

PROJECT MɔLU PROGRAM (PMP)

Ghana, located in West Africa, has a strong dependency on rice imports to meet its domestic consumption needs. According to GCB Strategy and Research commodities report on rice and sugar imports 2022, imported rice makes up 70% of domestic rice consumption and this figure is projected to grow especially with challenges facing local production. Local rice production (30%) is expected to increase gradually in the coming years due to investment in the sector by Government through its PFJ program and gradual investment by private sector.

Ghana has experienced a rapid increase in rice consumption due to population growth, urbanization, changing dietary preferences, and lifestyle shifts. Rice has become a staple food and the second most important cereal after corn for many Ghanaians replacing traditional staples like maize and yam.

The demand for rice has consistently outpaced local production capacity, leading to a significant reliance on imports. According to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) of Ghana, rice imports have been steadily increasing over the years due to challenges such as limited access to modern farming technologies, inadequate irrigation systems, and limited farmer knowledge and training.

Domestic rice production for 2021/22 is forecasted at 600,000 MT, an increase of about five percent above the 2020/21 estimate of 570,000 MT.

To significantly reduce the burden of importation of rice which is estimated at 950,000 metric tons annually, **Project Mɔlu Program (PMP)** has been introduced to augment the aggressive domestic efforts to increase production and processing quality to meet domestic demand.

Project Mɔlu Program (PMP) will focus majorly on women and youth in rice production across regions such as Volta, Northern, Eastern and Ashanti in Ghana. The project seeks to engage farmer groups and out-growers to develop about 500 hectares of arable farm lands within a period of Four (4) years in the selected regions. PMP will also provide input support (seeds, fertilizers and crop protection), technology, training and accessibility to markets after every farming season.

The PMP team estimates to help reduce poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality which seeks to address the SDG goals, 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 12.

The PMP is optimistic that the pursuit will enhance food security, empower farmers for a better life and increased prosperity for all.