



How the industry tackles the challenges of the future?

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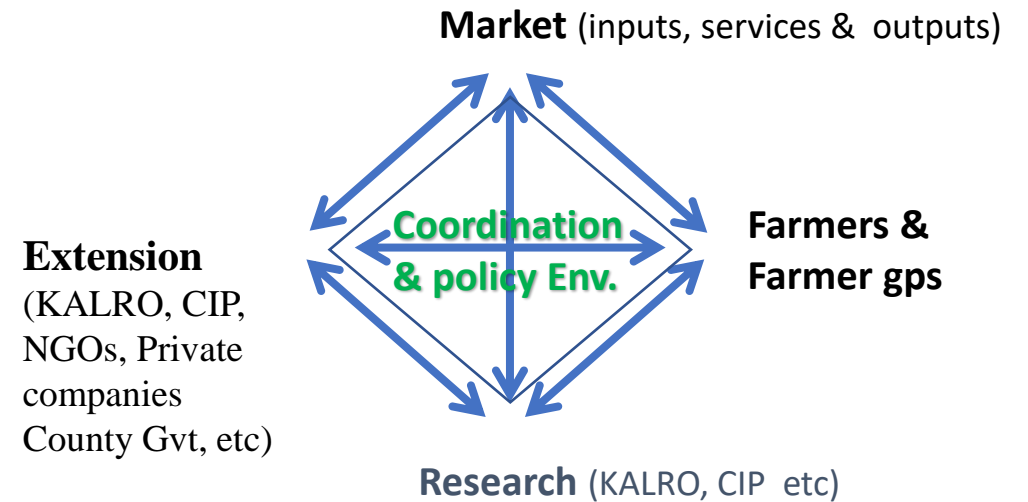
Introduction

➤ National Potato Council of Kenya

NPCK is a multi-stakeholder and a Public-Private Partnership platform

➤ Innovative solutions for challenges facing the industry, focusing on Africa and global perspectives

1. The threat of climate change
2. The battle against emerging diseases and pests
3. The quest for reliable seed systems
4. Necessity of expanding inter-country trade
5. Need to include youth in agriculture
6. Need to expand potato utilization
7. Increasing franchises with the need for quality standards in Africa



A. Climate Change: Drought and Erratic Rainfall

Climate change presents a big threat to agriculture. Mainly manifested as prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall. In Africa, and globally, climatic shifts have highly affected seed potato production which lead to a compounded effect on ware potato production.

Solution:

1. Development and adoption of early maturing and drought-resistant varieties is critical. Of critical importance is to combine these characteristics in varieties suitable for processing.
2. Adoption of cost effective rapid seed multiplication technologies such as Aeroponics, Rooted Apical Cuttings is also key. RAC allows multiplication of seed under controlled environment for most part of the multiplication processes and seedlings being transplanted to the field after accumulating critical numbers and when rains are expected.
3. Use of Hybrid True Potato Seed (HTPS), will also help solve the problem of reliance on seasonal rain-fed seed potato production.
4. Seed potato storage and seed booking/ ordering is also critical especially in African where farmers are used to waking up one day and deciding to look for certified seed potato.
5. Adoption and use of weather forecasting digital applications is also key in helping solve the challenge of climate change.
6. Investment in irrigation infrastructure is also important.



B. Disease and Pests

The prevalence of diseases and pests continues to undermine potato productivity. Diseases such as Late blight, Bacterial wilt, PCN and soft rot cause significant economic losses especially in Africa. As trade between countries continue to grow more emerging disease and pests are expected in the importing countries if phytosanitary measures are not observed.

Solutions:

1. Breeding and adoption of disease and pest resistant varieties through advanced technologies is key. HTPS technology again offers a robust and speedy method of introducing resistance to important pests and diseases of potato. Introduction of HTPS is on going in Kenya
2. HTPS technology, also presents the safest method of trading seed for potato between countries and regions that are far apart.



