

USAID–KENYA Accelerated Value Chain Development Program

Potato Value Chain Report

FY 2019 Year 1 Quarter 1 Report

15 February–31 March 2019

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ACRONYMS

AVCD	Accelerated Value Chain Development
FG	Farmer group
GAP	Good agricultural practices
LF	Learning farm
SCAOs	Sub-county agricultural officers
SCCOs	Sub-county crops officers
ToT	Training of trainers
WAOs	Ward agricultural officers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ILRI to write.

I. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (QUALITATIVE IMPACT)

Phase 2 of the Year 1 Quarter 1 (Y1Q1) potato value chain component of the Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD) program is replicating the Phase 1 interventions in the two new counties of Bungoma and Taita-Taveta. These are not major potato-producing counties in Kenya, hence general knowledge of good agricultural practices (GAP) for potato and access to commercial seed are weak. Initially, the interventions will focus addressing low productivity in the counties through an extensive farmer-training program accompanied with seed distribution to raise awareness of benefits of certified seed.

In Q1 a new field office was identified in Kitale and the AVCD field team relocated on 29 March from Eldoret, from where phase 1 was implemented. The office moved after agreements with the landlord to upgrade the facility and ensure that 24-hour security service were in place.

One of the two newly recruited agronomists for the project has been recruited for Taita-Taveta, and the county government will provide office space for the agronomist. Recruitment for the Bungoma agronomist continues as of the date of this report.

With 1.5 months of project start-up and implementation, interventions focused on objective 1 only.

Objective 1. *Build capacity for smallholder farmers to increase potato productivity by 50% and improve consumption of nutritious foods*

Outcome 1.1: *A total of 8,000 farmers in Bungoma and Taita-Taveta counties applying improved technologies to improve productivity*

Output 1.1.2: *Eighty-two potato GAP and variety learning farms (LFs) established and led by county extension*

Initial activities concentrated on preparing for the imminent planting season—that is, the long rains of 2019 begin in April, which is key to reaching Y1 targets as most agricultural activities occur during the long rains. Preparations involved meeting county governments senior staff (county executive committee, county director of agriculture, and chief officer) in the two counties where the project is being implemented to discuss the project and the role of county governments. In Bungoma, the county cooperative officer and nutritionist also participated.

Sensitization meetings were subsequently held with nine sub-county agricultural officers (SCAOs), six and three from Bungoma and Taita-Taveta, respectively, to discuss the project and activities in greater details. The SCAOs will directly supervise activities in the field.

Following the SCAO sensitization meetings, a 2-day workshop/training of trainers (ToT) was held in each county. The workshop brought together the ward agricultural officers (WAOs) and other county officers to discuss activity implementation and monitoring in season 1 (Table 1).

TABLE 1. COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICERS TRAINED IN AVCD ACTIVITIES AND POTATO LFS

County	County staff	SCAOs	Crops Officers	WAOs	Total	Male	Female
Bungoma	1	0	6	23	30	19	11
Taita-Taveta	11	2	2	10	15	8	7
Total	12	2	8	33	45	27	28

Topics covered during the 2-day ToT session with WAOs, SCAOs, and SCCOs included:

- Identifying farmer groups (FGs) composed of 25 farmers for training to meet each WAO's target
- Establishing LFs
- Distributing seed to promote certified seed and new varieties
- Presenting the training material and topics for each training session of the four total sessions that each FG will be trained on
- Collecting monitoring data of each activity
- Securing funding to support activity implementation

A total of 82 LFs, 54 and 28 in Bungoma and Taita-Taveta, respectively, will be managed by county extension. Thirty-three WAOs will be supervised by 10 SCCOs and nine SCAOs (Fig. 1). A matrix was developed, clearly indicating the number of LFs and FGs that each WAO is responsible for training and reaching with new technologies to achieve the target of 307 FGs or 7,675 farmers targeted for this planting season.

1.1 Lessons Learned

As Phase I has just begun in Q1, there are no lessons learned to report at this early stage of the project.

2. ACTIVITY PROGRESS (QUANTITATIVE IMPACT)

There were no achievements toward indicators in the first 1.5 months of project implementation.

3. PERFORMANCE DATA TABLES

There were no achievements toward indicators in the first 1.5 months of project implementation. Table 2 summarizes the indicators, Y1 targets, and reporting schedule for the potato value chain component.

