Agriculture team

Netherlands Embassy
in Addis Ababa presents

Dutchiopia – Agri News

Updates on activities, events, studies, articles and more related to the agriculture sector in Ethiopia

- Latest publications
- Did you know?
- Short Newsflashes
- Events & Development

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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

- **Ethiopian Parliament Approves Controversial Income Tax Law**

  Ethiopia's Parliament has officially approved a landmark amendment to the national income tax law, implementing broad changes to the country's tax system.

  Ethiopian Income Tax Law (Amharic & English)

- The AfDB's latest Country Focus Report highlights the stark contrast between Ethiopia's economic potential and its persistent development gaps. Economic growth amid poverty, debt and unemployment.

  Country Focus Report 2025 - Ethiopia

- The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has mandated the dematerialization of all government and NBE securities, transitioning from paper-based certificates to an electronic book-entry system.

  The new directive, No. MFAD/001/2025

Call for Proposal

Are you working in a high-risk sector like international agribusiness? And are you looking for financial opportunities to make your production chain more green and socially sustainable in terms of living income/wages, good working conditions and combating child labour?

From 25 Aug. Subsidy Program for Responsible Business (SPVO is open for new proposals. More info on SPVO conditions and application forms can be found here. https://shorturl.at/5XLmu

Did you know?

Did you know?

The European Union has launched a six million Euro project geared towards kickstarting Ethiopia's belated participation in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Did you know?

The Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX) has officially commenced public trading of government treasury bills and other securities marking a significant step in the country's journey toward a more open and modern capital market.

Did you know?

Ethiopia has formally opened its banking sector to foreign participation, issuing a long-awaited directive that sets out the licensing requirements for international banks and investors seeking entry into one of Africa's largest untapped financial markets.

Did you know?

SanuPay in partnership with global payment software provider OpenWay, has launched Ethiopia's first domestic credit card. This milestone marks a major advancement in the country's financial sector as it moves toward modernized payment solutions.

Did you know?

Ethiopia's financial sector has witnessed digital transactions that now total 12.5 trillion birr. Mobile money users have reached 55 million, while digital loans amounting to 24.5 billion birr have been disbursed to 11 million micro and small borrowers.

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Short Newsflashes

Ethiopia Launches National Horticulture Strategy and Enset Development Program

The Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture has unveiled a 10-year National Horticulture Strategy and a Flagship Program for Plantation Development to strengthen Ethiopia's horticulture sub-sector. The strategy focuses on boosting output, replacing imports, improving raw material supply for agro-processing, and promoting climate resilience as reported in here.

Ethiopia Covers 7 M Hectares of Land with Seeds So Far

Ethiopia has so far sown 7 million hectares of land this rainy (Meher) season, as part of a broader effort to cultivate 21 million hectares nationwide as announced by the Agriculture Minister. The Minister emphasized the sector's continued progress in achieving food sovereignty, citing increased use of modern technologies, timely delivery of fertilizers and improved seeds, and expanded awareness among farmers. You can find more information in here.

Ethiopia Slashes Capital Requirements for Foreign Investors in Key Sectors

The Ethiopia Investment Board has cut capital requirements for foreign investors by over 50% in previously restricted sectors like export, import, wholesale, and retail trade. This revised directive reflects a strategic shift to boost foreign investment amid slowing investment trends and growing calls for a level playing field between domestic and international investors. The Reporter has more on this topic.

Private Banks in Uproar over NBE's Forced Merger Scheme

Private bank executives are pushing back against an NBE proposal to force mergers for banks that don't meet the 5 billion Birr capital requirement by June 2026. Introduced in 2021, the directive gave banks five years to comply. With the deadline nearing, NBE plans to actively enforce consolidation—even among long-established banks. The Reporter has more on the topic in here.

Ginger farming gaining momentum in Ethiopia

Ethiopia's diverse agro-ecological zones make it ideal for ginger farming, especially in the southern regions. Traditionally valued for its medicinal and culinary uses, ginger is now attracting smallholder farmers and investors. With growing global demand, Ethiopian ginger is gaining interest in markets like the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Ethiopian Press Agency – EPA has more on the topic in here.