C. Challenge of Quality standards

As markets evolves, the need for quality assurance becomes paramount. In Africa, establishment of quality standards is key to ensure our potatoes and potato products are acceptable by the upcoming eatery franchises and also to make the products globally competitive.

There is need to establish certification schemes for quality standards and also building capacity of farmers and other value chain actors to comply. Establishing traceability systems from farm to fork is key in guaranteeing quality and accountability.

D. Ease of Trading Among Neighbouring Countries

Policies differ significantly from one country to another creating challenges in trade.

Harmonization of seed certification schemes, phytosanitary measures and trade policies for neighbouring countries is important for seamless trade. This is key in creating expanded markets attractive for investment. However, international trade should be reciprocal and alive to the dangers of introducing new diseases and pests to the importing countries



E. More Processing Varieties and Expanded Utilization

Majority of farmers are growing varieties that are not suitable for agro-processing. Limited utilization of potatoes lead to high wastes and price fluctuations. For over 50 years CIP has successfully introduced and supported pro-poor varieties which have been widely adopted.

With the changing market dynamics in Africa there is need for deliberate and concerted efforts to offer commercially oriented alternatives, free of loyalty or with flexible loyalty models.

Although potato could be used to produce starch, flour, dehydrated cubes, cosmetics, alcohol and other products most of these products are largely imported.



F. Digital and Online farming and Marketing

Moving with the global trend there is need to digitize potato production and marketing activities in Africa. Precision farming is hardly practiced in Africa.

There is increased acceptance of digitalization in day-to-day activities especially with youth. There is therefore a need to digitize extension and advisory information for potato production and marketing activities which would attract more youth in potato farming. A number of digital platforms are being promoted although they require perfecting.

G. Challenge in Banks Funding of Agriculture

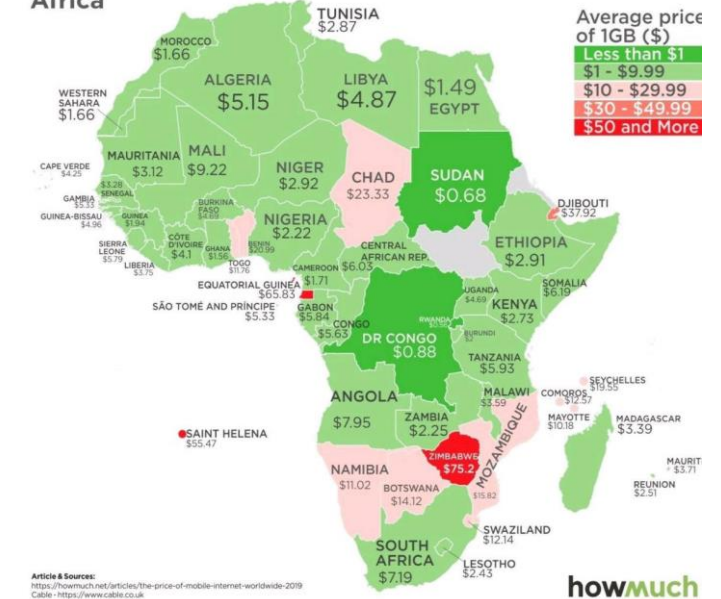
Agriculture funding has been estimated at 4% for many years despite of a number of programmes aimed at de-risking funds for banks. Potato production is relatively capital intensive and most small scale farmers do not have access to funding from the banks.

Tailor made packages suitable for potato crop are key to unlocking funding. The interest rates and the payment terms should rhyme with the crop growth and dynamics.

Climate index based insurance is also key in encouraging banks and farmers in lending and borrowing, respectively.



The Price of Mobile Internet 2019 Africa



Conclusion

Solving some of these challenges may require sizeable investments in research and development projects. However, solutions for some constitute investment opportunities. In other cases information flow and cooperation through networking and partnership may be all that is needed to address the challenges. An example is the IPP.



Thank you for Listening