



# Dutchiopia – Agri News

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## On activities, events, studies, articles and more

Do not hesitate to contact us in case of requests, tips for this news letter or trade questions.

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## Latest publications

### Relevant publications

- The first Dutch continent-wide strategy on Africa comprises an integrated vision of political and economic cooperation with the continent of Africa. As stated in the coalition agreement, the government wishes to encourage economic development founded on equality, reduce poverty, improve respect for human rights and limit irregular migration. The fundamental shifts in global geopolitical relations mean that more cooperation with Africa is not only necessary but urgent. A strategy is required that sets out clearly how the Netherlands intends to collaborate successfully with its African partners, now and in the future, in fostering a stable, peaceful and secure neighboring continent.

[The Africa Strategy of the Netherlands 2023-2032](#)

- Future of Trade: Africa report highlights the outlook for African trade and providing a view of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a key proponent of optimizing intra-African trade. Intra-Africa trade is expected to reach USD 140 bn by 2035, equating to 15 percent of Africa's total exports. The report emphasizes that rising regional trade levels and greater connectivity will unlock high-growth corridors across Africa and beyond.

[Future of Trade: Africa Report](#)

## Did you know?

### Did you know?

[The United Nations Conference on Trade & Development's \(UNCTAD\) 2023 World Investment Report](#) projects that developing countries require 1.7 trillion dollars in annual investments to achieve a green transition. In 2022, they secured only 544 billion dollars and most of this financing is dollar-denominated, exacerbating the debt burdens of low-income countries struggling to service their obligations.

### Did you know?

Ethiopia's economic growth projections have been the subject of contrasting reports, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projecting a lower growth rate compared to the government's figures. According to the IMF's recently released projections, Ethiopia is expected to achieve a 6.1% real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate by the end of 2023, with a 6.2% growth rate predicted for 2024. [IMF's recently released projections](#)

### Did you know?

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said access to the port is an existential matter for Ethiopia and that Ethiopians should at least start discussing the red sea. He explained historical, demographic and economic reasons why the red sea is significant to Ethiopia, and laid bare possibilities of what Ethiopia can offer in return for access to the port which includes shares of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Ethiopian Airlines and Ethio-telecom.

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## Short Newsflashes

### EU Launches €650mIn Cooperation Program in Ethiopia

The cooperation program was launched by the EU International Partnerships Commissioner and Finance Minister of Ethiopia.

The Multiannual Indicative Program will run for four years, starting in 2024. It will avail €650 million in the form of grants to finance development programs in the country, according to the Ministry of Finance (MoF). The Program would focus on three “priority areas” of Green Deal, Human Development, as well as Governance and Peace.

You can get more information [in here](#).



### Ethiopia nears full-fledged e-commerce as Electronic Invoicing to go live in a month

The Ministry of Revenue wraps-up years of preparations underway to adopt electronic receipt platform. The country-wide implementation of electronic invoicing is to take place in a month to transform the tax system, the Minister of Revenue disclosed.

As part of the country’s decade-old plan to launch full fledge e-commerce and as an element of the tax system digitization project, which the authorities intend to do through the implementation of the Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS), Revenue Ministry has been developing and piloting the e-invoicing system.

Read more in [here](#) on the news of [The Reporter](#).

### The International Labour Organization Will Continue Supporting Ethiopia’s Endeavors in Creating Decent Jobs

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting Ethiopia in its endeavors to create decent job opportunities guided by the country’s Home-grown Economic Reform. The programme mainly prioritizes decent work, which is aligned with increasing productivity for economic growth in Ethiopia.

As reported by the [Ethiopian News Agency](#) in this [article](#), ILO is at present looking towards establishing a Sector Skills Council that brings the private sector and others in institutions together to discuss what is needed in terms of the demand and supply of the labour market.

### Ethiopia mulls policy shift to allow foreign exporters imports access

Ethiopia is considering allowing foreign exporters established in the country to utilize export revenues for imports, a move requested particularly by meat exporters to offset losses from exporting business, incurred by high domestic inflation as stated in [here](#).

In a major policy shift, the government is aiming to reverse a longtime ban on foreign businesses importing goods into the country.

### Ethiopia explores cross-border transport service with Djibouti in effort to foster regional connectivity

As reported in [this article](#), high-level delegation from Ethiopia, led by State Minister for Transport and Logistics recently visited Djibouti to engage in discussions regarding the potential initiation of a cross-border public transport service between the two nations.

