

# Graphic Business

## World Bank commmits \$22.6m to Ghana food system

By Kwame Larweh

**T**HE World Bank has committed US\$22.6 million to support Ghana's food system under the West Africa Food System Resilience Project, aimed at improving food security and fixing long-standing weaknesses in the agricultural sector.

The financing, according to the Minister of Finance, Dr Cassiel Ato Forson, was to help Ghana build a more resilient food system by supporting farmers, improving productivity and reducing the sector's exposure to climate and market shocks.

Dr Forson disclosed this during a working visit to Golden Exotics Limited, a leading banana producer and exporter, and selected rice farms at Kpong and Asutsuare in the Eastern and Greater Accra regions.

He said the project would focus on improving access to timely weather and climate information for farmers through digital platforms, allowing them to make better production

decisions.

Dr Forson explained that the facility would also support increased production of key commodities such as maize, rice, soybean, tomato and poultry, which play a major role in household food consumption and incomes.

He noted that the intervention was critical at a time when Ghana's agriculture sector continued to face structural constraints that limited growth and competitiveness.

### Addressing constraints

The Finance Minister said successive challenges, including climate variability, infrastructure gaps and limited access to information, had affected productivity across the value chain.

He said the World Bank support was expected to help address these challenges by strengthening systems that supported farmers and agribusinesses.

"The government appreciated the World Bank for making the facility available to support agriculture, a sector that had struggled for years, and



Eric Opoku — Minister of Food and Agriculture

the funding was expected to help unlock growth and stability," he said.

The World Bank's Division Director for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr Robert Talierno, said the project reflected the bank's continued commitment to Ghana's agricultural development.

He said agriculture remained a key contributor to Ghana's gross domestic

product and continued to employ a significant proportion of the population, particularly in rural areas.

Mr Talierno said despite persistent infrastructure challenges, the World Bank remained focused on supporting interventions that improved resilience and productivity within the sector.

### Economic importance

He noted that strengthening the food system was not only important for food security but also for macroeconomic stability and job creation.

Mr Talierno said investments that improved farm-level productivity and reduced losses would have a direct impact on incomes and livelihoods.

"Agriculture continued to play a central role in Ghana's economy, and supporting the sector was essential to sustaining growth and employment," he said.

The project is being implemented by the Government of Ghana in collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders across the agricultural value chain.

Dr Forson said the government would work to ensure that the resources were used efficiently to deliver measurable outcomes for farmers and consumers.

He said the initiative formed part of broader efforts to strengthen Ghana's food systems and reduce the country's vulnerability to external and domestic shocks.