



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations



8th Capitalization Meeting

EU Land Governance Programme

Speaker Name and Organization

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Support to responsible agricultural investment project (GIZ-S2RAI)

United Nations Centre
Nairobi, Kenya
From 18 – To 21 June, 2019

Support to Responsible Agricultural Investment (S2RAI)

Ethiopia is recurrently food insecure and suffers from significant food deficits. In response, the Government of Ethiopia strives for increased agricultural production, efficiency, markets and employment for smallholder farmers, as well as large-scale commercial farming, especially in lowland regions. It has promoted investment in plantations as part of its five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). Three million hectares of land suitable for commercial agricultural investment have been identified, while between 2005 and 2016 at least two million hectares were leased out, mostly by the regional governments.

Support to Responsible Agricultural Investment (S2RAI)...cont'd

Large-scale investments are expected to boost agro-processing industries and attract foreign currency and new technology.

Local communities should benefit from employment and infrastructural improvements. Nevertheless, achievement of these objectives has been limited so far. Investors have only developed a small fraction of the transferred land. Frameworks are often weak and non-transparent, and human capacity for managing such large agricultural investments is limited.



Project Objectives



Overall objective:

To contribute to improved food and nutrition security by promoting enhanced land tenure security and responsible agricultural investments

Specific objective:

Establishing an accountable, conducive and transparent framework for socially and environmentally sound agricultural investments benefiting local communities and economies



Project Progress



- The development of the Commercial Agriculture 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 .
- Agricultural Investment forums financially and Technically supported and also to establish Investor's Association
- Institute of Land Administration has been financially supported to organize annual Land forum

Project Progress



- The translation of VGGT and Technical guide for investors into the Amharic language is finalized, and published
- The Social and Environmental Code of Practice (SECOP) was also translated into Amharic language and about to be published
- SECOP was developed to assist investors in ensuring that their respective investments are inclusive, sustainable, transparent, and respect human rights.



Project Progress



- Satellite imageries and camping equipment procured for the land registration and certification programme for two Districts
- Performance monitoring of 245 agricultural investment projects was financially supported.
- The monitoring results enable local authorities to give further guidance and/or to take action.

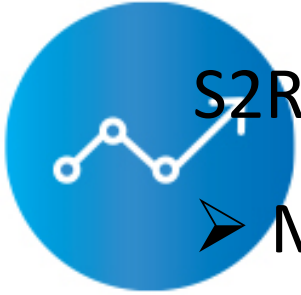


Project Progress



- Gambella Region supported to identify legal gaps of the current rural land proclamation as well as the suggestions for legal improvements
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) conducted by Jimma university on fifteen investment projects in two project regions finalized
- A teaching module for tertiary education on inclusive land governance for responsible agricultural investment finalized and approved.

Project Progress



S2RAI, has been collaborating with four civil society organizations:

- Movement for ecological learning and community action (MELCA)
- Assosa Environmental Protection Association (AEPA)
- Transparency Ethiopia (TE)
- Gambella Community and Children Development Organization (GCCDO)
- On capacity building of local communities on inclusive land governance and sustainable land use management and Environmental protection topics.



Project Progress



Developed guidelines on by the consultant BVVG:

- Land identification and verification for commercial agriculture
- Land valuation and compensation mechanisms
- Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for EIA
- Monitoring of agricultural investment projects
- Land lease contract template for commercial agriculture
- Contract Template for contract farming

Capacity Development Activities



- 30 land experts (5 female) were trained on land-related conflicts
- The trainees originated from 6 regions, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and CSOs
- 11 experts (2 female) were trained on the Google Earth engine and satellite imagery analysis.
- The participants were from the regions and Ministry of Agriculture.
- 21 experts (1 female) from Gambella Region and its zones were trained on land identification and verification processes and procedures.



Capacity Development Activities

- 23 experts (3 female) from two Regions and MoA were trained on monitoring of agricultural investment projects and contract templates
- 21 experts (4 female) were trained on different guidelines developed by BVVG
- The participants were from two Regions, and from the MoA

Capacity Development Activities



- 92 producers, buyers and contract farming extension workers were provided with basic training on contract farming.
- 50 local farmers (45 female) from Gambella Region were trained on women's land rights.
- 47 experts (6 female) from Regions attended a ToT training on the Social and Environmental code of Practice (SECOP).

Capacity Development Activities



- The Assosa Environmental Protection Association (AEPA) organize:
 - 10 trainings given on VGGT and RAI to 555 (55 female) community representatives and 26 investors
 - MELCA provide training for 58 community members on sustainable forest and land management
 - 46 experts also trained on Environment and forest related policies and strategies



Challenges

Institutional uncertainty: The Ethiopian Horticulture and Agriculture Investment Agency, where S2RAI was anchored, was merged into two institutions, namely the Ethiopian Investment Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture after a year split again .

- The merger and splitting is very time-consuming
- Lack of capacities: Few qualified human resources and high staff turnover in the regions
- Inadequate coordination amongst different government institutions (between the administrative levels as well as across different sectors)



Lessons Learned

➤ The impact assessment of trainings provided indicated that tailored trainings enhance the trainees' performance with regards to service quality and time savings.

➤ The close collaboration with CSOs, offers great opportunities to address and involve local communities and thus to have an actual impact at the grassroots level.

➤ Women's land rights are not well secured, as stated in the law,

➤ Therefore, awareness raising on women's land rights has top priority

for ensuring enhanced land tenure security and property rights



Recommendations

- Identification of policy and legal gaps, provides an opportunity to convince decision-makers to amend land policies.
- Capacity building activities are fundamental to the implementation of any development activity.
- Focus on training of trainers (ToT) and use CSOs to reach the grassroots level.

Next Steps



- The EU co-financing has ceased, and the closure workshop is held on June 21, 2019.
- However, S2RAI continues as a country package of the BMZ-financed Global Program on Responsible Land Policy (2019-2021).
- In this phase the developed documents and products are further implemented and upscaled

Next Steps



Activities will be carried out in three intervention areas:

1. Improving the institutional framework at national level and in the two Regions for securing land rights
2. Strengthening the civil society to become more involved in the responsible land policy formulation and implementation
3. Raising awareness of on VGGT and the technical guide for investors as well as on SECOP



Thank you!

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