

SPIRIT

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES FOR
FOSTERING INNOVATION ALONG POTATO
VALUE CHAINS IN EAST AFRICA

FED/2013/330-228



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GENERAL INFORMATION

PROJECT DURATION	36 Months (01/01/2014—31/12/2016)
TOTAL BUDGET	1.148.283,34 €
EC TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	976.040,84 € (85%)
PROJECT WEBSITE	www.spiritacp.com

Project consortium

Lead partner



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CHALLENGE

- The production of **potato** (*Solanum tuberosum*) has more than doubled in sub-Saharan Africa since 1994, with 70% of this growth being concentrated in Eastern Africa.
- The crop has gained great importance in the region and holds a **critical position in reducing extreme hunger and poverty** because of the reduced price susceptibility to the dynamics of international markets and because, being almost entirely produced by small-scale farmers, it acts as both a food and a cash crop.
- Main factors hindering the development of the potato value chain in Eastern Africa is the **lack of trust and communication between value chain actors**, and of **opportunities for the different actors to come together to analyse shared constraints and innovations**.
- The potato sector in this region is **not well organised**: producers, transporters, marketers, wholesalers and retailers are fragmented and tend not to co-operate, which leads to price instability and an isolation of the sector from regional and international markets.
- The current inferior quality of local production makes it **difficult to meet the quality standards** required by the potato processing industry.



OBJECTIVES

Overall objective

To increase the contribution of **Agricultural Science, Technology and Innovation** to poverty reduction, economic growth and social development efforts in East Africa.

Verifiable indicators

- ❑ **Total agricultural R&D spending of the public sector** increased by 5% at the end of the action with regards to 2012 levels in the countries of implementation of the action.
- ❑ The **value added in the agricultural sector**, expressed as % of the GDP, increased by 5% in the countries of implementation of the action during the period 2013-2016.
- ❑ Governments of Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda **increase their budget allocation to Agriculture to the level proposed under CAADP Maputo Declaration** (at least 10% of the national budget) by the end of the action.
- ❑ By 2016, an **Agricultural Development Fund has established for the East African Community (EAC)**, as foreseen in the EAC 4th Development Strategy 2011/2012-2015/2016



OBJECTIVES

Specific objective

To strengthen the capacities in scientific research and innovative technologies and practices for **enhanced product quality along the potato value chain** in East Africa.

Verifiable indicators

- ❑ **At least 4 new research groups are created** integrating research organizations from different East African countries with common research interests.
- ❑ **At least 120 East African researchers have increased their capacities** on innovative technologies and practices for enhanced product quality along the potato value chain.
- ❑ **At least 4 new research proposals are prepared** by research organizations participating in the action, they involving the participation of relevant stakeholders along the value chain (farmer-based organizations, processing companies, etc.).
- ❑ **At least 250 relevant actors along the potato value chain in East Africa have increased their capacities** on innovation for enhanced product quality.



METHOD

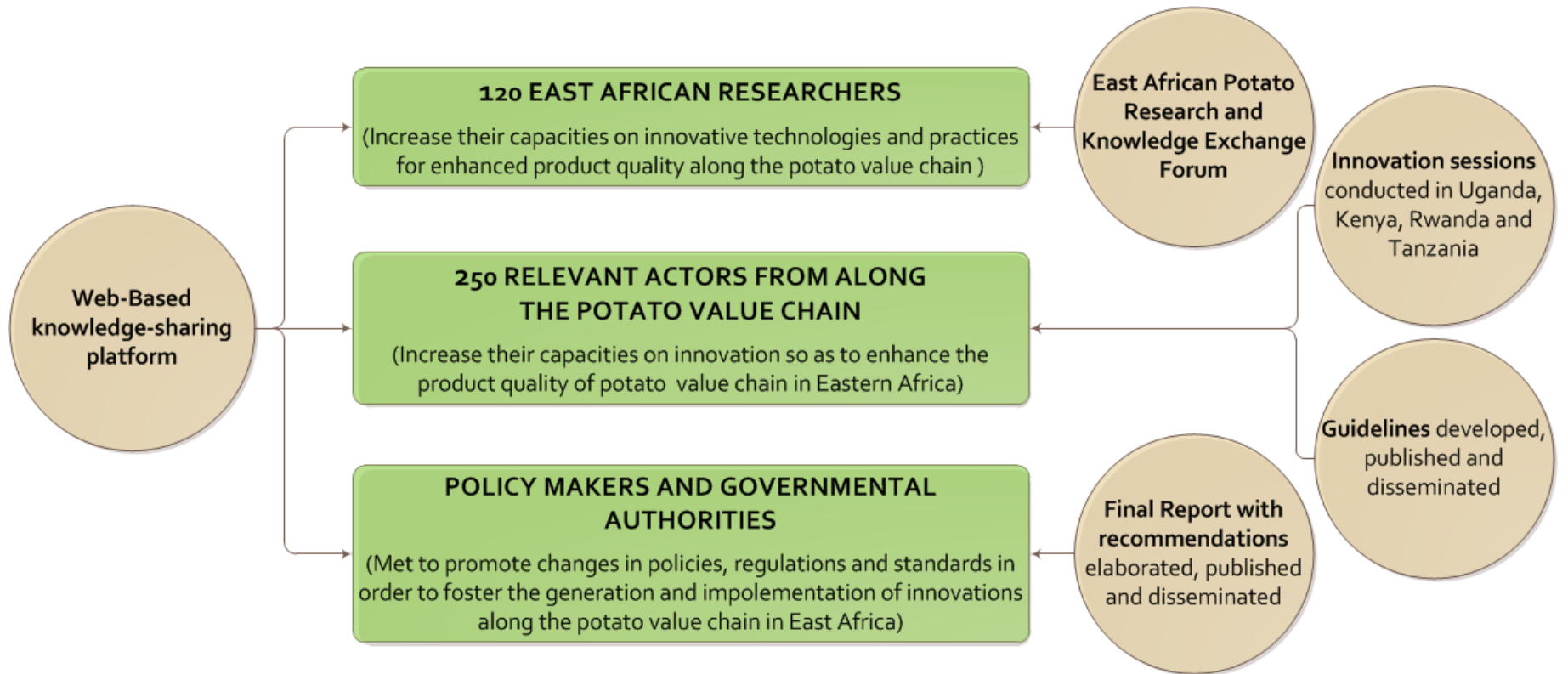
The action will **enhance the scientific and technological knowledge of East African research organizations** on innovative technologies and practices for enhancing product quality throughout the potato value chain.

The action will work directly with private and civil society actors, and governmental services relevant to the potato value chain on reinforcing their capacities to **generate and adopt innovative technologies and practices** for enhancing product quality.

Recommendations on the identification and assessment of benchmark countries with successful policies and regulations will be developed and transferred to governmental policy-makers to **promote changes on policies, regulations and standards** necessary to foster the generation and implementation of innovations along the potato value chain in Eastern Africa.



PROJECT APPROACH



EXPECTED RESULTS

- An increase in the capacities of at least 120 East African researchers.
- An increase in the capacities of at least 250 relevant actors.
- A web-based knowledge-sharing platform, which will include at least 400 members from relevant stakeholder organizations.
- An 'East African Potato Research and Knowledge Exchange Forum', which will integrate at least 15 research organizations.
- The creation of four new research groups from different East African countries with research interests on potato quality.
- At least four new research project proposals launched involving the relevant stakeholders of the value chain.
- A set of four guidelines for fostering the implementation of innovative technologies and best practices for the potato value chain in Eastern Africa.
- Recommendations for policy-makers to modify existing regulations so as to foster the adoption of innovations throughout the potato value chain.





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