

REDFS News and Current Events



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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



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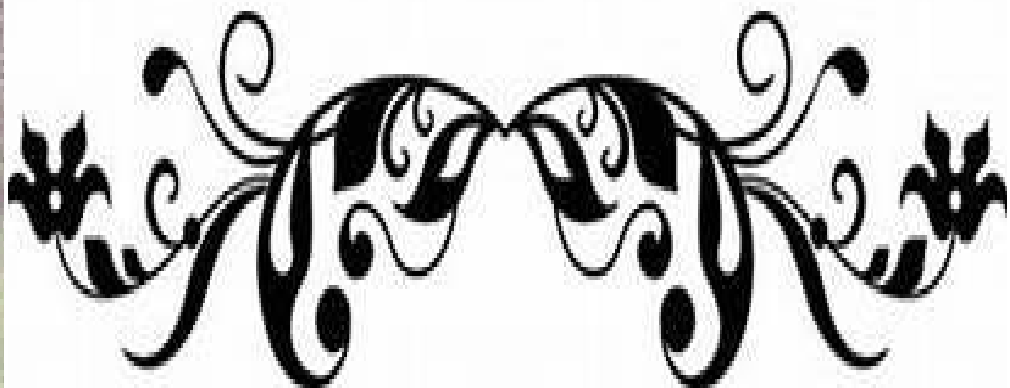
March 2024

1. Ethiopia has the largest untapped potential for cotton production in the world.....
2. The need for developing action plan to address challenges related to quality quantity, skill gaps, grading, pricing and marketing of hides and skin becomes of paramount importance.....
3. The project aims at addressing systemic constraints that hinder increase in production

Together we can make a difference !

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About RED&FS

REDFS SWG is an acronym for the Rural Economic Development and Food Security Sector Working Group. It is primarily Government and Development Partners' coordination platform for the broader agriculture sector coined in the context of the Ethiopian Food System Transformation. The primary objective of the REDFS is to jointly review sector level implementation status and coordinate efforts of various Development Partners supporting the sector

The REDFS platform is governed by Paris Declaration principles and Busan Commitments. Since its establishment the REDFS has maintained a three-layered structure having an Executive Committee (an oversight body), Technical Committees and Task Forces. The SWG is currently Chaired by H.E. Dr. Girma Amente, Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-Chaired by two DP representatives, notably Mr. Mawira Chitima from IFAD, and Mr. Erik Slingerland from the Netherlands Embassy.

The RED&FS SWG is assisted by the Secretariat whose main responsibility is to provide overall program support for the different RED&FS's structures with major roles in communication, networking, knowledge management and coordination.

This Newsletter, as part and parcel of the secretariat's responsibility, is prepared through a series of consultations with all providers of information. We hope such information will enable you to know and get insights on the overall flagship programs and projects of MoA and that of DPs' affiliated NGOs which eventually serve as an avenue for further collaborative works.



An Overview of the Ethiopian Cotton Sector

Ethiopia is believed to be the centre of origin of the cotton plant and cotton cultivation is deep rooted in the history of the country's agriculture. Ethiopia is endowed with ample land and water resources and suitable agro-climatic condition to grow cotton.

Ethiopia is a minor player in Africa in terms of cotton area and production, way below its huge potential, which is probably the highest on the continent. However, the average yield in Ethiopia (lint per hectare) is almost twice the average yield in Africa

because production is predominantly irrigated, while it is rainfed in Sub-Saharan countries. Ethiopia is the second largest consumer, behind Egypt, and a net importer of cotton lint to satisfy the local textile industries demand.

The Ethiopian cotton sub-sector is the most diversified in Africa, and even in the world, as it combines irrigation and rainfed cultivation, large commercial and smallholder farms. The cotton-textile and textile and garment value chains are very complex, and have no equivalent elsewhere in the world.

Ethiopia's Potential for Cotton Sector

Ethiopia has the largest untapped potential for cotton production in the world. The estimated land area suitable for cotton cultivation, 3 million hectares, is equal to about 10% of the global cotton area in 2015/2016. Less than 3% of the 3 million hectares suitable for cotton cultivation are presently under cotton cultivation.



