

EDITORIAL – OCTOBER 2025 EDITION

October 2025 has been a defining month for Kenya’s potato value chain — a month where commitment translated into action, and partnerships evolved into measurable progress. NPCK continues to demonstrate that coordination, innovation, and collaboration are the bedrock of a sustainable agricultural transformation.

Across the country, and indeed across the region, NPCK’s leadership in uniting public and private sector actors has become more evident.

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

STANDARD CHARTERED MARATHON

NPCK participated in the Standard Chartered Marathon 2025 under the theme “Together We Run Further.”

Over 70 participants from NPCK and partner organizations; including HZPC, Fresh Crop, CIP, Sereni Fries, Agrico, Kevian, ICIPE, Nichosville Shamba Village, Wedgehut, Kaizen TopMark, Loska, Viazi Kings, Jancota, and Friends of Potato joined the Potato Team to promote visibility, unity, and wellness within the potato industry.

The event enhanced partnership visibility, strengthened industry collaboration, and raised awareness of the upcoming World Potato Congress. Participants also shared reflections on how collective effort continues to drive transformation in Kenya’s potato value chain

[Read More about the Marathon](#)

STRENGTHENING THE POTATO VALUE CHAIN THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION AND MARKET LINKAGES

The collaboration between NPCK, Viazi Kings, Global Development Incubator (GDI), and Kuza is driving a transformative shift in the potato value chain through the Viazi Soko platform.

The partnership focuses on linking Village-Based Advisors (VBAs) and agripreneurs to organized systems of input access, aggregation, and market linkages, ensuring that smallholder farmers benefit from improved efficiency, profitability, and sustainability



A photo captured during the collaboration discussions between NPCK, Kuza, Viazi Kings and GDI.

[Read More on Strengthening the Potato Value Chain Through Collective Action and Market Linkages](#)

NPCK SIGNS MOU WITH FIPS AFRICA

NPCK and Farm Input Promotions Africa (FIPS Africa) have today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a long-term partnership aimed at enhancing potato productivity, strengthening the potato value chain, and improving farmer incomes.

Through this collaboration, NPCK and FIPS Africa will jointly work to: improve smallholder farmers' access to quality inputs, training, and market linkages, promote adoption of new technologies through field demonstrations and digital platforms such as Viazi Soko, empower youth and women to actively participate in input distribution systems, potato production, and value addition, support research, training, and dissemination of practical guides on best practices in potato production and agribusiness and undertaking joint fundraising, communication, and advocacy efforts to scale impact across potato-growing counties.



[Read the full article on the NPCK-FIPS Africa collaboration](#)

NANDI FARMERS TRAINED ON SOIL HEALTH; OFFICERS ON SAFE CHEMICAL USE.



In a bid to strengthen agricultural productivity and sustainability, farmers in Nandi County recently benefited from a comprehensive training program focusing on soil health, fertility management, and good agricultural practices (GAPs).

The sessions were organized in collaboration with agricultural stakeholders to equip farmers with practical knowledge and skills to improve yields while safeguarding the environment.

Farmers were taken through the importance of understanding their soils as the foundation of crop production. Trainers emphasized soil fertility management practices, including balanced use of organic and inorganic inputs, soil conservation, and the role of crop rotation.

Practical demonstrations on soil sampling methods were conducted to help farmers learn how to collect representative soil samples for laboratory analysis.

[Read the full article on farmer and field officer training in Nandi County](#)

FOLLOW UP ON HARMONIZATION OF POTATO STANDARDS AND TRACEABILITY MEASURES

The National Potato Council of Kenya, in collaboration with the Kenya Bureau of Standards and AFA continues to advance efforts toward harmonizing potato standards and strengthening traceability across the potato value chain.

A technical committee comprising key stakeholders including farmers, seed merchants, fertilizer and agrochemical companies, traders, processors, researchers such as KALRO and KEPHIS, development partners such as KIRDI and Solidaridad, and academia represented by the University of Nairobi has been instrumental in driving this process.

The committee met from 23 to 24 September 2025 to review the second draft of the Code of Practice for the Potato Value Chain. During the meeting, members refined and incorporated feedback on the clauses previously assigned to them, ensuring that the draft reflects practical, inclusive, and science-based standards. _



Technical Committee members after reviewing the second draft of the Potato Value Chain Code of Practice.

