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# 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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# 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

- The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has amended its foreign currency directive, allowing service exporters to retain 100% of their export proceeds in forex retention accounts indefinitely. The changes also remove restrictions on loading foreign currency onto international debit cards, minimum account requirements, and declarations for amounts over USD 10,000. Banks can now approve remittances of investor profits and offer private forex loan guarantees up to 10% of their capital.

[DIRECTIVE NO. FXD/04/2026 AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIRECTIVE NO. FXD/01/2024](#)

- Ethiopia launched the National Agricultural Finance Implementation Roadmap (NAFIR) to scale annual Agri-credit to ETB 881 billion by 2030, marking a fundamental shift in the nation's economic structure.

[NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL FINANCE IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP \(NAFIR\) 2025-30](#)

- Ethiopia launched the National Agroforestry Development Strategy (2026-2035), marking a transition to nationwide implementation, the Strategy outlines a comprehensive framework to mainstream agroforestry as a core land-use system across all regions. The strategy aims to restore landscapes, enhance resilience to climate change, and generate sustainable income.

[Ethiopian Agroforestry Development Strategy \(2026 - 2035\)](#)

## Did you know?

### Did you know?

Ethiopia has ruled out an immediate full opening of its aviation market to foreign private airlines, signaling a strategic focus on strengthening domestic operators before exposing them to global competition.

### Did you know?

Ethiopia's landlocked status and port-related inefficiencies cost the country between USD 19 billion and USD 31 billion annually in lost GDP.

### Did you know?

Ethiopia was ranked 119th out of 127 countries in the 2025 Global Network Readiness Index, showing the country still lagging in digital readiness despite some progress in technology access and connectivity.

### Did you know?

Ethio Telecom, Djibouti Telecom, and Sudatel have signed an agreement to jointly develop a regional terrestrial fiber network with an aim to reduce reliance on submarine fiber cables passing through the Red Sea.

### Did you know?

Ethiopian Airlines plans to inaugurate three new domestic airports and commence passenger services to Negele Borena, Gore Metu, and Debre Markos by mid-April 2026, further expanding its national footprint.

### Did you know?

The Ethiopian Customs Commission has digitized its services by introducing an electronic single window system, smart border monitoring, and online services to improve trade efficiency and reduce delays and illegal trade.

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## Newsflashes

### Horticulture Highlights

#### Ethiopia earns \$288.48 million from horticulture exports in seven months, amid sector bottlenecks



Ethiopia has generated \$288.48 million from the export of more than 160,000 tons of horticultural products during the first seven months of the current Ethiopian fiscal year, the Ministry of Agriculture announced, despite concerns raised by stakeholders over infrastructure gaps, logistics constraints, and land supply management. Read more in [here](#).

#### Minister reiterates Government's committed support to horticulture

The Minister of Agriculture reaffirmed strong government support for the horticulture sector during a quarterly consultative meeting, which reviewed sector progress and discussed key challenges. Government officials highlighted ongoing measures including land expansion support, power improvements, market access expansion, cold chain incentives, & efforts to curb contraband. Read more in [here](#).



#### Ethiopia's Central Bank Clarifies Use of Customs Commission Indicative Prices for Imports

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) clarified guidance on the use of the Ethiopian Customs Commission's indicative prices for selected import items following feedback and confusion in the banking sector. It stated that these prices serve as reference values for reviewing import declarations and foreign exchange requests, not as fixed or mandatory pricing. The clarification aims to improve transparency, ensure consistent application across banks, and streamline forex processing for traders (also in the Horticulture Sector) while avoiding unnecessary delays. Read more in [this article](#) of [Fana Broadcasting](#).

