

## SHAPING HISTORY, CULTIVATING THE FUTURE OF KENYA'S POTATO SECTOR

This May, Kenya's potato sector stood at a defining moment of progress, promise, and purpose. From energizing field-level engagement in Nandi County to celebrating global milestones through the International Day of the Potato (IDP), the month brought together farmers, policymakers, youth, researchers, and development partners under a united vision: a resilient, inclusive, and thriving potato industry.

The IDP celebrations, which drew over 3,000 stakeholders, showcased the vital role of youth and innovation through the **Youth in Potato Challenge**, emphasizing that the future of agriculture lies in bold ideas, digital transformation, and sustainability.

[Click here to explore more on Shaping History, cultivating the future](#)

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF POTATO 2025



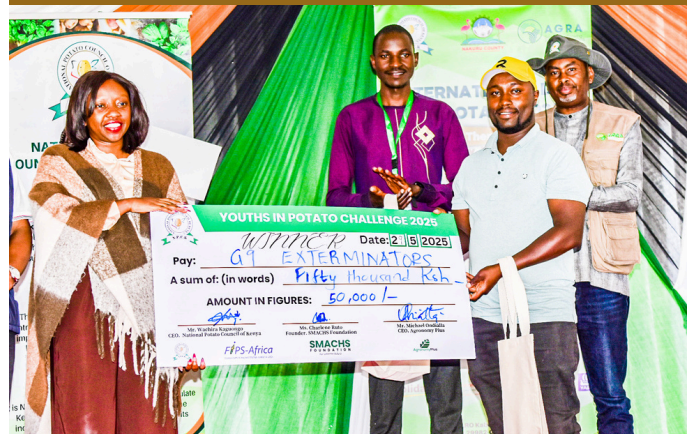
**A section of participants during the International day of potato 2025**

NPCK successfully hosted a two-day celebration to mark the International Day of Potato (IDP), drawing together more than 3,000 participants from across the potato value chain. The events highlighted youth innovation, policy commitment, stakeholder collaboration, and sector-wide transformation in Kenya's potato industry.

The celebrations kicked off on 29th May with the Youth in Potato Challenge, held under the theme "Empowering Generations: Youth Innovations, Sustainability in Potato Farming."

The event provided a vibrant platform for young people to showcase their creativity, exchange ideas, and gain inspiration from successful agripreneurs. A key highlight was the pitching of eight youth-led innovative ideas spanning seed potato solutions, digital technologies, market linkages, and value addition. Out of these, three outstanding innovations stood out: G9 Exterminator, Mizizi Lishe, and Beacon Potato, earning trophies, gift packages, and a unique opportunity to pitch their solutions at the World Potato Congress 2026 in Kenya. The

[Click here to explore more on International Day of Potato 2025](#)



**One of the youth Farmers receiving their reward during the Youth in Potato Challenge**

## NPCK AND ASARECA STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION TO BOOST THE POTATO VALUE CHAIN

**Kampala, Uganda – May 26, 2025**

The National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) have strengthened their partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing innovation, productivity, and market access within the potato value chain.

The MoU was signed during the 13th Triennial African Potato Association (APA) Conference at the Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala, Uganda. The signing took place during a high-level Policy Dialogue that focused on reviewing the implementation of the East African Community Regional Seed Potato Strategy and Action Plan.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Wachira Kaguongo, Chief Executive Officer of NPCK, and Dr. Sylvester Dickson Baguma, Interim Executive Director of ASARECA.



**ASARECA Interim Executive Director, Dr. Sylvester Dickson Baguma & NPCK Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Wachira Kaguongo.**

[Click here to explore more on NPCK and ASARECA Collaboration](#)

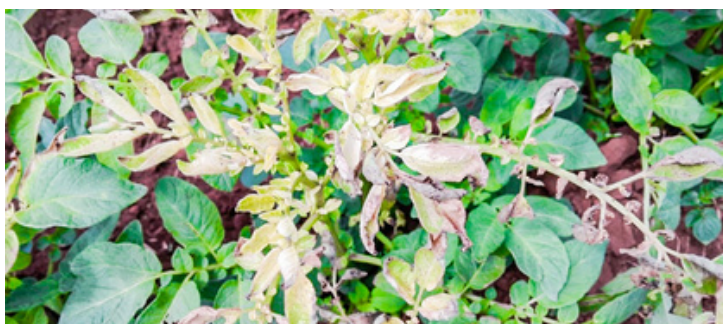
## HERBICIDE DRIFT IN KALRO MARIDAS MOLO: IMPORTANCE OF RESPONSIBLE SPRAYING PRACTICES

Herbicide drift occurs when spray droplets are carried by wind or air currents away from the intended target area. This can lead to unintended exposure of nearby crops, water bodies, animals, and even people to harmful chemicals.

