

Responsible Land Policy in Ethiopia



Starting point

Ethiopia is chronically food insecure and suffers significant food deficits each year. To tackle this challenge, the Government of Ethiopia strives to increase agricultural production, access to markets and employment opportunities. In the past, Ethiopia promoted foreign and domestic investment in large-scale farming and identified about 3 million hectares for commercial agricultural purposes. However, achievements in this field remain limited and only a fraction of the land allocated was developed. Traditional land rights of local communities in rural areas remain inadequately documented and large-scale land allocations have often disregarded the rights of legitimate landowners. The struggle over resources between traditional landowners and investors led to a range of disputes and conflicts.

Project

Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has initiated the "Global Programme Responsible Land Policy" under the Special Initiative "Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems". The primary goal of this programme is to improve access to land in rural areas for specific population groups, which is crucial in the fight against poverty and hunger. The Ethiopian country module Support to Responsible Agricultural Investment (S2RAI) is fully funded by BMZ. S2RAI contributes to reaching the project objectives by supporting national and regional authorities in improving their advisory and regulatory functions and by strengthening civil society. The complementary project Responsible Governance of Investments in Land (RGIL) is co-funded by BMZ and the European Union (EU) and seeks to promote responsible land-based investments.

Our objective:

Access to land as a key prerequisite for poverty and hunger reduction in rural areas has improved for certain population groups, especially women and marginalised groups, in Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Amhara regions.

Fields of action in Ethiopia

- **Improving Institutional Framework Conditions and Procedures:** National and regional authorities in three regions will be sensitized and trained on institutional framework conditions and procedures to enhance land tenure security for the rural population.
- **Strengthening the Civil Society:** The civil society will be supported to contribute to the socio-political debate on responsible land policy

through educational campaigns, training measures and awareness raising.

- **Cooperation with the Private Sector:** Private sector actors will be advised and capacitated in exchange fora with communities and trainings on effective land management, to deliver on environmental and social commitments.

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Budget and duration

EUR 12.605 million (10.255 million BMZ + 2.350 million EU) /
January 2019 – March 2026

Lead executing agency and implementing partners

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) / Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella
and Amhara Regional Land Bureaus and Regional Environment
Bureaus, CSOs, universities and private sector partners

Commissioned by

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and De-
velopment (BMZ) / European Union (EU)

Sustainable development

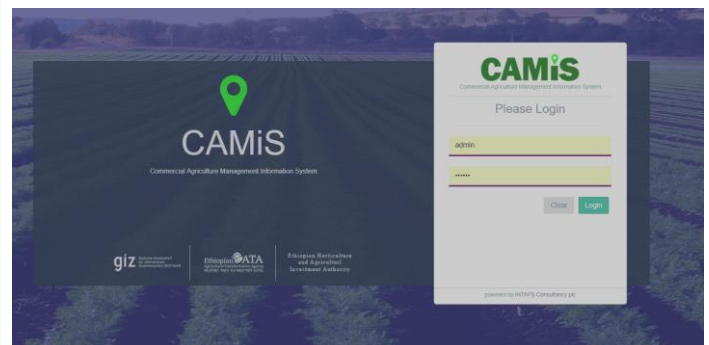


A woman shows her land certificate

Example from the field

Some of the main achievements include a digital land investment management and monitoring system (CAMiS), the development of contract templates, monitoring guidelines as well as the Guidelines for Social and Environmental Practices of Responsible Commercial Agriculture in Ethiopia (SECoP). The land certification program provides support for numerous male and female farmers, helping them feel secure and motivated to embrace sustainable agricultural practices. By strengthening the organizational development of land institutions including awareness raising and capacity building, the social and ecological performance of investors is now monitored. Both, the monitoring system as well as the SECoP guidelines have been taken up into the national strategy for commercial agriculture by the Ethiopian government. Furthermore, most lease agreements have been reviewed. Worth noting:

investor-community dialogue fora, implemented by a local NGO, led to amicable land dispute resolutions and joint planning for the future. The project harmonized its efforts with other development interventions, such as thematically relevant GIZ projects and other donor projects in the context of land tenure, land use planning, land allocation and certification.



Commercial Agricultural Management Information System (CAMiS)

More information on <https://www.giz.de/responsiblelandpolicy> and [Land Portal](#)

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