

The European Union helps to improve food security and agricultural productivity in Kenya

Today, the European Union adopted a decision providing EUR 66.4 million to contribute to the financing of the Kenya Rural Development Programme.

"The overall objective of the assistance is to improve food security in Kenya through increased productivity and higher efficiency of food systems." says Eric van der Linden, Head of the European Union Delegation to Kenya.

The intervention will cover actions on improved research in the agricultural area, spreading knowledge on better crops and technologies as well as better access for small-scale farmers to inputs and markets. Special attention will be devoted to improving livelihoods in the arid and semi-arid areas of the country. Through this programme, the European Union will also continue its support to handle droughts through preparedness systems and rapid availability of contingency funds.

The assistance will complement other support programmes to Kenya in the field of rural development. For example, the EU helps Kenya in reducing poverty, and creating employment in the rural areas through community development projects, assistance to local government structures and projects in the sectors of water and energy. The EU also provides emergency assistance with the aim of increasing food and nutritional security.

The Kenya Rural Development Programme is developed in line with the EU Country Strategy for Kenya for the period 2008 to 2013 which defines support to agriculture, increased food security and poverty reduction as priorities. The EU foresees further assistance to increase rural roads infrastructure including feeder roads important for farmers.

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