



# Dutchiopia – Agri News

Date: 31 August 2024

## 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.

## Agricultural Department

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

[@] [ADD-LVVN@minbuza.nl](mailto:ADD-LVVN@minbuza.nl)

[tw] [@AgriEthiopia](https://twitter.com/AgriEthiopia)

[fb] [Dutch Embassy Ethiopia](https://www.facebook.com/DutchEmbassyEthiopia)

[www] <https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/landeninformatie/ethiopia>



## Latest Publications

### ➤ Key Changes Introduced by the Draft Export Trade Duty Incentive Schemes Amendment Proclamation

The Ethiopian Council of Ministers has authorized a proclamation amending Export Trade Incentives Proclamation No. 768/2011, and it has been referred to the House of Peoples Representatives for approval. The amendment of the proclamation aims to provide more flexibility for beneficiaries who encounter challenges in exporting goods produced using duty-free imported raw materials.

[A Proclamation To Amend Export Trade Duty Incentive Schemes Proclamation No.768/2011](#)

### ➤ Insights of Ethiopian Economic Association on recent Ethiopia's exchange rate reform and macro-economic situation of Ethiopia

Ethiopian economic experts warn that while currency depreciation could boost exports, the benefits may be limited. Rising input costs and inflation could reduce competitiveness, potentially offsetting the positive effects.

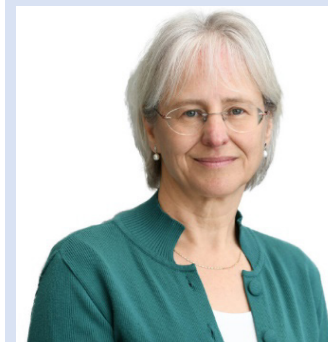
[Insights into Ethiopia's Exchange-rate-reform](#)

The Ethiopian Economic Association's quarterly report updates Ethiopia's macroeconomic situation, with this edition focusing on international trade and banking and monetary developments.

[Quarterly Macroeconomic updates on the Ethiopian Economy](#)

## Announcement

### Meet the New Ambassador of Kingdom of the Netherlands to Ethiopia



Christine Pirenne is the new Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Ethiopia. You can read [more information about the Ambassador](#) and see her CV on [rijksoverheid.nl](https://rijksoverheid.nl) (in Dutch).

## Did you know?

### Did you know?

Ethiopian Ministry of Finance has lifted the 250,000-dollar cap on franco valuta imports, allowing for the import of all goods except fossil fuel-powered automobiles and security and defense equipment.

### Did you know?

The Ethiopian Customs Commission has introduced a new import duty calculation system effective from July 29, 2024, based on the National Bank of Ethiopia's indicative daily exchange rates, aiming to address currency overvaluation and curb illicit trading.

### Did you know?

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has officially began accepting applications for Independent Foreign Exchange Bureaus, in line with the newly approved Foreign Exchange Directive that became effective on July 29, 2024.

Would you like to receive a notification whenever we post a new article on our Agroberichten buitenland website? Register your email via [this](#) form.

## Short New flashes

### Ethiopia's livestock sector set for major overhaul

Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture is addressing challenges in the livestock industry, including improper handling techniques, inefficient breeding practices, limited access to quality feed, and prevalent diseases. Climate change is a major threat, and the ministry is investing in research, developing high-quality feed formulations, and promoting sustainable fodder production.

The ministry is also improving market access, transportation, and milk processing facilities for small-scale producers. Investment in training programs and infrastructure is also being made to improve livestock handling practices as read in [here](#).

### African Union Adopts Coffee as a Strategic Anchor Commodity in AU Agenda 2063

The G25 Kampala Declaration, adopted by the African Union, aims to transform the African coffee sector through value addition, economic empowerment, and competitiveness. It supports research, knowledge generation, and access to finance for value addition projects. The declaration also proposes elevating coffee as a strategic commodity in AU Agenda 2063. You can read more [here](#).

### Ethiopian tea exports: Steaming success story, promising horizon

Ethiopia, known as the birthplace of coffee, is gaining prominence in the global tea market due to its rich soil, ideal climate, and centuries-old tea cultivation traditions.

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority reported a significant increase in tea exports, with over 815.6 tons exported in the past fiscal year. The Ethiopian government's strategic efforts, infrastructure development, research, and marketing campaigns have contributed to the industry's growth. [The Ethiopian Herald](#) has more on the topic.