Considering the land area suitable for cotton cultivation and the land allocated to investors for development, the long-term production potential in Ethiopia on the 2 million hectares identified as highly suitable for cotton production and this can be estimated at 5 million tonnes seed cotton equivalent to 2 million tonnes of lint. However, it is unlikely that the entire area which is highly suitable for cotton will be actually brought under cotton cultivation, as the land is also suitable for other crops. The total potential production is estimated between 1.1 and 1.9 million tonnes seed cotton, possibly reachable in a 10 year-perspective.

No other country in Africa has the same potential as Ethiopia to grow a wide range of varieties, rainfed or irrigated in different agro-climatic zones. Paradoxically, one single variety (DP 90) is currently grown on more than 90% of the cotton areas. In addition, there is a mismatch between the characteristics of this variety and the actual requirements of most spinning mills installed in the country.

Ethiopia offers an important potential to produce sustainable cotton. Smallholder farming creates favourable ground from which to easily transit to environmentally friendly practices.

The development of cotton production in Ethiopia is driven by the domestic spinning industry. While mill use has been declining in all African countries except Ethiopia. Ethiopia has a great potential for expanding its spinning sector to become one of the largest industrial users of cotton. The country has many comparative advantages over Bangladesh and Vietnam, the largest importers of lint. The country has also a huge potential for cotton production, whereas production is marginal in Bangladesh and Vietnam, where textile industries must rely on imports. Moreover, labour and power costs are lower in Ethiopia.

Challenges facing the Ethiopian cotton sector:

- Production data (areas sown, yields and production) are often unpredictable and unreliable. There is no proper monitoring system of the cotton sector, from production of seed cotton to the use of lint.
- Limited quantity and quality of domestic cotton reduce competitiveness and profitability throughout the value chain.

- Cotton quality is affected at both the production and ginning stages of the value chain. The fragmented farming system makes it difficult for farmers to access knowledge and extension services that would improve sub optimal production, harvesting and postharvest management which all tend to lower quality.
- Quality of seeds is quite low; research is inadequate and underfunded. The availability of inputs is also limited as there is no specific institution responsible for cotton inputs. Farmers and their organisations (cooperatives) also lack access to finance that would allow them to ensure quality through the use of appropriate inputs.
- The ginning outturn is very low by African standards, which impacts profitability for both producers and ginners.
- Ginners use very outdated equipment, which is also affecting lint quality. Both producers and ginners have little motivation to invest in quality due to the marketing, grading and pricing system.
- There is lack of market transparency, affecting all stakeholders; poor infrastructure and labour shortages in some places.
- The contractual arrangements between smallholder farmers and ginners are weak mainly due to lack of transparency on the part of ginners and weak farmers organisations. The relationship is further weakened by middlemen (traders).
- Enterprises in Ethiopia cover the entire Textile and Apparel value chain, from input production to textile manufacturing and clothing assembly. The garment segment

is the most advanced part of the value chain, but limited investment upstream has led to capacity imbalances and relatively weak performance in the cotton production and ginning segments.

- The sector is characterised by lack of coordination between segments, which leads to inefficiencies and gaps in quality. In addition, there is lack of transparency along the entire value chain, price and volume.
- The relative weakness of farmers' organisations and their lack of experience in the co-management of the sector with the ginning companies.
- To respond simultaneously to the issues of pricing, input supply and extension provision becomes a challenge due to its input intensive nature of cotton.
- The full potential of Ethiopian cotton remains largely untapped both in volume and quality. However, increasing productivity and improving quality stands out as a challenge for improving the competitiveness and profitability of cotton production in Ethiopia.

Global Trends and International Benchmarks

The Ethiopian cotton sector can learn useful lessons from India, Burkina Faso, Turkey, the USA and Australia. Ethiopia has to learn most from India, where cotton production increased very rapidly during the first decade of the 21st century, as there are many similarities between their cotton sectors. Yet, the Ethiopian cotton sector is more diversified than India that has no large-scale commercial farms and uses only roller gins.

Seed is the starting point for the cotton-to-clothing value chain. High quality seeds increase yields and improve quality. Major lint quality parameters, staple length, fineness, strength, and ginning outturn are determined by the seed variety.

The world cotton industry has been transformed by the rapid expansion of the use of genetically modified varieties that are resistant to certain insects and/or tolerant to certain herbicides.