Report Finds Ethiopia in "Red Zone" for Climate Finance Vulnerability

The Climate Finance Vulnerability Index (CliF-VI), has placed Ethiopia in the "Red Zone," identifying it among countries with the greatest need for climate adaptation finance. The report calls for urgent alignment of climate finance with vulnerability scores to support countries like Ethiopia facing severe climate hazards that strain disaster management systems. This article has more on the topic.

Ethiopia Finally Approves Long-Awaited Startup Law

Ethiopia has ratified its long-awaited Startup Business Proclamation, a key step for the tech and innovation sector. Five years in the making, the law defines startups and sets up a National Startup Council. As read in here, the law offers streamlined registration, tax breaks, funding access, incubation, and government-led support programs.

Call for private sector leadership in economic reforms

The Ethiopian government has called on the private sector to take a central role in driving economic activity as part of ongoing macroeconomic reforms. This `shows the government's interest to shift toward market-oriented reforms aimed at stimulating growth and ensuring economic stability, in response to demands from international partners. Capital Newspaper has more in this article.

Ethiopia's Horticulture: Missed Targets, Untapped Potential

Ethiopia's floriculture sector has positioned the country as Africa's second-largest cut flower producer, but recent performance fell well below targets. Export earnings reached 985.7 million US dollars, just 26.6 percent of the 2.5 billion dollar target. Despite strong potential and global demand, challenges such as land shortages, limited input supply, and narrow export markets continue to hinder progress. You can read more **here**.

Ethiopian Proclamation prohibits the production of single-use plastics

Ethiopia advances its plastic-free agenda, tensions mount over the implementation of the federal ban on single-use plastic bags. The Ethiopian Plastic and Rubber Manufacturers Association has called for a five-year grace period, citing economic and industry readiness concerns, while government officials defend the ban as vital for public health and environmental protection as stated in this article.

ESS to launch nationwide Economic Establishment Census in September

The Ethiopian Statistical Service (ESS) has announced that a comprehensive nationwide Economic Establishment Census will be launched in September, aiming to deliver a detailed picture of the country's business landscape. This landmark census will categorize and analyze economic activities across micro, small, medium, and large industries, covering formal and informal sectors as reported in here.

Ethiopia's Macroeconomic Reform Brought Sustainable, Inclusive Economic Growth Across all Sectors

The Ethiopian Finance Conference's Private Sector Forum underscored the country's ongoing macroeconomic reforms as drivers of sustainable and inclusive growth across key sectors. The event brought together policymakers and private sector leaders to explore investment opportunities and financial sector developments while emphasizing Ethiopia's growing role as a regional cooperation hub. More information can be found in here.

Wave of violence forces over 40 investors and farmers to flee Benishangul

The region's industry and investment bureau announced that it had been informed of the departure of approximately 45 investors and commercial farmers, most of them engaged in producing oil products destined for export, within the past two weeks, due to ongoing violence and security incidents involving well-armed groups in the region. This article has more on the topic.

Agricultural Research Drives Ethiopia's Production, Productivity Leap

The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) is enhancing agricultural productivity through research-driven solutions and strong support for farmer cooperatives. By organizing farmers into cooperatives, promoting mechanization, and improving access to essential inputs, ATI has helped achieve a 30% increase in production as stated on the Ethiopian News Agency in here.

Ethiopia Seeks Investors for Strategic Indode Intermodal Rail Terminal and Logistics Center

Ethiopia's Ministry of Finance, in partnership with the Ethiopian Railways Corporation, has issued an invitation for global and local investors to express interest in the development of the Indode Intermodal Rail Terminal, Dry Port, and Logistics Center. Located just 26 kilometers southeast of Addis Ababa, the project is a key part of the country's broader push to enhance private sector involvement in the transport sector as stated in this article.

NBE shifts to conventional monetary policy to tackle inflation

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has transitioned to conventional monetary policy instruments to combat inflationary pressures, moving away from its long-standing traditional framework. The central bank has reaffirmed its commitment to a disciplined and multifaceted monetary policy that utilizes market-based tools to reduce inflation to single digits while promoting economic recovery and external stability. Read more here.

