potato farming in Kenya.

IFDC has also nurtured private sector partners and relationships with local partners, which has resulted in numerous commitments to technical support and other key infrastructural and other investments.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES.

The project activities are implemented in Nyandarua county to improve livelihoods through increased productivity of potato crop per unit area, increased income from the value chain, and linkages to quality inputs, markets, and finance access. In addition, the model is scaled up or replicated in other potato-growing regions. This is achieved by adopting new technologies, including the use of certified potato seed and new varieties that are more productive and marketable, consistent use of good agricultural practices (GAPs), and improved farm management skills. The project's mainstay is farmer education facilitated by Nyandarua county government extension workers and lead farmers through Farmer Field Business School (FFBS) model, a hands-on training program that takes place at the demonstration sites, covering the entire potato-growing season – from land preparation to harvesting. Through the FFBS model, the project has trained over 5,788 farmers (60.5% female) and over 8,500 others through field days, conferences, and organized farmer workshops.

Through the training, the project has influenced more than 70% of the trained farmers to adopt good agricultural practices, leading to improved living standards at the household level. PCB has availed over 130 MT of certified potato seed and 420 mt of clean seed multiplied by farmers using skills acquired from the project. The project has trained 143 lead farmers who cascade farmer-to-farmer extension, thereby improving the quality and accessibility of extension services and gradually building up a cadre of trained and well-equipped extension/technician agents

LESSONS LEARNED

- Technology and adoption: farmers are quick to learn and uptake technology when they see the value to production.

- Sector barriers: marketing potatoes remains a challenge. A major constraint is a gap in information asymmetry. Farmers are unaware of the potential of new varieties and their markets. Intermediaries continue to be the source of market information, which often disadvantages farmers. PCB has linked a segment of farmers directly to buyers. Buyers who are fully engaged with farmers in production planning, agronomic support, and more, are preferable as this allows for management of expectations and reduced the potential for tensions and disagreements between parties.

- Partnership impact on sustainability: PPPs and private sector investments help build sustainability, eliminate market distortions, and reduce reliance on donor funding or subsidies. Further, it is easier to implement direct technical assistance activities, such as farmer training, through these arrangements.

- Investment potential: Investment potential: seed, storage, farmer education, and activities supporting sector reform offer high potential for investment in the potato value chain, particularly by private sector actors.

- Integration of resilience strategies: integration of resilience approaches and tools increases the potential to optimize benefits and the ability to adapt to changing conditions, shocks, and stressors, particularly those associated with climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as livelihood considerations (such as nutrition). This type of integration should be an integral aspect of future programming. Youth engagement: there is an opportunity and potential to engage and employ youth in agriculture, particularly in off-farm activities, such as linking to markets, cottage/service industries, seed production, and more. Digitization of information and virtual platforms: these approaches have been invaluable to value chain actors in adapting to the COVID environment to keep momentum and sustain implementation.



Farmers during a field day in Nyandarua County



THE FARMERS' MANIFESTO

The Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF) hosted the KENAFF National Farmers Forum on 1st and 2nd July, 2022. The forum was attended by farmers and their leaders from all the 47 counties; with the objective to validate views, opinions and input gathered by KENAFF over three months (April to June) on the topic: **Which way for farmers in Elections 2022?** The forum distilled the issues of utmost concern to the farmers of Kenya into the **Farmers' Manifesto**.

In the days to the general election, indeed, beyond 2022 – 2027, KENAFF shall use this Manifesto as the basis upon which to negotiate with both county and national governments on what matters most to farmers' welfare and sustainable and meaningful agricultural transformation and development in the country. Critical issues in the Farmers' Manifesto that the government must work on;

1. Designate the country's food, feed & nutrition security as a national security matter
2. Support the establishment of a national farmers' database, disaggregated in value chains and wards; and connected to a solid agri-food ecosystem
3. Strengthen the finance, regulatory and policy aspects of Climate Smart Agriculture
4. Invest in new farm technologies, innovations and management practices (TIMPs):
5. Nurture a suitable policy and regulatory environment supportive of farmers' access to affordable credit as well as crop and livestock insurance:
6. Invest in a solid national irrigation infrastructure
7. Invest in a solid national agricultural and livestock education, training and research system:
8. Build and support a system that guarantees affordable farm inputs:
9. Enhance the provision of targeted crop, livestock, farm forestry, fisheries and aquaculture extension services:
10. Support the private sector to establish a national network of postharvest handling and storage technologies and facilities:
11. Build and develop a framework that connects farmers with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), micro-SMEs, cottage industries and related agro-processing facilities for value addition.
12. Expand and deepen markets for Kenyan produce and commodities.

The Government (at both national and sub-national levels) bears a moral and constitutional [Article 43 (1) (c)] obligation to designate the agriculture and food sector as a national security matter. Indeed, the government should spare no effort in building solid and sustainable agriculture and food sector that guarantees all Kenyans and at all times sufficient food and appropriate nutrition. This is the only way to build a strong, proud and aspirational country as it is the only way to achieve the imperatives of Kenya Vision 2030 and make Kenya stand tall, gaining respected in the comity of nations.

The government should provide a conducive environment (access to farm credit and insurance at all levels; well-funded agriculture and food research at the national level; well-funded agriculture and livestock extension services at the county level; elaborate and suitable rural infrastructure, including - all-weather roads, last mile power connectivity, piped water, irrigation structures, post-harvest technologies and facilities and farmer-driven produce markets - and Guaranteed Minimum Return through a well-structured commodity and future markets). Kenyan farmers are not beggars and will not allow themselves to be treated as such anymore. The agriculture and food sector should have pride of place in our country's socioeconomic life. All farmers need a conducive environment as well as supportive government architecture for a thriving agricultural sector in the country.



Participants of the National Farmer's Federation Forum

About Kenya National Farmers' Federation (KENAFF)

KENAFF is the National Farmers' Organization (NFO) in Kenya. It is a non-political, non-profit and democratic membership-based organization with the core mandate to represent, articulate, promote and protect the interests of the farmers of Kenya through lobby, advocacy, policy, action and farmer empowerment. This mandate is embodied in the KENAFF motto: **The Farmers' Voice/ Sauti ya Mkulima**. The mandate is operationalized through an elaborate organizational structure; starting at the ward, sub-county, county, and the national level with the National Farmers Assembly (NFA) and the KENAFF Annual General Meeting (KENAFF AGM). KENAFF was founded in 1946 as the Kenya National Farmers Union (KNFU) and now has a presence in all the 47 counties, divided into eleven (11) KENAFF regions; representing about 1.6 million farm families as of July 2022.

Vera Otieno - KENAFF



03

OUTCOME BRIEF

December 2021

Accelerated value chain development for potato in Kenya

New value chains boost sustainable development and enhance farmers' livelihoods

Key messages

1. Over six years, 74,690 smallholder farmers were reached with AVCD potato value chain agricultural and nutrition-related interventions, of whom 72,260 applied productivity-enhancing technologies.
2. Farmers collectively generated 33,977,789 USD in sales. This was accompanied by a more-than-doubling of gross margin, demonstrating that the increase was due in part to increases in farmer profits.
3. Working closely with and supporting the county governments to develop their local potato sectors has been vital for success - potato is now included in the development plans of all the project counties with over \$1.3 million invested so far. This success bodes well for future phases of the project and for development of the national potato sector.