In this case, potatoes, a crop particularly sensitive to certain herbicides, were unintentionally exposed. The effects included leaf distortion, stunted growth, and in severe cases, plant death.

A potato demonstration plot established by NPCK at the just concluded International Day of Potatoes at KALRO Marindas in Molo recently suffered significant damage following herbicide drift from a neighboring maize farm. The herbicide was sprayed on a windy day, causing the chemical to drift into the adjacent potato plot. This resulted in visible crop damage, with some plants drying up completely and others experiencing stunted growth due to stress.

While such incidents can seem accidental, they are preventable through proper spraying techniques, timing, and awareness. This event offers a vital opportunity to educate farmers and applicators on safe and effective herbicide applications to protect both their crops and those of neighboring farms.



**A Potato crop affected by the herbicide drift in KALRO Marindas Molo**

[Click here to explore more on the Herbicide drift](#)

## FARM MECHANIZATION EXHIBITION MARKS INTERNATIONAL POTATO AND YOUTH DAY 2025

This year's celebration was marked by a vibrant exhibition of farm mechanization and innovation, with several companies showcasing modern technologies and machinery tailored to boost productivity in potato farming. Key exhibitors included Sun Culture, Agri Machinery, and Mobikey, each bringing forth practical solutions to improve farm operations, reduce labor intensity, and maximize yields.

### Highlighted Technologies and Their Benefits:

#### 1. Solar-Powered Water Pumps

Demonstrated by Sun Culture, these pumps use solar energy to draw water for irrigation. This innovation is particularly valuable to potato farmers in areas with unreliable electricity or expensive fuel. The system:

- Significantly lowers irrigation costs by eliminating dependency on fuel or grid electricity.
- Enables sustainable water management, essential for potato crops that require consistent moisture.
- Promotes climate-smart agriculture by using renewable energy, aligning with global sustainability goals.



Solar panels are displayed to showcase how to use them on the farm.

#### 2. Modern Tractors for Land Preparation

Agri Machinery showcased powerful tractors designed for efficient land preparation. Compared to traditional ploughing methods using animals or manual labor, tractors offer:

- Faster and more efficient tilling, enabling farmers to prepare large acreages in less time.
- Deeper soil penetration leading to better soil aeration, root development, and ultimately healthier potato crops.
- Reduced human effort and time, allowing farmers to focus on other critical farm operations and increase overall productivity.



A tractor showcased by Agri Machinery during the IDP



Mobikey trucks

[Click here to explore more on the Farm Mechanization Exhibition](#)

## CERTIFIED SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025

NPCK plays a vital role in promoting and developing the potato sector in the country. Its efforts focus on improving production, quality, and marketing of potatoes while supporting farmers through training and access to better seed varieties. In line with this, the table below summarizes the availability of seed potatoes from registered seed potato merchants for June 2025. It details the current varieties available, their uses, suitable growing areas, potential yields, tuber dormancy, and the locations of the respective seed merchants. For more information, visit <https://npckviazisoko.com/shop/> OR customers can reach out to the National Potato Council of Kenya at 0799739578

[Click here to explore more on Certified Seed Potato Availability](#)

## CATALYZING INCLUSIVE AGRI-FINANCING: KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM FINAS 2025

From May 20th to 22nd, NPCK participated in the Financing Agri-food Systems Sustainably (FINAS) 2025 dialogue. It convened stakeholders both locally and globally to explore innovative and inclusive financing models for resilient food systems. Themed around local ownership and sustainable solutions, the forum emphasized aligning national policies, such as the domestication of the Kampala Declaration, with investment priorities. It also highlighted the importance of expanding grassroots financial access, adopting agri-tech, and scaling post-production financing to reduce losses and improve farmer incomes.

