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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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# Dutchiopia – Agri News

March Edition (no. 03)

Publication Date: 02 April, 2026

## 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

- Horticulture is a key sector for addressing global food system challenges and a central pillar of the Netherlands' international aid and trade agenda in Africa. [A new study by Wageningen University & Research](#) challenges assumptions about its broad developmental impact, showing that outcomes vary significantly across contexts, market conditions, and enabling environments. This study introduces a practical decision-support tool to help policymakers target interventions where horticulture can deliver the greatest impact.
- The Ethiopian government is opening the door to private investment for dozens of stalled public projects, aiming to have investors develop and operate them for up to 30 years before returning ownership to the state. [Invest in Ethiopia 2026 Deal Book](#), released jointly by the Ministry of Finance, Investment Commission, and European Union Chamber of Commerce, highlights opportunities across nearly every economic sector.
- [A recent study in Chebera Churchura National Park, southwest Ethiopia](#), documented 76 woody plant species across four vegetation types. Findings provide essential baseline data for conservation and long-term monitoring.
- The UNDP's latest [Quarterly Economic Profile - Ethiopia](#) highlights Ethiopia's progress on macroeconomic stabilization despite global challenges. Fiscal prudence, tighter monetary policy, and foreign exchange reforms are supporting market stability. Challenges remain in exchange rate disparities, debt restructuring, and investment in social sectors, while poverty levels continue to be a concern.

## Did you know?

### Did you know?

The Addis Mesob, a digital one-stop service center, will be accessible in all sub-cities of Addis Ababa by early May 2026. The initiative has brought about fundamental changes by eliminating bureaucratic inefficiencies and alleviating unnecessary hardships for customers.

### Did you know?

Ethiopian Airlines is emerging as a continental benchmark in aviation maintenance, as African industry leaders call for a major expansion of Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) capabilities across the region.

### Did you know?

The Ethiopian Immigration and Citizenship Service (ICS) has introduced a 10-year residency permit, called Golden Visa, which targets foreign investors making significant contributions to the national economy.

### Did you know?

Ethiopian authorities and state-owned enterprises have begun implementing fuel-saving measures, including remote work directives and mandatory leave for non-essential staff.

### Did you know?

Ethiopian Securities Exchange has launched Neway, its first web and mobile trading platform, as the country builds out infrastructure for its capital market

### Did you know?

Ethiopia has now concluded bilateral market access negotiations with seven WTO members including China, Turkey, Argentina, Russia, Brazil, Thailand, and Japan.

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## Newsflashes

### Horticulture Highlights

#### Effective Research in Potato Productivity for Food Sovereignty



A national workshop on potato research and development opened in Addis Ababa, bringing together researchers, policymakers, and development partners. Officials highlighted the crop's key role in food sovereignty, high-yield production, and potential for foreign exchange. With 45 improved varieties released, efforts are underway to strengthen seed systems, agronomic practices, pest management, and value chains, aiming to position Ethiopia as a leading potato producer in Africa. Read more on [this topic](#).

#### Improved Seeds Released to Drive Significant Boost in Crop Yields

The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research has released new high-yield seed varieties for maize, wheat, barley, potato, and coffee, significantly increasing productivity per hectare. These research-driven advancements are strengthening food security and reducing reliance on imports. Read more in [here](#).

#### ECTA Confident in Strategy Set to Penetrate Specialty Coffee Markets in Global Market

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority has reaffirmed confidence in its strategy to boost quality and expand specialty coffee exports. Efforts to streamline the value chain and increase production have generated over 2.6 billion USD in exports in the past fiscal year. More than 2,000 farmers are now licensed for export, and a new anti-smuggling task force has been established to curb illicit trade. Read more in [here](#).



### Macroeconomic Developments

#### Ethiopia Expands Banking Access in Special Economic Zones to Boost Investment and Jobs

The Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) has extended Special Economic Zone (SEZ) financial services to all licensed banks, increasing competition and broadening investor access. This measure is intended to attract greater domestic and foreign capital, stimulate job creation, facilitate technology transfer, and boost export growth. Read more in [here](#).

#### Businesses Face 2.6 Trillion Birr Financing Gap, Study Finds

Ethiopia's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) face severe constraints in accessing finance and land, with studies estimating a credit gap of 2.6 trillion Birr, including informal businesses. Only 1.9% of small firms obtain formal loans, largely due to collateral requirements linked to state-owned land, high lease costs, and restrictive zoning regulations. [The Reporter](#) has more on the [topic](#).

