

Mechanisation for Ethiopian Smallholders

Improving Ethiopian Smallholders' Access to Mechanisation

The challenge

Agriculture is vital to Ethiopia's economy and society. Agriculture generates almost half of the GDP. 80% of the population depend on it for their livelihood. Despite favourable climate conditions, the country does not fully tap its farming potential. Productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers remain low, post-harvest losses are relatively high and food insecurity remains an issue. Innovations in agricultural mechanisation are lacking and not accessible to smallholders. Even in regions where agricultural machinery is used by contractors, the technology is often outdated and of poor quality, reducing the efficiency and work performance as well as the quality of field operations. The aim of the Ethiopian government is to improve mechanisation to develop smallholder agriculture.

The Objective

The project objective is to increase the number of Ethiopian smallholders who use high-quality mechanisation services. Therefore, the project aims at enabling mechanisation service providers to deliver improved services to smallholders. This contributes to improving smallholders' yields and incomes, increasing domestic food production, thereby decreasing the need for food imports and enhancing food security.

Our Approach

The project supports the Ethiopian government in promoting use of machinery on smallholders' farms, which specialized private service providers and farmers' cooperative unions (FCU) can deliver. The use of modern technology ensures better quality of

farming work, decreased drudgery and leads to increased productivity.

Project name	Agricultural Mechanisation and Technology for Smallholder Productivity (AMTP)
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Project region	Arsi and Bale Zones, Oromia Regional State, and West Gojam Zone, Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia
Lead executing agency	GIZ
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Our Activities

Capacitating people

To promote the use of modern agricultural mechanisation among smallholders, the project practically demonstrates the advantages of different mechanised field operations on smallholder farms. This enables farmers to select the most proper form of mechanisation for their purposes. The project furthermore provides technical and management capacity development measures to mechanisation service providers (private as well as FCUs). This increases the quality of mechanisation services offered to smallholders and allows the machinery owners to profitably run and expand their business, reaching more smallholders in future. In addition, the project provides technical knowledge to the different actors, such as a buyers' guide for agricultural machinery and equipment, to enable informed investment decisions.





Expected Impacts

Institutional strengthening

The programme strengthens institutions in the sector of agricultural mechanisation by consulting and supporting them with specific capacity building measures. This includes for example training institutions that offer training for operation and maintenance of agricultural machinery, as well as government offices and associations. This way, institutions can contribute best to promoting agricultural mechanisation. The project furthermore facilitates exchange among actors in mechanisation from the public and private sectors as well as civil society, both nationally and internationally.

Improving overall conditions for agricultural mechanisation

On the macro level, the project supports to create the necessary legal and institutional foundation for the expansion of quality mechanization services to smallholders. The project advises political actors in decision making in the field of agricultural mechanisation, in order to create an enabling environment for the different actors in the sector. Measures include strengthening and consulting the Mechanisation Directorates in the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) as well as in the Bureaus of Agriculture (BoA) of Oromia and Amhara Regional States.

Capacitating people

- Smallholder farmers are aware of agricultural mechanisation options and understand their benefits.
- Agricultural machinery operators have the technical skills to professionally handle the machinery.
- Mechanisation service providers have the managerial skills to run their business profitably and expand it.
- Instructors in training institutions have the technical and methodological skills to capacitate actors in the mechanisation sector.

Institutional strengthening

- Farmer organisations and private service provider associations for agricultural mechanisations have improved their technical and management skills.
- Training institutions have improved their training offer in the field of agricultural mechanisation.
- Government offices have the capacities to promote agricultural mechanisation.

Improving overall conditions for agricultural mechanisation

- The conditions for agricultural mechanisation have improved in line with the government's agenda for agricultural mechanisation.
- Policy makers create a conducive policy framework for agricultural mechanisation.
- Authorities in the field of agricultural mechanisation are in a better position to fulfil their tasks and duties.

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