The establishment of a successful and growing cotton industry is dependent upon long-term commitment and investment by national governments working together with strong cotton industry stakeholders' professional associations.

No country in the world has been able to successfully develop its cotton sector without a dedicated national regulation and coordination body.

Improving the quality of seed cotton produced in Ethiopia is of the utmost importance to supply lint matching the quality requirements of the textile industry both locally and internationally. Cotton varieties should be developed to suit specific growing regions, respective of environmental and cultural conditions, with the objective of maximising yield potential and optimising fibre characteristics. Cotton varieties should be selected based on the Ethiopian resource endowments and future demand of the textile and garment sector.

Major Focus Areas

Ethiopian strong domestic consumption provides a huge opportunity with both industrial and handicraft textile industries able to use a wide range of cottons. Specific focus needs to be given to the handloom subsector to ensure that it is fully integrated in overall sector growth. Ethiopia should also leverage its production of identity cottons (organic, BCI and CmiA) and expand cotton exports to major markets.

Generic marketing is important for promoting and “branding” Ethiopian cotton. Continuity of supply, consistency of quality, market-based classification of lint, labelling and certification (BCI, CmiA, organic) are essential to develop the reputation and establish the brand “Cotton made in Ethiopia”.

To encourage private investment, the Ethiopian Government has developed a package of incentives for domestic and foreign investors engaged in new enterprises and expansions. Foreign Direct Investment will play a key role in the development of the Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (IAIPs).

The uniqueness and the complexity of the Ethiopian cotton sector emphasise the need for an innovative, overarching and integrated development strategy to address the multiple challenges faced by the sector. This requires a concerted effort of all stakeholders, both public and private.

Attempts to the Revival of Hides and Skin/RHS

Introduction

Ethiopia is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal/SDG goals and targets. Accordingly, proper indicators have been included in relevant sections of the Ten-Year Development Plan. The country's development plan (2021-2030) has laid out enhancing agricultural production and productivity as one of the major strategic pillars. In addition, the Ten-Year Development Plan aims at boosting agricultural export revenues and substituting imports by reducing production costs.

The Agricultural development plan (2020/21-2029/30) related to livestock has targeted to increase the total quantity of meat obtained from cattle, goats, sheep, and camels from 295 thousand tons to 1759 tones. This meat production will be expected to supply raw material inputs (Raw Hide and Skin-RHS) for the industrial sector (tanneries) and provide adequate quantities of exportable products that have added value.

The RHS is vulnerable to spoilage and could affect the health of the community and the animals; if it is not properly utilized. The RHS is necessary to make the collection, processing accumulation (storage) and transportation process of the hide and skin be improved on the basis of the quality and standard system in order to gain advantage that should be generated from the sub-sector. To this end, the need for developing an action plan to address the challenges in the quality, quantity, skill gaps, grading, pricing and marketing of HS and which adversely affect value chain actors' livelihoods becomes of paramount importance to dwell on the following fundamental issues: -



- Capacitate slaughterhouses with skilled personnel and equipment to ensure quality RHS production and pre-slaughtering cares;
- Enforce the national RHS grading, pricing, and marketing system which is essential to improve the supply of RHS in quality and quantity consistently;
- Reverse real and potential threats of loss of the RHS in the country;
- Enable efficient management of animal husbandry practices, and raw hides and skin value chain for the betterment of the national

economy, income of the farmers and pastoralists;

- Enhance the capacity for the research and development system, development institutions, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists, private sector and small holder farmers in production, management, processing and marketing of hides and skins;
- Promote RHS harvesting and utilization of RHS for the provision of tanneries inputs and income generation to livestock producers and traders;
- Facilitate horizontal and vertical collaboration of supply and value chain actors and other relevant stakeholders;

Scope of the intervention

- This intervention applies to the Federal and Regional Governments, the private sector, especially actors within the HS subsector value chain, development partners and other Non-Governmental actors.
- Its scope is focused on the identified of basic challenges, available opportunities and here by devising the best alternative implementation mechanisms for the future plan of the sector development. These interventions are

designed to address a cross-section of issues influencing Ethiopia's HS capability to compete in both domestic and export markets.

