H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia delivered an inspiring speech in the inaugural session of the conference. He highlighted that Ethiopia has allocated 15% (the highest in Africa) of its annual budget to agricultural development and food security. He credited the contribution of the Ethiopia Strategy Support Program in strengthening capacity through agricultural research and extension. The prime minister recognized the improvements made because of IFPRI’s research to Ethiopia’s social protection scheme - Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP).

New ESSP Publications
- The impact of regional GIS training. April 2014. ESSP Outcome Note 01.
- The impact of micro-econometrics training. April 2014. ESSP Outcome Note 02.
- The impact of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) training. April 2014. ESSP Outcome Note 03.
- The impact of research on weather index insurance. May 2014. ESSP Outcome Note 04.
- The impact of research on the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). May 2014. ESSP Outcome Note 05.

Upcoming events:
- Presentation of the results of the baseline survey for the Feed-the-Future (FTF) program (funded by USAID). June 20th, 2014. ILRI campus, Addis Ababa.

Presentation highlights in April - June 2014
Social safety nets in Africa: The case of PSNP in Ethiopia

The PSNP is resilience in action. With a harmonized donor approach and a supportive government, the PSNP has impacted millions of lives through food or cash transfers. During its different phases since 2006, the PSNP has improved through continuous independent evaluation and through research and inclusive process reviews to provide a long-term perspective on development in Ethiopia.

Preliminary research - PSNP and nutrition
John Hoddinott and Harold Alderman. May 13, ILRI Campus, Addis Ababa

In the last 10 years, considerable effort has been afforded to address hunger, food security and nutrition in Ethiopia, including the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) and the Community Based Nutrition Program (CBN). IFPRI/ESSP researchers assessed the effect of these programs in localities where both are operational, utilizing data from the ongoing PSNP evaluation. This preliminary study was mindful that reductions in chronic under-nutrition are NOT a specific objective of the PSNP.

Although the preliminary results showed no robust, statistically significant associations between PSNP participation or the duration of presence of CBN with: diet quality of children under 2 years, height-for-age z scores (HAZ), stunting, weight-for-height z scores and wasting, it did suggest 3 things that would potentially enhance the nutritional sensitivity of the PSNP:
1. Prioritize nutritionally vulnerable ages and improve exposure to interventions
2. Optimize women’s nutrition, physical and mental health and empowerment
3. Use the social protection as a platform for nutrition specific interventions and effort on behavior change


Weather risk remains a major challenge to households in low-income economies whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. With over 80% of the population involved in the agricultural sector, the cost of uninsured weather risk can be substantial both in terms of immediate production losses to households as well as hindering them from making critical investment that promote livelihoods. By working collaboratively with researchers, micro-finance and farmers, strides have been taken to deliver a solution that meets farmers needs and business development in Ethiopia.

Capacity building
Principles of python programming – GIS Course
Addis Ababa University. May 19 - June 06, 2014. Helina Tilahun
Through an evolving and collaborative relationship between ESSP and AAU, capacity strengthening continues from previous GIS training.

Visit our blog to download up-to-date publications: http://essp.ifpri.info/publications/
Policy related analysis
Structure and performance of Ethiopia's coffee export sector
Bart Minten, Seneshaw Tamru, Tadesse Kuma, Yaw Nyarko - ESSP Working Paper 66

Overview
The structure and performance in Ethiopia's coffee export market over the period 2003-2013 has undergone important changes, both locally and internationally. As a valued and critical commodity to the livelihood of small farmers and to Ethiopia's economy as a whole, coffee exports have been strongly influenced by changes in government policy, among others the setup of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) and consequent impacts. Coffee export values have risen five-fold over this period, mostly through international market prices coupled with an increase in volume, but also changes in production processes and attached quality premiums from washing, certification and geographic indications of origin.

Topics of research and findings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Investigations</th>
<th>Findings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transactions, exports and exporters</td>
<td>Destinations, number of exporters, share of coffee exports, private and public firms.</td>
<td>Ethiopia’s export earnings improved dramatically over the 10-year period</td>
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<td>Quality</td>
<td>Certification, washing, geographical indications of origin, grades</td>
<td>Demand for certified coffee is on the rise and demands higher prices</td>
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<td>Export destination markets</td>
<td>Regional variations in demand of coffee types</td>
<td>Large price variation based on washed or unwashed coffee and geographic indications of origin</td>
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<td>Market performance</td>
<td>Export vs local consumption; Effect of the ECX</td>
<td>Coffee marketed by cooperatives sold at much higher prices than the private sector</td>
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Graph of the changes in exports showing trends in real value and quantities of coffee exports from Ethiopia, 2003 to 2012

Policy implications

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Implications</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provision of investment incentives to deliver washed coffee to market would raise export prices and higher exchange earnings</td>
<td>More widespread setting up of appropriate ecological pulpers for the washing of coffee; reduce the difficulties on imports of milling machines</td>
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<td>Development of specialty market and participation in certification schemes</td>
<td>Costly process to achieve certification, though this could be developed through local cooperative institutions</td>
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<td>Improvements in technologies and training to increase coffee yields</td>
<td>Extend research into diseases and adaption, and mitigation of climate change</td>
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