



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?



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

- Ethiopia to host COP32 climate summit in 2027



Ethiopia has secured a major diplomatic victory with the official endorsement to host the 32nd UN Climate Change Conference (COP32)

in Addis Ababa in 2027! This landmark decision positions Ethiopia at the forefront of global climate diplomacy, solidifying Africa's leadership in addressing climate change. [About COPs](#)

- Want to Invest in Ethiopia? Here's How EIC Makes It Simple! Think of it as your one-stop guide for everything you need to know, from identifying opportunities to navigating permits and legal requirements. [EIC: Service Requirements](#)
- Ethiopia's central bank will enforce tougher capital requirements and tighter foreign-exchange exposure limits on all banks starting November 10, marking a significant regulatory shift designed to strengthen the sector's stability amid ongoing currency reforms and looming foreign market entry. The National Bank of Ethiopia's new directives reflect a move away from expansion-driven policies toward a stronger emphasis on resilience and risk control. [Risk Based Capital Adequacy Requirement for Banks Directive No. SBB/ 95 /2025](#)

Did you know?

Did you know?

The Office of the Ethiopian Prime Minister has officially directed Immigration and Citizenship Service to issue diplomatic passports and VIP access to Ethiopia's most consistent and high-contributing taxpayers, marking a major step in the nation's effort to recognize and incentivize tax compliance.

Did you know?

Ethiopia will impose a new 30% combined tax on petroleum products starting next month, a landmark step in its long-term plan to phase out costly fuel subsidies and shore up public finances.

Did you know?

The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia's CBE Noor has been awarded the Best Interest-Free Banking Service in East Africa at the 11th International Islamic Retail Banking Awards ceremony in Karachi, Pakistan.

Did you know?

Ethiopia has officially commenced the implementation of customs duty reductions with 24 member states of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Did you know?

Ethio telecom and Awash Bank have launched "Tila," a comprehensive suite of non-collateral digital finance and device financing services, marking a major expansion of financial inclusion efforts in Ethiopia.

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Newsflashes

Horticulture Highlights

Ethiopia Expands Cocoa Production to Tap Global Chocolate Market

Ethiopia is stepping up efforts to build a competitive cocoa industry as part of its strategy to diversify agricultural exports and enter the global chocolate market. According to Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), studies show strong potential for cocoa cultivation across the country's varied climates. More than 32,000 seedlings were distributed to farmers this planting season under the national initiative. Read more [here](#).



A New Rule Changes The Pulse of Trade



Ethiopia's sesame export sector is facing a steep downturn as global prices fall eroding the country's long-held quality premium and shrinking export volumes. Experts warn that Ethiopia must boost productivity, strengthen buyer relationships, improve market research, and add value through processing if it hopes to remain competitive in a rapidly shifting global sesame market. [AddisFortune News](#) has more on the topic in [here](#).

Macroeconomic Developments

Ethiopia Approves Broad Policy Package as Digital, Debt, and Regulatory Reforms Converge

Ethiopia's Council of Ministers has approved a sweeping reform package ahead of FY2026, endorsing the Digital Ethiopia 2030 implementation plan, securing SDR 314.9 million in new zero-interest IDA financing for clean energy and regional skills programs, and updating key environmental, cultural, immigration, and electronic-signature regulations. The measures now await publication in the Federal Negarit Gazette and parliamentary ratification. [Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation](#) has more on [this topic](#).

New VAT refund directive drafted with significant revisions

The Ethiopian Ministry of Revenue has issued a draft VAT refund directive introducing major revisions to refund rules and investment classifications. The draft also scraps the bank-payment documentation requirement and expands refund access for embassies, NGOs, and international organizations while introducing stricter deadlines for aid groups and audited taxpayers. [Capital News](#) has more [on the topic](#).

NBE re-licenses Standard Bank office as first foreign institution under revised banking proclamation

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has granted an official re-license to Standard Bank's Representative Office, marking the first such approval under the country's newly revised Banking Business Proclamation. The move follows a regulatory transition in which oversight of foreign bank representative offices shifted from the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration to NBE as stated in [here](#).

EthSwitch Partners With Mastercard to Open Ethiopia's Payments to the World

EthSwitch signed a partnership with Mastercard that will allow Ethiopian banks to issue globally accepted prepaid hard-currency cards and enable Ethiopian businesses to accept foreign card payments for the first time. The move connects Ethiopia to international payment rails, expanding access for merchants and consumers in a market where cash still dominates more than 90% of transactions, and positioning the sector to compete with regional peers already integrated into global networks as stated in [here](#).

Ethiopia Adds Fourth Investment Bank as ECMA Licenses Awash Capital

Ethiopia's Capital Market Authority (ECMA) has granted a Capital Market Service Provider licence to Awash Capital Investment Bank S.C., enabling it to operate as an investment bank within the Awash banking group. The approval bringing the total number of licensed capital market service providers in the country to 13 and licensed investment banks to four as Ethiopia continues to expand its young capital market. You can get more information in [this article](#).

Biodiversity & Climate Watch

AECF Launches REACT 2.0 to Fund Ethiopian Renewable Energy Productive-Use Technologies

The Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) has launched REACT 2.0, the second phase of its renewable energy challenge program, which provides funding to Ethiopian companies developing productive-use energy (PUE) technologies for agriculture and decentralized household energy solutions for rural communities. The initiative aims to expand access to clean energy while offering selected enterprises technical assistance, investment-readiness support, and capacity-building services as read in [here](#).

Ethiopia's Green Dev't Initiative Key Driver for Nation's Record-Breaking Coffee Export Earnings

Ethiopia's green development initiatives have driven historic export earnings from coffee, with the sector generating over \$2.65 billion in 2024/2025. It was highlighted that the government's renewed focus on coffee, supported by reforms, improved supply chains, and large-scale planting, has been key to this success. The sector's growth is closely tied to Ethiopia's green growth path, which emphasizes sustainable practices like agroforestry and reforestation. Read more on the topic in [here](#).

