



ESSP Brochure 2025

The Ethiopia Strategy Support Program (ESSP) is a collaborative program undertaken by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) with the Policy Studies Institute (PSI). ESSP was launched in 2005. It has received support from multiple donors over the years – USAID, FCDO (formerly DFID), Canadian CIDA/EU, Embassies of the Netherlands, and Ireland.

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.

Objectives

1. To co-generate and conduct applied policy research to fill key knowledge gaps that would help strengthen the design and implementation of Ethiopia’s rural development strategy;
2. To strengthen the capacity of Ethiopian policy research institutions through targeted training programs, and collaborative engagements;
3. To build a stronger and more integrated knowledge support system within the country to underpin future food policy analysis and to help inform key rural development strategy decisions at all levels.

Ongoing activities:

1. RESEARCH

- **Transforming agriculture sustainably:** Ethiopia's agri-food system; livelihoods of rural households in Ethiopia; Teff and returns to agricultural research investments; Fertilizer use and profitability.
- **Reducing malnutrition:** The state of nutrition in Ethiopia and the way forward; Diets, affordability and policy.
- **Improving markets, value chains, and trade:** Price inflation; Horticultural sector analysis; Dairy value chain analysis
- **Building resilience:** PSNP and asset building
- **COVID-19 and the agri-food system**

2. CAPACITY BUILDING

Joint research with local collaborators; Short term training courses

3. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH EVENTS

Policy Seminars; Publications: Working papers, Research notes, Books, Blog, Newsletter

4. PROGRAM IMPACT EVALUATIONS



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 Policy Studies Institute (PSI) and the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA) with a focus on promoting poverty reduction and economic development in Ethiopia.
2. Capacity **strengthening** and increased **knowledge dissemination** within the academic and policy community.
3. **Robust knowledge management** to contribute to policy dialogue, strategic priority setting, and evidence-based policy analysis.
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 Evaluation of WFP's Fresh Food Voucher Pilot Program
- 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 PSI. In addition, the program has developed formal ties with many key government institutions and private sector associations. ESSP collaborates and works closely with other country strategy support programs of IFPRI in different research areas.



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 Ethiopian Statistical Service, Policy Studies Institute, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning, 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 Reports, Working Papers, Research/Policy Notes, Books, Journal Articles Conferences, Workshops 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. Also, series of Seminars, Conferences and Workshops are organized. <https://essp.ifpri.info/>

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