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Network



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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

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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's National Regenerative Agriculture Strategy \(2026 - 2036\)](#) is a landmark framework launched by the Ministry of Agriculture to tackle land degradation, build climate resilience, and achieve national food sovereignty. It focuses heavily on restoring soil health, improving water management, and expanding agroforestry and biodiversity.
- [Ethiopia's National Agroecology Strategy \(NAES\) for Food System Transformation](#) is a major step toward transforming the country's food and agricultural systems through sustainable and climate-resilient approaches. Recognizing the critical role of agriculture in livelihoods, employment, and food security, the strategy addresses key challenges such as climate change, soil degradation, pests, and limited access to technology and services.
- A new report on Ethiopia's macroeconomic reform program highlighted significant progress achieved since the launch of reforms in 2024. The report noted that reforms such as the transition to a market-based foreign exchange system, financial sector liberalization, and tighter fiscal and monetary policies have strengthened economic resilience and restored investor confidence. [MACROECONOMIC & STRUCTURAL REFORM REPORT](#)
- Ethiopia's central bank is further amending its foreign exchange directive to streamline approvals and reduce administrative bottlenecks as part of ongoing reforms toward a market-based FX system. These latest amendments aim to make doing business easier while strengthening market development. [NOTICE ON FX DIRECTIVE AMENDMENT AND RATIONALIZATION OF FEES AND CHARGES ON LETTERS OF CREDIT](#)

## Did you know?

**Did you know?** Ethiopia has issued a new directive allowing foreign companies to enter core logistics services, including freight forwarding, shipping agency, customs clearing, and inland transport operations.

**Did you know?** Ethiopian Airlines has received Best Airline in Africa 2026 APEX Passenger Choice Awards, reinforcing its position as a leading carrier on the continent.

**Did you know?** Ethiopia and France have signed a 54.6 million Euro concessional loan agreement aimed at digitalizing and modernizing Ethiopia's national electricity transmission network.

**Did you know?** Ethio Telecom has been officially listed on the Ethio Telecom shares market under the Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX), marking a historic turning point in the country's financial and capital market development.

**Did you know?** Ethiopia and India have signed a Bilateral Market Access Protocol in Geneva, marking a significant breakthrough in Ethiopia's ongoing bid to join the World Trade Organization.

**Did you know?** Institute of Ethiopian Standards (IES) has launched a quality standard application named IES Verifier that enables to identify standard mark for quality. The newly launched quality standard application would significantly contribute to Ethiopia's foreign trade.

**Did you know?** Ethiopia's general election, scheduled for **1 June 2026**, is formally a nationwide vote for all **547 seats** in the House of Peoples' Representatives, alongside regional council contests. The National Election Board of Ethiopia has published constituency material for the seventh general election.

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## Newsflashes

### Horticulture Highlights

#### Avocado Oil Export from Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park Generates 2.5 Million USD



The Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park in southern Ethiopia has commenced exporting avocado products to Europe, generating more than \$2.5 million from avocado oil exports within nine months. Officials say the project is boosting agro-processing, supporting import substitution, and strengthening the country's growing avocado industry. Read more in [here](#).

#### Gode Fertilizer Project Crucial to Ethiopia's Food Self-Sufficiency Push

Ethiopia is accelerating construction of a major urea fertilizer plant in the Somali region, in partnership with Dangote Group, to meet rising local and global demand. The facility, with an expected annual output of three million metric tons, aims to reduce fertilizer imports, boost agricultural productivity, strengthen food security, and support long-term industrial growth. Read more in [here](#).