The meetings yielded positive outcomes, as both parties expressed their commitment to enabling seamless transport connectivity. As a significant step towards, a joint team of experts has been assembled from both Ethiopia and Djibouti to prepare a draft agreement. A formal signing of the forthcoming agreement is scheduled for the Mid of November 2023.

### Import substitution strategy targets localizing key manufacturing within 3-10 years

In a bold move to significantly cut its import dependency, Ethiopia has unveiled a national plan to reduce reliance on foreign-made goods over the next decade. “National Import Substitution Strategy drafted by the Manufacturing Industries Development Center, which is under the Ministry of Industry, targets 15 sectors critical to import independence, including sugar products, vehicles, aircraft parts, chemicals, plastics and steel.

As stated in [here](#), replacing imports in sectors like autos and machinery could take up to 10 years due to the enormous investments required to scale up local manufacturing capabilities. Sectors like sugar and food processing may see substitutions rolled out within four to 10 years.

## Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) Launches Monitoring, Support Services Survey Campaign



EIC has launched an Investment Monitoring and Support Services Survey campaign designed to enable the Commission to be a closer partner to investors and companies in Ethiopia as stated in [here](#) on [Fana Broadcasting Corporate](#).

The survey campaign also aims at tailoring the EIC's aftercare services based on identified needs and challenges, and make informed decisions based on first-hand data. Moreover, it aims to improve the Ethiopian business environment by streamlining investment monitoring, improving support services offered by EIC to businesses, and offering tailored support foreign investors need to establish a successful business in Ethiopia.

## ATI Expanding Access to Mechanization for Small Holder Farmers

The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) is expanding access to mechanization for small holder farmers with the aim to boost production and productivity as reported in [this](#) article.

The Government of Ethiopia has embarked on a ten-year economic development plan (2021-2030) where agriculture is the priority sector. The agriculture sector is projected to grow at 6.2 percent per annum, and agricultural export revenue to increase.

## WFP Reiterates Support To Ethiopia's Food Security Undertakings

The World Food Programme (WFP) has reiterated its continued support to Ethiopia's efforts to ensure food security in the country.

The UN organization's pledge was reaffirmed during the meeting between Minister of Agriculture and WFP Regional Director for Eastern Africa which focused on issues pertaining to food system transformation – from production to consumption.

You can get more information in [here](#).

## IMF confirms discussions underway on financial support for Ethiopia's economic reforms

As reported in [this article](#), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has confirmed that discussions are ongoing regarding potential financial assistance to help Ethiopia address its major economic challenges.

The assistance being requested from the IMF is aimed at helping Ethiopia stabilize its economy and improve living standards for its citizens during this difficult period.

## European Union collaborates with Djibouti for regional and continental economic integration in Africa

The European Union (EU) is partnering with the Republic of Djibouti and the African Alliance for e-commerce to organize the ongoing 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Single Window Conference that took place in Djibouti from September 25 to 26, 2023.

This conference highlighted some of the investment opportunities and ongoing developments throughout the African continent that will enhance the efficiency of trade globally. The EU is supporting efforts in the region that will boost regional economic integration and facilitate regional trade aligned with the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Read more in [here](#).

## Gas prices skyrocket as Ethiopian government ends subsidy

Ethiopia's Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration has announced a significant adjustment to the price of gas in the country. Starting from September 30, 2023, the price of a liter of gas has been set at 77.79 Ethiopian Birr.

The Ethiopian government had been subsidizing gas prices for over a year, and it remains unclear why it decided to end the subsidy when the cost of living in the country has become unbearable for the majority of Ethiopians.

Combined with the existing price inflation of other goods, the increase in gas prices is expected to place a heavy burden on the Ethiopian economy as mentioned [in this article](#).



## AfDB Calls for More Private-sector financing to Hasten Green Transition



### AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Senior officials from the African Development Bank (AfDB) said mobilizing resources from the private sector will be key to bridging the financing gap that has undermined Africa's capacity to tame the escalating climate crisis.

The director-general for the East Africa Region at the AfDB stressed that the continent should leverage capital and technology from indigenous businesses to boost green financing amid shrinking external support.

As reported on the [Ethiopian News Agency](#) in this [article](#), he also stressed the continent should unlock private sector investments in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture and green technologies through knocking down regulatory barriers.

