

Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector - Ethiopia

Innovations for Agricultural Productivity and Job Creation

The Challenge

Agriculture plays a key role in Ethiopia's economy and society. It is the livelihood basis for 80 % of the population and accounts for 34% of the country's GDP. Despite a strong economic development of the sector over the last decades, overall productivity remains low in comparison to global standards.

Consequently, high amounts of staple foods, like wheat, must be imported to meet the ever-growing demand for food. Additionally, changing diets and increasing population number add to the challenge of meeting future consumption requirements. Therefore, the Ethiopian government has declared agricultural development and increased agricultural productivity as a central target for national development.

Ethiopia offers a great diversity of fertile, arable land; this, in combination with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), provides high potential for sustainable agricultural intensification. Current farming methods are unable to fully utilize this potential. In average, 90% of Ethiopia's arable land is farmed by smallholder farmers who practice farming on a 1.1-hectare field. They depend on low quality/quantity inputs and practice traditional farming methods, such as ox ploughing. These practices are often less efficient and very much labour intensive. In general, low quality seeds, limited and inadequate application of fertilizer and pesticides are prevalent in the Ethiopian agriculture sector.

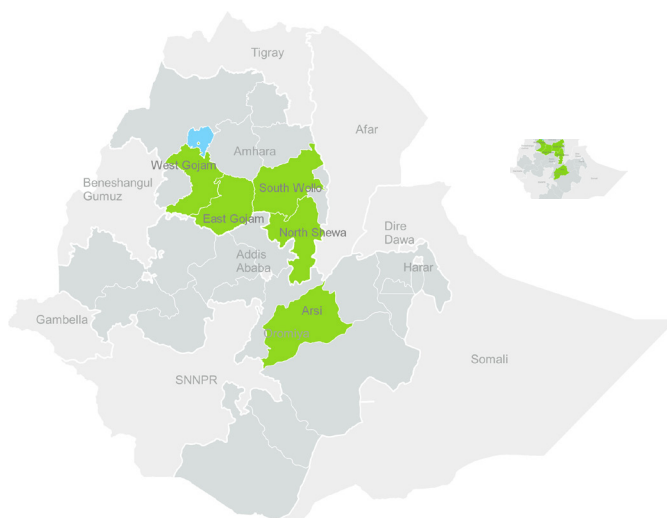
Consequently, smallholder farmers are not effectively using the farming potential available which leads to low income and risks of insecurity throughout the country.

Our Approach

- Support the agricultural sector to improve the food supply chain, foster income generation opportunities and create employment
- Support and improve the wheat, legumes and honey value chains through the promotion of modern agricultural technologies
- Provide tailored trainings in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Support access to agricultural inputs like high quality seeds, agro-processing and marketing skills

Project name	Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector in Ethiopia
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Arsi and West Arsi Zones of Oromia National Regional State West Gojam, East Gojam, South Wollo and North Shoa Zones of Amhara National Regional State
Implementing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partner organization	Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Duration	01.11.2014 – 31.03.2026
Budget	EUR 44,600,000

Operational Area



An Example

The Green Innovation Slam (GIS) is an initiative under the Green Innovation Centres-Ethiopia project. It is a nationwide business competition designed to encourage and support innovations in the agriculture sector.



L to R:

- A mother and daughter drying their newly harvested wheat
- A combine harvester harvesting wheat
- A farmer embracing her faba bean harvest



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- L to R:
- Presentation of a farmers' training material during a field day
 - A sales person at Farm Service Centre selling farm inputs to a customer

Fields of Action (Innovation Cycle)

I. Establishing mechanisms to identify innovations

“From idea to innovation”

The project organizes and facilitates mechanisms (incubators, innovation competitions etc.) to identify potential innovations along the value chains which contribute to increased productivity and profitability of smallholders.

II. Establishing structures to build competence of relevant actors

“Understanding the innovation”

The project ensures sustainable use of innovations by smallholder farmers and downstream enterprises through selected institutions: Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) colleges, Farmers Training Centers (FTCs), Farm Service Centres (FSCs) etc. will sustainably disseminate innovations as intermediary agents. They will also provide trainings, further education courses, advisory services, exposure seminars and digital media for smallholders and actors in up-and-downstream enterprises.

III. Establishing innovations

“Embedding the innovation”

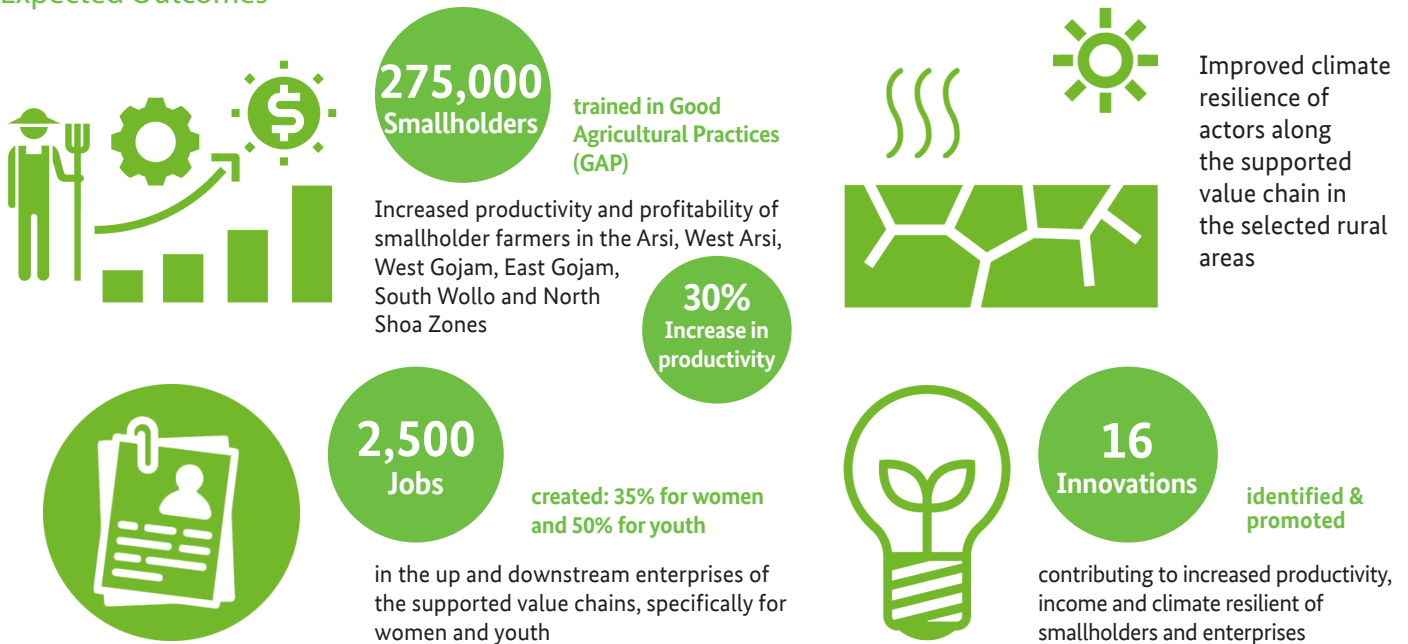
The project facilitates synergies between important actors in the value chain through formal partnership and interest groups to have roles in the design of framework for sustainable structural change in the value chains and better embedment of innovations.

IV. Adoption of innovations

“From innovation to mainstreaming”

Through the above-mentioned interventions, and by promoting suitable innovations in GAP which contribute to soil fertility, water conservation, forestry and climate resilient, the project targets 80% of smallholders and enterprises to adopt innovations.

Expected Outcomes



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