



ETHIOPIA



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).

In order to support inclusive and sustainable growth and transformation in Ethiopia, the program works closely with local partners to assure that relevant research evidence is available for improved decision making and that local capacity is gradually formed so that the increasingly complex questions in Ethiopia can be tackled in a meaningful way by the relevant government institutions and other concerned local partners. This is achieved by doing analysis on important topics in the country, focusing on four major issues:



- Transforming agriculture sustainably;
- Reducing malnutrition;
- Improving markets, value chains, and trade;
- Building resilience.

The European Union, together with USAID, is funding this program in its current phase which began in 2017 and which will run till the end of 2020.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

ESSP aims to help improve the policymaking process in Ethiopia by increasing the capacity of Ethiopian institutions to undertake sound economic analysis, and by working to improve public information and dialogue. ESSP's approach to evidence-based policymaking effectively encourages positive change to the growing development challenges in Ethiopia.

In response to these challenges, ESSP guided by a National Advisory Committee (NAC) focuses on four key activities:

1. **Collaborative research** with the EDRI and the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA) 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 community.
4. **Enhancing communications** and **institutional linkages** between policymakers, policy analysts, civil society, and other policy and research actors through joint seminars and other dissemination events

STRATEGIC POLICY RESEARCH AREAS

ESSP's flexible, dynamic and quality approach to topical research areas has contributed to its success at providing relevant updated information and analysis for policy makers, including:

- Transforming agriculture sustainably
- Reducing malnutrition
- Improving markets, value chains and trade
- Building resilience
- Improving the evidence and policies for better performing livestock systems in Ethiopia
- Impact of the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)
- Feed the Future (FTF) Program impact evaluation
- Impact of the Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP)
- Impact Evaluation of WFP's Fresh Food Voucher Pilot Programme
- The impact of PSNP on women's time use and nutritional status of women and children.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

ESSP achieves results through its key partners and stakeholders, including policymakers, donors, researchers, and private-sector and civil society leaders. ESSP's major local collaborator is EDRI. In addition, the program has developed formal ties with many key government institutions and private sector associations.



CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND OUTREACH

ESSP's collaborative capacity strengthening efforts include building networks, conducting seminars, and providing training for researchers and analysts from diverse institutions. ESSP researchers work closely with organizations like CSA, EDRI, EIAR, MoANR and national universities to increase capabilities and skills. ESSP has undertaken significant software and impact evaluation training and knowledge transfer activities in order to facilitate many major government programs.

The timely input of ESSP's research and analyses as part of crucial and strategic government programs has helped accelerate progress in many areas such as: impact assessments of large-scale rural investment programs like the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP); transforming agriculture sustainably; reducing malnutrition; and building resilience.

ESSP'S OUTREACH

ESSP's research results are published in **Working Papers**, **Research Notes** and **Outcome Notes** that describe the impact of the program in Ethiopia. The website is an important tool for bringing together all information on ESSP and disseminating its output through regular updates and newsletters.

Some highlights of ESSP's outreach in 2017:

- 14 ESSP Working Papers and 7 ESSP Research Notes on diverse topics
- More than 144 people trained
- 16 major public research dissemination events organized in collaboration with local and international institutions (EDRI, EEA, EIAR, CIMMYT, MoANR and RED&FS)
- 26 presentations on research findings delivered by ESSP researchers

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