#### Central Bank Cautions Middle East Tensions could Upend Inflation Gains

The National Bank of Ethiopia's Monetary Policy Committee reported February 2026 headline inflation at 9.7%, crediting tight monetary policies since August 2023, including caps on bank credit growth, for recent progress. However, regulators warned that the war in Iran and closure of the Strait of Hormuz could drive global oil prices higher and disrupt supply chains, threatening to reverse downward inflation trends as read in [here](#).

### Biodiversity & Climate Watch

#### Universities Urged to Strengthen Ethiopia's Climate Resilience Through Research

National stakeholders have urged Ethiopian higher education institutions to play a more proactive role in tackling climate change through rigorous, science-based research. Speaking at the Ethiopian Universities Climate Action Forum, officials highlighted the need for coordinated academic engagement to generate practical, evidence-based solutions according to [this article](#).

#### Zambezi Watercourse Commission Commend Ethiopia for Riverside Dev't Project

Delegates from the Zambezi Watercourse Commission have commended Ethiopia's Riverside Development Project in Addis Ababa for transforming degraded riverbanks into vibrant urban spaces. The initiative combines ecological restoration with recreation, job creation, and expanded economic opportunities. It also enhances groundwater access, modernizes irrigation systems, and supports sustainable agriculture as reported in [here](#).

## Ethiopia Boosts Eco-Tourism through Wildlife Conservation

Ongoing efforts to protect endemic species and restore ecosystems are strengthening Ethiopia's position as a top eco-tourism destination. National parks, habitat restoration programs, and initiatives like the Green Legacy are attracting visitors, creating jobs, and increasing foreign earnings, while authorities urge action against illegal hunting, wildlife trafficking, and climate threats. Read more in [here](#).



## Ethiopia Presents National Energy Compact at 'Mission 300' Conference

Ethiopia has unveiled its National Energy Compact at the Mission 300 conference in Cape Town, setting out an ambitious roadmap to expand electricity and clean cooking access, modernize energy infrastructure, and attract private investment. The strategy targets 75% national electrification, 14,000 MW of installed capacity, and enhanced regional power trade by 2030, while driving sector reforms to improve efficiency and sustainability. Read more in [here](#).

## Ethiopia's Community-Led Conservation, Climate Resilience Initiatives Hailed as Model for Eastern Africa

The Global Environment Facility has praised Ethiopia's community-driven environmental and livelihood projects as regional models, highlighting successes in honey production, injera processing, and food security. Over 35 years, GEF support has mobilized \$1.07 billion in financing, and Ethiopia's experience is guiding upcoming GEF-9 investments, while officials stress the need for private sector and blended financing to meet growing climate challenges. Read more in the News of the [Ethiopian News Agency](#) in [here](#).

## Livestock Lens

### Mandatory Culling, Poultry Farm Closures Feature in Ministry's Draft Biosecurity Directive



Experts at the Ministry of Agriculture are finalizing a stringent biosecurity directive that would require poultry farms to cull infected flocks and suspend operations for prolonged periods during disease outbreaks as read in [here](#). The proposed Poultry Farm Life-System Safety Directive is designed to reduce economic losses and public health risks associated with unregulated poultry production. The directive establishes binding standards for farm siting, infrastructure, waste management, and disease surveillance. It mandates that all commercial poultry farms be fully fenced and maintain specified buffer distances from residential areas, roads, and other poultry operations to limit disease transmission

## Other Related News

### Businesses Face 2.6 Trillion Birr Financing Gap, Study Finds

The African Union has called for expanded agricultural financing to boost resilience against climate shocks, rising costs, and supply chain disruptions. Officials highlighted climate-smart credit, digital finance, and value-chain investment, linking efforts to the CAADP 2026–2035 targets of higher output, reduced post-harvest losses, and increased intra-African trade. You can get more information on the News of [The Reporter](#) in [here](#).

### 2.32 Billion Birr in Agricultural Equipment Distributed

The Ministry of Agriculture has distributed tractors, threshers, solar pumps, vehicles, and other equipment worth 2.32 billion Birr to all regional states, marking a major push to modernize farming. The nationwide rollout, supported by key agricultural programs, aims to boost productivity, improve service delivery, enhance post-harvest management, and strengthen food security while promoting technology-driven agriculture as reported in [this article](#).

