

## France grants two new technical assistances to support the agriculture and public finance sectors in Kenya

Nairobi, January 17, 2024 – Today, the National Treasury and Economic Planning, represented by the Honourable Cabinet Secretary, and Anthea Manasseh, Deputy Director of AFD in Kenya, signed two technical assistance (TA) agreements totaling €2.2 million. The Agreement was co-signed by His Excellency Mr Arnaud Suquet, French Ambassador to Kenya. The first TA aims at stimulating comprehensive growth and development within the agriculture sector, and the second one to further support public finance management reforms.

### Enhancing food security through innovation and improved competitiveness

The COVID-19 crisis, compounded by the war in Ukraine and persistent drought, have underscored the imperative to fortify Kenya's food security and sovereignty. This necessitates a significant enhancement in the performance of the agricultural and agri-food sector.

In response to these challenges, the Government of Kenya has sought funding from AFD for a dedicated €1 million grant. This project aims at elevating services and offer timely support, catering to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). More specifically, it will support to the Kenyan private sector in the agriculture domain through a comprehensive business acceleration program, a series of training seminars, and the facilitation of experience-sharing initiatives. The promotion of networking between Kenyan and French private companies and stakeholders in the agri-food sector will be a central focus.

The French Innovation Cluster (VALORIAL), with the collaborative support of the French Development Agency and the French Embassy, will orchestrate the implementation of this Technical Assistance program.

### Strengthening public debt management and access to climate financing

Improving public finance management is a major challenge for Kenya's economic development, as the significant rise in the deficit is gradually reducing the country's budgetary room for maneuver.

At the request of the Kenyan Government, in 2017, AFD granted a loan of 30 MEUR to support public finance management reforms. In order to pursue these efforts, while working on new high-stake issues such as climate finance, a new €1.2 million program has been signed. It specifically aims at supporting the efforts of the National Treasury of Kenya in strengthening public debt management and increasing access to climate financing, but also ensuring more effective coordination with other donors. It will be implemented by Expertise France.

“Today, we have signed two emblematic grant projects for the cooperation between Kenya and France in the key sectors of agriculture and green public financing. Firstly, France is renewing its support to the Kenyan Treasury through its expertise in debt management, a critical area in the current global context. The new dimension of technical assistance focuses on green finance, an area where France and Kenya have decided to work together on the global stage. Secondly, we are launching an innovative project, which is a concrete illustration of the renewed Partnership between Kenya and France in the agricultural sector, which is a key sector for Kenya’s food sovereignty while contributing significantly to job creation. Innovation and competitiveness will be at the core of our cooperation, contributing to the transformation of Kenyan

agriculture, with Kenyan SMEs and ASNET, the Agricultural Sector Network, as leading partners,” said H.E. the French Ambassador to Kenya Arnaud SUQUET.

“AFD is delighted to reaffirm its commitment alongside the Government of Kenya to bolster food security and public finances in the country. Firstly, the FARM’INNOV grant will play a pivotal role in strengthening collaboration between our nations, particularly within our networks of SMEs, ultimately benefiting the citizens of Kenya. Secondly, building upon the successful implementation of technical assistance through GESDEK 1, AFD is pleased to renew its support to the National Treasury. The infusion of French expertise in debt management and green public finance represents emblematic areas of cooperation for both France and Kenya.”, said Anthea Manasseh, AFD deputy director in Kenya.

#### **About the Agence Française de Développement (AFD)**

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) implements France’s policy on international development and solidarity. Through its financing of NGOs and the public sector, as well as its research and publications, AFD supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world. It also provides training in sustainable development (at AFD Campus) and other awareness-raising activities in France.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people of the Global South. Our teams are at work on more than 4,000 projects in the field, in the French Overseas Departments and Territories, in 115 countries and in regions in crisis. We strive to protect global public goods – promoting a stable climate, biodiversity and peace, as well as gender equality, education and healthcare. In this way, we contribute to the commitment of France and the French people to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Towards a world in common.

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