

WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2025 EDITION OF THE NPCK NEWSLETTER!

The April 2025 edition of the NPCK newsletter showcases a dynamic and forward-looking potato sector, driven by innovation, strategic partnerships, and policy alignment. From enhancing ware potato marketing through data-driven insights and collective aggregation, to the digitization of farmer registration enabling smarter decision-making, the newsletter highlights significant progress in modernizing Kenya's potato value chain. Notable developments include the successful rollout of KSPI demo farm activities in Nandi County, CEHA's ongoing support for avocado value chain enterprises, and the critical shift toward climate-smart technologies to counter production challenges. Mechanization, market intelligence, and regulatory frameworks such as the Crops (Irish Potato) Regulations 2019 emerge as game-changers, promising improved farmer incomes, productivity, and resilience. This edition affirms NPCK's role as a catalyst in transforming potato farming into a competitive, sustainable, and inclusive enterprise.

ENHANCING WARE POTATO MARKETING IN KENYA



Some of the potato packages trading in the different markets

The marketing of ware potatoes in Kenya plays a crucial role in ensuring farmers access profitable markets while meeting consumer demand. NPCK through the KSPI project has taken strategic steps to strengthen market linkages. In collaboration with Viazi Kings, NPCK conducted comprehensive mapping and profiling of market outlets across major cities, including Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kisumu and Isiolo. This effort has provided valuable insights into market dynamics, trader preferences, and variety demand trends that shape the sector.

[Click here to explore more on Enhancing Ware Potato Market in Kenya](#)

EMPOWERING THE POTATO SECTOR THROUGH DIGITAL INNOVATION

In line with NPCK's vision to modernize Kenya's potato value chain, the IT department has taken a significant step by developing a robust farmer registration system. This digital innovation is enabling real-time data collection and monitoring at the grassroots level.

The system is designed for use by NPCK's Field Officers and Village-Based Advisors (VBAs), who serve as the link between NPCK and the farming community.

[Click here to explore more on Empowering the Potato Sector](#)



Dashboard showing farmer registration statistics by county and monthly growth as of April 2025.

PROGRESS UPDATE ON CEHA PROJECT: MATCHING GRANTS IN KENYA'S AVOCADO VALUE CHAIN

The COMESA East Africa Horticultural Accelerator (CEHA) project is steadily advancing agribusiness growth through its matching grants initiative. In Kenya, two agribusinesses working in the avocado value chain have been successfully prequalified for support under the program.

A detailed due diligence exercise was recently carried out to assess the capacity and readiness of these businesses. This process evaluated their operational models, financial health, governance structures, and potential for impact across the avocado value chain. It also involved site assessments and consultations with key stakeholders to ensure alignment with CEHA's objectives.

The results of this due diligence are now under review, with final grant approval pending based on the findings.



Viazi Soko Dash Board

[Click here to explore more on CEHA Project](#)

POTATO INDUSTRY POISED FOR REVIVAL AS FARMERS ADOPT CLIMATE-FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGIES

By Waikwa Maina-Contributor, Nation Media Group (Thursday, April 03, 2025)

Hit by the realities of climate change, potato farmers are in a race to adopt climate-friendly technologies, drought-tolerant varieties, and certified seed multiplication methods to boost production. Experts believe these innovations will fully commercialise potato farming, reducing reliance on imports and reversing the decline in local production. Mr Wachira Kaguongo, the National Potato Council of Kenya's Chief Executive Officer, highlighted the severe impact of climate change on both seed and tuber production. "Due to erratic rainfall, seed production hasn't kept pace with the growing number of seed producers. To counter this, we are partnering with farmers who have irrigation systems and technologies, particularly those using green energy like solar power. This is in addition to promoting fast-maturing, drought-resistant varieties such as Shangi, Asante, and Unica," he said. Mr Wachira also attributed some opportunistic diseases and pests to climate change.



A potato farm in Nyandarua County on April 2, 2025. Waikwa Maina | Nation Media Group

[Click here to explore more on Adoption of Climate Smart Technologies](#)

CROPS IRISH POTATO REGULATIONS 2019, WHAT IT OFFERS

The Crops (Irish Potato) Regulations 2019 were established to create a supportive policy and regulatory framework aimed at addressing the key challenges within the potato subsector.

Components of the regulation: (1)

- Registration of growers, associations, dealers & collection centers, (2)
- Registration of processors, warehouses, importers, and exporters, (3) Quality assurance and marketing of Irish potato, (4). Transportation of potato, import and export requirements.