### Agricultural investors misusing loans, leaving land uncultivated

According to recent reports, many investors in Ethiopia's agricultural industry are utilizing borrowed monies for uses unrelated to farming, leaving a sizable amount of the country's agricultural land uncultivated. Ethiopia's agricultural land is underutilized as a result of over 5,000 investors' improper loan allocation.

The Ministry of Agriculture aims to expand investment and double production levels, but challenges include unstable institutions, poor land governance, and marginalization of local authorities. Read more in [here](#).

### Ethiopia's Recent Economic Reform Measure Expedites Country's WTO Accession

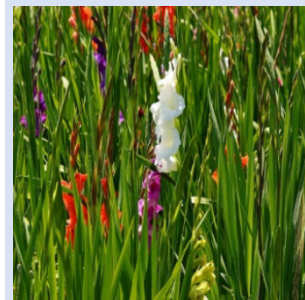
Ethiopia's Trade and Regional Integration Minister said that the country's economic reform measures will expedite its WTO accession efforts and highlighted Ethiopia's economic potential, which will enable the private sector to be more innovative and competitive in international markets.

The Minister also highlighted the potential of African Continental Free Trade (AfCFTA) as a tool to engage the private sector across Africa. As reported in [this article](#), the full implementation of economic reform is crucial for Ethiopia's global integration and national development.

### Appraising economic diversification through horticulture



Horticulture exports from Ethiopia are growing very rapidly and are considered to be an important element in the country's efforts to diversify exports and contribute to nutrition, poverty reduction and economic growth. Joint efforts on a wide range of issues are being implemented by various actors to develop the sector. [This article](#) provides a description of a new initiative to support the sector.



The [Ethiopian Press Agency](#) also had a stay with the Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA), Executive Director Tewodros Zewdie, and other companies' officials working in the area to learn more about developments in the sector. You can read more [here](#).

### Ethiopia Commits to Climate Change Resilience Economy, Says Minister of Agriculture

Ethiopia is committed to building a climate change resilience economy, with Agriculture Minister Girma Amente stating that the country planted 600 million seedlings as part of the National Green Legacy Initiative launched in 2019 to combat climate change and food insecurity.

The Initiative has been instrumental in supporting food security and edible seedling plantation. Out of the total seedlings prepared for this year's planting season, 56% are fruits and multipurpose plants.

Read [more](#) on [Ethiopian News Agency](#) on [this topic](#).

### **Horti Exporters face Forex Squeeze as New Directive Sparks Outcry**

The recent directive from the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) mandating that exporters convert half their foreign exchange earnings into Birr within a month has triggered discontent within the flower industry and broader horticulture sector. The regulation, part of a sweeping overhaul of foreign exchange rules effective July 29, 2024, is seen by many in the industry as an impediment, given the logistical complexities and extended timelines involved in importing inputs. [Addisfortune News](#) has more on the topic [here](#).

### **Ethiopian Airlines to construct Africa's largest mega airport**

Ethiopian Airlines has entered into a monumental \$6 billion agreement with a global consulting company, to design and construct the largest airline hub in Africa. The new mega airport will be situated near Bishoftu, covering an area of 35 square kms capable of accommodating over 270 aircraft. You can read more on the topic [here](#).

### **Authorities eye next telecom license sale, sugar estate privatization by 2026**

Ethiopia's government has reduced expectations for the privatization of Ethio telecom, auction of a second operator's license, and privatization of eight sugar estates to USD 650 million in investment inflows over the next two years, according to IMF documents.

The privatization is expected to occur in 2025/26, and the government plans to finalize the bid process by the end of 2025.

[This article](#) has more on the topic in [The Reporter](#) News.

### **Ethiopia's Irrigated Rice Farms in the Somali Region**

Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister has praised the development of irrigated rice farms in the Somali region of Ethiopia, which benefits both the local population and neighboring countries. The initiative began in March 2024 and aims to replicate Ethiopia's wheat production achievements. The government supports pastoralists in agriculture, with plans to extend the program to over 40,000 hectares. [Ethiopian News Agency](#) has more information on the topic [here](#).

### **Investors Press Policy Bank Rethink Rain Fed Agriculture Funding**

As reported in [this](#) article, the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) is facing criticism for discontinuing funding for rain-fed agricultural projects, causing concerns among investors. Agro-investors and technology providers discussed the situation, with commercial investors requesting more support and financial backing from policy bank.

