



Ghana secures €154m ... from Italy to transform agri-food systems — Minister

BY TIMES REPORTER

GHANA has secured €154 million financing agreement from the Italian government under the project titled “Strengthening Agri-Food Ecosystems in Ghana” to boost food security and modernise the country’s agricultural value chain.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Eric Opopku struck the deal at the Eighth Agrilevante Fair in Bari, Italy, held from October 7–11, 2025, a statement from the ministry copied *The Ghanaian Times* said.

The project, operating under AID 013210, is a three-year initiative beginning in 2025 and ending in 2027. It seeks to improve food security and strengthen resilience to climate change through investments and public-private

partnerships between Ghanaian and Italian agricultural institutions and private sector actors.

Under the project, 10,000 hectares of land will be developed into a model farm for the production of maize, rice, tomato, and soya. The farm will operate under full-year irrigation to ensure continuous production, with all produce targeted at supplying the domestic market.

An Italian organisation, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agromic Studies (CIHEAM), will collaborate with Ghana’s Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to produce a soil testing and crop suitability chart to guide production and improve efficiency.

Additionally, CIHEAM will work with the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) of the University of Ghana to

establish a national seed bank.

Beyond agricultural production, the project includes significant social infrastructure development, with the construction of schools, toilet facilities, social centers, and ICT hubs for communities in the project area.

The general objective of the initiative is to improve food security and build climate-resilient local food systems aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The specific objective focuses on developing and strengthening agri-food value chains, agricultural and civil infrastructure, and the capacities of institutions and local communities through targeted investments and partnerships.

The project is expected to deliver the following outcomes: 10,000 hectares of irrigated farmland cultivated and sustainably managed, construction of social and com-

munity facilities to improve rural livelihoods and enhanced institutional and technical capacity in modern farming systems and governance.

The direct beneficiaries include workers and staff of the model farm, soil analysts, seed bank agents, farmers’ associations, Ministry of Food and Agriculture officials, and young agricultural entrepreneurs.

The indirect beneficiaries will be residents of the Aveyime-Battor rural area—approximately 23,000 people—and the wider Volta Region, home to over 1.6 million people, who will benefit from the project’s ripple effects and scalability.

The Minister’s participation formed part of this broader collaboration with the Italian private sector aimed at transforming Ghana’s agri-food system into a more productive, inclusive, and sustainable sector.