

Strengthening the potato value chain in Kenya



The aim of the global project is to exploit the potential of nutrition-sensitive promotion of the potato value chain in selected regions in East Africa. It will be implemented in Uganda (until June 2022) and Kenya as well as by a global working group in cooperation with the global project of the Green Innovation Centres (GICs).

Starting situation

In Kenya, 23% of the population is considered undernourished and 70% is food insecure. The agricultural sector is the most important economic sector in Kenya and provides employment and income opportunities for 70% of the rural population. However, the often smallholder farms are unable to produce enough food for the growing population in Kenya. The potato is Kenya's second most important staple food after maize and an important source of income for about 800,000 farms. The sector provides employment for an estimated 3.5 million players in the sector with an economic volume of Ksh 50 billion. The market for potatoes diversified

and offers opportunities for value creation and income generation in local potato supply chains. Its potential high yields, relatively short cultivation time (90-120 days) and its nutritional properties (carbohydrates, protein, vitamins, minerals such as potassium) make the potato an important food for achieving food security in Kenya and meeting the demand for food. However, potentials remain untapped due to insufficient productivity in cultivation, deficits in nutritional knowledge on the demand side and deficits in the function of the value chain.

Activities

- **1: Improving the productivity and quality of potato production**, aims to increase yields and incomes from sustainable potato production. This is to be achieved by promoting innovative, resource-efficient and adapted cultivation methods, strengthening entrepreneurial skills, improving seed management and marketing.
- **2: Improvement and application of knowledge about family nutrition and basic hygiene**, with the aim of contributing to the improvement of nutrition. Nutrition training is integrated into agricultural-entrepreneurial training.

- **3: Strengthening public-private dialogue and coordination in the sector** at national and regional level. To this end, national forms of dialogue are promoted with the participation of political decision-makers, local and international research institutions and the private sector.

Our target indicators:

1. Increased productivity in potato cultivation
2. Improved nutritional diversity
3. Adoption of potato (sector) strategies and their implementation



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Region(s)

Counties (districts): Nyandarua, Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Elgeyo Marakwet and at national level

Duration Budget

01/2016 – 06/2023 5,2mio €

Implementierungspartner

departments of the Department of Agriculture and of Health and Food at *the county* level;
National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK); Institutes of national and international agricultural research: KALRO and International Potato Centre (CIP), local and international companies

Lead executing agency

Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives (MoALF&C)

Target groups

smallholder farms; malnourished people; Kenyan partners in public advisory services for agriculture, nutrition and health

Results and effects

- **Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS):** Supported by the project, the partners in the *counties* have so far trained a total of **17,927** farmers, **61% women**. A total of **991 FFBS** (408 schools run by *county* staff and 583 run by leading farmers) have been carried out so far.
- **Nutrition training** at village level and **integrated** into the FFBS reached **22,287** participants (57% women-15-49 years)
- The **capacities** for the sustainable application of FFBS as a method in agricultural advisory services have been developed by: - Training of **staff** and curriculum development as well as documentation (manual)- Training of **lead farmers** on the implementation of FFBS
- Improved coordination between ministries or departments for the **integration of agricultural and nutrition training**
- Access to **quality seed** and **marketing conditions** have been significantly improved for the target groups in the FFBS
- The organisation of the FFBS groups and their continued existence has created '**social capital**', used for new government and/or donor programmes.
- The **sectoral strategic orientation** was strengthened by the development and implementation of the National Potato Strategy (2016-20; 2021-25) and four *County* Potato Strategies

- Increase **adoption of Good Agricultural Practices** (46% to 71%)
- **Yield increase of 54%** for those trained in FFBS [4-year average, compared to base: from 8 t/ha (2016) to 12.3 t/ha (2019-22)]
- Improving **nutritional diversity** for an estimated 18,166 (51% women-15-49y) nutrition training participants

[IDDS* from 4.1 to 6.3]
- **Implementation of 49 of the 50 sectoral strategic measures** defined in the **National Potato Strategy**

IMPACT**

(BMZ/GIZ Std.Indikatoren):

- **Food security, contribution to overcoming hunger and malnutrition: 61,396 people**
- **Increased income, for 17,941 people in ldw. Establishments (10,944 women)**
- **Sustainably managed area 4,259 ha**

*Individual Dietary Diversity Score **to be assigned to the project, based on an impact factor of 50%, from econometric analysis (with matching control group)