



Ethiopia

Strengthening the Quality Infrastructure for Improved Competitiveness of the Ethiopian Economy

Objective	The conditions for the increased use of services from the national quality infrastructure in the Ethiopian agricultural sector have been improved.	
Approach	<p>The Ethiopian government has emphasised the importance of the agricultural sector for its economy. Despite constant efforts, Ethiopian agriculture faces obstacles in its development and is characterised by low yields. Increasing productivity and product quality in agriculture starts at the pre-production stage. Entry points include better access to high-quality inputs such as seeds and soil as well as adequate machinery and equipment.</p> <p>In this context, the project aims to improve quality assurance at the pre-production level for the entire agricultural sector. It follows a two-level approach to increase the use of quality-enhancing services. On the supply side, quality infrastructure institutions will be supported in developing new standards, revising existing ones and improving conformity assessment and testing services. In addition, information materials will be published to facilitate compliance with the new standards and utilisation of the services offered.</p> <p>On the demand side, the project will sensitise agricultural actors to quality-enhancing measures at the pre-production level and raise awareness of the quality assurance services offered by quality infrastructure institutions. The project's activities target pre-production across agricultural sub-sectors. This focus enables a technical best practice approach that is relevant nationwide and can have a broad impact in different value chains.</p>	
Impact	<p>Quality assurance in agricultural pre-production will be strengthened through improved conditions for standardisation, measurement, conformity assessment and accreditation systems, which together form the quality infrastructure system. A participatory approach to the creation and revision of regulations will lead to better consideration of both product safety and the needs of the agricultural sector. Greater awareness of the benefits of quality-enhancing measures will increase demand among agricultural stakeholders for services offered by quality infrastructure institutions. Overall, the Ethiopian agricultural sector will have better access to improved quality services for the pre-production stage, in particular for soil, seeds and machinery.</p> <p>This will create the basis for a quantitative and qualitative increase in production, leading to a more competitive Ethiopian agricultural sector. The improvements will grant better access to markets and increase income opportunities for small- and medium-sized producers, thereby fostering sustainable development in rural areas. The efforts will also continue to increase opportunities for additional positive economic and social impacts, including food security in Ethiopia and increased consumer safety due to the better access to more high-quality agricultural products.</p>	
Cooperation	The project is an integral part of the German development cooperation programme to strengthen the climate-resilient and sustainable production of healthy agricultural food products in Ethiopia.	
Financing	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	
Term	October 2024 – September 2027	
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