

The ABC Fund makes two new investments to support smallholder farmers in West Africa

- **Loans to Anatrans and Maphlix will help scale both businesses and increase employment opportunities**
- **Investments come at a time when COVID-19 pandemic puts even greater importance on SME financing and job creation**

Luxembourg, 17 September 2020 – The Agri-Business Capital Fund ('ABC Fund') has provided loans worth a combined amount of EUR 1.2 million to Anatrans, a cashew nut processor based in Burkina Faso and Maphlix Trust Ghana Limited ("Maphlix"), a producer and processor of tubers and vegetables.

The loan provided to Anatrans will help the business facilitate market access for six farmer groups with over 1,200 members. It will secure revenue for these farmers at the time of the raw cashew nut purchase, while also providing additional revenue at the end of the harvesting period. The loan will enable the farmers to receive premiums under the Organic and Fairtrade certifications.

The loan will generate employment opportunities for up to 1,500 people during the 2020/21 season in the region of Bob Dioulasso in Burkina Faso. The proceeds will also be used to selectively fund community projects to benefit the lives of over 7,000 residents in the region, with previous community projects including the construction of schools and a borehole.

The loan provided to Maphlix will help the company expand sweet potato production, resulting in a significant increase in farmer revenues. ABC Fund's financing will act as a catalyst for Maphlix to secure more supplier contracts in order to further increase its network of smallholder farmers.

Using the loan, the company will be able to increase the size of its out-grower scheme by tripling the number of smallholder farmers. This will create nearly 600 jobs and ensure that nearly 1,100 laborers receive an improved daily income.

The investments by the ABC Fund, which is managed by Bamboo Capital Partners ("Bamboo") in partnership with Injaro Investments, come at a time when many developing countries are grappling with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, thereby placing even greater importance on ensuring business continuity and financial support to SMEs in a strategic sector. It follows the ABC Fund's EUR 800,000 loan provided to [Dragon Farming](#), a Ghana-based soya milling and aggregation company in June and the USD 3 million loan provided to [INSOTEC](#), a finance provider for Ecuador's agricultural sector, in August.

Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, Founder and Managing Partner of Bamboo Capital Partners, commented: "We are pleased that even during the COVID-19 crisis, the ABC Fund continues to invest in the future of African agribusiness. The loans provided to Anatrans and Maphlix will help both businesses scale significantly in the coming months, provide jobs to boost the local economies, and ultimately improve the livelihoods of people living in the communities they impact."

Jerry Parkes, CEO of Injaro Investments, added: "Providing funding to Agribusinesses during this period is pivotal to enhancing food security and protecting the economic livelihoods of families. This investment will contribute to improving the performance of these businesses and afford them the opportunity to impact even more livelihoods. It also demonstrates the capacity of blended-finance vehicles to make a positive social impact even in challenging times".

The ABC Fund is a blended-finance impact fund which provides catalytic financing to underserved yet profitable segments of agribusiness value chains in developing countries. The ABC Fund deploys loans and equity investments in farmer organizations, rural SMEs and financial institutions. They have potential for high growth and job creation and can also drive social development for their own communities and countries, but they often lack the capital they need to grow their businesses.

The ABC Fund was initiated by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in partnership with, and is currently funded by investments from, the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the Luxembourg Government and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

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About Bamboo Capital Partners:

Bamboo Capital Partners (“Bamboo”) is an impact investing platform which provides innovative financing solutions to catalyse lasting impact. Bamboo bridges the gap between seed and growth stage funding through a full suite of finance options – from debt to equity – which it activates unilaterally or through strategic partnerships. Founded in 2007 by Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, Bamboo aims to improve the lives of the world’s most marginalized communities while delivering strong financial returns. Since its inception, Bamboo has raised over \$400m and invested in over 30 developing countries. Its investees have positively impacted over 184 million lives and supported 45,000 jobs, including 15,900 jobs for women. The firm has a team of 30 professionals active across Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia. For more information, please visit www.bamboocp.com or follow @bamboocp.

About Injaro Investments:

Injaro Agricultural Capital Holdings Ltd. (Injaro) has been established with the aim of carrying out investment activities for advancing the social objectives of alleviating poverty and revitalizing distressed regions in West Africa. Injaro makes investments in debt, quasi-equity, and equity in small-and medium-sized enterprises along the agricultural value chain in designated countries of West Africa. The agriculture value chain encompasses the full range of activities and participants involved in moving agricultural products from input suppliers to farmers' fields, and ultimately, to consumers' tables. The countries Injaro is focusing on are Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Sierra Leone. For more information, please visit www.injaroinvestments.com or follow @injaro on Twitter and Injaro Investments Limited on LinkedIn.

About Anatrans

Anatrans is a raw cashew nuts processor based in Burkina-Faso. The company purchases raw cashew nuts from a network of farmer groups and cooperatives and is responsible for the sorting, drying, shelling, packaging, and the sale of the processed products to export markets. Anatrans’ finished products are mainly cashew kernels - 99% of production. The finished product is exported in 50 lbs (~22.7 Kg) boxes to major clients in Europe and the USA. Due to its certifications, Anatrans can source and supply FAIRTRADE and Organic nuts. The factory employs over 1,500 people of whom 94% are women. The company has a production facility with a capacity of up to 12,000T/year located in Bobo – Dioulasso, the South-Western Region of the country.

About Maphlix Trust Ghana Limited

Maphlix Trust Ghana Limited (“Maphlix”) produces and processes tubers and vegetables. It produces sweet potatoes, yam, cassava, and vegetables on 206 acres of their 446-acre farmland sited at Dzodze in the Ketu North Municipality of the Volta Region of Ghana. It exports some of the vegetables and recently commenced export trials of the sweet potato. Maphlix is currently working on increasing the production and sale of sweet potatoes after passing the export trials given the current supply deficit and favourable product economics.

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