Livestock Lens

Bounty of the Basket Drives Surplus in Ethiopian Fish Production



Ethiopia's Bounty of the Basket initiative is generating significant progress in the fisheries sector, driven largely by rapid expansion of aquaculture through artificial ponds.

According to [this article](#), productivity has more than tripled as the program upgrades fish-breeding infrastructure, renovates hatcheries, and distributes millions of fingerlings to previously unused water bodies.

Drones prove their worth in measuring livestock methane in Africa

ILRI and partners have confirmed that drone-mounted sensors can accurately measure methane from grazing livestock after successful field tests in Kenya. Published in [Biogeosciences](#), the results show drone-based measurements match IPCC Tier 1 and Tier 2 estimates and can detect day-to-day emission changes. The technology offers African countries a practical tool to generate stronger livestock emissions data, improve national greenhouse gas inventories and assess methane-reduction strategies as read in [here](#).



Other Related News

AfCFTA Unlocking New Pathways for Intra-African Trade, Agricultural Growth

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is accelerating intra-African trade and boosting the competitiveness of agricultural exporters, with its strong potential to expand regional markets for grains, pulses, and oilseeds. Officials say AfCFTA is making Ethiopian soybeans more competitive, lowering feed costs, and strengthening livestock value chains, while also improving access to global markets through regional ports. You can find more on the topic [here](#).

Agricultural Transformation Institute Launches Program that Benefits 6.5 Million Farmers

Ethiopia has launched the second phase of its Agricultural Commercialization Clusters Program aimed at transforming farming for more than 6.5 million farmers across nine regions. Building on the first ACC program, which reached 4.4 million farmers since 2019, ACCII expands commodity coverage, geographic reach, and introduces a co-investment model to strengthen Farmer Production Clusters and agribusiness companies according to [this article](#).

Artificial Intelligence Institute Expanding Roles Across Health, Agriculture and Services

The Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute (EAI) is advancing rapidly in health, agriculture, and services, focusing on AI, cloud computing, big data, robotics, and immersive technologies. The Institute providing a modern work environment has made significant progress, with over 200 innovators benefiting from its AI Startup Center, which supports idea development and connects startups with private sector investors. Read more in [here](#)

Research Stresses Need for Functional, Operational Readiness of SMEs

A new report highlights that while Ethiopia's policies align with AfCFTA commitments, its SMEs remain unprepared to exploit continental trade opportunities due to low operational readiness. The study found that only 11.4% of surveyed SMEs engage in African trade, with most focusing on domestic markets. Key challenges include inadequate consumer protection, legal safeguards, and regional integration policies according to [this article](#).

Events & Development

Past event

Ethiopian Ministry Moves to Boost Women's Role in Horticulture

A national conference on Women in Horti-Business was held under the theme "Empowering the Source: Unleashing Women's Potential in the Horticulture Subsector," highlighting efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture to boost women's roles in an industry where they make up over 80% of the workforce. Officials and industry leaders emphasized capacity building, inclusive policies, and pathways to leadership, noting horticulture's growing importance for exports, import substitution, and job creation.

A high level consultation workshop on avocado post harvest loss assessment findings

A high-level workshop on avocado post-harvest loss assessment was held in Bishoftu, bringing together government officials, academics, development partners, and private sector actors. The State Minister of Agriculture underscored the critical role of reducing post-harvest losses in advancing Ethiopia's agricultural transformation and nutrition security, noting the National Horticulture Strategy and the National Avocado Development Program (NADP) as key initiatives to improve agro-logistics.

Upcoming events

Innovation & Policy Engagement Opportunity with African Union - Digital Agriculture Conference 2025

The African Union is hosting its first Conference on Digital Agriculture, bringing together policymakers, innovators, farmers, youth, and global experts to explore how digital tools, agri-tech, AI, and climate-smart solutions can transform Africa's agricultural systems.

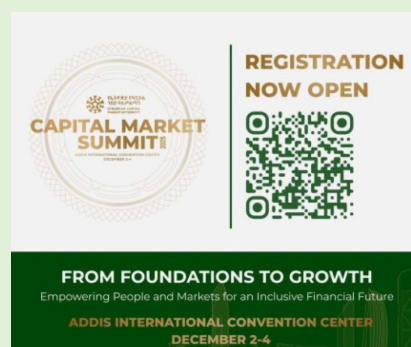


Ethiopia to Host Major Digital Payments Summit, Launch 5-Year Strategy

Ethiopia will host its second annual Digital Payment Conference (EDPC 2.0) on December 9-10, a high-profile event where the government is set to launch its next five-year national strategy for digital finance. The summit, organized by the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) in partnership with key players like EthSwitch and the Better Than Cash Alliance, will bring together policymakers, bankers, and fintech innovators to shape the future of the country's rapidly evolving digital economy.

Ethiopia to Host Major Capital Market Summit Amid Reforms

Ethiopia will host a major capital market summit from December 2-4 in Addis Ababa, a high-profile event designed to showcase the country's new financial architecture to global investors and policymakers. The summit, organized by the Ethiopian Capital Market Authority (ECMA), is a critical step in the government's push to attract foreign capital and build international confidence in its nascent stock market.



Free FAO Online Agriculture Training for 2026

If you're looking to build your skills in agriculture policy, global trade rules, or international development, FAO has opened a fully online, self-paced course you can join anytime. The training covers the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, market access, subsidies, export competition, and real policy case studies. It's perfect for students, policymakers, NGO workers, and anyone curious about how global agriculture systems actually work. You can get more information about the course in [here](#).

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