

# ETHIOPIA

## Strategy Support Program



ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENT  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



INTERNATIONAL  
FOOD POLICY  
RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE

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, focused on capacity strengthening of local institutions, including the 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. ESSP receives funding from two major donors: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The objective of ESSP is to improve the policymaking 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 policymaking.

In order to respond to Ethiopia's growing development challenges, ESSP and its National Advisory Committee (NAC) identified four key activities:

1. **Collaborative research** with the 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 policymakers, 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 a flexible and dynamic structure. ESSP's action research topics are identified and updated annually with the NAC.

Current ESSP research activities include:

- Productivity, technology adoption, and agricultural transformation
- Agricultural markets, value chains, and agroindustry
- 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

ESSP's activities are guided by the NAC, chaired by the Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister and Executive Director of 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, and private-sector and civil society leaders. ESSP's major collaborator is EDRI. In addition, the Program has developed formal ties 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's capacity strengthening efforts include building networks, conducting seminars, and providing training for researchers and analysts from diverse institutions.

ESSP has collaborated with EDRI in research and analysis. This has provided timely inputs to: exchange rate and wheat price stabilization policy formulation; interventions in the teff value chain; and 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.

ESSP also 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 for bringing together all information on ESSP and disseminating ESSP output.

Some highlights of ESSP's outreach:

- 60 ESSP working papers, 10 EDRI working papers, and 47 ESSP research notes on diverse topics
- More than 1,200 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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