

Potato Value Chain Capacity Building (PCB) Project

PCB is designed to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and families through the adoption of new technologies, including certified seed potato and new varieties, good agricultural practices (GAPs), improved farm management skills, and market access.

Kenya

2018-2022

Budget

€2.3 million

(€1 million cost share from partners)

Donor

Irish Aid

Embassy of Ireland in Kenya

Implementing Partners

IPM Potato Group

Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services

Kevian Kenya Limited

Kirinyaga Seed Limited

National Potato Council of Kenya

Nyandarua County Government

Sustainable Food Systems Ireland

Teagasc

Project Objectives

- Strengthen the seed potato production and supply chain.
- Educate farmers.
- Promote demand-driven extension services.
- Increase market knowledge and access.
- Facilitate access to finance.
- Build institutional capacities.

Outcomes

2020

- 1,558 farmers (56% female) using the farmer field business school (FFBS) training model.
- Trained 3,827 farmers directly and over 6,000 others indirectly.
- Avoiled over 100 mt of certified potato seed and 350 mt of clean seed multiplied by farmers using skills acquired from the project.
- Trained 95 lead farmers who cascade farmer-to-farmer extension, thereby supporting government extension personnel.

2019

- Trained 1,746 farmers (60% women) directly using the FFBS model and 4,300 beneficiaries indirectly through various learning platforms, including field days, conferences, and agricultural fairs.
- A total of 50 trainers were trained as FFBS facilitators (39 lead farmers and 11 extension staff).
- Took the lead in identifying challenges in late blight management and rallied partners to address the issue – first by convening private and public partners to develop an action plan that helped relevant government agencies provide guidance on disease management products that are allowed in the country.
- 31 farmers contracted to supply potato to two buyers; farmers were linked to Agri-wallet, a mobile-based financing platform.
- Assisted in the regulation of potato sales in Kenya, with the passing of the 2019 (Irish potato) Regulation, which requires weighing of all sales and limits bag size to 50 kg.