### Biodiversity & Climate Watch

#### MoU Signed to Strengthen Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Ethiopia's Agriculture Sector



The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the integration of biodiversity into Ethiopia's agricultural sector. The partnership will support technical analysis and the development of a biodiversity-mainstreaming roadmap, as well as identifying priority actions and potential project concepts to make biodiversity commitments practical and support sustainable agriculture. Read more in [here](#)

#### BIODEV2030 Ethiopia unites stakeholders to advance nature-positive development pathways

The fourth national stakeholder workshop under the BIODEV2030 project brought together government ministries, environment authorities, civil society and other partners to advance Ethiopia's nature-positive development pathways and support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Participants discussed the need to integrate biodiversity into economic planning, strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration, and address key threats to biodiversity through coordinated action. Read more in [here](#).



## Macroeconomic Developments

### Infrastructure, Capacity Gaps Stall NBE's Movable Collateral Program

Ethiopia's pilot program to enable low-income individuals to secure bank loans using movable collateral, like livestock, remains delayed due to infrastructure and knowledge gaps, as reported [in here](#). While the legal framework was introduced over five years ago, challenges such as the lack of facilities to store collateral and the absence of online systems for selling assets have hindered progress.

### Ethiopia Strengthens Strategic Partnerships with Major International Financial Institutions

Ethiopia has strengthened strategic partnerships with leading global and regional financing institutions to advance its reform agenda, priority infrastructure investments, and climate resilience initiatives. On the margins of the African Union Summit, senior officials held high-level consultations with the AfDB, World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, as reported in [this article](#) and in [here](#).

## Livestock Lens

### UNIDO Signals Honey Sector Expansion as Green Legacy Boosts Export Potential



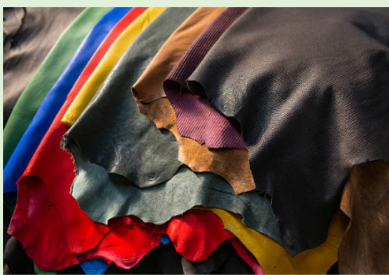
Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is strengthening the apiculture sector by linking reforestation efforts with income generation for women and youth, according to UNIDO. Organized cooperatives are driving sector modernization, while reforms focus on improving quality standards, certification systems, and value chain efficiency to position Ethiopian honey as a competitive export product. Read more in [here](#).

### Livestock Insurance Payout Launched to Combat Drought Losses

Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with ZEP-RE (PTA Reinsurance Company), has launched a livestock insurance scheme to protect Ethiopian pastoralists against losses caused by natural and human-induced disasters. The index-based program, triggered by satellite data, has begun disbursing payouts to drought-affected communities and is designed to safeguard pastoralists' assets by mitigating risk exposure and cushioning financial shocks. You can read more in [here](#).



### Leather Industry Flags Raw Hide Exports, Finance and Compliance Gaps as Authorities Promise Policy Fixes



Ethiopia's leather industry, once a top foreign currency earner, faces severe structural issues hindering growth. Despite generating \$30–40 million in exports annually, the sector is plagued by raw hide shortages, wastage, and ongoing exports without value addition. Industry leaders point to financing bottlenecks, regulatory gaps, and security issues in key hide-producing areas as key obstacles. The government has imposed high export taxes and is working on a "modern leather city" to address environmental and compliance challenges. You can read more in [this article](#).

## Other Related News

### EIC launches certification system for investment consultants

The Ethiopian Investment Commission has launched a new certification system for investment advisory services to professionalize the sector and boost confidence among foreign investors. The initiative is designed to enhance the quality and reliability of advisory services, strengthen Ethiopia's investment climate, and support investors in navigating legal and regulatory frameworks. Read more in [here](#).

## Ethiopian Prime Minister Highlights Irrigation Expansion as Catalyst for Ethiopia's Food Sovereignty

Ethiopia's leadership has reaffirmed its commitment to accelerating irrigation development as a key pillar in the country's drive toward food sovereignty expanding the use of surface and groundwater resources remains central to transforming the agricultural sector. The Bilate River area was highlighted as a leading example. [This article](#) has more on the topic.



