

MARKET MAPPING REPORT ON IRISH POTATO TRADING ACTIVITY IN FORT PORTAL, KABAROLE DISTRICT



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INTRODUCTION

This study was done in four major Irish potato markets located in Fort Portal, Uganda. These include Kabundaire market, Mugusu market, Harugongo market and Mpanga markets. Mpanga market is the only daily market, whereas Kabundaire market is usually most active on Mondays; the rest of the markets take place once a week. Harugongo market happens every Monday of the week, Mugusu happens only on Wednesdays. There are other local markets that have very little or no potato trade and these also take place once a week i.e. Karago market on Tuesday, and Nyakigumba on Thursday of every week.

The main objectives of the market mapping include;

- ❖ To find out who is involved in potato trade.
- ❖ To find out where those involved in potato trade get their supply.
- ❖ To find out where those involved in potato trade sell their Irish potatoes.

There are different categories of people involved in the trade of Irish potato in Fort Portal; these include the producers, retailers, wholesalers, exporters. The prices vary from season to season depending on forces of demand and supply. The prices and potato volumes shown in this report are as at the time of mapping. At the time of the market mapping, potato trade was at its lowest; later, during harvest season, (May to July) there is maximum potato trade activity.

The volume of potato in the markets differs from time to time, but as at the time of the study, the volumes going to each of the markets around Fort Portal is shown in the table below; during mid-month of May to July the figures tend to more than triple.

TABLE 1: Average Amount of Potato Trade in the Markets of Kabundaire, Harugongo, Mugusu, and Mpanga on a Weekly Basis. In (000000 KGS)

Market	Volume of potato (000) tones
Mpanga	80
Kabundaire	120
Harugongo	5
Mugusu	30
Nyakigumba and Karago	2
TOTAL	237

Much of the Irish potato traded locally is not consumed locally but rather is taken to Kampala, to Democratic Republic of Congo (mainly Bunia), to Rwanda in the capital Kigali and to other districts neighboring Kabarole. The potatoes in the markets above come from different places both within Fort Portal and from other districts.