These themes align with NPCK's ongoing efforts under the Kenya Sustainable Potato Initiative (KSPI), supported by AGRA, to strengthen value chain financing in Kenya. Current initiatives link farmers, input suppliers, aggregators, and off-takers with financial service providers across various counties. Notably, input financing bundled with crop insurance has been rolled out to help farmers access quality inputs while managing production risks encouraging wider financial inclusion and investment in the potato sector



**A moment captured during the FINAS 2025 forum where stakeholders convened at KICC.**

A forward-looking highlight of the FINAS dialogue was the recognition of data as a form of collateral, enabling financial institutions to use farm-level and transaction data to assess creditworthiness. This approach supports more inclusive lending practices, especially for smallholder farmers with limited physical assets. Together, these insights and ongoing initiatives mark a shift toward smarter, de-risked, and digitally enabled financing that can transform Kenya's agricultural landscape.

[Click here to explore More on FINAS 2025](#)

## RE-LAUNCH OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CROPS (IRISH POTATO) REGULATIONS 2019



The PS and stakeholders during the regulations Re-launch

The International Day of Potato, a key annual event in the potato industry organized by NPCK and stakeholders, held on 30th May at KALRO Marindas, Nakuru, highlighted the resilience and global significance of the potato in sustaining livelihoods, under the theme ‘Shaping History, Feeding Future’. The event showcased the crop’s vital role in food security and nutrition, and provided an opportunity to examine policy opportunities for enhanced growth.

One of the main objectives during the event was to relaunch the implementation of the Irish Potato Regulations 2019. The Crops (Irish Potato) Regulations 2019, gazetted in April 2019, were meant to create a supportive policy and regulatory framework aimed at addressing key challenges within the potato subsector, guiding the promotion, development, and regulation of the production and trade of Irish potato. However, implementation has not been a success so far, hence the call for a relaunch. The relaunch was themed- Enhancing the adoption of potato regulations for a sustainable and resilient potato industry

In his declaration statement, Dr. Kipronoh Ronoh Paul, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Agriculture, affirmed his commitment to supporting the implementation of the regulations. He also mandated the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) to take the lead in planning and strategizing the implementation of the regulations across the 28 counties. Furthermore, he emphasized the need to take action against individuals violating the regulations and reaffirmed that the marketing of ware potatoes must be conducted based on weight in kilograms, not by the bag. The statement partly read, ‘Finally, as I join you shortly in the relaunch of the Crops (Irish Potato) Regulations 2019, I wish to reaffirm our commitment as a Ministry to support the entire potato value chain from seed to market. Together, we can indeed shape history and feed the future. We are relaunching the Crops (Irish Potato) Regulations 2019, which aim to ensure a structured, sustainable, and resilient potato sub-sector’.

[Click here to explore more on Regulations Relaunch](#)

### State to enforce 50kg potato packaging rule to ensure fair earnings

By Bernard Waweru @PeopleDailyKe

The Ministry of Agriculture has announced strict enforcement of the 50-kilogramme packaging limit for potatoes to protect farmers from exploitation by middlemen and ensure fair earnings for producers.

Speaking during the celebrations of the International Day of the Potato held in Njoro Ward in Kericho North sub-county, Agriculture Principal Secretary Dr. Paul Kipronoh Ronoh stated that anyone found packaging potatoes in bags exceeding the 50kg limit will face arrest and prosecution.

Ronoh emphasized the importance of adhering to the new Potato Regulations, which set the 50kg standard as a protective measure against the longstanding issue of under-pricing and exploitation by unscrupulous traders.

“The strict adherence to these regulations is not optional. It is a necessary step towards safeguarding our farmers from being exploited and getting fair returns for their hard work,” said PS Ronoh.

He also revealed plans to meet stakeholders from all potato growing counties to deliberate on the requirements and enforcement of these regulations.

“The government is committed to protecting the interests of our farmers, who have long suffered at the hands of unscrupulous dealers,” he said. “We will not allow this exploitation to continue,” the PS said.

To further support farmers, Ronoh announced the government’s plan to construct a cold storage facility in Kericho North. The facility is expected to significantly reduce post-harvest losses, which is a major challenge for potato farmers.

