



Progress technical Report

Accelerated Value Chain Development Program (AVCD)

**Report Period Covered:
1st July to 30th September 2021**

**Submitted by:
National Potato Council of Kenya**

**to:
International Potato Center**

30th September 2021

NPCK in partnership with International Potato Centre (CIP) is implementing the extension of “USAID-FtF funded Accelerated Value Chain Development Program (AVCD) implemented in Bungoma and Taita Taveta County. NPCK’s role in the project includes; holding of county potato marketing forums, supporting the development of county potato strategy, supporting campaign for using certified seeds and new potato varieties, enhancing E-extension materials in Viazi Soko platform, and awareness creation of the platform among the two farmers producer organization FPOs in Bungoma and Taita Taveta.

Activities undertaken

The following is a summary of activities undertaken by NPCK for the period of July to September 2021.

County potato marketing Forum

a) Bungoma Potato Marketing Forum

The challenges in potato marketing include; lack of structured marketing system, lack of storage facilities for harvested potato which course farmers to dispose all potatoes at harvesting leading to post-harvest glut and subsequently low prices by farmers, inefficient grading and sorting, inadequate market information by farmers among others. Direct market linkage between farmers and market outlets is widely viewed as part of the solution to solving challenges faced by farmers in marketing potatoes. To achieve this, NPCK in partnership with CIP and the County Government of Bungoma, organized for Bungoma Potato marketing forum held on 11th August 2021. In attendance were; farmer representatives from the 40 FPOs, county government representation; Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade, CIP, NPCK and potato buyers (Norda Industries, Twiga Foods Viazi kings and local traders). The forum provided a platform for business to business (B2B) discussion between farmers and potato buyers. Through these interactive discussions, buyers gathered information on farm producer organization (FPOs) production capacity, acreage, and varieties grown. At the same time, farmers had the opportunity to learn more about variety requirements and procurement arrangements for each buyer. At the end of the discussion, FPOs and the buyers exchanged contacts for business engagements later. Among the outcomes of the forum include; Training on post-harvest management practices



B2B discussion in Bungoma on 11th August 2021

- a. Support the FPOs produce under contract farming
- b. County government to support farmers access certified seeds by subsidizing the cost and transportation
- c. NPCK and CIP to introduce other varieties that are preferred by the buyers
- d. County Government to support the FPOs in establishment of Cold store

- e. FPOs officials to have up-to-date information of the farmers they represent such as acreage under potato, variety grown, expected harvesting dates
- f. County to support the FPOs access mechanization services, this is to reduce the high losses especially during harvesting

b) Development of county potato strategy

CIP under the AVCD project has been collaborating with NPCK to support Bungoma and Taita Taveta counties in development of County specific potato strategies. By 30th September 2021, the following activities had been successfully accomplished.

i. Bungoma County Potato Strategy

The development of the Bungoma County Potato Strategy (2021-2025) has been a collaborative process between different stakeholders. The development processes included the following;

1. Introduction and partnership creation with the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) of agriculture
2. First planning meeting with relevant officials at the county
3. Technical committee retreat to produce zero draft
4. Stakeholders' validation and production of draft 1
5. County assembly agricultural committee and county executive buy in and approval
6. Launch of County Potato Strategy
7. Implementation of the strategy



Launching of Bungoma potato strategy

The strategy development was completed and was launched on 16th September 2021.

Taita Taveta County Potato Strategy

The strategy is aimed at providing roadmap in addressing the challenges of the value chain in the county, exploitation of opportunities and increasing productivity and production. The process of strategy development started in May 2021 with the appointment of a technical committee by the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for agriculture. The team worked together with CIP and NPCK to develop a draft by holding a 2-day workshop in June to develop a draft that was presented to stakeholders on 3rd September 2021 to enrich it further.

A draft strategy was developed, presented to stakeholders and is now awaiting presentation to the county's agricultural committee for buy-in.