Background

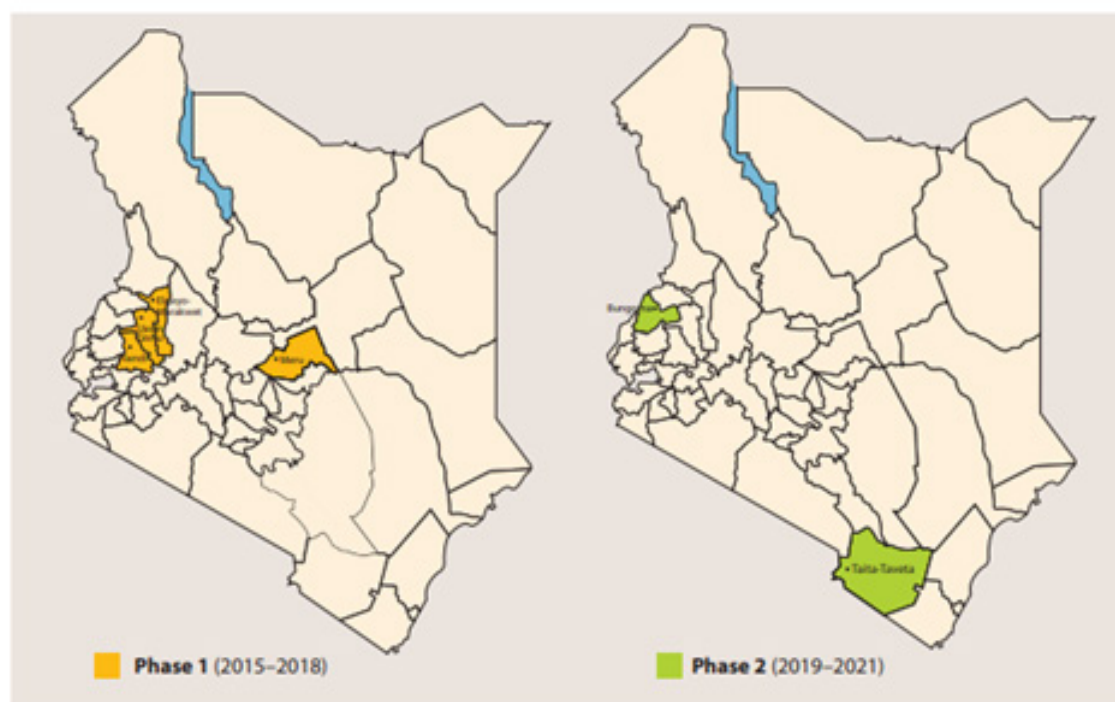
Potato is cultivated by approximately 800,000 mostly smallholder farmers in Kenya, and plays an important role in Kenya's food and nutrition security plan. The sector employs another 2.5 million people - transporters, distributors, processors, vendors, retailers, and exporters - who earn their livelihoods along the value chain.

Agricultural productivity in Kenya declined from 22 t/ha in 2010 to less than 10 t/ha in 2019, representing a loss of 2.7 million tonnes of food per year. Potato is an excellent option for boosting productivity as it responds well to improved farming techniques and technologies, and to improvements in the value chain.

Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD) supported the development of a private sector-led potato value chain, integrating county governments in leading and supporting interventions to disseminate productivity-enhancing technologies, strengthen seed systems and develop farmer producer organizations (FPOs) to improve equality and opportunities in the value chain.



In phase 1 (2015–2018), AVCD covered the traditional potato-growing counties of Elgeyo-Marakwet (EMC), Meru, Nandi, and Uasin Gishu (UGC). In phase 2, (2019–2021), farmers in Bungoma and Taita Taveta counties established new potato value chains in regions with climates not traditionally-suitable for potato using climate smart, resilient potato varieties.



Achievement

AVCD supported 72,260 smallholder farmers to apply productivity-enhancing technologies following season-long practical training on learning farms which were hosted by farmer groups and led by government extension workers. As a result, farmers generated 33,977,789 USD in sales of potato, with increases in gross margin in phase 1 from 721 to 1,680 USD/ha. This represents a direct return on investment of 1 to 9.82 USD on the 3.47M USD investment of the project. In phase 2, yields increased by 49% from 7.7 to 11.5 t/ha, and the average area of potato cultivated per farmer increased from 0.12 to 0.35 ha.

KEY OUTCOMES

	Target	Achieved	% Achieved
Number of participants	66,000	74,690	113%
Number of participants who applied improved management practices or technologies	58,917	72,260	123%
Value of annual sales of farms and firms	43,213,260	33,977,789	79% ¹
Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies	11,323	20,217	178%
Percentage of female participants	40%	71%	178%

¹ Not achieved due to nationally declared drought 2016–2017 affecting production.

Developing farmer-based institutions to carry out seed production, storage, marketing and to lobby for farmers rights has been critical for equitable value chain development. Five new county-level Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) established by AVCD are becoming financially self-sufficient, with Nandi Potato Farmers' Cooperative Society becoming a nationally recognized model for FPO development (Box 1).



Production of certified seed was a major step towards sustainability, with the first certified seed produced in Bungoma, Nandi and Taita Taveta counties. After the end of phase 1, youth-owned Jungu Farm in Meru County and Nandi Potato Cooperative each obtained a seed merchant license to produce and market certified seed. KWESTO FPO in Bungoma is producing certified seed as an outgrower under a Nandi Potato Cooperative outgrower license. In Taita Taveta, four AVCD-trained farmer groups produced certified seed in October 2020 under the seed merchant license of Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) with support from Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP). Trained seed multipliers were formed into farmer group seed producers to produce certified seed under the KCSAP-KALRO outgrower model in EMC and UGC – another legacy of AVCD seed system development.

Box 1. Nandi Potato Farmers' Cooperative Society

The Nandi Potato Cooperative is a model of cooperative formation and development in collaboration with the county government. Notable accomplishments:

- 1,500 members within four years of registration;
- Two salaried staff: a manager and agronomist;
- Produced certified seed as an outgrower and, in 2021, acquired the seed merchant license from KEPHIS;
- Made a profit of Ksh 2 million (USD 20,000) in 2020 from an investment of Ksh 6 million.

Nandi County supported the cooperative by i) purchasing 12,000 USD of cooperative-produced seed for farmers, ii) supporting access to the basic seed that is used to produce certified seed - valued at 11,000 USD - and iii) purchasing machinery valued at 80,000 USD to lend to the cooperative for mechanized production.

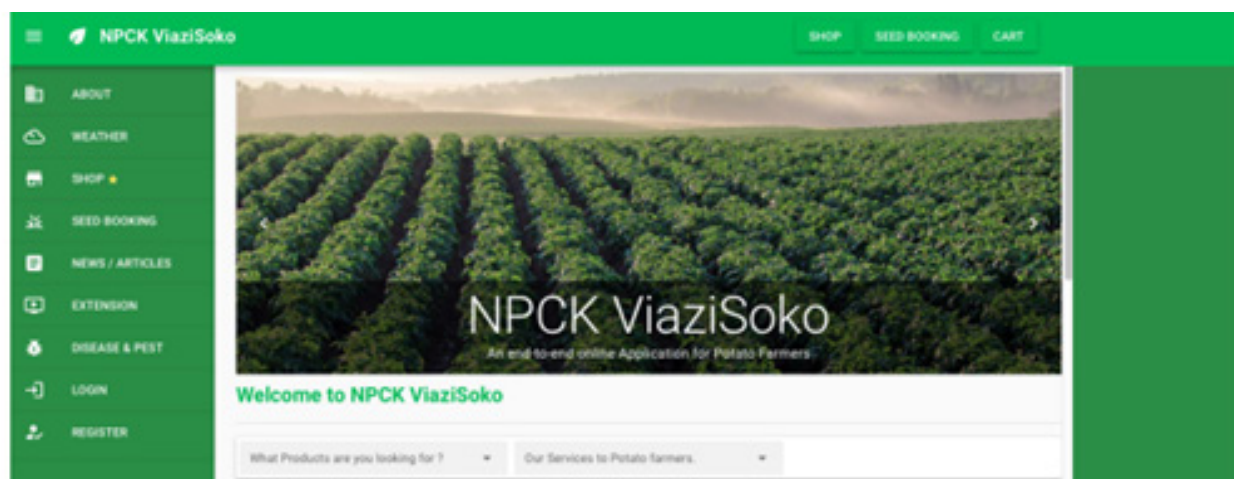
Capacity development transcended all interventions: county governments to ensure a supportive enabling environment, and FPOs, seed businesses, farmers to transform the value chain and commercially driven farming. To support farmer outreach, AVCD trained 65 ward agricultural officers and, in collaboration with the County Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Ministry of Health, 99 county and subcounty nutrition officers and 193 Community Health Volunteers in nutrition messaging.

