

Concept Note

Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economy in the world with annual 9.4% average growth rate from 2008/09 to 2018/19 (World Bank). The growing economy together with high level government commitment towards Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), conducive investment climate, large market size have contributed to the growth of FDI inflow into Ethiopia making the country the 2nd largest recipient of FDI in Africa. (UNCTAD, world Investment Report, 2018).

Agriculture is one of the priority sectors that has opened for FDI. Ethiopia's land area coverage is about 111.5 million hectares of which 74.3 million hectares is suitable for agriculture (EIC). The vast land, favorable climate, water and land resources combine to make it incredible hub for investment. Horticulture, floriculture, animal production, sugarcane, forestry (including rubber tree plantation, fiber crops, (cotton, jute) can be considered as a potential sector in agriculture. (EIC 2018)

Eighteen major agro-ecological zones have been identified in the country, and over 3 million hectares of land has been made available for investment. Ethiopia offers one of the largest and most diverse agriculture investment opportunities on the continent (EIC 2018). Further, Ethiopia offers a comprehensive set of incentives, from tax exemption for up to 15 years to customs duty payments exemption on capital goods and 60-80 land lease right and more.

Netherlands is a major global player in agricultural production and export. It is one of the top three fruit and vegetable producers in the world and is currently the world's second largest agricultural food exporter after the US. (Dutch Review, 2020 & The Global Millennial). The Dutch government provides different kinds of support through established funds for those who have an interest in investing in emerging market/ developing countries.

With Dutch expertise in the agriculture sector and the potentials that are available in Ethiopia, investing in Ethiopia would be mutually beneficial for both sides. The importance that Ethiopia attaches to the agricultural sector aligns with the priorities of Netherlands-Ethiopia

agriculture cooperation which include such areas as horticulture, poultry, dairy and agro logistics.

The Embassy of Ethiopia in the Hague, Netherlands, therefore, is planning to organize a webinar under the theme of ***“Ethiopia: Focus on Agricultural Investment”*** on January 28, 2021.

Objective

- To develop the understanding of agriculture investment opportunities in Ethiopia
- To create a platform for an exchange of ideas and experience among participants
- To facilitate interaction and networking between expertise, potential investors, the embassy, and government officials from the two countries.

Expected Attendants

From the Netherlands side (tentative)

- Companies from the Netherlands
- The Embassy of Netherlands in Ethiopia
- RVO
- VNO
- Dutch Sectoral Associations
- FMO

From Ethiopian Side (tentative)

- The Embassy of Ethiopia in the Netherlands
- Ethiopia Investment Commission
- Ministry of Agriculture of FDRE
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of FDRE

Program
Ethiopia: Focus on Agricultural Investment
Ethiopian Embassy, The Hague
January 28, 2021

Time*	Activity	
9:00-9:15	Day opening and Technology Checking	
9:15- 9:20	Announcement	By the host
9:20-9:28	Welcoming Address	By Head of Mission, H.E Ambassador Million Samuel Gebre
9:28-9:35	Keynote Speakers	H.E. Ms Tsion Teklu, State Minister, Economic Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9:35-9:40	Video: Invest in Ethiopia	
9:40-10:45	Plenary Session 1	
9:40-9:45	<i>Presentation on Investment Opportunities in Ethiopia, Ethiopia's Legal and Policy Frameworks</i>	<i>By Ethiopian Investment Commission/ EIC</i>
9:45-9:50	<i>Presentation on Investment Opportunities in Agriculture Sector in Ethiopia</i>	<i>By Ministry of Agriculture</i>
9:50-10:20	<i>Panel discussion (Legal and Policy Frameworks)</i>	<i>Moderator: TBA Panelist 1. Ethiopian Investment Commission / EIC</i>

10:20-10:40	Discussions: Q & A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture</i> 3. <i>Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>
10:40-10:50	Break	
10:50-12:00	Plenary Sessions 2	
10:50-11:00	<i>Presentation on the Policy of the Netherlands /Programs of the Embassy in Ethiopia</i>	<i>The Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa</i>
11:00-11:10	<i>Presentation: Knowledge on the Ethiopian agro-food sector</i>	<i>Wageningen University and Research</i>
11:10-11:40	<i>Panel Discussion: (lesson, experience, prospects)</i>	<i>Moderator: TBA</i> <i>Panelist</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Selected Dutch Investors in Ethiopia</i> 2. <i>The Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa</i>
11:40-12:00	<i>Discussion: Q & A</i>	
12:00	Concluding Remarks	By the host

* Time is indicated in Dutch time (CET) (Ethiopian time (EAT) is CET+2 hours)