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF POTATO VALUE CHAIN COMPONENT INDICATORS FOR Y1

Indicator	Target Y1	Reporting Schedule
EG.3.2-24 No. of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]	8,000	Reported continuously and annually
EG.3.2-26 Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance [IM-level]	1,000,000	Reported annually
EG.3-10, -11, -12 Yield of targeted agricultural commodities among program participants with USG assistance [IM-level]	18	Reported annually
EG.3.2-25 No. of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance	1,200	Reported annually

Indicator	Target Y1	Reporting Schedule
EG.3.3-10 Percentage of female participants of USG nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities consuming a diet of minimum diversity	50%	Reported annually
HL.9-2 No. of children under two (0–23 months) reached with community-level nutrition interventions through USG-supported programs	400	Reported continuously
HL.9-15 Percent of participants of community-level nutrition interventions who practice promoted infant and young child-feeding behaviors	50%	Reported annually
GNDR-2 Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources	40%	Reported continuously and annually
YOUTH-3 Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15–29)	15%	Reported continuously and annually
EG.3.2-29 No. of organizations with increased performance improvement with USG assistance [IM-level]].	8	Reported continuously

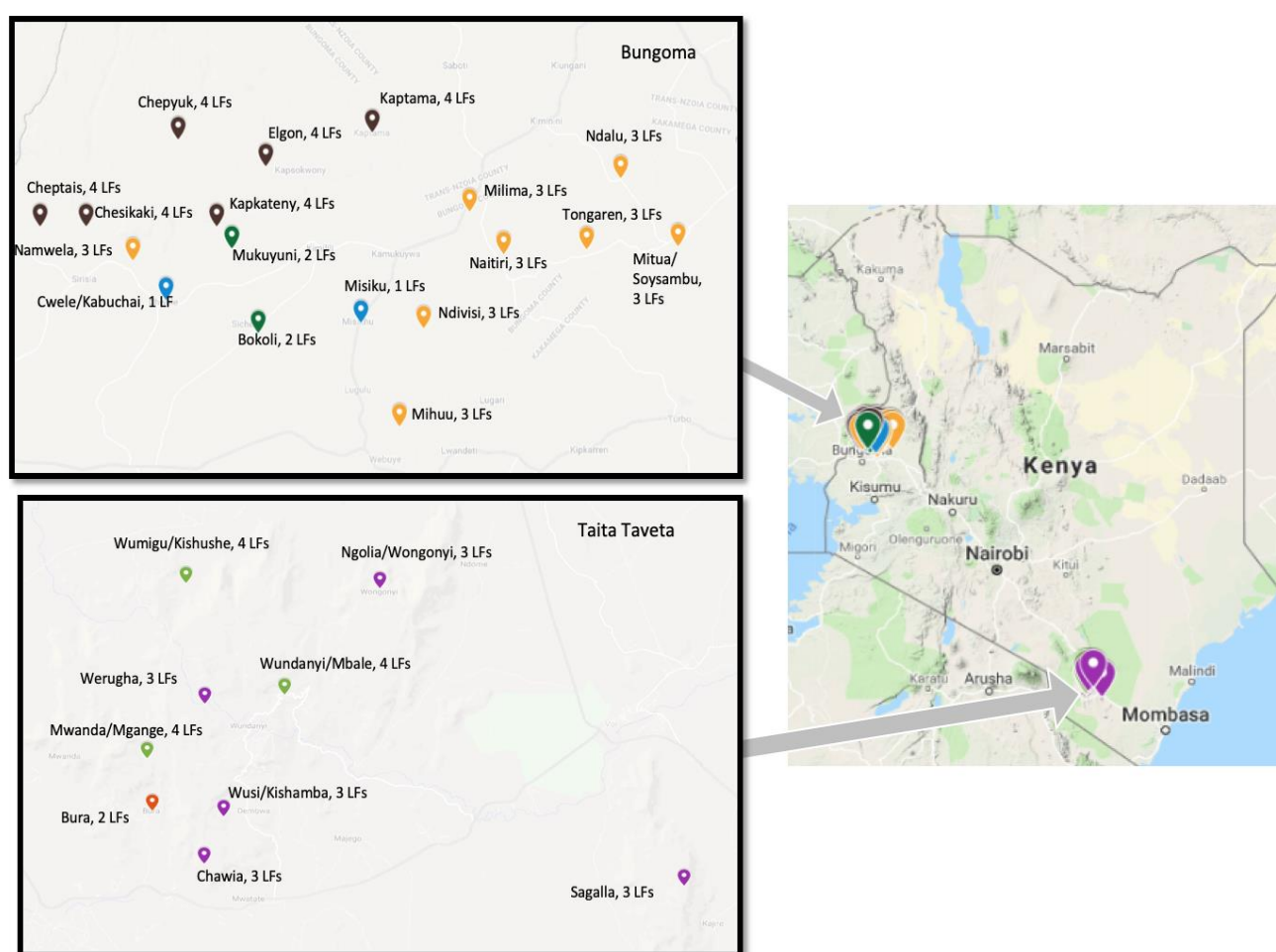


Figure 1. Map of AVCD potato LFs indicating number of farms per ward in Bungoma and Taita-Taveta counties.

4. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

County government department of agriculture staff, particularly WAOs, will play a central role in project monitoring within the two counties. They will contribute to the preparation of data collection templates and using the same templates for data collection. They have been trained on the use of refined templates, and this is expected to facilitate efficient data collection from activities. To further refine monitoring, the WAOs are responsible for generating the lists of FGs ahead of time to identify the farmers and further improve efficiency of monitoring large numbers of farmers in an activity occurring over a short period of time.

Field work for the baseline survey was completed. Data collected have since been uploaded to ILRI's server and are now awaiting to be downloaded for further analysis. The data were collected from respondents in Elgon, Kaptama, Chesikaki, Ndal, Tongaren, Mukuyuni, and Namwela wards in Bungoma County, whereas Wumingu/Kishushe and Wundanyi/Mbale wards were surveyed in Taita-Taveta County. Each of the sampled wards has a target sample of 26 respondents with 234 respondents.

A rapid market assessment was conducted simultaneously as the baseline survey to understand the unique marketing systems of the two project counties. Preliminary results indicate that each ward in Bungoma County has varied market destinations, with end markets being major towns in western Kenya and as far as south-Sudan via Mbale, Uganda. Marketing of potato in Taita-Taveta County is done per kilogram, attracting better per-unit prices. Market destinations are most towns in the coastal region, particularly Mombasa. The rapid appraisal will allow better insights into how these market systems work and how they can be exploited to benefit farmer marketing groups and guide AVCD project support.

5. CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In Taita-Taveta County the small land sizes owned by potato farmers made it impossible to get land for setting up LFs as per the initial plan (about 300 m² was required). The size of LFs in the county was therefore reduced drastically.

6. PROGRESS ON GENDER STRATEGY—YOUTH AND PRIVATE SECTOR

The households in which the targeted group members participating in seed distribution will be profiled to provide the information on the household's demographics. Knowing this information, particularly on different age sets, will be crucial in ascertaining the number of youth that could potentially be targeted by the project interventions, especially on those activities focusing on youth. Furthermore, each LF will nominate a young person to help the WAOs collect data when activities are being implemented.

7. PROGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING

Activities carried out in Q1 did not involve environmental mitigation.

8. PROGRESS ON LINKS WITH GOVERNMENT OF KENYA AGENCIES

In phase 2 of AVCD potato component, county governments are the only partner with a minor role for the National Potato Council of Kenya to support marketing forums and other market support activities. This demonstrates the key role the county governments play in designing, implementing, and monitoring interventions in their counties. This will foster ownership of the interventions and contribute to ensuring sustainability as the county can further assess the interventions and where complementary support is needed. To start, the counties led the identification and pre-selection of the farmers in each FG, planning and establishing LFs for training in potato production and basic numeracy, and in seed distribution activities to raise awareness on new varieties and benefits of quality seed. County offices will lead nutrition-messaging activities by using the same model as in phase 1 of AVCD. WAOs will work closely with nutrition department to deliver nutrition messages to the same households that were trained in improved potato production technologies.

9. SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT STRATEGY

Project activities are and will be implemented in close collaboration with county government departments of agriculture, cooperative, and nutrition and dietetics departments. Close engagement with county governments helps to position potato among the objectives of these departments at county level. Co-investment by county governments under their agricultural support work plans and budgets will be encouraged and monitored by the project. The extensive capacity building at several levels will help ensure that the competencies are in place to continue the interventions after the project closes, such as ToT, farmer training, potato production and GAPs, seed production, and farmer institution/ marketing cooperative development. Another key to sustainability is ensuring access to seed; without it none of the interventions can continue.

10. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR Q2

Activities planned for Q2 of the potato component will concentrate on training farmers in GAPs at LFs and raising awareness of certified seed. Once the training by WAOs is underway and seed distributed, nutrition-messaging and cooperative/farmer marketing institutional development activities will begin. What is more, feasibility of seed production in Taita-Taveta will be assessed, and a seed business in Bungoma will be identified.

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