### **Breathing new life into Ethiopia's fish resources**



The aquaculture sub-sector is the most promising sector for Ethiopia, if Ethiopia is to fulfill its need for fish derived protein for its population and income generation through high level production. However, currently, the aquaculture sub-sector is among the least developed and untapped potentials. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Master Plan (FAMP) aims to address the fish deficit and demand over the next ten years, aligning with international policies and protocols. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Gov't mulls transitional period for manufacturers affected by currency float**

Officials plan to provide a grace period for manufacturing industries who placed orders for input imports prior to the floating. The proposal aims to address economic activities exposed to the floating reform, such as supply credit or franco valuta, and ensure that industries repay their debts at current exchange rates of over 100 birr per US dollar. The final decision will rest with the national steering committee on manufacturing industries.

Read more on [this article](#).

### **Ethiopian Capital Market Regulatory Sandbox launched**

The Ethiopian Capital Market Regulatory Sandbox, launched by the Innovative Finance Lab with the National Bank of Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Capital Markets Authority, provides a controlled environment for firms to test innovative products with real consumers. This initiative ensures necessary safeguards are in place before a full market launch, allowing for live testing while protecting consumers.

You can find more information on the topic [here](#).

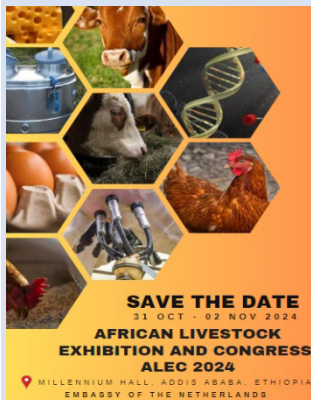
### **Ministry of Trade stresses need for producing quality products in quantity to become globally competitive**

Trade and Regional Integration Minister Kassahun Gofe emphasized the need for Ethiopia to produce goods in sufficient quantity and quality to compete globally. He highlighted the country's untapped resources and agro-ecology but noted that significant efforts are needed to fully harness its production capacity. [This](#) article has more on the topic.

## Events & Development

### Upcoming events

#### SAVE THE DATE: NL PAVILIONS AT THE LARGEST LIVESTOCK EXHIBITION IN ETHIOPIA AT ALEC-2024!



The Netherlands Embassy is organizing two pavilions at the Africa Livestock Exhibition & Congress 2024 from 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. – 2<sup>nd</sup> of Nov. 2024 in the millennium hall in Addis Ababa. Over ten leading Dutch companies & organizations in the Dairy & Poultry sectors will showcase high-value inputs, modern technology & equipment. You can find more

information about the exhibition in [here](#).

#### International conference on agriculture and biological sciences – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Addis Ababa

The main purpose of [International conference on agriculture and biological sciences](#) is to bring industry professionals, experts, academicians, and scholars to discuss their expertise for better collaboration in the field

#### International Conference on Natural Science and Environment - 6th September in Addis Ababa

[International Conference on Natural Science and Environment](#) aims to bring industry professionals, experts, academicians, and scholars to discuss their expertise for better collaboration in the field.

### Past events

#### Agricultural Investment Forum and Exhibition

The Agricultural Investment Forum and Exhibition was held in Addis Ababa, showcasing the latest in agricultural mechanization technologies and highlighting Ethiopia's investment opportunities.

Held from August 14 to 15, 2024, at Millennium Hall, the event featured over 400 exhibitors and aimed to foster collaboration among key stakeholders.

#### A Permanent Ethiopian Export Trade Exhibition Center Opens, Trade Week at the exhibition center

Ethiopia has inaugurated a new Export Trade Permanent Exhibition Center, marking promotes the country's products and services. The trade week provided a platform for both domestic and international buyers to explore business opportunities and strengthen trade relations.

#### The Netherlands continues cooperation with Ethiopia on electronic certification



Ethiopia is transitioning to electronic certification for plant products, with the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority/National Plant Protection Organization (EAA/NPPO) leading the transition.

The Agricultural team at the Dutch Embassy in Addis Ababa flew in an expert from NVWA to guide the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority throughout the project by sharing knowledge and experience, providing technical assistance and advice. The EAA/NPPO is implementing electronic certification with international support from Trade Mark Africa (TMA) in accordance with international standards.



#### The Agricultural Team

Meeuwes Brouwer  
Mahlet Mekuria Dessie  
Nablies B. Hailemariam

Agricultural Counsellor  
Agricultural Advisor  
Agricultural Officer



**Netherlands**  
Agricultural  
Network

Email: [ADD-LVVN@minbuza.nl](mailto:ADD-LVVN@minbuza.nl), X [@AgriEthiopia](#)