Russia expands fertilizer and agricultural cooperation with Africa

Russia is set to significantly increase its fertiliser exports and agricultural technology cooperation with African nations, underscoring a new phase of strategic partnership that includes Ethiopia and is increasingly shaped by the countries' growing engagement within the BRICS alliance. Capital News has more in the article.

Agricultural Insurance Consortium aims to protect 3 million farmers by 2026

In a landmark move to strengthen the resilience of Ethiopian agriculture, the Ethiopian Agricultural Insurance Consortium (AICE) was officially launched, pledging to extend insurance coverage to 3 million smallholder farmers by 2026. This initiative aims to shield farmers from climate-related risks. Read more in here.

Finance ministry mandates open access to digital payments in public sector

A landmark directive from the Ministry of Finance signals a paradigm shift in the country's digital payments architecture. Federal agencies are now required to accept a full spectrum of electronic payment methods, including debit cards, mobile wallets, prepaid instruments, and digital banking transfers, irrespective of the provider, as long as it is licensed by the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE). Read more here.

Events & Development

Past events

UNFSS+4 Summit Concludes in Addis Ababa with Focus on Food System Resilience from July 27–29, 2025

The 2nd UN Food Systems Summit Plus Four (UNFSS+4) took place in Addis Ababa from July 27–29, 2025, drawing heads of state and international delegations. In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed underscored Ethiopia's commitment to transforming its food systems by investing in local production, reducing import dependence, and building resilient, sustainable systems to secure the nation's food system.

My Food is African: Chefs and Changemakers Shaping Food Futures from 23 -25 July 2025

A three-day gathering of African chefs, policymakers, and stakeholders on African food systems was held in Addis Ababa, celebrating culinary heritage while addressing critical food security challenges. Chief of Staff and Special Advisor to Ethiopia's Planning and Development Minister, emphasized Ethiopia's commitment to aligning food systems transformation with climate policy through investments in climate-smart agriculture, land restoration, and empowerment of smallholder farmers.

Third Africa Trade, Investment Summit from 21 – 22 July 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Third Africa Trade and Investment Summit under the theme 'Empowering Africa's Growth through Cross Border Trade and Investment Synergy' was held in Addis Ababa, bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders from across the continent to explore opportunities for enhancing cross-border trade and investment synergy. This gathering provided a unique platform for collaboration and explore investment opportunities across various sectors.

3rd Africa Job Creation Forum from 7–9 July 2025

The 3rd Africa Job Creation Forum, held in Addis Ababa, successfully reaffirmed Africa's commitment to unlocking the continent's employment potential through innovation, regional integration, and agro-industrial transformation. The event provided a valuable platform for young African entrepreneurs to exchange knowledge, showcase their products, and foster collaboration. The forum concluded with a strong focus on driving sustainable economic opportunities for Africa's expanding youth population, emphasizing the critical role of innovation and partnership in shaping the continent's future.

Upcoming events

Netherlands Pavilion at the African Livestock Exhibition and Congress (ALEC) from Oct 30 to Nov 1, 2025

FAO Science and Innovation Forum from 13-17 October 2025

The Forum serves as a dynamic platform to drive collaboration, knowledge exchange, and transformative action for sustainable agrifood systems. It explores how frontier knowledge, traditional wisdom, and bold partnerships can forge new pathways. REGISTER NOW

5th All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition

For the second consecutive time, the Netherlands will serve as a key sponsor of the 5th All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition (AAPHCE), hosted by the African Union Commission. The four-day program will feature plenary and breakout sessions across various thematic areas. Dutch experts in postharvest management will deliver presentations and participate in panel discussions, aligning their contributions with progress made toward global and regional food loss and waste (FLW) reduction targets.

GERD Inauguration Scheduled for September 2025

After more than a decade of construction, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) will be inaugurated in September 2025, according to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Ethiopia has been building the GERD since 2011 on Abbay River [Blue Nile] with ambitions to generate more than 5,000MW of electricity.