The county governments were the principal partners and putting their teams at the forefront of planning and implementing interventions was the key to success. As a result of high-level engagement in leading, planning, implementation and monitoring, all of the county governments prioritized potato among their county's priority crops, collectively investing 1.336 million USD in potato value chain development.

Box 2. Viazi Soko Digital platform

AVCD supported upgrades to the National Potato Council of Kenya-hosted Viazi Soko (potato marketing) platform <https://npckviazisoko.com/> and an app available on Google play where farmers can place orders and book seed, and access weather forecasts by region, extension services on GAPs, pest and disease advisory services and other farm services.

- Over 98,000 farmers are registered on the platform.
- Over 1,200 farmers actively use the platform to find inputs, services and advisory information.
- 16 companies are registered on the platform offering products and services to farmers: seed, apical cuttings, minitubers, agrochemicals, fertilizers, mechanization, soil testing and spraying services.



Discussion

CIP played a unique role in this delivery-focused project, with a critical role in capacity development of government, public and private institutions who cascaded knowledge and training along the value chain. Capacity development encompassed technical trainings and training guides to high level technical backstopping and supporting strategic planning. The extensive capacity building of diverse stakeholders was central to sustainability and fostering continuation of activities beyond the project cycle.

While much has been achieved, more needs to be done to ensure long-term sustainability of the sector: The seed businesses are still young and will need continuing support to ensure they develop into robust entities that can support the value chain. Establishing an effective potato marketing system will be essential to enable the county governments to sustain the project outcomes in the longer term.

The follow-up 3-year project Accelerated Institutional and Food System Development (AIFSD) goes beyond the value chain to encompass an entire food system approach underpinned by capacity development. AIFSD focuses on launching the value chain into sustainable autonomy by supporting the establishment of potato seed systems at county level, further building the capacity of extension services in good agricultural practices and basic agribusiness skills, supporting and building the capacity of FPOs, and establishing a potato marketing system.

Duration

Dates of the project: October 2015 to September 2021

Budget

USD \$3.47 million

Contact

Monica L. Parker, Senior Scientist, m.parker@cgiar.org

Donors and partners

- USAID
- County governments of Bungoma, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Meru, Nandi, Taita Taveta and Uasin Gishu
- National Potato Council of Kenya
- Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project
- Farm Input Promotions Africa

Links

AVCD potato website: www.avcdkenya.net

Viazi Soko: www.npckviazisoko.com

Feed the Future USAID Kenya accelerated value chain development program. Potato value chain.

Six-year final report: <https://cgispace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/116409>

Six-year final report, Annex 1 List of Deliverables: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/116492>



CIP thanks all donors and organizations that globally support its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund. <https://www.cgiar.org/funders/>



© December 2021. This publication is copyrighted by the International Potato Center (CIP). It is licensed for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License



DIGITAL SUBSECTOR NETWORKING SESSION



Participants during the digital sub-sector networking forum

When it comes to subsistence agriculture, digital transformation is no longer a choice, it's a necessity. Farmers' and buyers' needs are evolving at an increasing rate. Companies that are in the business of supplying to or procuring from farmers need to transform in order to satisfy their customers' fast-changing demands. Digital solutions in recent years have not only increased the reach of farmers through more effective information dissemination but also reduce the conventional knowledge and technology gap between small and large-scale farmers. Finding ways to cater for the ever-increasing demand for food from limited land requires solutions that will help improve farm productivity.

Viazi Soko digital platform, which is an e-commerce platform for information dissemination and market linkages is providing an efficient way for accessing quality farm inputs and services such as certified seeds, potato-specific fertilizers, extension and advisory messages and weather forecast information to help improve potato productivity and profitability. It is also set to start helping farmers access approved agrochemicals, spray services, soil testing and mechanization services.

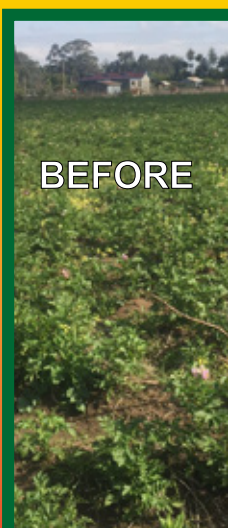
Currently, NPCK is creating awareness for the platform through various channels including media advisements, training farmers and stakeholders on the platform use, distribution of fliers, and showcasing in various forums and events. The platform was showcased during a digital subsector networking session that was held at Serena Hotel. The main discussions during the meeting mainly focused on the commercial aspect of rapidly growing digital technologies in the agriculture sector and the creation of synergies to achieve more. They focused on satellite imagery to pinpoint plant yields and possible areas where natural factors may reduce plant productivity and the use of drones, especially on large farms.

Henry Chemjor
Value Chain Manager, NPCK

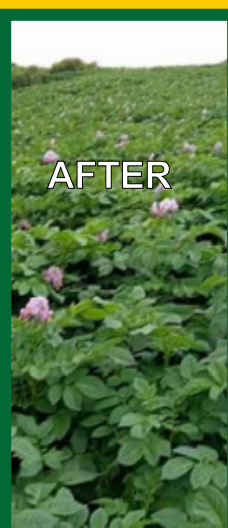


Need Help Controlling Late/Early Blight & Increasing your Potato Yield?

We have reliable and affordable solutions



BEFORE



AFTER

MACARENA

A biologically derived bio-stimulant from marine algae through proprietary MAC fermentation technology

BENEFITS

- Increases photosynthesis activity resulting in improved nutrient uptake and vigorous plant growth.
- Enhances plant metabolism, hence improved harvest quality/quantity
- Increases potato tolerance to abiotic stresses due to high antioxidant
- Low rate of application - 10ml/20 L of water hence economical.



TWIGALAXYL 720 WP

A systemic fungicide with both preventive and curative properties for the control of early and later blight in potatoes.



