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Equatorial Guinea turns to Vietnam to accelerate agricultural transformation through South-South cooperation

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Proposed partnership targets technology transfer, value-chain development and investment to diversify the Central African nation's economy beyond oil

Equatorial Guinea is seeking to deepen agricultural cooperation with Vietnam as part of its broader strategy to diversify its economy beyond hydrocarbons, underscoring the growing role of South-South partnerships in strengthening food security and sustainable agricultural development across emerging economies.

During high-level discussions between officials from both countries, Equatorial Guinea outlined plans to build a long-term agricultural partnership centred on technology transfer, capacity building, value-chain development and institutional collaboration. The proposed engagement reflects the country's increasing focus on agriculture, livestock and fisheries as priority sectors for driving economic growth and reducing dependence on the oil and gas industry.

Vietnam welcomed the initiative, reaffirming its commitment to expanding South-South cooperation by sharing technical expertise and development experience with partner countries facing similar agricultural transformation challenges.

Both sides identified multiple areas for future collaboration, including agricultural planning, farm technology deployment, demonstration projects, agro-processing, human resource development and the strengthening of agricultural value chains. Officials also agreed to jointly explore financing opportunities from international development institutions to support future agricultural projects.

The discussions highlighted Vietnam's growing reputation as a development partner for emerging economies seeking practical expertise in rice production, aquaculture, rural development and agri-food value chain integration. Equatorial Guinea

expressed particular interest in adapting Vietnam's agricultural development model to local conditions through technical assistance, knowledge exchange and pilot projects.

To institutionalise the partnership, the two governments agreed to work towards a ministerial-level cooperation framework that will provide the legal foundation for implementing bilateral agricultural initiatives. Technical teams will identify priority sectors and develop a roadmap for future collaboration based on each country's comparative strengths.

Following the establishment of the cooperation framework, Vietnam is expected to undertake an agricultural assessment mission to Equatorial Guinea to evaluate local production systems, identify investment opportunities and recommend areas for technology deployment and capacity development.

Investment also featured prominently in the dialogue, with Equatorial Guinea highlighting ongoing efforts to improve its business environment through the expansion of special economic zones and industrial parks aimed at attracting agribusiness investment. Officials also pointed to the country's strategic access to regional African markets through multiple regional economic blocs, positioning it as a potential gateway for future agricultural trade and investment across Central Africa.

The proposed partnership reflects a broader trend of developing economies increasingly leveraging South-South cooperation to accelerate agricultural modernization, strengthen food systems and reduce reliance on traditional development models while expanding regional economic integration.