### World Bank Agricultural Specialist Lauds Ethiopia's Climate Smart Agriculture

World Bank Senior Agricultural Specialist Tim Robertson has commended Ethiopia's notable progress in climate-smart agriculture, boosting productivity, resilience, and greenhouse gas reduction through initiatives such as drought-resistant crops, small-scale irrigation, land rehabilitation, and livestock management. Read more on the [topic in here](#).



## EDR Advances Railway Expansion Through Local Expertise

The Ethio-Djibouti Railway Corporation reaffirmed its commitment to expanding Ethiopia's rail network using domestic technical capacity. Officials highlighted the corporation's ability to design, manage, and execute major projects without external contractors. The initiative aims to boost freight efficiency, lower transport costs, enhance regional connectivity, and strengthen Ethiopia's position as a logistics hub. Read the [full article](#) in here.

## Ethiopia Expands Financial Access in SEZs for Investment

The Industrial Parks Development Corporation has opened access to financial services for all banks operating in Special Economic Zones, aiming to boost investment, competitiveness, and export performance. The reform is expected to attract broader private sector participation, enhance job creation, and support technology transfer across the zones as read in [here](#).

## Events & Development

### Past event

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



The Embassy of the Netherlands was a proud sponsor of the HortiFlora Expo 2026, hosted by the Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA) in collaboration with HPP Exhibitions Worldwide. The event reflected a shared commitment to promoting Ethiopia's rapidly growing horticulture sector and fostering meaningful business engagement. This year's edition brought together the full global horticulture supply chain featuring more than 200 local and international exhibitors, attracting a diverse range of global stakeholders, including producers and breeders, input suppliers, buyers, investors, logistics providers, cold-chain specialists, technology firms, financial institutions, and service providers.

#### The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Expanded Constituency Regional Workshop

The GEF Expanded Constituency Regional Workshop, held recently with representatives from 14 Eastern African countries, highlighted Ethiopia's community-driven environmental and livelihood projects as regional models. Successes in honey production, injera processing, and food security were showcased, while GEF noted that Ethiopia's experience will guide the upcoming GEF-9 funding cycle. Officials emphasized the importance of private sector engagement and blended financing to address growing climate challenges.

#### Trade Mission in Ethiopia for Dutch Horticulture Companies

A Dutch horticultural trade mission to Ethiopia, led by Dutch Greenhouse Delta and organized by RVO and the Dutch Embassy, brought together fifteen companies across the horticulture value



chain. The mission included high-level discussions, visits to HortiFlora Expo and key farms, and highlighted Ethiopia's growing floriculture and fruit and vegetable sectors. Dutch-led flower farms, exporting €220 million annually, demonstrate strong growth despite sectoral challenges, while Ethiopia explores its potential as a sustainable horticulture hub through long-term, partnership-driven approaches.



#### Invest in Ethiopia: High-Level Business Forum 2026

The Fourth Invest in Ethiopia Forum 2026 concluded in Addis Ababa, bringing together more than 700 international investors, business leaders, policymakers, and development partners. Held under the theme "Ethiopia Ready for Business," the forum was jointly organized by the Ethiopian Investment Commission, the Ministry of Finance, and the Development Partners Group. The event highlighted investment opportunities across key priority sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture, mining, renewable energy, ICT, and tourism. Officials underscored Ethiopia's continued commitment to fostering a competitive and investor-friendly environment.

## Upcoming events

### EU-Ethiopia Business Forum 2026 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.



### International Conference on Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Crop Protection on 18 April 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The 26th International Conference on Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Crop Protection (ICIPMSCP-26) will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 18–19 April 2026, providing a global platform for researchers, educators, industry professionals, and entrepreneurs to share knowledge, exchange expertise, and advance policies that foster the growth of Integrated Pest Management and Sustainable Crop Protection. You can get more information about the conference [in here](#).

### International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation in Agriculture on 02-03 April 2026 in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia

The International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation in Agriculture, organized by Scholars Forum, will take place on 2 April 2026 in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. Designed to advance global knowledge and foster collaboration among professionals worldwide, the conference offers participants an unparalleled opportunity to engage with leading experts through illuminating lectures, thought-provoking discussions, panel sessions, insightful presentations, and hands-on workshops, all aimed at driving innovation and sustainable solutions in agricultural greenhouse gas mitigation. Get [more information in here](#).

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