

Learning lessons from Ethiopia's unique agricultural growth experience

Ethiopia's agricultural growth performance over the past decade has been the focus of in-depth research by ESSP. The primary purpose of this research was to learn lessons from the past decade and to help identify binding constraints to improve agriculture's performance in the country. Pulling together information from a wide range of data sources, the ESSP Working Paper on "Agricultural growth in Ethiopia (2004-2014): Evidence and drivers" fills an important gap in the understanding of what has happened in Ethiopia's agricultural sector in the last decade, what were the sources of growth and whether the growth observed was real or not.

The World Bank and the Ethiopian government have used a synthesis of this important working paper as a chapter in their analysis of Ethiopia's unique growth performance: "Ethiopia's great run: The growth acceleration and how to pace it", World Bank, 2015, Report 99399-ET.

IFPRI has supported the government and the World Bank through: i) Sharing knowledge and expertise on the agricultural sector ii) Taking the lead on delivering analysis for an important report to tight deadlines iii) Taking a nimble approach to make adjustments through peer reviews to deliver a quality product

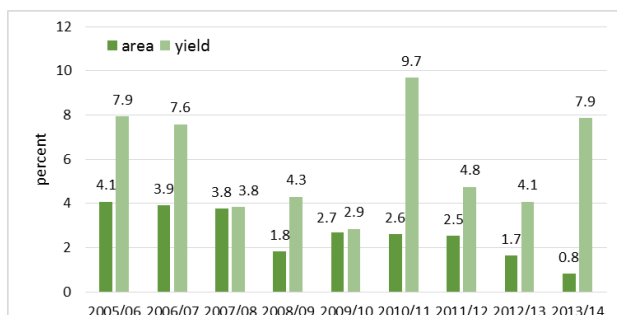


Figure 1—Growth in area cultivated and yield of grains over the last decade

Source: Authors' computation using CSA annual reports (CSA Volume I 2005-2014).

The analysis has been well received and used by the government and the World Bank alike. The lead economist of the World Bank, Lars Christian Moller, stated that "the World Bank has benefitted immensely from [ESSP's] work in two major ways: First, in the preparation of a recent study on Ethiopia's overall growth performance over the past decade which presents a summary of the IFPRI paper as one of its chapters. Second, in preparation of the Ethiopia Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) which draws upon the insights of the paper to help identify binding constraint to reduce poverty in the country." The lead economist further stated that IFPRI's proactive team of researchers pulled

together appropriate research and accurately analyzed data to deliver a product of outstanding quality within tight deadlines.

The government was also positive about the presented analysis as reflected in the following quote at the launch of the World Bank report: "Ethiopia is in it for the long run as the title of this highly interesting and very useful report suggests. Our country is in the business of enduring the challenging course of development and breaking new world records just like the famous long distance runners that our country is known for." (Dr Abraham Tekeste, Deputy Planning Commissioner, National Planning Commission).

From these statements by important stakeholders, it is clear that the contribution from the results of ESSP's research has helped to distil important lessons on agricultural transformation in the country.

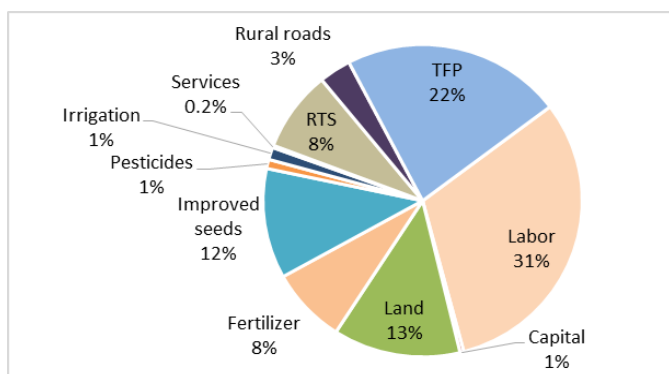


Figure 3- Contributing factors to crop output growth, 2004/05-2013/14

Source: Authors' computations using data from CSA (Volumes I, II, and III 2005-2014) and National Bank of Ethiopia (2014).

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