- The hide and skin activities are developed within a framework of addressing research, development, processing, and marketing aspects at national level. It covers the analysis of the existing situation, identifies challenges and opportunities regarding hide and skin value chain, and evaluates the institutional arrangements and address the variation and revamping it in terms of production, harvesting, preservation, storing, transporting quality grading, pricing and marketing of HS in both domestic and export markets within a 10 years' timeline.

Specific Objective

- Ensure a sustainable and consistent supply of quantity and quality RHS for further processing in Ethiopia and/or export market;
- Revitalize HS production, harvesting, collection, preservation, storage, transportation and marketing systems;
- Unlock the inherent growth potential within the HS subsector and contribute to generate more foreign exchange earnings in Ethiopia;
- Creates job opportunity for huge number of people employed in the tanneries and also for RHS collectors and traders.

Problems in the Raw Hides and Skin

% Share of in the Raw Hide and Skin Collection and Organizing Centers

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Poor hide and skin shape and pattern 34.3 % | 4. Flay cut 65.7 % |
| 2. Gauge mark 42.9 % | 5. Flesh remnant 94.3 % |
| 3. Corduroying Flay cut 71.4 % | 6. Putrefaction 5.7 % |
| | 7. Dirts / Sanitation 74.3 % |
| 1. Ticks 1.8 % | 7. Scores 4.0 % |
| 2. Scars 5.8 % | 8. Corduroying 8.4 % |
| 3. Bruise 10.6 % | 9. Filthiness 18.2 % |
| 4. Fly cut (Hole) 12.4 % | 10. Putrefaction 5.1 % |
| 5. Poor pattern 13.9 % | 11. Salt pitting 1.8 % |
| 6. Gouge mark 17.9 % | |

Major actions that require special attention for improvement

Prepare design for slaughtering domestic animals and management of skin and hides;

1. Develop preservation inputs supply market;
2. Develop a training manual for training of slaughters house workers, flayers butchery owners and hotel owners and workers in order to get hygienic meat and proper skinned and well-maintained skin and hide;
3. Redesign traditional slaughtering tools;
4. Promote centralized slaughtering by enforcing existing legislation especially in urban centers where skill is high;
5. Provide technical assistance and support for the rehabilitation of slaughterhouses;
6. Improve RHS inspection and management in private hide and skin preserving shades, abattoirs, slaughter houses and big central storage warehouses;
7. Increase the availability of collection centers and collect RHS data at major collection centers;
8. Raise awareness among producers and exporters about value added products;
9. Build skills of the technical and professional capacity of current federal and regional staffs to enhance efficiency and effectiveness;
10. Provide capacity building and training program for butchers,

abattoir and slaughter house worker. Moreover, to farmers, collectors and traders to ensure proper handling, storing and transportation techniques;

11. Introduce Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) at the abattoir and slaughter house level
12. Enhance business networking and export market promotion;
13. Revise/Remove restrictive export tax and (revise/remove 150% restrictive tax on RHS for local traders only);
14. Establish quality-based pricing systems which encourage the producers for the production of higher quality raw materials supplied by abattoirs and traders.
15. Conduct defect analysis of raw skin and hide collected from selected intervention Woredas of all administrative regions;
16. Conduct demand analysis for export commodities to remedy for the declining trend in exports and foreign exchange earnings;
17. Develop micro and small-scale slaughter services in peri-urban area;

Inclusive and Sustainable Value Chains Development Project (ISVCD) Project

The specific objective of the project is to increase the economic productivity and the quality of the five selected agricultural value chains in Oromia, Sidama and SNNPR, through the enhancement of key actors and infrastructures leading towards value addition.

The Inclusive and Sustainable Value Chains Development Project (ISVCD Project) is a three-year program with 30-million-euro fund (as a Soft Loan) from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS). The agreement between Ethiopia and Italy was signed in 2017 and the first tranche of the budget amounting 10 Million Euro received in June, 2020/ The project aims at developing selected strategic agricultural value chains in the Agro-Commodity Procurement Zones (ACPZs) of two IAIPs, located respectively in Oromia (Bulbula Agro-Industry park) and Sidama regions (Yirgalem Agro Industry Park).

