

## **President Cut Sod for the Rehabilitation and Expansion of Kpong Left Bank Irrigation Project**

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has cut the sod for the rehabilitation and expansion works to begin on the Kpong Left Bank Irrigation Project, at Torgome, in the North Tongu of the Volta Region.

The Ghana Commercial Agricultural Project (GCAP), in consultation with the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA), has selected for rehabilitation and modernization of the Kpong Left Bank Irrigation Project (KLBIP), together with four other major public irrigation schemes. This effort is aimed at increasing food production in the country.

Speaking at the sod cutting ceremony, the President said, the Kpong Left Bank Irrigation Project comprises rehabilitating and expanding the existing gravity irrigation scheme from 450 hectares to 2,000 hectares, i.e. more than four-fold.

President Akufo-Addo stated that on successful completion, the facility will be available to 17 communities with some of the benefits to the neighbouring communities including increased earnings of smallholder farmers, through double-cropping under irrigated conditions, and the creation of jobs, in addition to the completion of various agri-businesses down the value-chain.

The irrigated area is expected to be cropped twice a year, resulting in a 200% cropping intensity, and a total cropped area of four thousand (4,000) hectares per annum,” he said.

To link small-holder farmers effectively to markets, the scheme will have provision for large farming enterprises with substantial technical, managerial and financial expertise and working capital.

The president reiterated his determination to transform the Ghanaian agriculture and to reverse the recent, dismal record of decline and negative growth that has characterised the sector. ‘That way, we can justify the huge investments that Government is making in the Project,’ he added.

The sector Minister Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto said the Project estimated to be at a cost of \$25,503,296. It is expected that the operation, maintenance and management of the scheme will be financed by irrigation water users in the scheme, through regular payment of irrigation service charges.

Dr. Akoto was thankful and urged staff of the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority, Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project, the Consultant, the Contractor, the Chiefs and Elders and the members of the beneficiary communities to continue to play the roles expected of them to ensure that the project is completed on schedule.