

Project Disclosure

1. Client / Project name: Drylands Farms Holdings B.V. / South Africa Greenhouse Innovations

2. Client's website (if available): [Drylands Farms](#)

3. Country of Investment: South Africa

4. Sector: Agri-food

5. Signing date (Date of the main transaction document): 22 December 2023

6. Total Invest Financing: EUR 500,000

7. Source of Funding: Development Accelerator

8. Environmental & Social Risk Category (A, B, C): C

9. Project Description:

Drylands Farms aim to create a sustainable, high value agriculture system using controlled environment agriculture (CEA) that is resilient to the effects of climate change and dramatically increases the output of the available land, and by leveraging the abundance of quality of sunlight to produce excellent yields year-round at an affordable price. In order to prove their projections and demonstrate the viability of their approach in the African context, they intend to deploy a small-scale initial phase of 0.7ha, before scaling up to a commercial farm of 5-10ha once key milestones have been achieved. The greenhouse will use existing technologies, adapted to the African climate, to produce tomatoes and peppers. Through the first phase they aim to prove that their high-tech farm can be built and operated cost-effectively in Africa; demonstrate the viability of their yield projections; demonstrate market demand, and to achieve commercial offtake agreements with at least one key retailer.

10. Impact/ target SDGs:

The project will contribute to: SDG 8 by creating local jobs for plant care and harvesting, SDG 13 as carbon efficiency is expected through greenhouse technology, by reducing food miles, lower fertilisers use and the utilisation of renewable energy, and to SDG 2 as they will produce large-scale vegetables in the vicinity of large cities at affordable prices.