## Ethiopia, Djibouti Advance Major Railway Expansion Linking Key Ports and Industrial Zones



The Ethiopia–Djibouti Railway Commission met in Djibouti, reaffirming the line as a strategic engine for regional trade and connectivity. Key decisions were made to boost efficiency, expand port and industrial links, and streamline cross-border operations. The Commission also set nine-month targets to connect the railway to major terminals and industrial zones. Read more on the [Fana Media Corporation News](#) in [here](#).

## GMO Maize set for Commercial Rollout this Year



Ethiopia is set to commercialize genetically modified maize this year, marking its first transition to a genetically engineered food crop. Approved by national regulators, the TELA maize variety is engineered for drought tolerance and resistance to fall armyworm. Field trials showed significant yield gains. With maize supporting nearly 10 million households, the rollout signals a major step in Ethiopia's push to strengthen food security and modernize its agricultural sector. Read more in [here](#).

## Events & Development

### Past event

#### Addis Ababa Hosts African Leaders for the 39th Ordinary Session of the AU Summit

Addis Ababa welcomed a wave of African heads of state and government for the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. The high-level summit, deliberated on pressing priorities, including peace and security, economic integration, climate resilience, governance, and sustainable development.

#### Africa Business Forum 2026 Opens in Addis Ababa

The Africa Business Forum 2026 was held in Addis Ababa, convening African leaders, policymakers, investors, and private sector executives to advance job creation and innovation-driven growth. It was held under the theme "Financing the future of Africa," for two-days and featured Presidential Dialogues, thematic roundtables, the launch of the Jobs Wall Commitment Tracker and the UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Report.

#### Second Italy–Africa Summit in Addis Ababa



The Second Italy–Africa Summit convened in Addis Ababa, marking the first time the high-level forum was held on African soil. The summit brought together Heads of State and Government to advance partnerships under Italy's Mattei Plan for Africa, promoting long-term political and economic cooperation.

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#### Ethiopia Inaugurates 15th International Trade Fair to Scale Global Market Reach

Trade Minister Dr. Kassahun Gofe inaugurated the 15th Ethiopian Chamber International Trade Fair in Addis Ababa, leveraging the "Ethiopia Tamret" movement to showcase domestic industrial output. The exhibition features over 350 participants, including 50 international firms, signaling renewed investor appetite following aggressive macroeconomic reforms.

## Upcoming events

### Trade Mission to Ethiopia for Dutch Horticulture Companies

Van 23 tot 27 maart 2026 organiseert RVO, samen met de Nederlandse ambassade en Dutch Greenhouse Delta (DGD), een handels- en kennismissie naar Ethiopië voor Nederlandse tuinbouwbedrijven. De missie richt zich op kasoplossingen, water- & energiebeheer, agro-logistiek, kennisontwikkeling en omvat een bezoek aan de HortiFlora International Tradefair.

### Invest in Ethiopia 2026 High-Level Business Forum from 26-27 March 2026

Ethiopia will host the [Invest in Ethiopia High-Level Business Forum \(HLBF\)](#) on March 26-27, 2026, in Addis Ababa. Organized by the Ethiopian Investment Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and development partners, the forum will showcase Ethiopia's investment potential.

### Ethiopia's HortiFlora Expo 2026: March 24 – March 26, 2026

[HortiFlora Expo](#) returns in Addis Ababa as a major international horticulture and floriculture trade fair, bringing together over 200 local and global exhibitors and buyers to showcase flowers, fruits, vegetables, inputs, technologies and investment opportunities.

### EU-Ethiopia Business Forum 2026 to Spotlight Strategic Investment in Addis Ababa from 20-22 April 2026

The EU-Ethiopia Business Forum (EEBF) will be held in Addis Ababa, bringing together European and Ethiopian stakeholders to strengthen trade and investment ties under the EU's Global Gateway strategy. [The forum](#) will feature high-level panels, business matchmaking, networking sessions, and field visits to promote sustainable, long-term partnerships.

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