## Food insecurity worsens as drought jeopardizes crop output in Tigray

As stated in the [AddisStandard News](#), in [this article](#), at least 132,000 hectares of farmland in Tigray, covering the south, southeast, and eastern zones, have been impacted by drought, endangering a crucial harvest in a region already devastated by war.

The head of the Tigray Agriculture Bureau said that the region's initial plan was to cultivate 1.3 million hectares and achieve a harvest of roughly 23 million quintals. However, due to various factors, including drought, only about 660,000 hectares were cultivated.

## Privatization of state-owned sugar factories progresses, qualified bidders to be revealed soon

More than a year after the government issued the first invitation for investors to show their expression of interest, the privatization of eight state-owned sugar factories is starting to bear fruit.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) made an announcement stating that qualified bidders who have successfully passed the technical evaluations for the bid will be revealed. According to MoF's statement, a team of evaluators is currently reviewing the technical proposals. The findings of this evaluation will be communicated to the qualified bidders by 20 October, 2023. After that, the next step in the bid assessment process will be the evaluation of financial bids for the bidders who have successfully passed the technical assessment.

Read more in [here](#) of [AddisStandard News](#).

## Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture Planning To Import 23mIn Q Fertilizers For Next Growing Season

As stated in [here](#), the Ministry of Agriculture in Ethiopia is focusing on mechanization in the agricultural sector, despite significant efforts in cluster farming. The country covered 17.5 million hectares of land with crops in the Meher growing season, but half used mechanized farming.

In connection to this news and as read in this [article](#), OCP, the Moroccan state-owned firm, has successfully secured a supply of 23 million tons of fertilizer for the ongoing 2023/2024 cultivation year. The Ethiopian government awarded the procurement directly to OCP to address supply fluctuations in the global market.

To facilitate this direct award, the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture revised a 20-year-old fertilizer procurement directive, which allows fertilizer procurement only through international bids.

## Desert locust swarms detected in parts of Ethiopia

Desert locust swarms have been spotted in several regions of Ethiopia, causing significant damage to crops and impacting farmers' livelihoods, as read in [here](#).

Desert locust swarms have been detected in Afar, Amhara, Somali, Tigray and Oromia regions as well as in Dire Dawa City Administration as reported by the Communication Service of the State Minister for Ethiopia Government.

## Aerial pest control campaign in Ethiopia's Amhara region suspended due to unrest

Ongoing unrest has forced the suspension of the aerial pest control campaign in Ethiopia's northern Amhara region, an Ethiopian official said.

The director of Crop Development and Protection at Amhara Region Agriculture Bureau said that even though destructive crop pest swarms have been detected in the eastern part of the region, pest control measures have been suspended due to uncertain security situation in affected areas.

You can get more information in [here](#).

# Events & Development

## Past events

**The 8th Africa Livestock Exhibition & Congress (ALEC-2023) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 – 28 October.**



The ALEC is a platform to bring Ethiopian and Dutch business partners active in the livestock sector together. This year, The Netherlands Pavilions had more than 15 Dutch companies (mainly active in dairy and poultry) and organizations from the Netherlands that were present. These companies showed their dairy and poultry genetic breeding material, feed ingredients, small farm equipment among others. In addition, technology in the field of storage & cooling, handling of raw materials, feed palletizing and milking & dairy processing were exhibited.

The Agricultural team of the Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa together with SNV hosted a seminar on feeding & housing in Dairy. The aim of the seminar was to exchange knowledge and best practices on dairy farming.



Dutch experts in this field discussed with their Ethiopian counterparts on how to improve feeding & housing for Ethiopian dairy farmers during the seminar. Representatives from the Ethiopian Government and institutions, as well as private dairy farm owners, attended the seminar.

## Upcoming events

**GREEN CLEAN AFRICA: A PAN AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTAL SHOW** 28-31 January 2024 in Addis Ababa.

GCA is a Pan African annual environmental show catering a platform for organizations, businesses and governments all over the world to share ideas, showcase environmental initiatives, innovative technologies and products around the environment.

High level government officials and diplomatic dignitaries from AU and EU member states as well as several businesses from countries such as Germany, Italy, South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, Oman and Ethiopia will take part in the event. Thousands of Addis Ababa Residents are also expected to visit exhibitions, take part in various segments of this grand event including multiple seminars and workshops.

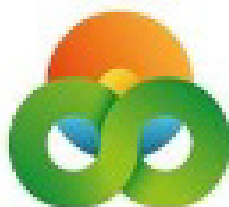


You can get more information in [here](#).

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