The commodities (Soft Wheat, Durum Wheat and processing tomato in Oromia, Avocado and Pineapple in Sidama and SNNPR) have been prioritized in consultation with MoA, Regional authorities of Oromia, Sidama and SNNP, and AICS. Target beneficiaries and partners of the proposed project include value chain actors (producers

organizations, Agricultural Research centers, SMEs, input and service providers and traders) Over 1 million wheat producers (Soft and Durum) and over three hundred thousand Avocado and Pineapple producing farmers will directly be benefited from the project. In addition, the GoE will benefit from FAO's technical assistance and collaboration during implementation of activities for whom AICS also granted another 4 Million Euros.

Thus the project aims at addressing systemic constraints that hinder the increase in production and productivity and the marketing of selected products and improving the flow of raw material supply to the Bulbula and Yergalem IAIPs. The project methodology ensures gender inclusiveness, nutrition-sensitive agriculture and sustainable use of natural resources and furthermore decent rural employment creation.

The initiative is structured along six Components/Outputs:

1. Development of capacities of public and private actors along the selected value chains;
2. Development of agro-infrastructure and rural connectivity with a special focus on the link between agro-production and agro-processing;
3. Improvement of access to credit and financial services;
4. Integration of gender and youth aspects into value chain development;
5. Increase of production and productivity with specific attention to nutrition-sensitive agriculture; and
6. Sustainable management of natural resources.

Ethiopian Emergency Locust Response Project (EELRP)

Introduction

Ethiopia is one of the front-line countries affected by the Desert locust outbreak, upsurge and plague. The semi-arid lowland areas of, Eastern, South Eastern, Northern, North Western, North Eastern, Southern and Southwestern zones of Ethiopia occupy key areas of desert locust development. Historically, key breeding areas are North Eastern, Eastern and Southern corners of the country. However, invasions arose from local



sources or from neighbouring Somali and Yemen in the east and north east, Sudan in the west. In the last three decades, there were about ten Desert Locust outbreaks and upsurges invaded Ethiopia.

During the recent 2019-2021 upsurge invasion the summer breeding mature adult swarms of desert locust arrived in Ethiopia from Yemen and Somaliland on June 2019 and laid eggs widely in Afar and Somali regions and hatched hoppers posed slight to medium level threats to pasture lands for months. FAO survey estimated that desert locust resulted in loss of about 4,865,830 quintals of cereal, about 2% of the estimated total cereal production of 346,369,767 quintals from Meher production of 2019/2020.

Field assessment results showed that, at least a quarter of the households in infested woredas experienced 20 percent cereal crop losses and the remaining three fourth out of the total house hold experienced no loss and an average 20% total production loss due to desert locust from the total house hold. Due to its proximity and wind direction, Ethiopia is likely to be the ideal avenue for swarms heading off from other countries such as Yemen, Somaliland, Djibouti and Eritrea. In addition, some breeding is also expected to occur in Eastern, North and South Eastern Ethiopia from the escapees.

Project Objectives and Scope

Project Objectives:- The main objective of the project is to urgently devise, deploy and implement integrated, comprehensive and coordinated desert locust survey, control program, enhance and protect the livelihood of farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists from desert locust attack while ensuring food security of millions of farming and pastoralist communities in the most affected geography and rehabilitating pastureland affected by desert locust. Thus, the Project Development objective (PDO) is to early detect the desert locust occurrence and minimize impacts **through strong** early warning system and respond to the threat posed by desert locusts outbreak infestation

and strengthen national systems for preparedness.

Project Scope:- The scope of the project is limited to urgently deploy desert locust outbreak and upsurge control system, strengthening the surveillance, monitoring and early warning system through the establishment of strong national locust operation unit and frontline regional bases, support pastoralist and farmers in affected geography in all regions including pastureland rehabilitation.

Program Target Areas and Beneficiaries:-

The project target area covers desert locust infested regions of the country. These include Somali, Eastern and South Eastern and Southern Oromia, Afar, Eastern Amhara, Eastern and Southern low lands of Tigray, low land woredas of the Southern zones of the SNNP and Harari regions and Dire Dawa admin council. However, as the locust is migratory in nature other areas not mentioned here can also be included depending on the invasion of the desert locust. The severely affected populations by the desert locust in above mentioned areas will be beneficiaries of the project. The indirect beneficiaries will comprise regions and districts adjacent to the affected areas as well as communities in the neighbouring countries where the control of desert locust swarms in Ethiopia will prevent the spread of swarms.

