

## Strengthening Sector Coordination

For a long time, the potato value chain has not been a priority to the Kenyan Government which resulted in a lack of strategies and policies. The potato sub-sector has attracted many stakeholders from both the public and private sector because of its importance in food security and economic development. The project aimed to strengthen the public-private sector potato dialogue on a national level.

### The Challenge

Although the Irish Potato is a highly nutritious and fast maturing crop, the value chain actors have had uncoordinated efforts resulting in duplicating activities and interventions. Despite its importance, the sector has a weak lobby because of the high fragmentation thus many small and medium-sized actors are involved.

### Achievements

- The National Potato Strategy 2021–2025 was developed by various stakeholder organizations in 2021, made on agreed strategic objectives and actions to guide the sector. Making reference to the national strategy, Nyandarua, Bungoma, Trans-Nzoia and Elgeyo Marakwet counties developed their own County Potato Strategies.
- Training Guidelines and a handbook have been developed to help harmonize training approaches and to avoid sending contradicting messages to farmers by different public organizations and private sector.
- To address problems related to seed access, a seed sub-committee was formed to coordinate and guide activities of quality seed access and promote various seed varieties. A seed action plan has been developed.
- To facilitate knowledge sharing among the stakeholders in the potato value-chain, annual magazines, monthly and quarterly newspapers, and a bi-annual potato catalogue were published. National and County Potato Trade fairs and conferences were also organized to improve exchange between stakeholders.
- 49 of the 50 actions agreed upon in the National Potato Strategy have been implemented. Lobbying and advocacy has also improved as a result of organized national conferences, County Trade Fairs and full council meetings.
- 100% of stakeholders have ranked information exchange as "good" or "very good".
- Establishment of the Viasi Soko platform with over 120,000 registered farmers

### Our Approach

The project worked with the National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) - the sector coordinating body - in order to enhance the participation of the sector stakeholders and improve exchange between stakeholders.

### Project Description

**Project Title:** Nutrition-sensitive Potato Partnership Project (NuSePPP)

**Commissioned by:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Overall Term:** July 2016 to June 2023

**Region:** Kenya (Nyandarua, Bungoma, Trans-Nzoia and Elgeyo Marakwet Counties)

**Implementing Partners:** Agriculture and Health Departments of the Counties, National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK), International Potato Center (CIP), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), local and international companies

**Lead Executing Agency:** Ministry of Health (MoH)



Panel discussion during National Potato Conference at KALRO Loresho

# National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK)

NPCK is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) organization mandated to help in planning, coordinating and organizing the potato subsector. NPCK has received financial support and technical expertise from the German Development Cooperation. NPCK which started in 2011 has over 60 member organizations from public and private sector who represent all the value chain actors in the potato sub-sector, such as the Ministry of Agriculture for national and County governments, farmer groups and organizations, research institutions, input and service providers, market outlet organizations, regulatory bodies such as KEPHIS and AFA, among others.

Mr. Wachira Kanguongo, the CEO of the National Potato Council of Kenya states, "I have grown with the potato value chain and I have seen that membership to the NPCK has increased over the years and members' satisfaction has also increased. NuSePPP supported this process substantially and enabled us to lobby, provide advocacy and coordinate the stakeholders in the value chain."



Participants during the National Potato Conference

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