Later it will be launched and implemented.

c) Campaign for using certified seeds and new potato varieties

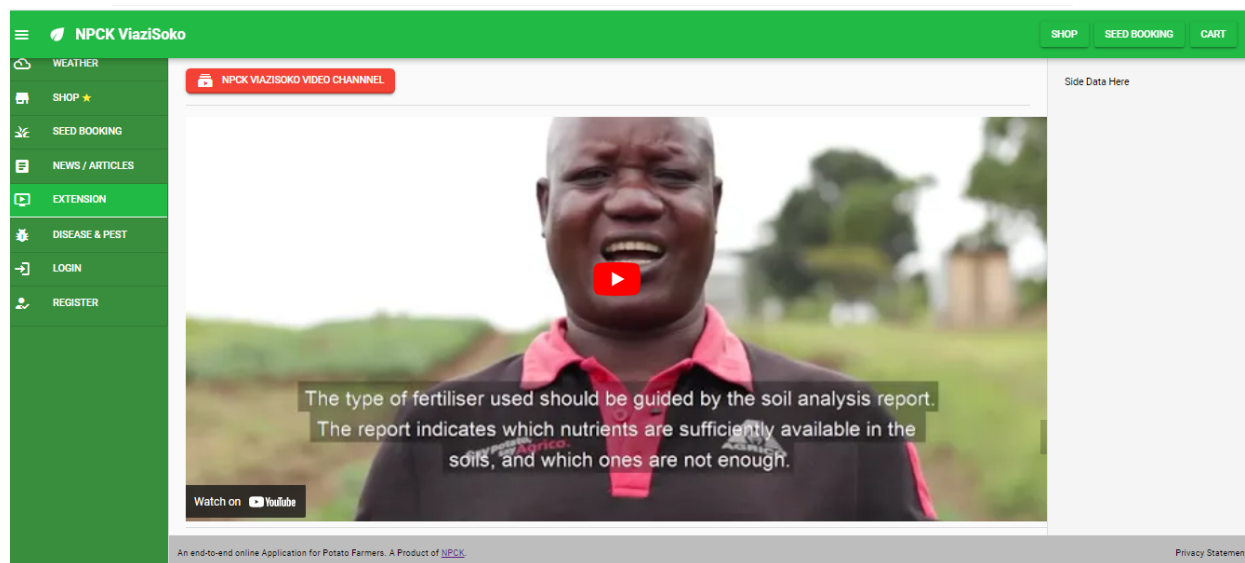
The established demonstration site in Kinangop for displaying apical cuttings technology, use of quality seeds and new varieties is progressing on well. NPCK collaborated with Corteva Agriscience and Baraka Fertilizer Company to ensure successful establish of the crop. A number of training have been conducted at various stage of the crop. The crop is expected to be harvested on the week of 11th October, during harvesting a small field day will be organized for displaying yields to farmers. Few samples will be delivered to processing companies for utilization testing.

d) Enhancing E-extension materials onto Viazi Soko platform

NPCK has been working closely with the Viazi soko developer in enhancing the E-extension materials on to Viazi soko platform. The activities involved creating a YouTube channel for Viazi soko where short video clips are uploaded, uploading the extension content, categorizing and integrating on the platform. The training contents were classified into four broad topics as follows;

- a. Variety selection and use of quality seeds
- b. Site selection, land preparation and planting
- c. Crop management and nutrition
- d. Post-harvest management practices

Two weeks after completion, there were 25 subscribers; however, NPCK is planning for capacity building of Farm Service Providers to support members of their groups to access the extension services.



- e. Awareness creation of the platform among the two-farmer producer organization FPOs in Bungoma.**

NPCK continues to create awareness of the Viazi soko platform through various strategies in order to increase the number of farmers using the platform. One of the strategies is training of Farmer Producer Organizations FPOs representatives so that they can train and register members of their groups into the platform. On 12th September 2021, NPCK and CIP trained 35 FPOs representatives in Bungoma on the platform use. The trained FPOs representatives were able to register and enjoy the services offered in the platform. They are expected to train other members of the groups on the platform use. During the training, it was agreed the FPOs to share the details for inputs pick-up points so that they can be added on the platform.



Viazi soko platform training on 12th August 2021

f. The platform uptake progress

Currently there are 98,426 farmers registered on the platform however, 1211 farmers are actively using the platform to access inputs, services and advisory information. For the September to December season, farmers are still ordering seeds and other inputs through the platform. A total of 486 bags of certified seeds for this season has already been ordered by farmers from the following counties; Uasin Gishu (330), Nyandarua (65), Narok (6), Nakuru (67), Nyeri (18). The logistic company working with NPCK has already delivered some seeds to their respective pick-up points. Currently there are 47 pick-up points in various counties. A total of 21 companies already registered on the platform and they are offering various products and services to farmer through the platform.