Project Components

The project has four major components:

1. Desert Locust Monitoring and control: -

This includes deployment of experts and desert locust assessing scouts to assess geographic exposure to desert locust, collect data by using elocust3 tool and transfer to national data base Ramses V4.1 from strategic locations for early warning and area wide survey to detect the occurrences of outbreaks.

2. Livelihood protection and Restoration: -

This component will support vulnerable communities by rehabilitating pasture and food production through procurement and distribution of forage and crop seed and fertilizer in both phase 1 and phase 2.

3. Strengthening Early Warning Systems and Preparedness:-

Under this component, MoA with key Development Partners would ensure desert locust occurrence projection, through systematic and regular survey in desert locust breeding and invasion seasons (spring, summer and winter breeding seasons), through continuous data collection, analysis and storage.

4. Project Management: -

The component will ensure timely delivery of planned activities. The program management team will ensure realization of cross sectoral and regional collaboration with high quality and on a timely basis. The project management team will conduct field visit and day to day follow up activities in line with the WB fiduciary (FM, Procurement and safeguards) guidelines. Additionally, the team will perform the reporting function

on the project activities to MoA management, MoF, Regional Government and Development Partners. In addition, M&E activities will be performed to report on best practices, future learning and to evaluate the success/impact of the project.

Institutional Arrangements

The MoA will be the implementing organization for the project. While The State Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture Development sector of the Ministry will provide overall oversight for the project, make necessary decisions with Desert Locust affected Regional Bureau of Agricultural (RBoA) Heads and in consultation with the Project Implementation Unit and World Bank Task Team. There will be a steering committee chaired by the MoA, co-chaired by the MoF and will meet quarterly. The

project will rely on existing Government structures for the coordination and implementation of the program.

Implementation Mechanism

Desert Locust

Monitoring and control

The project will adopt a two-pronged approach for Desert Locust survey, monitoring and control under this component: The component and sub-components will be implemented by the Desert Locust Biology, survey, and information and control officers of Plant Protection core process owner of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Continuous Surveillance, Survey and Monitoring

Under this subcomponent, the deliverable includes the surveillance, survey and monitoring of breeding and infestation areas to inform effective control operations and identification of affected

areas and communities at-risk.

Control Measures

Based on the assessment conducted, targeted ground and aerial desert locust control operations will be conducted to reduce desert locust population density and prevent their spread to new areas. For the execution of these activities the motorized sprayers, Vehicle Mounted Sprayer with Vehicles and Personnel protective equipment will be procured.

Risk reduction and management

To monitor and assess environmental and human health risks associated with desert locust control health and environmental impact assessment will be conducted to take safety measures and

Increasing Productivity and Resilience of Ethiopian Farmers through Facilitating Sustainable Food System Transformation

AGRA Ethiopia Strategic plan (2023-2027)



Country context

Agriculture is the dominant sector in the Ethiopian economy contributing to 32.4% of GDP, 77% of export earnings, and employing 65% of its 126 million people. Crops account for the highest share of total production and contribute 65% of the agricultural GDP. Understanding this reality, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has formulated a consistent set of policies and strategies for agriculture and rural development over the last two decades, prioritizing food security and poverty eradication at the center of its national development policy agendas. In 2020, GoE embarked on a new Home-Grown Economic Reform agenda and a 10-year development plan (2021-2030) that accords agriculture a top priority. The plan seeks to develop underutilized arable land, modernize production systems, develop irrigation infrastructure, improve the uptake of technology, boost agricultural export revenues, and promote import substitution. Furthermore, the plan envisages building a climate-resilient green economy.

The ten-year plan is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), which is a continental framework for agricultural renewal in Africa. Ethiopia signed the CAADP compact demonstrating its commitment to the continental and regional development agenda. Presently, agricultural expenditures have largely been devoted to spurring a green economy, extension service, agricultural inputs, and flagship program development.

AGRA's strategy (2023-27) is aligned with the country's commitment to rapid and sustained agricultural development. The strategy aims to provide catalytic funding for selected interventions organized under four Business Lines: Policy and State Capability (PSC); Sustainable Farming (SF); Seed Systems (SS); and Inclusive Markets, Trade and Finance (IMTF).

Country strategic objectives

1. Increased productivity of smallholder farmers.
2. Strengthened resilience of smallholder farmers.
3. Strengthened capacities of agriculture sector institutions.