**TWIGA
CHEMICALS**

Reliability & Value

BENEFITS

- Broad spectrum foliar fungicide with preventive and curative action.
- Rapid penetration and highly systemic excellent control under high disease pressure
- Longer period of disease control hence reduced application cost.
- Low risk of resistance due to multisite mode of action



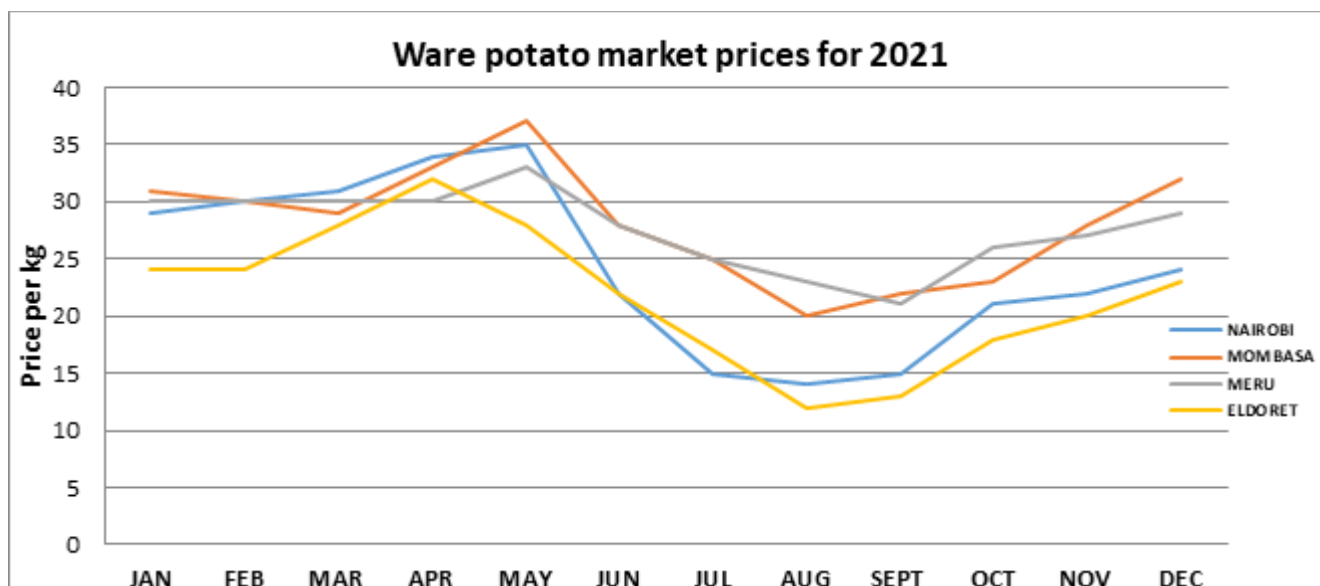
TWIGA CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD.
P.O. Box 30172, NAIROBI-KENYA, Tel: 020-3942000,
Email:- info@twiga-chem.com Website:- www.twigachemicals.com



0742 967 573



THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF LOW WARE POTATOES PRICES



Source: NPCK's weekly potato price analysis

In May to October 2021, potato market prices in Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa, Meru and Eldoret dropped drastically below the breakeven point. This was largely attributed to potato traders who were trying to dispose off the stock to avoid spoilage. The prices for ware potatoes were as low as Ksh 300 for a 70kg bag in some places forcing most farmers to hold off from selling their potatoes thus delaying their next planting season. The extremely low potato prices also discouraged farmers from investing in quality seed potatoes for the following season. The seed potato industry has grown progressively from about 7 seed potato producers in 2013 to 28 in 2021. The production of certified seed potatoes has also increased drastically in the recent past with more farmers accessing quality seeds. This has been accelerated by distribution of potato variety catalogue and more importantly by use of the Viasi Soko digital platform in creating awareness, seed booking, ordering and delivery. Seeds are ordered and delivered to their respective pick-up points from where they are collected by farmers. Currently, there are 8 seed potato producers using the platform to market their seeds. During the short rain season, (Sept 2021-Feb 2022), demand for seed potato dropped radically and most seed producers were not able to sell their seeds. Some of the factors attributing to this were delayed rainfall and the low ware potato market prices experienced in the country.

Eileen Jerotich

Value Chain Officer, NPCK



Sereni Fries Limited (SFL) is a privately owned, Kenyan resident, for profit organization established in 2012 and incorporated as a Limited Company in March 2015 (limited by shares under CAP 498 laws of Kenya). We have proven experience and expertise in potato processing, owning intellectual property on the ware potato processing into fresh cut products of high quality and assured safety with over ten years of experience. In Kenya, potato farming has not been fully embraced as an agribusiness. The crop is majorly grown for subsistence uses and slightly as a cash crop. The reluctance on commercial farming is largely attributable to failures that have occurred due to poor production practices, rainfall failure and gaps in the potato value chain. For a long time, there has been no government regulations and interventions towards the value chain to protect the different players especially farmers who have been exploited by middlemen making ware potato farming unsustainable. We appreciate that great steps are being undertaken towards the value chains regulation. To further develop the potato value chain, SFL pioneered a business model championing collaboration with local ware potato small holder farmers. We play an active role of onboarding and training the farmers on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and GAPs to beat snags in land preparation methods, incorrect use of farm inputs, inappropriate use of pesticides, and provide timely agronomy and weather information. Sereni has been engaging directly with farmers through their groups and in partnership with key sector stakeholders. We then contract the trained farmers to grow the preferred ware potato variety for us. With assured year-round (ware potato bought and stored in our cold storage) quality potato supply that meets our demand, we concentrate on adding value to the ware potato by processing, marketing, and selling our top-notch potato products. In the last few months, we have heavily invested in the research and development of our new baby, Sereni Frozen Products. We are happy to announce that the commercial production of our Sereni Frozen Fries and launch to the retail sector will be in the coming month of August 2022. This will be a beginning of a new era for our stakeholders and SFL. Our commitment to product development, government lobbying, creating valuable partnerships in the potato value chain and key sector players' collaboration will see the Irish potato become a valued cash crop in our esteemed country and the greater geographical region.



Gladioli Limited, Manera Farm Naivasha offers a Vocational Course for tractor and farm equipment operators. We are trainers recognised by NITA. In addition, we offer tailor made courses regarding agriculture, food safety, agrochemicals, and pest control. We are also official dealers of the new tractor Zoomlion and sell assorted farm equipment.

Contacts: P.O. Box 512 Naivasha 20117

Tel. Claudia-0722206939, Leonardo-0717445532

E-mail: torres.palau@yahoo.es

Facebook: Manera Farm



FARMER EXCHANGE VISIT TO A POTATO PROCESSING PLANT

Potato processors and other buyers face various challenges in sourcing quality potatoes, suitable varieties, and consistency in supply. In contrast, farmers face challenges accessing good markets for their potatoes due to poor quality and mixed sizes. One way to solve this problem is through capacity-building farmers on potato processing requirements to improve the quality of potatoes they are supplying. Centered on the common phrase, “seeing is believing” NPCK in collaboration with IFDC, Nyandarua county and other stakeholders organized potato farmers' exchange visits to Kinangop fries limited to learn about processing varieties and quality requirements. NPCK has been supporting the farmer groups to access good markets for their produce. Through the interactive session with the processor, farmers were enlightened on the quality, preferred sizes, and potato varieties required by the processors. The groups struck a deal with the processor

to supply quality potatoes in the following seasons under contract agreements.



Potato farmers during an exchange program at Kinangop Fries, Nyandarua County

TRAINING OF FARMERS ON POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING

A large number of potato farmers use poor practices in land preparation, planting, pre-harvesting, harvesting and low adoption of mechanization in potato farming resulting in high loss of potatoes during harvesting. This is mainly due to lack of proper information and inadequate extension services. To help address these challenges, NPCK organized a training for potato farmer representatives on post-harvest management practices and marketing. The training took place in 5 counties (Meru, Nyandarua, Nakuru, Narok and Elgeyo Marakwet) where 423 farmer group leaders were trained. The trained farmers are expected to train their group members in the subsequent harvesting time on the best harvesting methods, sorting, grading and marketing. This will help reduce losses at the farm level and supply quality potatoes to markets. The trained farmers are in regular communication with NPCK on progress updates, market linkages and other challenges faced.



