



## Making Potato Value Chain Enhance Productivity and Incomes in Uganda

### Summary

The project focuses on the seed potato value chain, crop-intensification production, value addition, and market linkages to provide appropriate interventions on how best seed potato can be made more available and accessible by farmers, how potato farmers can practice a sustainable crop intensification production that maximises the benefits, and how the value of potato can be improved through processing and marketing for increased benefits to farmers and consumers. The overall objective is to enhance the capacity of potato value chain actors to reduce the challenges that constrain sustainable potato productivity. The project will provide an empirical basis for addressing the existing challenges along the value chain. Reduction in these challenges will enhance productivity and profitability in the potato value chains, which is in line with the Uganda National Agricultural Policy. The project, therefore, targets ware and seed potato producers, potato growers' associations, processors, researchers, and consumers. Because of its focus and scope, the project team constitutes staff and organisations with multidisciplinary backgrounds including academia and researchers at University, Research and Extension organisations, Community-Based Organisation, a potato processing and business incubator, graduate and undergraduate students, a private sector, and TVET Instructors and students. The project uses methodologies that enable potato value chain actors to actively participate in the research processes. It uses Potato-based Innovation Platforms to establish a community-based system for farmers to participate in production, delivery and use of quality seed potato; Farmer Field Demonstrations to validate a system of potato intensification that optimises farmers' resources; and will develop and market test potato-based value added products to widen potato market outlets, increase incomes of producers and expand consumer choices. By its design, the project will strengthen the synergies and working relationships of the University, private and community-based organisations, Research Institutions and an Agricultural College (TVET Institution) that trains Mid-level Cadres in Uganda in areas of agriculture, agribusiness and human nutrition.

The overall objective of the proposed project is to enhance sustainable potato productivity through reducing the challenges that constrain the capacity of potato value chain actors in Uganda. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Test and demonstrate a community-based system/model for farmers to participate in the production, delivery and use of good quality seed potato.
- ii. Test and validate a system of potato intensification (SPI) that optimises farmers' resources whilst increasing productivity in South-western and Central Uganda.
- iii. Develop and test innovative potato-based value added products with potential for commercialization
- iv. determine market potential and profitability of the potato value added products and promote market linkages for potatoes and the potato products.

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**Project ID:** RU/2018/CARP+/02

**Project duration:**  
48 months

**Start Date:**  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

**Total budget:**  
USD 350,000

#### Project partners:

**Partner 1:** NARO-Kachwekano Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (KAZARDI)

**Partner 2:** Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), Kabale Incubation

**Partner 3:** Agromax (U) Ltd

**Partner 4:** Bukalasa Agricultural College

**Partner 5:** Excel Hort Consult Ltd (EHC)

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- v. Support human resource development for research and sustainable development of agricultural value chains.

### Target Groups

The target groups in this action are; Farmers (ware and seed); potato growers' associations; processors; TVET Instructors and students; consumers.

### Result Areas

There are five primary result areas in this action:

**Result 1.** A cost effective and efficient community-based system/model for farmers to participate in the production, delivery and use of good quality seed potato tested and demonstrated through; i) Establishing Potato Innovation platforms; ii) establishing participatory seed multiplication demonstrations; and v) training farmers on quality seed potato technologies.

**Result 2:** Potato intensification production systems that optimise farmers' resources and increase productivity tested and validated through; i) farmer mobilization and awareness creation among them and other value chain actors; ii) Conducting surveys, community Focus Group Discussions and experimentation to establish best bet sustainable crop intensification technologies and practices; and iii) set up and run Farmer Field Demonstrations in strategically selected sites

**Result 3:** Marketable potato-based value added products developed and tested by i) Screening potentially viable potato-based products and test their acceptability; ii) refine and produce the most viable products; and iii) incubate selected young entrepreneurs to produce and commercialise the products

**Result 4:** Potential market and profitability for potato value added products determined, and market linkages for the products determined through; i) assessing strengths and weaknesses of the potato value chain; ii) conducting a market analysis for the new potato value added products; and linking the incubated/trained entrepreneurs to the identified potential markets.

**Result 5:** Capacity of farmers to increase potato productivity, entrepreneurs to produce value-added products, students to serve communities in agricultural value chains built by: i) training potato value chain actors in their respective activities and functions of the potato value chain; ii) training University and TVET students; and iii) supervising Postgraduate students in conducting research and writing reports and other scholarly publications

### General Activities:

1. Mobilise potato growing communities in Innovation Platforms for awareness creation and participation in quality seed production, crop intensification and value addition.
2. Establish potato screen house and demonstrations for quality seed multiplication
3. Establish experimental and farmer field demonstrations as modalities to demonstrate and promote potato intensification production system
4. Develop protocols for potato value added products and promote commercialization of the products
5. Recruit University Undergraduate Interns and TVET students for participation in selected project activities

6. Recruit and train Graduate students (MSc and PhD) and supervise their research and publications
7. Establish a communication and knowledge sharing system among the key stakeholders in the potato value chain as a strategy for up scaling the best bet practices.