AAGRA's approach in Ethiopia

By 2027, our ambition is to impact 2.4 million farmers participating in government flagship priority commodities through enhancing their capacity to cope with shocks and stresses, modernizing input-output market systems, and strengthening the enabling environment. Ethiopia also aims to create a minimum of 158,000 jobs for women and youth in the upstream and mid-stream part of the value chains. We expect to meet our objectives through the following business lines:

a) Inclusive Markets, Trade and Finance

Through this business line, AGRA will help build inclusive markets and trade at domestic, regional, and continental levels; ensuring that increased on-farm productivity is matched by post-harvest “pull” opportunities for aggregators, traders, and processors, as well as access to finance required to pursue these opportunities.

We will achieve these by supporting the development and operationalization of a digital market linkage platform that would facilitate access to sustainable markets through direct connection of potential buyers with flagship and strategic crop producers. AGRA will also consider supporting initiatives around automation of input voucher systems, which are central to enhancing credit access by smallholder farmers.

" We will also facilitate national & regional agricultural trade through supporting efforts aimed at availing market information & promoting market linkages."

b) Sustainable Farming

AGRA will support the sustainability and resilience of soyabean and irrigated wheat production systems in alignment with government priority. In this regard, AGRA will intervene to address soil health and soil fertility challenges in irrigated wheat areas, promote digital technologies for the provision of agricultural advisory services, demonstrate climate resilient and nutrient dense varieties and facilitate sustainable last mile delivery of irrigated agriculture inputs and services. This will be implemented through integrated value chain approach.

" We will support sustainability and Resilience of soyabean and irrigated wheat initiatives through integrated value chain approach "

c) Seed Systems

In the strategy period, AGRA in collaboration with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Regional Agricultural Research Institutes, and the Private Sector, will work to increase the availability of EGS for prioritized flagship programs (e.g., Soybean and Rice). AGRA will also support the development and implementation of a sustainable EGS model, and the promotion of seed systems with a focus on nutrient-dense, climate-smart, and flagship commodities. AGRA will also support the availability and accessibility of EGS of flagship commodities, climate-smart and nutrient-dense seed varieties through fostering partnership with national and international agricultural research institutes.

" We will also support the availability and accessibility of EGS of flagship commodities, climate-smart and nutrient-dense seed varieties through fostering partnership with national and international agricultural research institutes. "

d) Policy and State Capability

AGRA will work with government partners at the national and regional levels to identify and address institutional barriers affecting the food system and suggest policy and regulatory reforms. AGRA will continue to build the capacity of state actors in the agricultural space at federal and regional levels. In particular, tailored trainings will be provided to professionals in policy design, analysis, and implementation. We

will support the institutionalization of agriculture sector policy and regulatory reform tracking system and provide support aimed at strengthening the execution capacity of flagship programs.

" We will support the institutionalization of agriculture sector policy and regulatory reform tracking system and provide support aimed at strengthening the execution capacity of flagship programs. "

Inclusion

There will be special emphasis on the inclusivity of women, youth, and female-headed households in all our interventions. We will have blended finance instruments employed to promote women and youth employment through SMEs providing post-harvest and output market aggregation services. We will support a strengthened national ecosystem for climate adaptation and mitigation that improves the resilience of young women and men and facilitates support for the strong voices of youth and women in the climate agenda.

"We will support a strengthened national ecosystem for climate adaptation and mitigation that improves the resilience of young women and men and facilitates support for the strong voices of youth and women in the climate agenda."

Delivery Model

Our partners are central to our approach to driving change. We are but one in a wide ecosystem of partners driving an

agricultural transformation in Ethiopia and Africa. Our approach is to identify areas where we could have a catalytic impact on the sector, and form partnerships that enable this systemic change. We will adopt different tools - including Direct Grants, Technical Assistance, and Convenings/Partnerships-

depending on the needs of the country, our partners, and the support required on the ground.

Inclusivity, environmental sustainability, and nutrition are at the core of our delivery approach. AGRA will promote inclusivity by creating opportunities for women and youth, not only

to participate but also to derive economic benefits from the agricultural sector. By fostering the inclusion of women and youth, we will empower them to become agents of change and catalysts for sustainable development.



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