



# ETHIOPIA

## EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

### COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Ethiopia is recurrently food insecure and suffers from serious droughts and food deficits. The Government of Ethiopia strives for increased agricultural production through the modernization and commercialization of the agricultural sector. All land is administered by the state. However, for the last few years smallholders received de facto land ownership through the land certification program.

Three million hectares have been identified for investors of which two million hectares were leased for commercial agricultural production.

The objectives of the Government of Ethiopia have not been achieved and smallholders have not benefited much from the investments. Large proportions of the land have not yet been developed. Human capacities for managing large scale investments are limited and adequate systems are not in place. In general terms, an overall consistent and transparent framework is lacking and there are severe human and institutional capacity constraints for managing large-scale, land based agricultural investments. Such constraints affect all stages of the process of land management and implementing large scale agricultural investments, from the identification, demarcation and transfer of the land to the implementation and monitoring of the investments.

### OBJECTIVE

The European Union Land Governance Programme – Country Implementation (EULGP CI) assists the Government of Ethiopia in addressing and removing the above-mentioned constraints. The overall objective is to contribute to improved food and nutrition security by promoting secure land tenure and responsible agricultural investments. The EULGP CI aims to establish a conducive and transparent environment for responsible agricultural investments (RAI) while securing the rights of the resident population. Such an environment will ensure that agricultural investments are successful in bringing about the

<b>Name of the EULGP CI*</b>	Support to Responsible Agricultural Investment (S2RAI) in Ethiopia
<b>Implementer</b>	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
<b>Implementer partners</b>	Ethiopian Horticulture and Agriculture Investment Authority (EHAIA), Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate (RLAUD)
<b>Target areas</b>	Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambela, the two most western regions of Ethiopia
<b>Political entities involved</b>	EHAIA, RLAUD and regional Land Administration Offices in Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambela
<b>Budget</b>	EUR 3 300 000 (co-financed by the EU and the German Government)
<b>Length of the EULGP CI</b>	March 2016 – June 2019

desired developmental effects and in avoiding negative impacts on the surrounding people and nature.

### STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

At federal level, interventions are aimed at the Ethiopian Horticulture and Agriculture Investment Authority (EHAIA) and the Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate (RLAUD) under the Ministry of Agriculture. At the regional level, interventions are aimed at relevant stakeholders in Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambela.

The EULGP CI uses a four pillar approach:

- Strengthen the institutional framework with functional coordination structures, both vertically and horizontally, at ministerial level and at federal level, and in Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambela, the two most western regions of Ethiopia, where most of the area has been given to investors.
- Strengthen human capacities in land management and responsible agricultural investments at federal level and selectively at regional level.
- Develop an information, knowledge and performance-based system for land-based agricultural investments. The monitoring of large scale investments also falls under this pillar.

\*EULGP CI (European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation)

## TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

By means of a Transversal Project, co-funded by the EU and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coordinates, supports and consolidates the implementation of the EU Land Governance Programme. The European Union Land Governance Programme funds 18 individual country-level projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, all of which address tenure issues, and are implemented alongside various partners, among which are government agencies, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations and private contractors. All project activities are carried out within the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and, in the African context, the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa (AU Declaration) and its Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G).

- Enable communities and smallholders to benefit more from investors surrounding their villages by building their capacities and securing their tenure rights.

## OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Strengthened institutional framework:
  - Developed land valuation guidelines, a land identification and verification manual as well as contract farming and lease contract templates
  - The country implementation provided EHAIA with advice on the institutional setup and draft regulation No.396/2007
  - Co-development, together with the Prime Minister's office, of a national strategic framework for commercial farming
- Capacity Development:
  - 700 participants from the government, civil society and private sector have successfully completed trainings and learning modules on land management issues: land conflict resolution trainings, QGIS, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and remote sensing monitoring
  - Raised awareness on the VGGTs and on RAI principles as well as other international principals and guides among various stakeholders, including investors, at federal and regional level

- Information and knowledge system:
  - A national and comprehensive database - inventory on land based agricultural investments is in the process of being established
  - Comprehensive Agricultural Management Information System (CAMIS) is finalized and now at piloting stage in one of the region
  - The remote sensing (RS) monitoring tool for agricultural investments has been developed and at testing phase
  - Approximately 60 percent of all investments in the two target regions have been evaluated and monitored
  - Establishment of a regional investor association
  - The VGGT and the technical guide 'Safeguarding land tenure rights in the context of agricultural investments' have been translated into Amharic
- Tenure rights:
  - Social and Environmental Code of Practice (SECOP) which is mainly based on the VGGTs was developed and validated and is now ready to be implemented
  - Public hearings took place at regional, woreda (districts) and local level and the EULGP CI engaged 120 communities with investors to discuss conflicts and livelihood issues
  - Cooperation with several CSOs on related issues was strengthened
  - Standard Operating Procedures for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, and Environmental Management Systems and Guidelines on land valuation, identification and transfer were developed



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Overall, the EULGP CI contributed to a paradigm shift from giving out large-scale state land leases to investors towards granting smaller areas, out-grower schemes and contract farming. The land area for investors was reduced from a maximum of 1 million ha (before the start of the activity) to 1 000 ha for domestic investors and 3 000 ha for foreign investors.

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