#### Ethiopian horticultural exports reach \$408.2 million in ten months



Ethiopia earned \$408.2 million from horticultural exports over the past ten months, exporting 236,415 tons of fruit, vegetables, and flowers, according to Minister of Agriculture Addisu Arega. This is on track toward the sector's annual target of \$600 million. The government is increasing its focus on horticulture to boost production and export earnings, including a national avocado development program aimed at expanding fruit and vegetable output, especially avocados. Read more in [here](#)

## Macroeconomic Developments

#### Ethiopia Finance Minister Calls for Coordinated Int'l Action on Fuel, Fertilizer Pressures from Iran Crisis

Ethiopia has called for coordinated international support and emergency financing to help import-dependent countries manage rising fuel and fertilizer costs linked to global supply disruptions. Officials warned that higher input costs are increasing production expenses, straining trade balances, and heightening food security risks in vulnerable economies. [Ethiopian News Agency](#) has more in [this article](#).

#### Ethiopia to End State Monopoly on Agricultural Extension Services

Ethiopia is set to open up its agricultural extension system to non-state actors, who will soon be allowed to deliver agricultural advisory services alongside government extension agents. The shift aims to improve service delivery, expand farmer access to knowledge and technology, and address growing demand in the agriculture sector through a more competitive and pluralistic system. More information on the topic can be found in [here](#).

#### Ethiopia Ends CBE Monopoly on China-Bound Export Permits

Ethiopia's central bank has lifted the exclusive role of the state-owned lender in handling export permits and trade services for shipments to China, allowing all licensed commercial banks to provide the services. The move is aimed at simplifying export procedures, increasing competition in the banking sector, and improving access to trade finance as part of ongoing financial reforms and foreign exchange liberalization efforts. Read more on [The Reporter](#) news in [here](#).

#### Ethiopia Approves First National Trade Policy After Years of Fragmentation

Ethiopia has approved its first comprehensive national trade policy, designed to unify a previously fragmented system of trade regulations and institutions. The policy is expected to improve governance across the trade sector, enhance export competitiveness, and create a more predictable and streamlined environment for domestic and international businesses. It also seeks to strengthen institutional alignment and support the country's broader economic reform agenda. Read more in [here](#).

## Ethiopia Says Bondholder Talks Collapse After \$1bn Debt Deal Rejected

Ethiopia has announced that negotiations with international bondholders over its \$1 billion Eurobond have collapsed after creditors rejected a revised restructuring proposal, according to Addis Standard. The government said the revised offer, designed to align with earlier agreements under the G20 Common Framework, failed to gain approval from private investors, effectively ending the latest round of formal talks. The breakdown highlights continued disagreements between Ethiopia and its bondholders. You can read more in [here](#).

## Biodiversity & Climate Watch

### Ethiopia Launches National E-Mobility Strategy to Accelerate Electric Transport Transition



Ethiopia's E-Mobility Strategy and Implementation Plan for 2025-2030 represent a significant step towards creating a sustainable transport system in the country. By focusing on electric vehicle adoption, infrastructure development, and local industry growth, Ethiopia aims to position itself as a leader in green mobility in Africa, contributing to reduced carbon emissions and enhanced economic opportunities. Read more in [here](#).

### Ethiopia Advances Carbon Market Law to Attract Green Investment

Ethiopia's Council of Ministers has approved a draft carbon market law to establish a legal framework for carbon trading, expand access to climate finance, and support green investment. The legislation aims to define trading rules, protect communities and ecosystems, ensure equitable revenue distribution, and help the country meet international climate and greenhouse-gas reduction commitments. Read more in the news of [The Reporter](#) in [here](#).

### Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Ethiopia's Agricultural Sector through the Climate, Water & Food Facility (CWF) Project

The Agricultural team at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Addis Ababa, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI), successfully organized a Validation Workshop on the Policy & Institutional Assessment for Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Ethiopia's Agricultural Sector. The workshop brought together representatives from government institutions, development partners, universities, private sectors, and technical experts to review and validate the findings of the assessment and discuss the way forward for integrating biodiversity into Ethiopia's agricultural sector. Read more in [here](#).