Henry Chemjor
Value Chain Manager, NPCK



**Quality, certified seed for potato farmers
across East Africa**

HZPC, CIP & KALRO varieties available as follows:

- Sagita
- Dutch Robjin
- Farida
- Voyager
- Asante
- Challenger
- Shangi
- Sherekea
- Unica



For more information, kindly email us at
potatoes@kisima.co.ke or call 0716 968 766
www.kisima.co.ke

The 12th Triennial Conference of African Potato Association

The African Potato Association (APA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1983 with the core objective of promoting the production and use of Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes in Africa. Currently, most APA members are scientists and practitioners drawn from 20 African countries. Every three years, the APA holds a scientific conference to review progress in Irish potato and sweet potato research in Africa. The conference is also an opportunity for scientists to interact with other stakeholders in the sector through exhibitions, presentations, and panel discussions. The 12th Triennial APA Conference was held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 27th June to 1st July 2022, and was organized by the Malawian Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the International Potato Center. The theme of the conference was 'Harnessing potato and sweet potato innovations for resilient, healthier agri-food systems'. The program also included farm tours in the host country, where participants had in-depth discussions with farmers, local leaders, and extension officers regarding crop production practices, food systems, nutrition, major challenges face and solutions. Various organizations from Kenya and other African countries were well represented at the conference. Kenya was represented by NPCK, KALRO, UON, GIZ, CIP, Syngenta Foundation, AGRA, Stokman Rozen, MoALF, IFDC, potato farmers, among others. The next 12th Triennial APA conference is scheduled to take place on June 2026 in Kampala, Uganda.



The 12th Triennial Conference of African Potato Association in Lilongwe, Malawi



VIAZI SOKO DIGITAL PLATFORM

ABOUT THE PLATFORM

It enables farmers to:

- Query and receive feedback on seed potato information
- Book and order of seeds for the next season,
- Access to potato recommended fertilizers and approved agrochemicals
- Access to soil testing, mechanization and spray services,
- Access to extension and advisory services on GAPs,
- Access to pest and disease advisory services,
- Access to weather information and forecast

In order to access the above services, you need to register onto the viazisoko digital platform

The platform is available in three forms;

- USSD Short code service
- Android App
- Web based



b) Querying For Seed

- 1) Dial ***483*331#** on your mobile phone.
- 2) Select option 1 "Seeds Query".
- 3) Select category (i) Seed size 1 or size 2 (ii) Cuttings (iii) Minutubers.
- 4) Type the seed potato variety you are looking for and confirm.
- 5) The query will return 3 records closest to your location and summary information will be sent on SMS (Seed Company, location, contact person and contacts).

d) Weather Updates

- 1) Dial ***483*331#** on your mobile phone.
- 2) Select option 3 "Weather Details".
- 3) Option 1 gives weather/ Forecast for the ward you are registered in. A 7 days weather forecast will be sent via an SMS
- 4) Option 2 gives Weather/ Forecast for other regions. Fill in the details for the specific region i.e. County, Sub-county, and Ward

e) Farm Service

1. Soil testing

- Dial ***483*331#** on your mobile phone.
- Select option 4 "Farm Services"
- Select option 1 "Soil Testing"
- Select county;
- Option 1 for the county you are registered in
- Option 2 for other regions. Type in the name of the county.

Note: You will receive an SMS with the details of the soil testing agents within the region.

Note: You will receive an SMS with the details of the 3 spraying service providers within the region.

3. Mechanization

- Dial ***483*331#** on your mobile phone.
- Select option 4 "Farm Services".
- Select option 3 "Mechanization".

Note: You will receive an SMS with the details of the Mechanization Service Providers within the region

e) Farmer Groups

Joining your farmer group option

- 1) Dial ***483*331#** on your mobile phone
- 2) Select option 5 "Farmer group".
- 3) Search the name of your group or the contacts of the chairperson and request for joining

Note: Through the Web-based and Android App, the chairpersons can manage the members of the group. They can remove or add a new member. Manage your account:

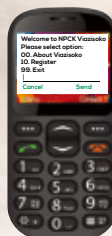
- 4) Dial ***483*331#** on your mobile phone
- 5) Select option 6 "my Account" then update your registration details

1 USSD SHORT CODE SERVICE

a) Registration

- 1) Dial ***483*331#** on your mobile phone.
- 2) Select option 10 "Register"
- 3) Enter your details to complete registration (County, Sub county/ Constituency, Ward and Full names).

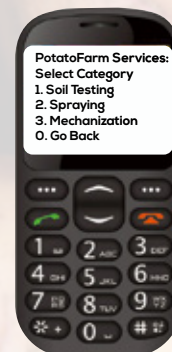
Note: After completion of registration, you will receive a confirmation text.



c) Seed Booking

- 1) Dial ***483*331#** on your mobile phone.
- 2) Select option 2 "Seeds Booking"
- 3) Select category (i) Seed size 1 or size 2 (ii) Cuttings (iii) Minutubers.
- 4) Type the seed potato variety you want to book.
- 5) The query will return 3 records closest to your location and summary information of the seed you can book is sent on SMS (Seed Company, location, contact person and contacts).

Note: You need to complete the seed booking process through Viazi soko-App or Web-based.



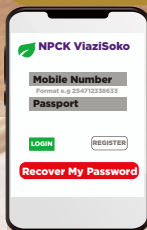
The upgrade of Viazi soko platform was supported by:



Other partners:



f) USSD To Web-based Or Android App



A farmer registered through USSD (*483*331#) does not need to register again in Android App or Web-based to access the services. They just need to login on web-based platform or Android App by;

- 1) Clicking on "Login" option
- 2) Select "Recover My Password" option.
- 3) Enter the phone number used in USSD registration.

- 4) Click on "Recover Account" then enter the verification code sent to the phone number used during USSD registration.
- 5) Set/ enter a Password. (Should be 6 character)
- 6) Click on 'Change My Password' option.
- 7) Login into your account using the registered phone number and the password.

2. ANDROID APP

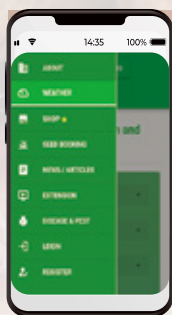
1. Accessing Android App

- i) Download and install the Viazisoko App from the Google play store. (Search npck viazisoko on Google play store)

3. Accessing services on the app

Click on the icon on the upper left side of the screen to access the services window. You have to login in order to access shop, seed booking and disease and pest services

- a) About
 - i) Click on about to see the summary about the platform and its functions.



b) Weather

- i) Click on weather on the dashboard then select county, followed by constituency and ward.
- ii) Click on search and all the information on weather will be displayed on the screen.

c) Shop

- i) Click on the shop, then click on the service/product you want to shop e.g. seeds, soil testing etc.
- ii) Click view details on the product selected to see the available stock and the price.
- iii) On the box next to "add to cart" add the number of bags/ items you want to purchase then click on cart icon on the upper right side of the screen and add the collection point details.
- iv) Then click on check out to get the LIPA NA MPESA option. **NOTE: To shop means looking for product/ service which is readily available and you can buy on spot.**

To login you **MUST** be registered

d) Seed booking

- i) Click on seed booking option then click on filter by category to see the available seed category of your choice (seed tubers size 1 & 2, mini tubers, cuttings).
- ii) Click on view details to see the available stock and the price per 50kg bag, then click on the box next to add to booking cart and add the number of bags you want to book.
- iii) Click on cart icon on the upper right side of the screen, add the collection point details then click on check out to get the LIPA NA MPESA option.

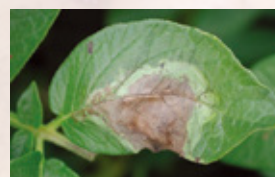
NOTE: Seed booking is whereby one books seed which is not readily available at the moment but will be available in the next planting season.

e) Extension

- i) Click on extension icon to access the extension services
- ii) They are informed of short video clips on GAPs

f) Pest and diseases

- i) Click on Disease and Pest icon to access the service
- ii) Click on create new post to enable upload or take a photo
- iii) Allow your GPS location in your phone on
- iv) Take the photo of the pest or diseased crop & upload



Note: You can as well upload photos from your phone gallery previously taken

3 WEB-BASED

Access services through Web-based platform

- i) Go to your browser i.e. Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Operamini, etc. and search www.npckviazisoko.com
- ii) Then this will lead you to NPCK Viazisoko portal

Note: The procedure for accessing services through Web-based platform is the same as for the Android App shown above.