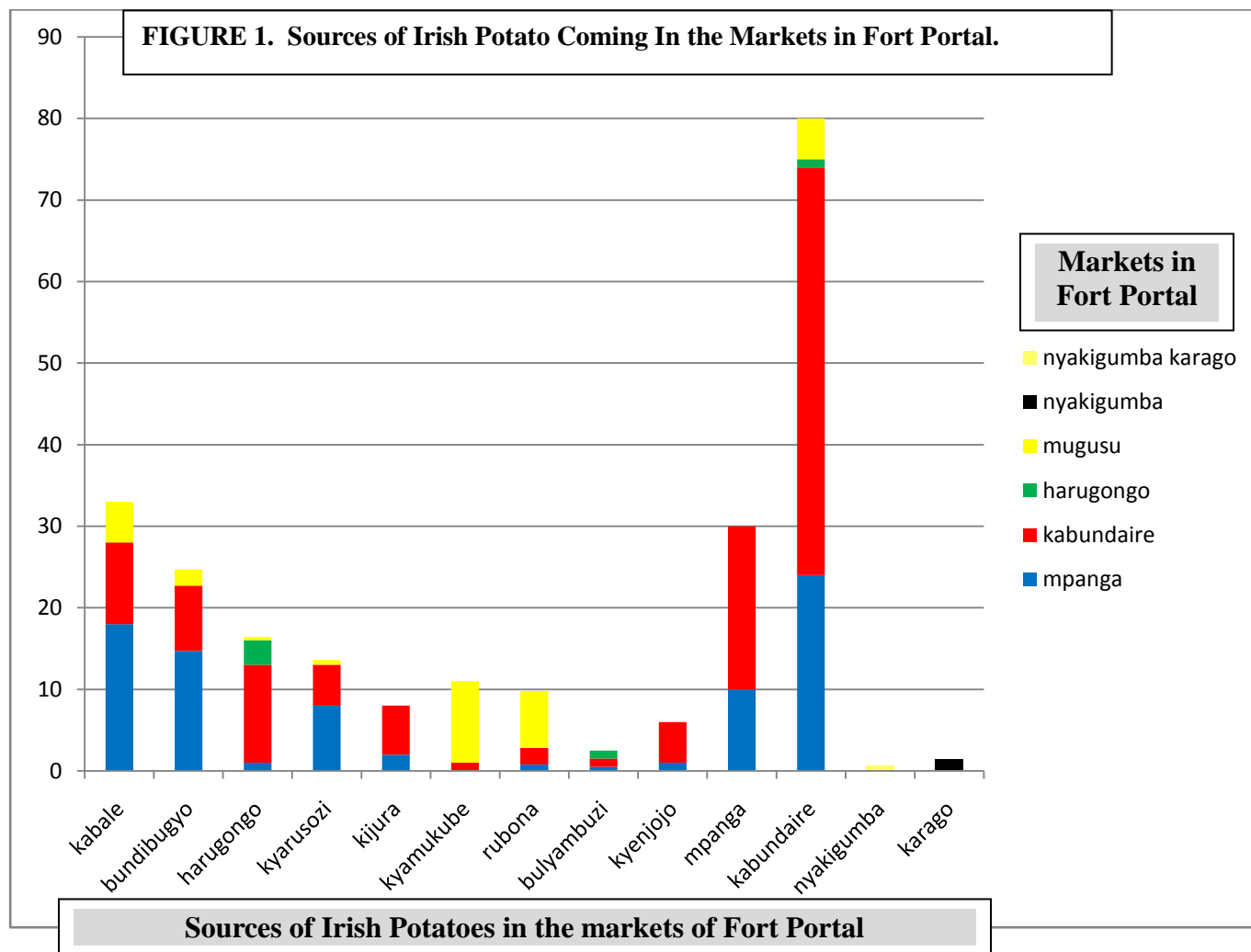
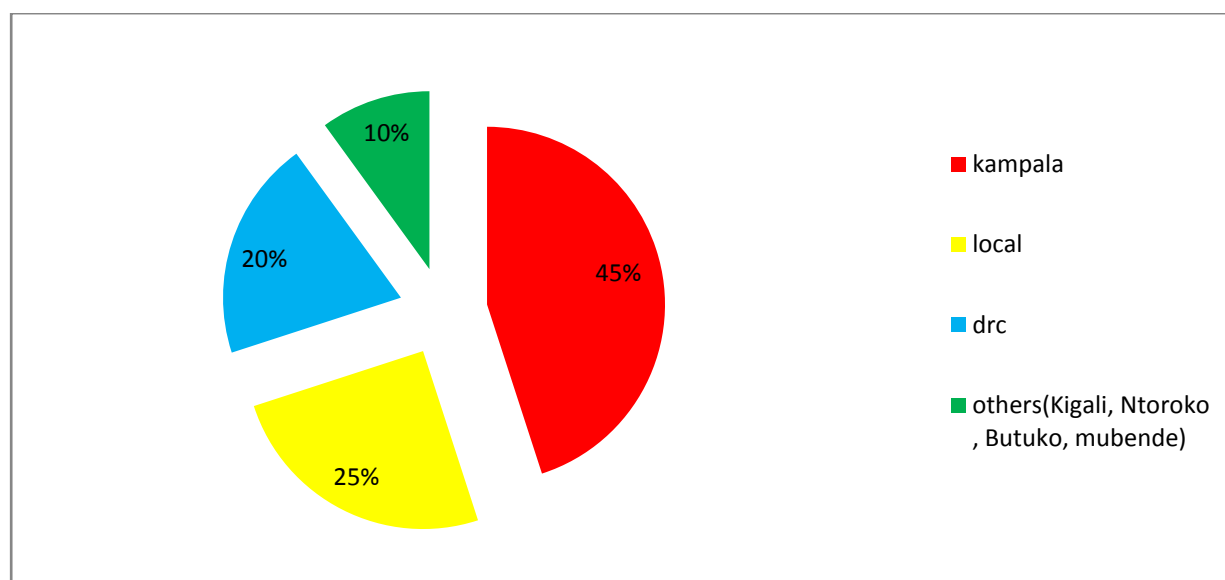


TABLE 2. Sources of Irish Potato Coming into The Markets in Fort Portal (Detail)

SOURCES	MARKETS IN FORT PORTAL						Total (000,000 kgs)
	Mpanga	Kabundaire	Harugongo	Mugusu	Nyakigumba	Karago	
Kabale	18	10		5			33.0
Bundibugyo	14.7	8		2			24.7
Harugongo	1	12	3	0.4			16.4
Kyarusozi	8	5		0.6			13.6
Kijura	2	6					8.0
Kyamukuba	0	1		10			11.0

Rubona	0.8	2		7			9.8
Bulyambuzi	0.5	1	1				2.5
Kyenjojo	1	5					6.0
Mpanga	10	20					30.0
Kabundaire	24	50	1	5			80.0
Nyakigumba						0.6	0.6
Karago					1.4		1.4
Total	80	120	5	30	1.4	0.6	237.0

FIGURE 2: Irish Potato From the Fort Portal Markets Going To Different Areas by Percentage



Much of the locally grown potato is what is mainly sold to the traders who come from DRC, Kampala, Rwanda, Mubende and Ntoroko

TABLE 3: The Volume Of Potato Going From Markets In Fortportal To The Different Areas In (000,000 KGS)

Area	Quantity
Kampala	106.65
Local	59.25
DRC	47.4
Others(Kigali, Ntoroko, Butuko, Mubende)	23.7
Total	237

PRODUCERS / SOURCE OF THE POTATOES

Potatoes produced are for both seed and ware. Seed potatoes are a bit more costly than the ware potatoes.

