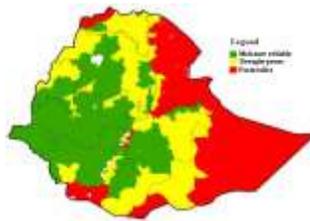


Inception Report



1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture

- Ethiopia has a total area of 112 million hectares out of which about 45% is arable
- The total cultivated area is about 11 million hectares
- Agriculture is practiced mainly by smallholders, roughly 13.2 million, with average land holding of 0.93 ha

1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture

- The pastoral and agro-pastoral (PAP) areas are estimated to cover more than 60% of the total landmass inhabiting 10 million people in seven Regional States
- The PAP areas in Ethiopia are almost situated in the peripheral regions of the country, characterized by unpredictable and unstable climatic conditions; and very fragile and hostile environment.

1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture

- According to the 2007 human population census, Ethiopia's population is 73.9 million, of which 51% are female, and with an annual rate of growth of 2.6%. Of the total population 83 percent live in rural areas mainly subsisting on agriculture.
- Now it is estimated to be 90 million.
- Overall, Ethiopia's natural resources base, the soil, the climate, the relative humidity, the vegetation types are the foundations of agriculture and could be over laid to give what is known as the agro-ecological zones.

1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture

- There are 32 major agro-ecological zones. The different agro- ecological zones, extensive arable land and high population in rural areas make Ethiopia an agrarian country. Agriculture, therefore, is the mainstay of the national economy contributing about 43 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), over 90% of export, and 83% of employment.
- Ethiopia has high potential for agricultural development and these agro-ecological classifications have important implications for strategies in development of the agriculture sector.

1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture)

The 32 major agro-ecological zones are grouped under six major categories consisting:

- Arid Zone – less productive and pastoral and occupies 53.5 million ha (31.5 percent of the country);
- Semi-arid - less harsh and occupies 4 million ha (3.5 percent of the country);
- Sub-moist – occupies 22.2 million ha (19.7 percent of the country) highly threatened by erosion.

1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture)

- Moist – covers 28 (103) ha (25 % of the country) of the most important agricultural land of the country, and cereals are the dominant crops.
- Sub-humid and Humid – cover 17.5 (103) ha (15.5 % of the country) and 4.4 million ha (4 % of the country) respectively; provide the most stable and ideal conditions for annual and perennial crops; home of the remaining forest and wildlife and biological diversity;
- Per-humid – covers about 1 million ha (close to 1% of the country) and suited for perennial crops and forests

1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture)

- Indeed the classification can further be narrowed into two:
 - Pastoral and non-pastoral
 - In the non-pastoral areas there are two distinct modes of agricultural production: smallholder and commercial.
 - The smallholder account for 96% of annually cultivated land,
 - large scale farms, which occupy only 4% of the cultivated land range from 50 hectares for horticultural crops to 4,000 hectares for field crops.

1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture)

- The pastoral areas can further be seen in terms of pure pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. In these areas there are also irrigation schemes that are catering to the broader national agriculture development as well as specific contributions to pastoralists, for example the development of irrigated pastor as it is contained in the recent Tendaho-Kesum irrigation scheme in Afar. Similar practices are also emerging in different parts of Borena, South Omo, Gode, and Gambela.

1. Highlights of Ethiopia's Resources Base and Agriculture)

- Examining agriculture by its sub-sectors indicates that
- crop production and forestry contributes about 72% of AGDP
- while livestock accounts for 28% percent as of
- This statistics indicates the economic contribution of the livestock sub-sector is low despite the high potential the country has.
- In terms of number of cattle Ethiopia is top in Africa and 10th in the world.

