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IFC and OCP launch an agri-finance platform for sustainable food systems

11 October 2023 | News

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Creating Markets, Creating Opportunities

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IFC and OCP Group, the worldâ??s largest phosphate-based fertiliser producer launched an agri-finance platform to mobilise $800 million of blended capital by 2030. The new platform will build and support sustainable food production and distribution systems in Africa, contributing to skills development, job creation, and food security.

By providing access to finance and skills training, the platform aims to strengthen 30 agricultural value chains across Africa through 60 agri-finance operations. These will cover a range of crop types and will address challenges holding back the sectorâ??s growth and resilience.

Agriculture is vital to Africaâ??s economy, contributing about 20 per cent of the continentâ??s GDP and more than 60 per cent of its employment. However, Africa currently imports a large proportion of its food, reducing the continentâ??s resilience to external shocks. The platformâ??s targeted investment strategy will support the sustainable growth of the sector and increase food security across the continent.

â??Today we take a major step towards a just African agricultural transformation by mobilising substantial new financing for African farmers and for the value chains that support them,â?• said Mostafa Terrab, Chairman and CEO of OCP Group. â??The partnership between IFC and OCP is working to unlock the full potential of Africa to feed not only itself but the world.â?•

â??Agriculture is a critical sector for Africa, and we are thrilled to scale up our partnership with OCP to improve food production and attract investment to the continentâ?•, said IFC Managing Director, Makhtar Diop. â??Both IFC and OCP Group will commit resources to grow the platform and we are keen to attract like-minded partners and potential investors to join us in this important and timely project.â?•

Besides providing funding, the platform will undertake in-depth studies of targeted value chains to identify the challenges facing the sector and design solutions. The platform aims to foster the emergence of African champions and enable best practices to be shared so that success can be replicated across Africa.

The platform has already partnered with the Bank of Africa to improve access to fertilisers and other inputs for African farmers and agri-processors. The platform has also designed new projects to support cashew and rice value chains in CÃ´te dâ??Ivoire and has already started designing new projects in Cameroon, Gabon and other countries.