The main seed potatoes seed is from the farmers who come to the markets of Mpanga, Kabundaire and Mugusu, from the villages of Bunyangabo, Harugongo, Kyarusenzi and Kijura. There also local seed producers in Bunyangabo, Harugongo, Kyarusenzi and Kijura, Kyamukuba, Rubona, Bulyambuzi, NARO has also been providing potato seed.

❖The main potato trade activity in Fort Portal is selling of ware potatoes. Producers who come to these markets sell the potatoes to traders in these markets (Mpanga, Kabundaire, and Mugusu) and also to traders in these markets who come from Kampala, DRC, and Rwanda.

❖The main varieties that are produced and then sold in fort portal markets are; Rwangume, “Dutch Variety” (Sagita, panamera, Taurus .however these account less than 1percent of the total sold in the markets), Kinigi and they are the mainly preferred and locally grown varieties and these sell to whole sellers, retailers, other producers in the markets of Mpanga, Mugusu, and Kabundaire.

❖From the producers, a ware potato leveled sack costs an average of 100,000 UGX (Uganda shillings) and heaped sack costs 120,000 UGX and potato seed is sold in kilogram (kg) at 1,800 UGX to 2,000 UGX per kg in the Mpanga, Mugusu, and Kabundaire markets. These prices are for the month of April when the mapping was carried out, however according to the local producers and traders, the prices go down to about 40000 UGX to 70000 UGX for a 100kg sack and this is usually in the harvest months of mid may to mid July and September to November

❖An average producer of potato is able to supply 30 to 100 sacks that are about 3 to 10 tons from an acre.

❖In order to reach the markets of Mpanga, Mugusu, and Kabundaire, the producers mainly use bodaboda (motorcycles) and trucks to transport their Irish potatoes.

RETAILERS

In Fort Portal, majority of the traders dealing in Irish potato are in the retail business. These buy the Irish potatoes from the local whole sellers in Fort Portal town and also from small scale farmers (producers) from the neighboring villages of Harugongo, Kijura, Bunyangabo and some large scale retailers directly buy from Kabale district as the prices in Kabale are relatively cheaper.

“I grow my own potatoes to retail”, Ms. Kansiime Anna a potato retailer in Kabundaire market said.

Some retailers opt to grow the potatoes on their own such that they can realize higher profit margins. These sell to the final consumers in Fort Portal town and the neighboring suburbs. The most on market variety is Rwangume and Victoria.

During sale of the Irish potatoes, measurements are done in ways and quantities:

❖Heaps

These are in small quantity weighing about 800gms (grams) to 1kg and their prices go for 1,000 UGX

and these are the most demanded quantity since they are cheaper and in small quantity for an average consumer to buy.



Basket of potatoes at Fort Portal Mpanga market

❖ **Small baskets**

These carry Irish potatoes weighing average of 4kg-5kg and this cost 5,000 UGX. However, these are the least bought because majority of the customers feel cheated

❖ **Medium size basins**

These carry Irish potatoes weighing about 7 kg, they are normally heaped on the top. These range between 8,000 UGX to ten thousand Uganda shillings

❖ **Big basins**

These cost prices ranging from 15,000 UGX in the three markets. The Irish weigh between 10 to 13kg depending on size and quality

❖ **Sacks**

A leveled sack costs about 130,000UGX and heaped one cost 140,000 UGX

Daily Sales: “On a good day” the daily sales on average range between 60,000 UGX to 1,000,000 UGX and on a bad day the retailers may either sell nothing or get less than 100,000 UGX. Some retailers sell also potato seed but this is mostly the poor quality potatoes or the rejects which are usually small in size.

WHOLESALERS

There are a number of wholesalers in Fort Portal; these mainly sell their Irish potatoes to traders from Kampala, Bundibugyo and Democratic Republic of Congo (mainly those from Bunya). The main source of their potatoes is the local producers in Harugongo, Bunyangabo and the rest are got from the farmers in Cassese and Kabale since Kabale and Cassese have lower prices than the local producers.

❖ They mainly sell in sacks that either leveled sack or heaped sack and a leveled sack costs about 100,000 to 110,000 and heaped sacks cost 120,000 UGX to 140,000 UGX.

EXPORTER AND IMPORTER

In all the three markets there was little import or export activity, most of the trade is internal trade

TABLE 4 Important contacts of some potato traders in Fort Portal.

Trader Names	Responsibility	Contacts
Kansiime Abwooli	Wholesaler/retailer	0788366630
Edison Kampala	Large scale trader (buys from fort to Kampala)	078546196
Frank Niwagaba	Producer and chairperson Rwenzori region potato platform	0772956889
Ms Kenyange Grace	Trader and in charge Mpanga market	0772840947

NB majority of traders were hesitant to reveal their contact information

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, potato trade is growing gradually and the potato traders dealing in seed are willing to change and deal in quality seed, majority of the potatoes traded in the markets are mainly bought by people from DRC (Bunia) and traders from Kampala.