2. Rice Crop in Ethiopia

- Rice is one which is considered as the “Millennium crop” expected to contribute in ensuring food security in the country.
- Even though, introduced recently, rice has proven to be a crop that can assure food security in Ethiopia, the 2nd most populous nation in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

2. Rice Crop in Ethiopia

- The research and development activities so far undertaken on rice in the country, though at limited scale, have shown
- good productivity level,
- has also shown the existence of considerably vast suitable ecologies for production
- along with the possibility of growing, where other food crops do not do well,

2. Rice Crop in Ethiopia

- and compatible with various traditional food recipes like bread, soup, “*enjera*”, and local beverages (like “*tela*” and “*areki*”). The country has also a comparative advantage of producing rice due to the availability of huge and cheap rural labor as the crop is labor intensive.
- The potential rain-fed rice production area in Ethiopia is estimated to be about thirty million hectares based on GIS techniques and rice agro-ecological requirement.

2. Rice Crop in Ethiopia

- Rice is a recent introduction in Ethiopia where its breeding and other research components are found at infant stage.
- Rice breeding research has been started by adaptive trials of introduced varieties, which resulted in the release of some varieties.
- The importance of rice as a food security crop, source of income and employment opportunity due to its relative high productivity as compared to other cereals is recognized by farmers as well as private investors who frequently request for improved varieties for different ecosystems.

2.1. NRRDSE formulations

- A steering committee (SC) chaired by the Hon. State Minister for Agriculture was formed
- The SC set a technical committee (TC) to draw the strategies and follow their implementation
- Members of TC are representatives from: MoA, EIAR, ESE, ATA, MEDA, and SG 2000

2.2. Progress made

- NRRDSE approved in February 2010
- Rice producing regions have developed Implementation plans based on the strategy
- The national Implementation plan approved by the SC in July 2011

2.3.NRRDSE

- **Vision: Ensure national food security and increased farm revenue, and reduce poverty by progressively transforming the rice sector into a viable production and marketing system**
- **Goal: To increase Ethiopia's rice production from the current 0.5 million tons to 3.95 million tons by 2019**

2.4. Approaches

- Whole value chain approach (production to marketing)
- Agro ecology based interventions
- Small scale and Commercial rice production systems
- Gender responsive interventions
- Environmental Sustainability

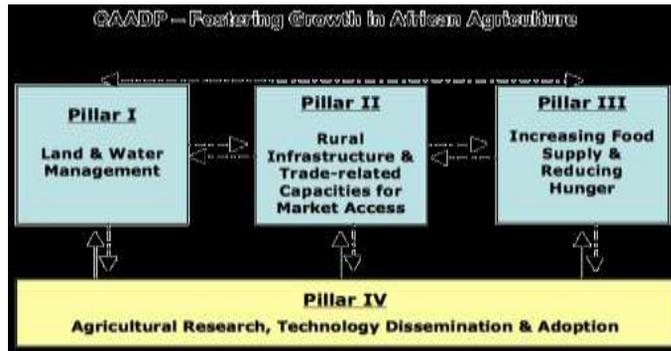
2.5. Measures identified

- Capacity building for research and extension systems
- Seed Systems (production and distribution)
- Fertilizer distribution & marketing
- Efficient irrigation and water management interventions
- Mechanization and improved post harvest technologies
- Finance for all actors along the rice value chain (production to marketing)
- Strengthening of policy and institutional support

2.6. Alignment of NRRDSE with Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategies

- The key elements of the NRRDSE are aligned with the agricultural component of GTP specifically in terms of: the intensification of marketable farm products -both for domestic and export markets, and by small and large farmers
 - facilitating the commercialization of agriculture
 - expansion of small scale irrigation along with medium and large scale irrigation
 - enhancing the capacity and extensive use of labour
 - agro-ecology based development
 - supporting proper utilization of agricultural land

2.7. Harmonization of NRRDSE with CAADP



2.8. Needs, Resources, and Funding Priorities for Rice Sector

Subsector

- Seed
- Fertilizer
- Agrochemicals
- Irrigation / water management
- On-farm technology dissemination (E)
- Mechanization
- Quality improvement
- Access to market

2.8. Needs, Resources, and Funding Priorities for Rice Sector /Intervention

Intervention

- Policy/Institutional Support
- Infrastructure
- Human Resource Capacity
- Provision/ Support
- Knowledge/ Information

THANK YOU