



Factsheet

Potato Sector Uganda

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Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa. Situated on Lake Victoria, it is bordered by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the west, Rwanda to the south, South Sudan to the north and Kenya to the east. The potato market in Uganda is characterised by a deficit in production, making Uganda a net importer of potatoes. In food production Uganda has a comparative advantage. Within East Africa, Uganda has the biggest size of arable land (68%). The water resources (rivers and lakes), and favourable rainfall patterns allow for flexibility in production and multiple yields per year.

Facts and Figures

- The Ugandan highlands are the main production areas (Kigezi, Rwenzori, Kabale, Kisoro, Ankole, Nebbi, Mbale, Kapchorwa, Bugisu)
- Rapidly growing urbanisation and increase in population in urban areas cause a growing demand for (processed) potato
- The Kabale and Kisoro district account for 60% of Uganda's potato production
- Majority of production is characterized by small-scale farmers. The average farm size is 0.97 ha (FAOSTAT 2012)
- National average of productivity is 7 metric tonnes per hectare
- Small-scale farmers have potential to produce about 25 metric tonnes per hectare (10 metric tonnes per acre)
- Bimodal rainfall allows for two potato productions a year
- Most of the potato produced is marketed in raw form with minimal processing
- 70% of the seed potatoes currently used are saved from previous harvests
- 5% of the whole potato market is disease free seed potato

- Uganda has one potato processing factory in Kisoro, which is not yet operative (Kisoro Potato Processing Industries Ltd, KPPII)

The table below presents an overview of Irish potato farmer characteristics.

Attributes	Statistic
Household size (members)	6.0
Land size (acres)	0.6
Farmers using fertilizers (%)	34.6
Farmers applying improved seeds (%)	8.6
Yields (Kgs/acre)	1556.0 (3.84 t/ha)
Farmers selling potato (%)	71.0
Sample size (n)	447

Source: EPRC research June 2016, IFPRI socio-economic survey data

Potato grow seasons												
Uganda short rains												
Uganda off-season												
Uganda long rains												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dec



Picture: potato harvesting

Challenges

- Limited volume of clean seed produced
- Majority of the farmers do not use high yielding seed varieties and fertilizers thus leading to low yields
- Shortage of Quality Certified Seeds on the market
- Inadequacies in the supply of the appropriate potato varieties to support industrial-level processing into crisps and high-quality frozen chips (EPRC)
- Processing: lack of processing plants and lack of potato varieties suitable for processing
- Storage: Lack of storage facilities. The most common on-farm forms of storage facilities are rooms in residential houses.
- Knowledge: farmers have insufficient knowledge of producing, fertilizing, and harvesting potatoes. Chain actors generally lack sufficient knowledge, information and enough resources to help them meet quality standards and formal market specifications
- High incidences of pests, diseases and vermin
- Many areas are prone to soil exhaustion and erosion largely because of the high terrain
- Farmers face great difficulty accessing seed in terms of quantity and quality due to high prices and limited availability. Seed used is usually home saved seeds from previous harvest, most of which is made up of local varieties.
- Poor rural infrastructure and high transport costs, which increase the transaction costs throughout the value chains

Trade and investment opportunities

- Potato seed multiplication
- Commercial production of potatoes
- Processing of potatoes (value addition by producing soups, chips, fries)
- Storage facilities to improve the shelf life
- Existence of KPPII that aims at producing a distinctive brand of potato fries to capture a sustainable niche market while empowering the primary producers and, small holder farmers to achieve higher production and improved post-harvest handling.

Current initiatives

In the past years, several initiatives have been financed by the Netherlands. A large investment has been made in 2012 (through a.o. PSI and the Embassy) in the Kisoro Potato Processing Industries. This processing factory is not yet operational but efforts are made to change this.

The International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) has, in cooperation with NARO and KAZARDI, tested 21 varieties. Nine of these varieties have currently been approved. Currently IFDC is testing another 17 varieties under the REACH programme.

Actors

Governmental:

Government of Uganda identifies potato as one of its priority crops in the Agriculture Sector Support Program (ASSP) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

- National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) – public sector research organization.
- Kacwekano Zonal Research and Development Institute KAZARDI: Part of MAAIF. Responsible for cleaning and testing potatoes. Limited capacity

Production:

- Uganda National Seed Potato Producers Association (UNSPPA): local cooperative for seed production
- AgroTechnologies: Ugandan company involved in cleaning potatoes through tissue culture
- Agromax: Israeli company involved in cleaning potatoes through tissue culture
- Namakwaland: 160 ha seed multiplier located in Masaka

Seed potato companies involved in seed potato testing

- HZPC
- AGRICO
- Den Hartigh
- Set Holland

Other:

- Solynta: company aiming to develop potato seeds

The Embassy

The Embassy of the Netherlands in Kampala provides sustainable trade and investment support to Dutch companies active in or exploring economic opportunities in Uganda. The potato sector has been identified as a high potential value chain. The embassy is involved in value chain development through government to government dialogue. In addition, the government of the Netherlands has developed several business support instruments, including financing for demonstration projects, feasibility studies and knowledge acquisition. For more information please visit

<http://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes>

You can also contact the Embassy by sending an email to kam@minbuza.nl.

Interesting links:

- The Agribusiness market scan for Uganda (2016)- RVO (uploaded)
- IFDC Assessment of Uganda's Potato Market System for processing (2017)
- Final report on the promotion of Dutch potato varieties through farm demonstrations in Uganda (2017) – IFDC REACH

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