

Land Governance in Ethiopia

Boosting agricultural productivity and securing land tenure rights through land consolidation efforts

Challenge

In the Ethiopian highlands, an average of 60% of smallholder farmers cultivate various small, spatially separated, and irregularly shaped plots, the average size of which ranges from 0.15 to 0.5 hectares. Working on fragmented plots is characterized by low agricultural volume, low farmer income and high labor and transportation costs. Hence, wide dispersion, parcel shape irregularity, and size of parcels constrains the opportunity to use modern farming techniques. In addition, land fragmentation increases land disputes.

The Ethiopian government, recognizing the negative social, environmental, and economic impacts of fragmented land holdings, encourages farmers to exchange and consolidate land parcels voluntarily. This improves agricultural structure, increasing productivity with reduced effort and overhead costs.

However, the experience in planning and implementing participatory land consolidation is limited. A coherent legal and institutional framework with clear guidelines, procedures, and manuals is needed to design and implement land consolidation systematically and sustainably. Moreover, it is important to strengthen the capacity of experts in land administration bureaus regarding participatory land consolidation procedures, the use of modern and IT-based land administration systems.

Objective

The project aims to create the necessary conditions to implement participatory land consolidation (LC) procedures.

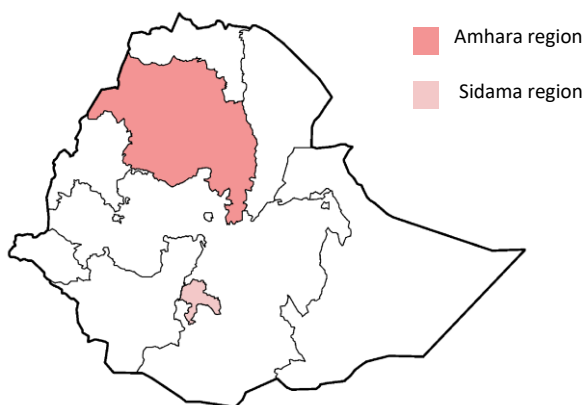


Project name	Land Governance (LaGo)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Amhara and Sidama National Regional State
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Implementation partner	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
Budget & duration	EUR 10 million, 01/2020-12/2022

Approach

The Land Governance project supports the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and regional Land Administration and Use Bureaus to implement participatory land consolidation and voluntary land exchange as instruments of sustainable land governance. The project follows a multi-level process engaging with local authorities and communities in the planning, reallocating, and registering land parcels. Simultaneously, closely work with federal and regional actors to develop legal frameworks and build institutional capacity. This ensure larger-scale implementation whilst safeguarding marginalized groups' interests.

The project has four interlinked outputs designed to achieve food security, secure land tenure rights, and rural development.





Land consolidation is a collaborative effort that succeeds best when community is fully involved.

Dr. Helga Fink
Project Manager
Land Governance
E helga.fink@giz.de
M +251 (0)96 0606362

Outputs

1

Piloting the preparation of land consolidation

Together with the Bureau of Land in Amhara, the project is preparing land consolidation pilots. Process designs and international practices are contextualized and adapted to the local landscape, local practices, and existing legal framework. Through community meetings, awareness about the advantage of land consolidation and voluntary land exchange is raised, and community concerns are addressed.

2

Capacity building for the land institutions

Experts working in Land administration bureaus obtain technical and managerial trainings, so they can independently prepare and roll out land consolidation process. Trainings are designed on a needs-based analysis and cover topics related to land valuation and registration and developing 3D terrain models, among others.

3

Developing legal frameworks and manuals

The piloting experience is used to develop manual, guidelines and LC Law to enable scaling-up on a national level.

4

Supporting the Climate Action through Land Management (CALM) programme

Through enhancing the technical capacity of land administration experts at all levels, the project supports the MoA's efforts in digitizing land registration and issuing Second Level Land Certification (SLLC) to landholders through the national flagship programme CALM.

Achievement



In the Amhara region, six pilot areas have been jointly selected according to a multi-criteria catalogue. The technical and socio-economic feasibility of the pilot areas has been analyzed. Together with land holders, a process for participatory land consolidation adapted to Ethiopian context has been designed and a public participation mechanism developed. A fit-for-purpose land valuation and infrastructure plans for the pilot areas are forming the basis for an implementation. More than 6,300 landholders, together with land administrations from different levels have participated in the pilot preparation.



Based on the piloting experience, a draft Land Consolidation Law, several directives and three technical guidelines (on Land Valuation, Land Consolidation Procedures, Developing Infrastructure Plans including Environmental Impact Assessment) have been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture



Land experts gained hands-on experience on land consolidation through study tours to Germany North Macedonia, regional exchanges and trainings.



For the first time, a National Land Conference has been organized, bringing together more than 100 federal and regional political leaders, experts, scholars, and development partners. The multi-stakeholder dialog forum facilitated ideas exchange and encouraged local and international mechanisms and solutions to enhance rural land development.



Community meeting in Ema Shenkoro One of the project's pilot kebeles

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Land Governance Project
Rahem Building, Megenagna
P.O. Box 100009, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Phone +251 (0)11 662 9975
Fax +251 (0)11 662 9975

Photo credits

© GIZ/Thomas Imo, © GIZ, © GIZ

Text

GIZ Land Governance

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

As at

December 2022

On behalf of

Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)