Supporting African countries through a global food crisis: 
The African Development Bank’s Africa Food Emergency Production Plan

About the Africa Food Emergency Production Plan
Together, Ukraine and Russia supply 30 percent of the world’s wheat, 20% of the world’s Potash and nearly 50% of blended fertilizer. With the war in the Ukraine, the price of wheat has soared by 50 percent and fertilizer, which was already in short supply, is three to four times more expensive than in 2020. African Development Bank Group’s Africa Food Emergency Production Plan is a short-term intervention to raise production of wheat, maize, rice and soybean to compensate for supply lost due to the war in Ukraine. The Plan will produce 37.6 million metric tons of these staple food crops, an increase of about 30 percent in local production. Through the Africa Food Emergency Production Plan, the African Development Bank Group continues to assist African countries in ensuring food and nutrition security.

The Facility draws on lessons learned from the Bank Group’s Feed Africa Response to Covid-19 program and the success of its Feed Africa flagship, Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation.

Financing
The African Development Bank Group is investing $1.5 billion in the Africa Food Emergency Production Plan. This is made up of $1.3 billion drawn from the African Development Bank Group and African Development Fund resources, with remaining funds being mobilized from partners across the globe.

Structure
The Africa Food Emergency Production Plan has three pillars:

- Delivering certified seeds, fertilizer and extension services to 20 million farmers, using innovation as well as internet and communications technology platforms. Supporting post-harvest management and market development.

- Providing financing and credit guarantees for large-scale supply of fertilizer to wholesalers and aggregators.

- Supporting policy reforms facilitating modern inputs getting to farmers, including strengthening national institutions overseeing input markets.

Building on success
The African Development Bank has experienced remarkable success supporting Africa’s quest to feed itself. Launched in 2019, the Bank Group’s Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation platform delivered heat-tolerant wheat varieties to 1.8 million farmers in seven countries. It increased wheat production by 2.7 million metric tons, with a value of $840 million.

For example, the platform helped Sudan produce 65,000 metric tons of certified seeds of five heat-tolerant wheat varieties. Yields of irrigated lowland wheat increased, on average, from 2
to 3.5 metric tons per hectare. These climate-adapted wheat varieties helped Sudan produce a record wheat harvest of 1.1 million tons and reach 50% self-sufficiency in wheat production.

For the immediate and mid term
The Africa Food Emergency Production Plan aims to increase food production by 30 percent through 2024, including:

- Scaling up wheat production with heat-tolerant varieties.
- Scaling up maize production with water-efficient maize.
- Scaling up rice and soybean production.
- Creating internet and communications technology-based systems that deliver transparency and inclusion support to farmers, especially for women and youth.

The Bank Group builds its short-term response around Africa’s next four crop production seasons. The Bank Group will also work with manufacturers of fertilizer, seed companies, commodity exchanges, large aggregators, Regional Member Countries (RMCs) to deliver 3.54 million metric tons of fertilizers and 383,875 metric tons of certified seeds to smallholder farmers during the same period. Where possible, the program will promote the use of innovation and ICT platforms for delivery of these inputs and technology to farmers.

In total, the Bank Group initiative’s $1.5 billion investment is expected to support production of 37.6 million metric tons of food, worth an estimated $11.5 billion.

Leverage Convening Power
Africa faces reduced availability of fertilizers for African agriculture to the tune of two million metric tonne in 2022. The Bank Group sees this challenge as an opportunity to leverage its convening power for discussion and political engagement with industry players, including key fertilizer manufacturing, importing, and blending companies to bridge the supply gap. Other opportunities to be addressed include coastal countries collaboration to remove logistics bottlenecks; encouraging governments to prioritize special berths for fertilizer clearance and reduce cargo dwelling times at ports; African government-African Continental Free Trade Area coordination to allow rapid movement of trucks to landlocked countries and transport costs.

Partnerships
The Africa Emergency Food Production Plan is being executed in collaboration with the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Commissions, Multi-lateral Development Banks, Rome-based UN agencies, private foundations amongst other development partners. The African Development Bank will coordinate and potentially fund other entities with expertise in food procurement or subsidies, for example the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).