



PRESS RELEASE

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Pearl Capital Partners Invests KES 210 million in Meru Greens Horticulture Ltd ('Meru Greens')

Pearl Capital Partners is delighted to announce a new investment in a Kenyan horticulture company, Meru Greens Horticulture Ltd. Pearl's investment of KES 210 million in a combination of equity and debt will enable Meru Greens establish a vegetable processing and canning factory in Machakos County that will aid in creating a complete value-chain for their produce, in particular French beans, for the export market.

Meru Greens Horticulture Ltd is a supplier of fruit and vegetables to distributors and major retailers in Kenya. Pearl's investment will assist the business in developing a complete value chain for smallholder farmer produce – in particular French beans – for the export market. It will also further enable Meru Greens to expand value addition operations of its fruit business, diversifying product lines and serving a wider market.

Pearl's investment in Meru Greens Horticulture Ltd is its seventh investment through the African Agricultural Capital Fund. With this investment, this Fund is now more than 50% committed. The Fund aims to invest in a further 2-4 East African businesses operating in the agriculture sector within the next year.

At the official signing of the investment agreement, Wanjohi Ndagu, Partner with Pearl Capital Partners, remarked: *"Meru Greens is a company providing a complete value-chain for French bean produce in Kenya. The success of this business model is fully anchored in providing a route to market for smallholder farmer horticulture produce. This investment clearly speaks to the growing demand for food globally and not only presents a compelling investment opportunity but also a generator of employment opportunities for the local community."*

Meru Greens' Director Gerald Muthomi said *"It has been more than 20 years since we started this journey with Meru Greens. Our dream of putting up a modern processing and canning factory in Kenya is finally coming to fruition thanks to Pearl's confidence in us. As the factory is being located in a rural setting, it will address unemployment issues in this area by providing thousands of jobs to the community. Our company will also continue to partner with smallholder farmers in training on production of high quality produce and connect them to the export market. We are very excited about the future of Meru Greens and committed to making this partnership a success."*

About Pearl Capital Partners (www.pearlcapital.net)

Pearl Capital Partners is an independent investment management business domiciled and licensed in Mauritius. Since it was founded in 2005, the Pearl Group has made investments in more than 20 agriculture-related businesses in East Africa with a total value exceeding US\$ 25 million.

About African Agricultural Capital Fund (AACF)

AACF was established in 2011 with commitments of US\$ 17 million in equity from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation. JP Morgan Social Finance has committed an addition US\$ 8 million in debt to the Fund with the support of a partial guarantee from USAID. USAID has also committed a further US\$ 1.5 million to the Fund in order to finance technical assistance to the Fund's investees.

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