## Livestock Lens

### Ethiopia Completes Third Direct Livestock Export Shipment to Saudi Arabia

Ethiopia has exported 5,500 sheep to Saudi Arabia under Ethiopian certificates of origin, marking the country's third direct livestock shipment of its kind to Middle Eastern markets. Officials say the initiative is part of ongoing efforts to formalize the livestock trade, improve market competitiveness, and ensure Ethiopia benefits fully from export revenues previously lost through informal trade channels. Read more the topic [here](#).



### UNESCO Launches BRIDGE-Africa Initiative in Ethiopia

UNESCO and Japan have launched the **BRIDGE-Africa initiative** in Ethiopia (May 2026) to strengthen the resilience of the country's beekeeping sector, which supports over two million rural households. The program aims to address climate-related challenges affecting honey production by promoting innovation, improved supply chains, and climate adaptation solutions for sustainable livelihoods. Read more in [this article](#).

## Other Related News

### Borena Water Supply Project Set to Transform Lives



A massive new water supply project is affecting communities across Ethiopia's East Borena and Borena zones by providing reliable access to clean

water in drought-prone areas. The large-scale initiative includes thousands of kilometers of pipelines, advanced pumping stations, resilient infrastructure, and high-capacity reservoirs aimed at strengthening long-term water security. Read more in [here](#).

### Ethiopia Council of Ministers Approves Agribusiness Companies Proclamation to Modernize Farming Sector

The draft law aims to transform agriculture from traditional farming to a market-driven agribusiness system. The legislation aims to strengthen smallholder farmers' bargaining power, promote value addition, support the transition to medium-scale commercial operations, and boost food security, employment, and agro-industrial development. Read more in [here](#).

### Global Fuel and Fertilizer Shocks Intensify Food Insecurity in Ethiopia

A new AGRA Food Security Monitoring Report highlights that Ethiopia's food system is under growing strain due to rising global fuel and fertilizer prices, alongside wider conflict-driven disruptions. The report notes that higher input and transport costs are pushing up food prices across markets, weakening affordability for households and increasing pressure on already vulnerable groups. Read more in [here](#).

### Irrigation Spending Leaves Searching For The Harvest



Ethiopia's Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands has spent 98% of its annual budget in nine months, but several

projects remain delayed due to security and management challenges, lawmakers said. The ministry completed nine irrigation schemes covering about 59,000 hectares, though concerns remain over stalled projects and gaps between reported progress and actual implementation. Officials cited budget and security constraints, while experts pointed to planning and capacity issues as read in [here](#).

## Events & Development

### Past event

#### The 4th "Made in Ethiopia" Expo 2026

The 4th "Made in Ethiopia" Expo 2026 concluded at the Addis International Convention Center (AICC), generating over 57 billion Birr in marketing agreements as reported. More than 350 industries, including 20 start-ups, participated across five sectors, showcasing innovative products and fostering business

#### Ethio-Turkey Business Forum (7 May 2026 in Addis Ababa)

An Ethio-Turkey Business Forum brought together government officials, investors, and private sector actors to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two countries. The event featured B2B meetings, a trade exhibition, and an agreement between business chambers to enhance bilateral cooperation.

#### IFAD14 High-Level Meetings (Brazzaville, Republic of Congo – 27 May 2026)

The IFAD14 meeting held in focused on mobilizing global financing for agricultural transformation, rural development, and climate resilience. At an IFAD14 side event held in May 2026 in Brazzaville, Ethiopia used the IFAD14 platform to call for scaled-up and predictable financing for rural transformation in Africa.

### Upcoming events

#### International Conference On Soil Carbon Sequestration And Sustainable Farming (ICSCSSF) on 12th June 2026

The conference will be held on 12 June 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, bringing together global researchers and experts to advance science and technology for sustainable agriculture and climate-smart farming solutions. More information can be found [here](#).

#### 8th International Trade Show in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 25-27 June 2026.

Ethiopia will host the event, featuring agrofood Ethiopia, the Ethiopia Food Show & Ethiopica Coffee Show, and plastprintpack Ethiopia. The event brings together agriculture, food, coffee, and packaging sectors, connecting industry players across the value chain. Read more in [here](#).

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