

# ETHIOPIA

## Strategy Support Program



ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENT  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD POLICY  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

A member of the CGIAR Consortium

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).

During Phase I (September 2004 to June 2008) ESSP conducted a varied program of economic research and provided extensive technical and analytical support towards 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. Phase II of ESSP, which began in July 2008 and ended in October 2013, places a greater emphasis on capacity strengthening of local institutions, including the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), while continuing a program of policy-relevant research and analysis.

IFPRI, EDRI, and the consortium of donors funding ESSP agreed to extend the program by a third phase, which started on November 2013.



### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objective of ESSP is to improve the policy-making process in Ethiopia. Increasing the capacity of Ethiopian institutions to undertake sound economic analysis that is linked to current issues, and improving public information and dialogue, create a cornerstone to evidence-based policy making.

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

1. **Collaborative research** with the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA), and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) 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

A key feature of the program design is that the structure is flexible as well as dynamic. The action research topics are identified and updated annually through the participation of the National Advisory Committee (NAC).

Current activities of ESSP:

- Productivity, technology adoption, and agricultural transformation
- Agricultural markets, value chains, and agro-industry
- Food and agricultural prices
- Risk, insurance, and investment
- Land and water management
- Poverty, nutrition, and safety nets
- Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) Impact Evaluation
- Agricultural Growth Program (AGP) Impact Evaluation
- Feed the Future (FTF) Program Impact Evaluation Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP)

## NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The activities of the ESSP 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 (EDRI). Other members come from the federal government and the private sector.

## COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

ESSP achievements depend on coordination and communication with key partners and stakeholders, including policymakers, donors, researchers, private-sector and civil society leaders. ESSP's major collaborator is the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (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 Development, the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, the Agricultural Transformation Agency, the Ethiopian Economics Association, Ethiopian universities and research institutes, and numerous private trade associations.

## CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND OUTREACH

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

ESSP has collaborated with the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) in research and analysis. This has provided timely inputs to: exchange rate and wheat price stabilization policy formulation; to interventions in the teff value chain; and to the roll-out of weather insurance products. Analysis of growth and poverty implications of agricultural investments contributed to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development (CAADP) process.

As well as analysis on other important subjects, ESSP facilitates the impact evaluation of major rural investment programs, the PSNP, the FTF and the AGP. With other organizations, ESSP has undertaken significant capacity building. For example, at the CSA and at EDRI and national universities, ESSP delivered training and knowledge transfer in areas such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), econometrics, impact evaluation and food price management.

Research results are published in ESSP **Working Papers** and **Research Notes**. The **ESSP blog** is an important tool to bring together all information on ESSP and to disseminate ESSP output.

Some highlights of ESSP's outreach:

- 60 ESSP working papers; 10 EDRI working papers, and 47 ESSP research notes on a diverse number of topics
- More than 1200 people trained
- 39 major public research dissemination events organized in collaboration with local institutions (EDRI, ATA and EEA); 312 presentations on research findings given by ESSP researchers

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