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## INTRODUCTION

Globally access to agricultural information is key towards improving yields and food security. To enhance farmers access to information trade fairs have been used by institutions in Kenya as a platform for disseminating knowledge on improved technologies and new innovations in agriculture. Experiential learning is a key component of the Community Action Research Project (CARP+) at Egerton university (EU) which aims at enhancing access to high quality seed potato in Nakuru county. The project actively involves undergraduate and masters students in the implementation pathway. Through the project the students have gained opportunities to participate in, field days, trainings, surveys, conferences and trade fairs related to potato and seed potato value chains in Nakuru, Nyeri and Meru Counties.

## OBJECTIVES

- To create a platform for interaction and learning between the University and a TVET, i.e., Baraka Agricultural College (BAC), faculty, students, farmers and other potato value chain actors.
- To identify gaps, challenges ,opportunities and solutions in the seed potato value chain



Figure 1: Judith, MSc. Community Studies and Extension student exhibiting seed potato varieties they grew at EU during Farmers Education Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018



Figure 2: Students interacting with a farmer at EU, farmers Education Day



Figure 3: Extension agent, demonstrating potato apical rooted cuttings to students, farmers & staff at a Potato Fair held at Wambugu Agricultural Training college in Nyeri on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## RESULTS

- Farmers (1,100) , students (300) and staff (7) acquired knowledge and skills in seed & ware potato production technologies (e.g. apical rooted cuttings)
- Identification of key opportunities in seed potato value chain including mechanization, organized production and seed enterprises
- Identification of students research areas, & objectives by up to 7 MSc and two PhD students within the seed potato value chain systems



Figure 4: TAGDev Students at BAC on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, Potato fair disseminating information to farmers on how CARP+ project is being implemented in Nakuru county

## METHODOLOGY

- Information was collected through observation and Interviews with potato value chain (PVC) industrial players
- Students engaged PVC actors, i.e., National potato Council of Kenya (NPCK); Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research organization (KARLO), Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC)-Molo, and other stakeholders to obtain information on good agricultural practices for seed and ware potato production
- Growing of potatoes on-farm was conducted in 6 sites.

## RECOMMENDATION

- Higher education learning institution should facilitate experiential to support theoretical learning.
- Students should be facilitated and encouraged to participate in trade fairs and outreach activities

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