



## DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

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### **Kenya Development Corporation and United Green sign MOU to develop an advanced US\$275 Million climate smart agri-food systems investment**

Kenya has today received a major boost following the signing of a national flagship climate smart agri-food investment programme in partnership with UK-based company, United Green Group (UG). The resultant partnership will deliver agri-fin-tech services for rural communities, high productivity climate-smart farming and state-of-the-art agro-processing facilities, creating new markets for at least 100,000 rural households over the next five years.

The investment in partnership with Kenya Development Corporation (KDC), will adopt a rigorous development approach in the agri-food sector, which seeks to improve food security for Kenya and the region. The venture will reduce Kenya's dependence on importing food commodities by approximately US\$200 million annually, thus reducing Kenya's trade deficit.

The Agri-Food Investment will focus on four key strategic objectives:

- Climate-smart and sustainable farming
- Improved nutrition
- Job Creation focusing on women and youth
- Inclusive and demand driven consumer markets

**Honourable Rebecca Miano, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry:** *"Kenya needs a champion organisation to provide leadership and prudent investment, to develop inclusive, scalable, market-based, environmentally sustainable and high productivity agri-food systems. This project has incredible alignment to the Government of Kenya strategy and with the national Government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) Flagships."*

*Speaking during the MoU signing KDC Director General Norah Ratemo said the partnership with the United Green Group is a significant step forward in our efforts to adapt to climate change and address food security in Kenya.*

*"At KDC we are committed to fostering resilience and adaptation across the agricultural sector. We continue to work closely with the Government of Kenya, development partners, and private sector stakeholders to implement innovative solutions that will enable our farmers to thrive in a changing climate," Ms. Ratemo said.*

#### **Neil Wigan, OBE, UK High Commissioner**

*"The UK Government applauds the strong commitment and close collaboration shown by British Company United Green, and Kenya Government, in this truly transformative investment in Kenya's agri-food sector. The investment will support the Kenyan Governments' strong commitment to agricultural transformation, will increased increase productivity and output, enhance livelihoods as well as strengthening Kenya's food security*

*in the face of global threats.”*

**United Green Chief Investment Officer, Neil Carter**

*“We are proud to be working in partnership with such committed partners in KDC and the Government of Kenya to deliver real-world solutions to address the impacts of climate change and delivering regional food security. We are also proud to be working with key development partners whom are assisting to build a sustainable and innovative business in the sector together.*

**About the Partners**

**United Green** is a British based private strategic investment group with specialist expertise, investment and operating track record in developing and managing large scale greenfield business enterprises globally across multiple sectors. The Kenyan investment project is part of its’ 5 year, US\$3 Billion, agri-food capital investment strategy, via UK investment holding company UG Nutrition Limited. The objective is to deliver both highly attractive economic returns, positive environmental and social outcomes within rural communities, and maintaining a constant supply of high quality, nutritious, and safe agricultural commodity and consumer branded products for Kenyan consumers.

The venture will be the most modern integrated agri-food and services operation in Kenya, positioning the project as the leading strategic player in the development of Kenya’s high potential agricultural sector. The venture’s primary farms will integrate with 200,000 hectares of surrounding farming communities via a unique smallholder farmer scheme, with the aim of increasing their productivity and providing them with support on sustainable farming methods. The venture will benefit:

- 100,000 rural households are targeted to be incorporated in the new agri-food operating system and at least 5,000+ indirect jobs will be created when the integrated enterprise is at full capacity.
- At least 2,000+ people will be directly employed

**About KDC**

Kenya Development Corporation (KDC), is a Development Finance Institution (DFI) that was created on 1st July 2021 as a cross-sector DFI out of the merger of three DFIs, ICDC (Industrial & Commercial Development Corporation), TFC (Tourism Finance Corporation) and IDB Capital.

KDC's mandate is to promote sustainable economic development by providing development finance, infrastructure finance and business support and advisory services to medium and large-scale industries, infrastructure projects and commercial undertakings in target sectors in Kenya and elsewhere. KDC’s model is to partner with the private sector to catalyse development.

The Government's vision is for KDC to become Kenya's strongest DFI playing a catalytic role in the country's economic development while addressing critical gaps and market failures that require long-term funding which cannot be met by commercial banks in target sectors.

To find out more about KDC, please contact us through [info@kdc.go.ke](mailto:info@kdc.go.ke). Contact person: Emily Laboso.