[Explore harmonization of potato standards and traceability measuretrade](#)

WHY WEED CONTROL IS A CRITICAL FACTOR IN POTATO PRODUCTION IN KENYA

Potato farming plays a significant role in Kenya's agricultural sector, serving as a major staple food and a source of income for thousands of smallholder farmers across highland regions such as Nakuru, Nyandarua, Meru, Elgeyo Marakwet, Bomet, and Bungoma.

Despite its importance, the productivity of potato farming remains low compared to global averages. One of the major challenges that suppresses yield and increases production costs is the presence of weeds.

Effective weed control is therefore a critical component of successful potato cultivation in Kenya.

Weeds compete with potato crops for essential growth resources such as nutrients, water, sunlight, and space. Potatoes are particularly vulnerable during the early stages of growth because their canopy takes time to fully cover the soil surface.



Figure 1 potato field infested by weeds at flowering stage.

[Read Why Weed Control Is a Critical Factor in Potato Production in Kenya](#)

THE FUTURE OF THE POTATO INDUSTRY IN A DECADE

A master plan is key in offering roadmap for the potato industry for the next 10-year, it is a long-term strategic blueprint that will guide the potato industry towards achieving the desired transformation.

Master plan is an improvement from the national potato strategy which has been useful in guiding the industry after every 5 years since 2016.

Over the past ten years, the National Potato Strategy has been very pivotal in guiding improvement of the potato industry as its overall goal has been to harmonize the activities of different players and fully utilize their synergies and complementarities by guiding all actors both at county and national levels, addressing the industry challenges and tapping into available opportunities.

The strategy has been geared towards transforming the potato industry into a commercially oriented enterprise that has been keen in ensuring steps towards sustainable food and nutrition security and surplus for trade, export, and increased incomes.

Potato, being the second most important food and cash crop in Kenya after maize, holds a prime position due to its significant contribution to food security, poverty reduction, and economic development.

[Learn more about The future of the potato industry in a decade](#)

LEVERAGING THE REGIONAL FOOD BALANCE SHEET FOR INFORMED PRODUCTION AND AGRIBUSINESS GROWTH IN COMESA

Ensuring food security and agricultural prosperity across Africa requires accurate, timely, and harmonized data on food production, consumption, and trade.

The Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) an innovative digital platform developed through partnerships among the African Union Commission (AUC), COMESA, EAC, IGAD, and key development partners plays a vital role in bridging this gap.

It provides a centralized, evidence-based system for tracking food availability, demand, and trade flows across member states, supporting informed decision-making for both governments and agribusinesses.

At its core, the RFBS aggregates National data on production, imports, exports, and consumption of key staple commodities such as maize, rice, wheat, sorghum, and pulses.



[Read more on Leveraging the Regional Food Balance Sheet for Informed Production and Agribusiness Growth in COMESA](#)

MECHANIZATION IN POTATO PRODUCTION IN KENYA

Potatoes are a major staple in Kenya and an important income crop. It is grown by roughly 800,000 small-scale farmers on around 158,000 hectares, producing between 1 to 1.5 million tons annually.

Despite this, potato yields in Kenya remain low (average ~8-10 tons/ha) compared to the potential yields (25-35 tons/ha) seen elsewhere.

One of the constraining factors is the low level of mechanization, among others like poor seed quality, climate variability, and post-harvest losses.



[Discover more on Mechanization in Potato Production in Kenya](#)

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING UNDER THE KSPI PROJECT IN NANDI COUNTY

The Kenya Sustainable Potato Initiative (KSPI) continues to make significant progress in Nandi County through coordinated efforts in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL).

The project, implemented by the National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) in partnership with various stakeholders, aims to enhance potato productivity, strengthen farmer organizations, and promote sustainable market linkages.



[Explore MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING UNDER THE KSPI PROJECT IN NANDI COUNTY](#)

WHATS NEXT FOR THE IRISH POTATO REGULATIONS 2019?

The Irish Potato Regulations 2019 were officially re-launched during the International Day of the Potato, under the theme 'Enhancing the Adoption of Potato Regulations for a Sustainable and Resilient Potato Industry.'

During the launch, the Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture, reaffirmed government commitment to support enforcement of the regulations.

He also directed that county executive members hold immediate discussions to harmonize their implementation across the country. A follow-up meeting with potato-producing and marketing counties was later held in August 2025.

[Read More: What Next for the Implementation of Irish Potato Regulations 2019?](#)