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## Spirit Newsletter n°21 / August 2017

Dear **Spirit Forum** member,

Last month we launched **new documents** in the resources section of the Spirit portal. Especially, the **Guidelines for innovation platforms in agricultural research for development** which support funders and project developers in thinking about when and in what form innovation platforms can contribute effectively to achieving research and development objectives.

Moreover, **the Government of Rwanda has signed a deal with a Nigerian investor to revamp and develop the country's potato industry**. The multimillion-dollar deal signed will allow setting up two potato processing plants and boosting production activities.

New topics were added to our **LinkedIn group** this month. Check out and join at [East Africa Potato Value Chain!](#)

Next 4th-8th September, **African Green Revolution Forum 2017** will be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The African Green Revolution Forum brings together African Heads of State, Ministers, farmers, private agribusiness firms, donors, financial institutions, NGOs, civil society, scientists, and other stakeholders to discuss and develop concrete investment plans for achieving the green revolution in Africa.

Kind regards,

The **Spirit Project** Coordination Group

## RESOURCES

### **Guidelines for innovation platforms in agricultural research for development**

August 21 2017 by INKOA

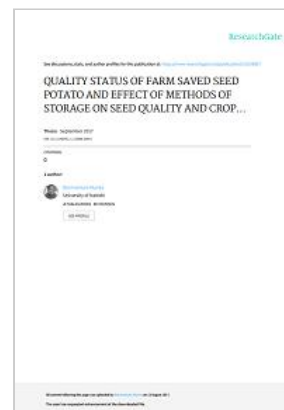
**Guidelines for innovation platforms in agricultural research for development**: decision support for research, development and funding agencies on how to design, budget and implement impactful innovation platforms. The guidelines support funders and project developers in thinking about when and in what form innovation platforms can contribute effectively to achieving research and development objectives. It provides information on key design and implementation principles, the financial and human resources that need to be made available, and makes suggestions for more effective monitoring, evaluation and learning. The guidelines also contain reference materials, Frequently Asked Questions and a decision support tool for research, development and funding agencies



## Quality status of farm saved seed potato and effect of methods of storage on seed quality and crop performance

August 24 2017 by INKOA

The main challenge facing potato production in Kenya is use of poor quality seed tubers that are degenerated and infected with seed borne pathogens. The objective of this study was to determine the quality status of farm saved seed potato and the effect of methods of storage on seed quality and crop performance. A survey involving seventy nine farmers was conducted in four agro-ecological zones in Kikuyu, Kiambu County and North Kinangop, Nyandarua County to determine seed potato production and handling practices. Information on potato varieties grown, source of seed potato tubers, seed storage methods, duration of storage, seed renewal period, pests and diseases was collected. Farm saved seed potato was evaluated for quality parameters like seed health, physical and physiological qualities. Freshly harvested seed tubers of variety Shangii were collected from a model farmer for the storage experiment and field studies.



## Trends in global potato processing industry- Evidence from patents' analysis

August 1 2017 by INKOA

Potato has been considered as a serious food security option worldwide and about 15.5% of potato tubers are processed into various products. This study undertakes analysis of patents data for having insight into the direction and extent of global research on potato processing. North America has demonstrated that protection of intellectual properties create global businesses, however massive efforts from China in recent years indicate their gigantic future plans in potato processing. The study indicates that western developed world was skewed towards French fries and Potato Chips/ Crisps while China has greater balance in their focus as Other Potato products, Dehydrated Products and Processing Machinery have also been adequately focussed.



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### NEWS

#### NORAD Call for Applications: Support to research institutions and organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa

August 21 2017

Norad invites research institutions and research organizations based in the Sub-Saharan Africa to submit applications for funding. Norad provides mainly programme support, but can in some cases consider core support. Approximately 35 million NOK per year is made available under this call.

#### Project for Developing the Potato Processing Industry in Rwanda

August 23 2017

The government in Rwanda has signed a multimillion dollar deal with a Nigerian investor to revamp and develop the country's potato industry and help make this country a key producer and exporter of potato products. Under the deal signed last week between Rwanda

### EVENTS

#### African Green Revolution Forum 2017

From 04/09/2017 to 08/09/2017 — Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Initiated in 2010, the African Green Revolution Forum brings together African Heads of State, Ministers, farmers, private agribusiness firms, donors, financial institutions, NGOs, civil society, scientists, and other stakeholders to discuss and develop concrete investment plans for achieving the green revolution in Africa.

In a region is challenged by climate change, rapidly growing urban populations, and an urgent need for jobs, agriculture offers solutions, providing a clear path to food security and employment opportunities for all Africans.

#### Potatoes South Africa Congress

From 26/09/2017 to 28/09/2017 — South Africa

The Potatoes South Africa Congress which will be held on 28 September 2017 at the Premier

Development Board (RDB), the ministries of Agriculture and Animal Resources, and Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs and BlackPace Africa Group, the firm will also set up two potato processing plants and boost production activities, according to newtimes.co.rw.

### Tanzania- New governor promises better storage services for potato farmers

August 23 2017

Governor Lee Kinyanjui has assured farmers that his government will work with industry stakeholders to create storage services and help to improve their profitability and livelihoods across the region. *"Storage has been an issue for many years and has caused losses among our potato farmers. We will ensure that we get proper storage for their produce and cushion them from erratic price fluctuations"* said Mr Kinyanjui.

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Hotel OR Tambo, Gauteng.

During this Congress, the focus will be on value chains with the purpose to debate the theme: "Do value chains really matter ...and if so, where is the value?"

### SA Innovation Summit

From 06/09/2017 to 08/09/2017 — Cape Town, South Africa

The SA Innovation Summit is a platform for nurturing, developing and showcasing South African innovation. Annually, the Summit offers numerous opportunities for entrepreneurs, innovators, thought-leaders, policymakers, inventors and investors to drive innovation in South Africa and inspire sustained economic growth.

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