

ETHIOPIA

Strategy Support Program II

The Ethiopia Strategy Support Program (ESSP) is a collaborative program undertaken by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI). Based on the successful program reviews of ESSP Phase I, (which operated from September 2004 to June 2008), IFPRI, EDRI, and the consortium of donors funding ESSP agreed to extend the program by a second phase (ESSP II), thus, continuing the program's activities from July 2008 to June 2013.

ESSP II differs from ESSP Phase I in two major ways. First, ESSP II places a greater emphasis on capacity strengthening of local institutions, including the EDRI. Second, ESSP Phase I provided extensive technical and analytical support toward the establishment of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX). With the successful launching of the ECX in early 2008, the ECX has functioned as an independent agency. ESSP II is more focused on capacity strengthening, on strategic and actionable research, and on policy impact.

ESSP II receives funding from a consortium of donors: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the UK Department for International Development (DfID).



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PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The core purpose of ESSP II is to enhance national capacity for evidence-based policies for pro-poor growth. This is achieved through three core program objectives: 1) To generate applied policy research to fill key knowledge gaps on a needs basis that would help strengthen the design and implementation of Ethiopia's rural development strategy; 2) To strengthen the capacity of Ethiopian policy research institutions through targeted training programs, and collaborative engagements; 3) To build a stronger and more integrated knowledge support system within the country to underpin future food policy analysis and to help inform key rural development strategy decisions at all levels.

In order to respond to Ethiopia's growing development challenges, IFPRI ESSP II and its advisory committee identified four key activities:

1. Collaborative research with EDRI, the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA), and the Ministry of Agriculture, with a focus on promoting poverty reduction and economic development in Ethiopia.
2. Robust knowledge-management to contribute to policy dialogue, strategic priority setting, and evidence-based policy analysis.
3. Capacity strengthening and increased knowledge dissemination within the academic and policy research community.
4. Enhancing communications and institutional linkages between policy makers, policy analysts, civil society, and other policy and research actors through joint seminars and other dissemination events.

STRATEGIC POLICY RESEARCH AREAS

Current activities of ESSP II:

- Agricultural productivity: performance and constraints
- Pro-poor public spending: efficiency and accountability
- Rural non-farm economy
- Synthesis edited volume of Ethiopian agriculture and food policy
- Cereal price determination in Ethiopia
- Analysis of the rural-urban transformation
- Weather index insurance survey
- Consumption, savings, and investment behaviors of successful farmers
- Livestock markets
- Aspirations, risk and household investment behavior
- Investments in watersheds
- Accelerating agricultural market transformation in Ethiopia: processes, potentials, and challenges
- The teff value chain
- Understanding and improving agricultural extension delivery in Ethiopia

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The activities of the ESSP II are guided by the National Advisory Committee (NAC) chaired by the Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister and Executive Director of the Ethiopian Development Research Institute. Other members come from the federal government and the private sector.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

ESSP II achievements depend on coordination and communication with key partners and stakeholders, including policymakers, donors, researchers, and private-sector and civil society leaders. ESSP's major collaborator is the EDRI. In addition, the Program has developed formal links with key institutions such as the Central Statistical Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Develop-

ment, the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA), Ethiopian universities and research institutes, and numerous private trade associations.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND OUTREACH

ESSP II capacity strengthening efforts include building networks, conducting seminars, and providing trainings for researchers and analysts from diverse institutions.

ESSP has collaborated with EDRI in research and analysis that has provided timely inputs to exchange rate and wheat price stabilization policy formulation. Analysis of growth and poverty implications of agricultural investments contributed to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development (CAADP) process. On top of analysis on other important subjects, ESSP II also facilitates the impact evaluation of major rural investment programs, the Productive Safety Nets Programme, and the Agricultural Growth Program. In addition, ESSP II has undertaken significant capacity building at the CSA, EDRI, and national universities through trainings on different topics.

Some highlights of ESSP II's outreach:

- Thirty-six ESSP working papers; seven EDRI working papers, and 13 ESSP research notes on a diverse number of topics; one report on urban-rural linkages; and one book on food and agricultural policy in Ethiopia published.
- Two atlases published in collaboration with CSA.
- More than 500 people trained in different trainings.
- Fifteen major public research dissemination events organized in collaboration with local institutions (EDRI and EEA); 160 presentations on research findings given by ESSP II researchers at seminars organized by ESSP II itself or at other events.

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