THE CROPS (IRISH) POTATO REGULATIONS 2019 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE



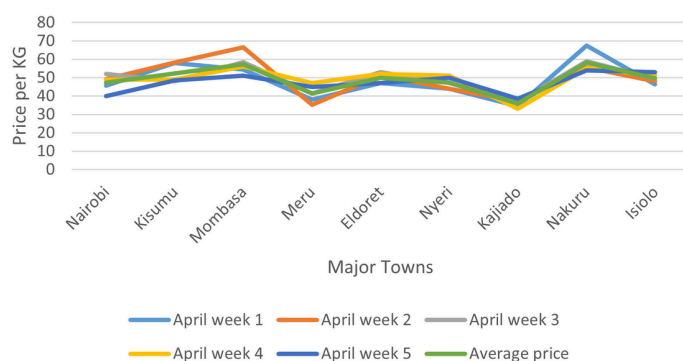
The Crops Irish Potato Regulations Implementation Guide 2019 Front Coverage

[Click here to explore more on the Crops Irish Potato Regulations Implementation Guide 2019](#)

KENYA POTATO MARKET UPDATE – APRIL 2025 PRICE TRENDS AND INSIGHTS

In April 2025, the National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) continues to play a key role in enhancing market transparency and supporting evidence-based decision-making within the potato value chain. By systematically collecting and analyzing ware potato price data from major urban markets—including Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa, Eldoret, Meru, Kajiado, Nakuru, Isiolo, and Nyeri—NPCK provides stakeholders with critical insights into current price trends. These towns represent strategic hubs for both potato production and consumption, making them ideal for tracking national pricing dynamics. Data is collected twice weekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays), enabling a reliable snapshot of market conditions that guides producers, traders, processors, and buyers in aligning their operations with real-time market realities.

Ware Potato Market Price



Average Ware Potato Market Prices per Kilogram in Major Kenyan Towns – April 2025 (Data Source: NPCK)

[Click here to explore more on Kenya Potato Market Update](#)

THE YIELD AND QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF WASTE POTATO PEEL



Waste potato peels

EMPOWERING NANDI COUNTY POTATO FARMERS: NPCK-KSPI LEADS HARVESTING AND LONG RAINS PLANTING DEMONSTRATIONS

In a major boost to potato farming in Nandi County, NPCK, through the KSPI, successfully concluded a series of training and demonstration farm activities focused on equipping farmers with practical knowledge in improved potato production practices. These activities took place in the sub-counties of Nandi Hills, Chesumei, and Aldai, culminating in harvesting and hands-on training sessions that marked the closure of the first three demo sites in the region. The final phase of demo harvesting began on 27th March 2025 at Kapsaos village in Kloyo/Ndurio ward, Aldai sub-county. This was followed by activities on 1st April in Cheptungeny village, Olessos ward, Nandi Hills sub-county, and concluded on 10th April in Ngecheck village, Lelmokwo/Ngecheck ward, Chesumei sub-county at Joel's farm. During these events, farmers received training on the critical timing of harvesting, proper harvesting techniques to minimize losses, and post-harvest handling practices including grading, sorting, and storage.

[Click here to explore More on the Harvesting and Long Rains Planting Demos](#)

Waste potato peels, commonly regarded as an agro-industrial byproduct, possess notable yield and quality characteristics that make them valuable for various applications such as bioenergy, animal feed, food additives, and biodegradable materials. The yield of potato peels varies depending on the type of potato and the method used when peeling. One of the main physical characteristics is high moisture content ranging between 75 to 85 percent. This high moisture content affects the storage and shelf life of the peels increasing the risk of microbial action thus spoilage. Despite this factor, potato peels retain a considerable amount of organic material with volatile solids comprising 80% to 90% of their dry matter. This makes them suitable for anaerobic digestion to produce methane gas for biogas production. The potato peels also contain residual starch that accounts to about 15% of their dry weight. The starch can be used in producing bioethanol, bioplastics and other starch derived products.

Functionally, potato peels exhibit good water-binding capacity, which makes them useful as thickeners or binding agents in food processing.

[Click here to explore more on The yield and quality characteristics of waste potato peel](#)



UNLOCKING PRODUCTIVITY: WHY MECHANIZATION MATTERS IN POTATO FARMING



Potato Harvester



Disc Plough



Disc Plough



Fertilizer spreader

Potato farming is a major source of food and income in Kenya, especially in high-potential areas like Meru, Nyeri, and Nakuru. Yet many farmers continue to struggle with low yields and high labor demands due to reliance on manual farming methods. The solution is mechanization: the use of machines to handle key farm tasks—saving time, reducing effort, and boosting productivity across the potato value chain.

Mechanization transforms every stage of potato farming. For land preparation, tractors fitted with disc ploughs, harrows, and subsoilers prepare the soil more thoroughly and quickly than manual tools. This improves soil aeration and creates a fine tilth ideal for tuber growth, while enabling farmers to incorporate organic matter or fertilizers efficiently. By covering large areas in less time, farmers can plant on schedule to match rainfall patterns, giving the crop the best start possible.

At planting, using a potato planter ensures tubers are placed at the correct depth and spacing—something that's difficult to achieve by hand. This uniformity leads to better crop emergence, easier weeding and fertilization, and reduced labor costs. Planters come in different sizes, from one-row to four-row models, and can be mounted or towed by tractors to suit small or large farms.

[Click here to explore more on Why Mechanization Matters in Potato Farming](#)