For more details on requirements and procedure contact NPCK marketing department through **Phone: 0799739578/0712338633 Email: npck@npck.org**



Platinum Members



POTATO GOODNESS

INGREDIENTS

1 cup Blue Band
3 potatoes boiled and mashed
2 tablespoon fresh parsley chopped
3/4 cup mozzarella block shredded
1 egg
1 cup breadcrumbs
salt to taste
pepper to taste

PREPARE DELICIOUS POTATO CROQUETTES

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large bowl add the mashed potatoes, the parsley, salt, pepper and mozzarella cheese and mix well.
Beat the egg and pour the yolk in the mixture and mix well until evenly distributed.
Trim the end of a piping bag and put the whole mixture inside.
Spread a cling film on a tray and squeeze out the mixture through the trimmed end such that it forms long round rolls.
Refrigerate the strips for 30 minutes, afterwards trim the ends and cut into buttons.
Mix wheat flour with bread crumbs and add the egg white. Coat the buttons with mixed flour and dip in the egg whites.
In a frying pan, melt Blue Band margarine and bring to cooking temperature.
Dip them and fry until golden brown.
Place them on absorbent paper towel to drain excess butter.
Serve hot with ketchup.



GUIDELINES FOR MONITORING QUALITY OF CERTIFIED SEED POTATO



Potato yields are affected by several factors of which the most important one is the quality of seed used. The average yield increase from the use of good quality seed ranges from 30 to 50 per cent compared to farmers who use recycled seeds. Farmers face challenges getting certified seed potato since seed production has remained low at less than four per cent of the national requirement. Low seed production is due to challenges such as few numbers of certified seed multipliers and the cost involved in multiplying. However, demand for certified seed potato is growing with increasing awareness on the importance of using certified seeds.

To guarantee the quality of the seeds, potato farmers are encouraged to check the quality of certified seed before they purchase from a registered seed merchant. The seed potato packaging bag must have a KEPHIS label inside with the following information:

- Name of the potato variety e.g. Shangi, Unica, Sherekea, Asante etc.
- Seed size e.g. size I, size II, or mini-tubers
- Net weight (the weight should not exceed 50 Kg) e.g. 20 Kg, 50kg
- Certified seed generation e.g. BASIC, C1G, 2ND GEN etc.
- Lot number e.g. 17-17344H
- Date of sealing e.g. 10/23/2017
- Label colour: Breeder's/Basic (White), C1G (Blue), 2ND – 3RD GEN (Pink)
- The label should look like the sample below



Farmers are also advised to observe the following:

- Purchase seed potato from registered seed producers only.
 - You can confirm with KEPHIS or NPCK through the contacts provided below.
- Do not buy certified seed which has no KEPHIS label stitched to the package.
- Obtain an official receipt on purchase of seed.
- Keep the receipts and the label throughout the growing season for reference in case of complaints. Keep all useful evidence such as seed potato packaging, receipts, label etc.
- Do not plant seed tubers that are rotten, over sprouted, damaged or mis-shaped.
- Report any strange diseases, pests or any other anomaly found on certified seed potato to KEPHIS, NPCK or agricultural extension officers for mitigation/ management action
 - The reporting should be done immediately the anomaly is discovered and should be within the growing season and affected tubers or anomaly should be preserved as evidence
 - Do not tamper with any information on the label or interfere with the package

In case of any complaints on seed quality, farmers should contact KEPHIS and NPCK immediately on the following telephone numbers or email:

- KEPHIS HQ - Tel: 0709891000, Email: director@kenhis.org, kenhisinfo@kenhis.org
 - KEPHIS Regional Offices: Kitale - 0722209502, Nakuru - 0722209503, Embu - 0728600092, Mombasa - 0722209501, Kisumu - 0728607093
- NPCK - Tel: 0799739578, Email: complaints@npck.org



Viazi Kings Limited creating efficiency in input ordering, extension and potatoes market linkages

Viazi Kings Limited (VKL) is a private limited company registered under the laws of Kenya. The company's main business operations include; buying, selling and distributing of seeds and other farm inputs, buying, storing, and distributing ware potatoes, training farmers & offering advisory services. Viazi Kings Limited is working closely with potato farmers and farmers groups with an aim to create efficiency along the value chain. We play a crucial role in enhancing potato farming and ensuring food security by enabling farmers access certified potato seed for improved productivity and offer market linkages

Partnerships with value chain actors

- Seed potato distribution: VKL has partnered with seed companies and distributes certified seed potatoes to farmers in potato producing counties. The farm gate prices of certified seed potatoes are posted in the Viazi Soko platform from where farmers book or order. VKL aggregate the orders and schedules timely deliveries the process ensures farmers get quality seeds at reduced transaction costs. This has seen the distribution of 280 tonnes of certified seeds since 2021.
- Fertilizer & Agrochemicals distribution: VKL has partnered with key input companies to supply fertilizers and agrochemicals to farmers in various potato producing counties. VKL is an approved distributor of fertilizers and agrochemicals by Yara, Baraka fertilizers Corteva, Agriscience and Syngenta.
- Ware potato buying, transportation, selling and storage: VKL has partnered with market outlets and processors to supply quality ware potatoes. Viazi Kings mainly buys ware potatoes from farmers, registered farmer groups and cooperatives in all potato producing counties. We purchase the following potato varieties; Shangi, Markies, Dutch Robijn, Unica and Manitou.

Contract farming

- Viazi Kings offers contract farming products to farmers for Markies potatoes. The product specifications and prices are discussed before the signing of the contract document.

Extension and advisory services.

- Viazi Kings Ltd provides extension services to both contracted and non-contracted potato farmers through group and individual trainings. Through farm visits, our field officers are able to bond with the farmers train them and help in the aggregation of inputs and ware potatoes.

Employment Creation

- Viazi Kings Ltd is in partnership with NPCK have a Farm Service Providers model to enhance potato business. Farm service providers are youthful individuals selected from farmer groups and are equipped with knowledge and skills in GAPs and ware potato aggregation. The farm service providers are paid a commission for the inputs aggregated which has helped in employment creation and use of quality inputs

Certified seeds distribution

For inputs, ware potatoes, and market linkages, contact us on; 0792 589 216 or

email us at viazikingsltd@gmail.com

Instagram :Viazi Kings Karlo Kabete Campus, off Waiyaki Way

Gladys Kahindo

Manager- Viazi Kings Ltd.



viazikings ltd



viazikings



@Viazi_Kings



www.viazikingsltd.com



EXHIBITORS



Contacts: Box
25171-00603 Nairobi
Tel:(254-20)422_3602
Email:cip-nbo@cgiar.org



Contacts: Box 30321
00100 Nairobi
Tel:0208600000/
0722427137



Contacts: Box 3465-
20100 Nakuru,
Kenya
Tel:0742844207/
0741788 380
Email:info@agrigo.co.ke



Contacts:Box 1125-30100
Eldoret
Tel:0721761850
Email



Contacts:Box 24942-
00100 Nairobi
Tel:0800721495
Email:info@greenlife.co.ke



BOX 30172-00100
GPO Nairobi, Kenya
Tel+254722207847/722204
914/733639334/733639335