**Untapped opportunities**  
Nakuru County Deputy Governor David Kimesi and Agriculture CEO Leonard Rot, who were present at the event, lauded the national government’s move and urged the ministry to further support farmers by establishing additional covered depots that will improve farmers’ access to affordable fertilizer throughout the year.

Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) Director General Dr. Ibrahim Lomax encouraged youth to explore opportunities within the agricultural value chain, noting its potential to address youth unemployment.

“There are countless untapped opportunities in agriculture. We are encouraging young people to look at agriculture not just as tilling the land, but as a viable business that includes processing, logistics, marketing, and innovation,” said Dr. Lomax.



### Journey to acad

Post-devolution results in Kajiado improve, with interventions enabling enrolment rise due to reduced distance covered by children and improved teacher-student ratio

By Christopher Kismeli @PeopleDailyKe

Bilawoko Boys High School has used great exemplary transformation. In fact, it is one of Kajiado County’s most prominent academic powerhouses.

Last year, the school was officially recognized as the most improved school in the county, awarded by Governor Joseph Che Lando during a spirited prize-giving ceremony on May 24, 2024.

This recognition came on the back of a notable academic surge by students across the mid-levels university entry grade, making it the highest academic band cohort in the school’s history.

It’s a journey that Chief Principal Dr. Mtshali has carefully overseen as the principal of a marvellous. Appointed in 2018, Mtshali inherited a struggling school with just 120 students and a reputation marred by years of underperformance. Today, the institution boasts over 1,000 learners and boasts a school mean score of 5.46, the highest since its founding.

“When I came here in 2018, our top student had a C+ grade. In 2023, only 10 students qualified for university entry. But we remained consistent and kept us we look at students to university. That the fruit of focus and hard work,” said Mtshali.

This transformation is not just academic but also cultural. For years, Bilawoko was beset by negative perceptions within the community, made it a last-resort choice for many parents.

“People didn’t want to bring their children here because of our past. But look



Agriculture PS Paul Kipronoh Ronoh during the International Day of Potatoes held at Njoro ward, Kericho North

### Daily Magazine update on regulations Re-launch

## UNLOCKING WEALTH FROM THE SOIL: STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN THE POTATO VALUE CHAIN AND SEED POTATO PRODUCTION

Potatoes are not just a staple food in Kenya, they are a powerful economic crop with the potential to uplift livelihoods and drive National economic growth. Among the most promising opportunities within the potato value chain is seed potato production, a high-impact agribusiness investment with rising demand and strong returns.

Certified seed potatoes are the bedrock of a productive and disease-resilient potato industry. Yet, in Kenya, over 80% of farmers still depend on informal seed systems, mainly recycled tubers from previous harvests. This results in poor yields, high disease incidence, and low-quality produce.

One of the strongest arguments for investing in seed potato production is the growing market demand. As farmers become increasingly aware of the benefits of certified seed, demand continues to outpace supply. Kenya's annual demand for certified seed potatoes exceeds 50,000 metric tons, yet current production remains well below this threshold.



Large scale seed potato field of Markies seeds at Agrico PSA

[Click here to explore more on Unlocking wealth from the soil](#)

## BOOSTING POTATO FARMING IN NANDI: FARMER TRAININGS AND PROGRESS UNDER KSPI

On 6th May 2025, NPCK through the Kenya Sustainable Potato Initiative (KSPI) funded by AGRA, participated in the Nandi County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM) meeting held in Kapsabet. The meeting brought together key stakeholders implementing agricultural projects in the county to foster collaboration, reduce duplication, and maximize impact for farmers. Among the organizations represented were CGA, NPCK, county agricultural officers and directors, River Yala Water Project, NAVCDP, ADS (Western and North Rift regions), Disaster Management, budgetary committee members, and gender and youth representatives. The county emphasized the importance of harmonizing development efforts, stating that future CASSCOM meetings would be by invitation to track organizational activities and progress for greater efficiency and alignment in service delivery.

On 26th May, a Farmers' Field Day was held at a centrally located demo farm in Nandi, offering easy access to participating farmers alongside other development partners. This event was a significant platform for hands-on learning and farmer engagement.



Farmers receiving training during the field days

[Click here to explore more on Nandi Farmers' Training](#)