Contact:0202042810
+254722522897/
0728220430
Email:joshua@livatty.com



Tel: 0722403103
Kenya



Contacts:Box41852-00100
Nairobi Kenya
Tel:0202021918/
0731202191
Email:info@koppert.co.ke



Contacts:Box 18108-
00100
Nairobi
Tel:0725690901
Email:info@serenifries.co.ke



C/Oicipe campus,
duduvilleKasarani
Thika road
Contacts:Box 30772



Contacts:Box53384
Nairobi
Tel:0709142000



P.O BOX 13794, Loresho.
+254 208 021 846/7/8 /
+254 208 021 865.
info@pcpb.or.ke



Lenana Road, P.O Box
30372, 00100. Nairobi,
Kenya. ;Tel. +254 711 061
000



Hotlines. +254 788 524
998. +254 704 153 773
; Landlines. +254-020-
3317199. +254-020-
3272000



Physical Address: Old
Airport North Road
Embakasi ; Postal: 30327-
00100 ; Tel: 719095000
; Email: amiran@
amirankenya.com



Contacts: Box 62, 20116
Gilgil
Tel:0796259323
Email:info@ndumek-
enya.com



Contacts: Box 30393-
00100 Nairobi
Tel:+254703018000/
703019000
Email:syngenta.east_
africa @syngenta.com



Contacts:Box
Tel:070512217942
Email:info@egerton.
ac.ke



Contact:Box 41446
Nairobi
Tel:0722205148
Email:info@hygrotech.
co.ke



Contacts:
Tel:0796 511 670
Email:freshcropltd@
gmail.com



Contacts:Box 366-
20106,Molo
Tel:0202318066
Email:adcmolo@gmail.
com



Contacts: Box
260-10304 Kutus
Tel:0720 258 2237
Email:info@kirinyaga.
go.ke



Tel: 0703018000
Email:Harriet.nasha@
syngenta.com



Contact:0722263796
Mombasa road, Nairobi



Contacts:Box 22757-
00505
Nairobi Tel:0700368368
Email:info@wrsc.go.ke



Contacts:Box14360-00800
Nairobi
Tel:0772958602
Email:enyquery.ke@upl-
ltd.com



Contacts: Box 25290-
00603 Nairobi
Tel: (0)722398802/020
2024492
Email:info@keviankenya.
co.ke



+254 (0) 707 573 095.
+254 (0) 712 906 234.



P.O.Box 64. Timau,
10406. KENYA ;
Email address. info@
kisima.co.ke ;
Phone Number. +254
(0)722 509 830



Baba dogo Rd Ruaraka.
P.O.Box 20495-00200
Nairobi, Kenya



Contacts:Box43148-
00100 Nairobi-
Tel:0723903957/
0741461763
Email:farmers@kenaff.
org



Contacts:
Tel:0798214350
Email:energy@giert-
sen.com



Contacts:
Tel:0733333575
Email:info@awl.co.ke



BOX 15185-00100
Tel No. +25420418960/
4184966
Mobile +254710447777
Email:info@agrochem.
co.ke



Tel:0208068349/
0701453633
Kenya
Email: carbacid@
carbacid.co.ke



Contacts:Box 49592-
0100 Tel:0709891000/
0206618000
Email: kephisinfo@
kephis.org



P.O. Box 42601 - 00100.
Tel: 020-2088469, 020-
2131560.
Email: md.hcda@gmail.
com



P.O Box 27542- 00506.
Mountain View Es-
tate,Off Waiyaki Way,-
House No 268.
Phone: 0700 222622
Email: info@cga.co.ke



Social: facebook.com/
barakafertilizer

Solidaridad

Contacts:-
Box42234-00100
Nairobi
Tel:0716666862
Email:info.secaec@
solidaridadnetwork.org



Contact:-
Box30028-00100 Kenya
Email:info@asdsp.go.ke



Tel. +254-502021409 ;
Fax. +254-502020854



+254 720 325 144;
info@agrichemafrika.
com



0800 721 042 (Toll free)
sales@sunculture.com



Kenya Climate Smart
Agriculture Project



Registered seed Producers

Name	County	Contacts	Varieties
ADC-Molo	Nakuru, Molo	Mike 0715952541 Email;adc-molo@gmail.com	Shangi, Sherekea, Dutch Robijn, K. Karibu, K. Mpya, Asante, Nyota, Unica, Desiree, Konjo, Wanjiku, Lenana, Tigoni
KALRO-Tigoni	jb	0722851221 kalro.tigoni@karlo.org	Shangi, Tigoni, Unica, Kenya Karibu, Sherekea
Kisima Farm	Meru, Timau	Hillary - 0716968766 potatoes@kisima.co.ke/potato-clerk@kisima.co.ke	Shangi, Sherekea, Dutch Robijn, Sagitta, Unica, Challenger, Voyager
Agrico Potato Services Africa Ltd.)	Nakuru, Kabarak	0742844207-Ruth info@agrico.co.ke	Markies, , Manitou, , Arizona
FreshCrop Limited	Nakuru, Narok, Nyandarua	Chris Gasperi (Founder and CEO) freshcroplimited@gmail.com, 0727230484 0795122648,	Shangi, Dutch Robijn, Wanjiku, Unica
Singus Enterprises	Nakuru- Molo	Ann Mbugua 0722691245, annmbugua@gmail.com	Shangi, Unica
Suera Farm	Nyandarua, Ol-joro'orok	0706-186579 Suera.flowers@gmail.com	Musica, Lady Amarilla
Egerton University Seed Unit	Nakuru, Njoro	Prof. Kibe 0721402957, Enock0742934636-enockrugut@outlook.com	Shangi, Dutch robijn, Kenya Karibu, Nyota, Wanjiku
Stockman Rozen Ltd	Naivasha	0720603990 info@srk.co.ke	Apical cuttings and mini-tubers of Shangi, Unica, Konjo, Dutch robijn, Wanjiku, Asante .
GTIL (Apical cuttings and mini-tubers only)	Nairobi, Lower Kabete	0729852403 kae@africaonline.co.ke	Dutch Robijn, Shangi and Konjo
Clabfam Investment limited	Nakuru, Mau Narok	0710607935 Boniface, bonifacetoday@yahoo.com	Shangi, Dutch Robijn
Sigen Hortipruse Ltd	Elgeyo Marakwet	Isaac Letting 728621222 sigenhortiprucelimited@gmail.com	Shangi, Dutch Robijn
Kevian Kenya Seeds	Meru	0705729755/Email: koomeken2015@gmail.com/info@keviakenya.com	Dutch Robijn, Wanjiku, Unica, Sherekea, Ram, Kenya Karibu
Kirinyaga seeds	Meru	Henry Kigen 0701830699 henrykigen2@gmail.com/info@kirinyagaseeds.com	Shangi, Dutch Robijn, Java, Unica
Savannah Fresh Hort. Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd	Meru	Patrick 0708347959	Shangi, Wanjiku, Unica
Baraka Agricultural College (Nakuru)	Nakuru, Molo	Antony Majanga 0724775769	Shangi, Kenya Karibu, Dutch robijn
Kenya Highland Seeds (Royal seed)	Nairobi	Peter 0706 825555 Peter.francombe@khs.co.ke	Royal, Sarpo Mira
Starlight Cooperative society	Nakuru- Molo	Office No.0720517239	Shangi and sherekea
Kimingi Farm (Kalro Tigoni grower)	Nyandarua	John 0726107722	Shangi, Wanjiku, Unica
Bubayi products Ltd	Kitale	0735488001,	Shangi and Dutch robijn
NYS Tumaini,	Nyandarua, Ol-kalou	Zadock 0714049436	Shangi
Taita Papa	Taita Taveta, Wundanyi	Grantton Ndighila, 0726007669 grantton-mwakio@gmail.com	Unica, Shangi, Wanjiku
Agripom Kenya Limited	Nakuru Molo	723111205/ info@agripom.co.ke	Shangi
Jancota Limited	Nyandarua, Ol-kalou	Jancota, 0724759463 info@jancota.com	Shangi, Unica, Wanjiku,
Utopian Supplies Kenya Limited	Nyandarua, Rironi	Stephen, 0725240133, ruchstephen@gmail.com	Shangi, Unica
Flomsa Limited	Nyandarua & Nakuru	Florence Kairu flomsalimited@gmail.com 708781208	Shangi , Unica, Wanjiku
Agrevive Africa	Meru Nkuene	110850083 info@agrevive.com	Apical cuttings of shangi, Wanjiku, Unica and Asante
Rosenbelt Kenya Ltd	Nyandarua	Eric Wachira eric@rosenbelt.co.ke 0799992952	Shangi, Unica
Flomsa Limited	Nyandarua & Nakuru	Florence Kairu flomsalimited@gmail.com 707848750	Shangi and Unica
Agrevive Africa	Meru Nkuene	110850083	Apical cuttings of shangi, Wanjiku, Unica and Asante
Rosenbelt Kenya Ltd	Nyandarua	Eric Wachira eric@rosenbelt.co.ke 0799992952	Shangi



NPCK Registered Members

TYPE	ORGANIZATION / ENTITY	CONTACT PERSON	EMAIL
PLATINUM CATEGORY			
	UPL	Collins Ondako/ Catherine	collins.ondako@upl-ltd.com
	Corteva Agri Science	Francis Karanja	francis.karanja@corteva.com
GOLD CATEGORY			
	Suera Ltd	Susan Mureithi	swmureithi@gmail.com
	Freshcrop Limited	Christopher Gasperi	chrisgasperi1@gmail.com
	Yara East Africa	Carol Mumo	carol.mumo@yara.com
	Toyota Tsusho/ Baraka	Duncan Maina	duncan.maina@tffertilizer.co.ke
	Syngenta Foundation	Teddy Nyanapah	Teddy.nyanapah@syngenta.com
	Twiga Chemicals	Daniel Kirimi	dkirimi@twiga-chem.com
	Elgon Kenya	Mahesh Sharma	agronomy@elgonkenya.com/bimal@elgonkenya.com
SILVER CATEGORY			
Agrochemical	Bayer foundation	Diana Gitonga	diana.gitonga@bayer.com
	Bayer EA	Isabellah Nyandieka	isabellah.nyandieka@bayer.com
Seed producer	Kisima Farm Ltd	Mr. Oliver	potatoes@kisima.co.ke
	Kirinyaga seeds	Henry Kigen	henrykigen2@gmail.com/info@kirinyagaseeds.com
	ADC MOLO	Judy Nata	adcmolo@gmail.com
	Stokman Rozen	Simon Ndirangu	info@srk.co.ke simon@srk.co.ke
	GTIL	Judith Kilonzo	kilonzojudith@gmail.com
	Kevian Kenya Ltd	Mr. Richard K. Rugendo	info@keviakenya.com
	Agrico PSA	Corien Herweijer	corien.herweijer@agrico.co.ke
	Solynta for HTPS	Schepers Gerrit	gerrit.schepers@solynta.com
Input provider	Chiromo Fertilizers Ltd	Meera Paulana	meera@fanisifertilizer.com judith@fanisifertilizer.com
	IPM Potato Group	Sean Owen	sean@ipmpotato.com;
	Koppert Biological Systems	Vivian Githinji	info@koppert.co.ke
Processor	Sereni fries	Shaleen Lilan	serenifries@gmail.com
	Carbacid (CO2) Limited	Gerald Masese	carbacid@carbacid.co.ke
	Kuku Foods Kenya Ltd	Caroline Waiganjo	carolynn.waiganjo@kfk.co.ke
BRONZE CATEGORY			
Farmers	Farmer	Hazel Awini	awinohazel@gmail.com
	Blessed Farmers	Danson Nganga	rdnganga@gmail.com
	Farmer	Mercy Njoroge	mercy@imac.co.ke
	OL Aragwai Farmers Co-op Society Ltd	Ebrahim Mwangi	mainaebrahim@yahoo.com
	Rural Women in Agriculture Ltd	Clara Kathuriwa	clara@ruralwomeninagriculture.com
	Farmer	Benedatta Kalu & Juliana Kibet	bernykalu@gmail.com
	Kirimara Group -Meru	Florence Kinoti	florencekinoti@gmail.com
Processor	Norda industries	Shaheen lilani(MD)/ Ryaz CEO/Hubbert	shaheen@norda.biz/ rayaz@norda.biz, sales@norda.biz



	Tropical Heat Limited Charvi Invest	Mr Navin Shah Tejpal Singh	navin@tropicalheat.co.ke/ tejpal.singh@xflora.net
Research	Researcher/ UON	Prof John Nderitu	hurianderitu@gmail.com
Agrochemical	Syngenta seed 2B	Natasha Harriet	harriet.nasha@syngenta.com
	Greenlife	Mr. Kariithi	centralrift@greenlife.co.ke'
	Redgate Ltd	Jack Kaburu kiarie	Jack.Kaburu@crs.org, info@redgate.co.ke
Seed producer	David Maingi	David Maingi	dkmaingi@yahoo.com
Fertilizer	Livatty Africa	Joshua	joshua@livatty.com
	Organic fields	Juliet Njeru	organicfieldss@gmail.com
	Revisoil	Mr. Maina	info@revisoil.com
	Fresh Care East Africa Limited	Joseph G. Iracha	joe.iracha@freshcare.africa



POTATO FUN FACT

Potato chips were invented by mistake!!

Next time you are thrusting fistfuls of crisps in your mouth, keep in mind that if it wasn't for the passive-aggressive move by Chef George Crum in 1853, potato chips may never have been invented. As the story goes, Crum was head of the kitchen at Cary Moon's Lake House in Saratoga, New York, a place where railroad mogul Cornelius Vanderbilt liked to dine.

Vanderbilt wasn't a fan of the thick-cut potatoes on his plate, so one day he sent them back to the kitchen, a move that annoyed the chef. In retaliation, Crum sliced the spuds as thinly as he could, fried them in oil with some salt, and turned them into crispy potatoes.

Vanderbilt loved them, and the chef's revenge turned out to be the genesis of one of America's most popular snack foods.



National potato conference and trade fair 2022



From left, chairman NPCK Prof John Nderitu, Director Crop Resources, Agribusiness and market development (MoALF) Mr. Douglas Kangi and CEO NPCK Mr Wachira Kaguongo



Panel discussion on food safety



NPCK publications displayed



Farmers actively engaging in a Q&A session



Simplifine CEO Steve Carlyon showcasing frozen French fries



Freshcrop CEO Mr Chris Gasperi explaining about different varieties to farmers

PLATINUM MEMBERS



GOLD MEMBERS



WEMBE WA BLIGHT

Equation® Pro

FUNGICIDE



A Fungicide for control of:

Early & Late blights on Potatoes & Tomatoes

Downy mildew on Onions

Powdery mildew on Snow peas, Sugar snap & Cucurbits

Bean rust, Bean anthracnose & Angular leaf spot on French beans

Benefits

Good rainfastness

Covers more per acre thus cost effective

Provides protection to new and existing growth

Effective disease control & prevention to avoid further spread

Corteva Agriscience™

Keystone Park, Block B, 3rd Floor, Riverside Drive
P.O. Box 53384 - 00200, Nairobi Kenya
Tel: + 254 709 142 000

Distributed by:

 **ELGON KENYA**