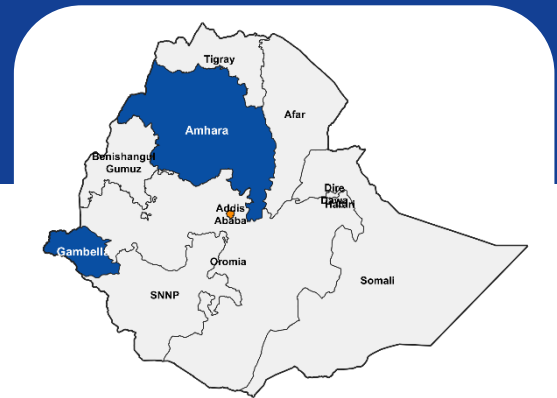




Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land



General context

The livelihoods of a large part of the world's population directly depend on access to land and its secured long-term use. In Ethiopia, a country with more than 100 million inhabitants and a population density of 105 people per km², 80% of the population still lives in rural areas and is employed in agriculture - predominantly in subsistence farming. While the agricultural sector is of great importance as a national growth engine, commercial investments in agriculture and forestry are increasingly exerting pressure on land as a resource. Until 2015, 3.6 million hectares of the land in Ethiopia were earmarked within a so-called land-bank for large-scale commercial agriculture.

Moreover, unreliable land tenure security due to a lack of documented land rights is a central cause for large numbers of land conflicts. Even though there are mechanisms to deal with local land disputes and conflicts, these are not sufficiently applied. Consequently, the Ethiopian government has halted all large-scale land transfers (>5,000 hectares) to private investors and agricultural development projects.

Project name	Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land (RGIL)
Regions	Amhara and Gambella regions
Volume	EUR 2.35 million
Duration	November 2019 to July 2023
Implementing partners	Ministry of Agriculture, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, regional bureaus, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), universities and partners from the private sector
Target groups	Decision-makers, government officials, agricultural investors, smallholder farmers, marginalized groups and CSOs



Approach

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to increased agricultural productivity and development in Ethiopia. The strategic approach aims at strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders and improving the regulatory framework for investments in land. The project promotes participation of civil society organizations in the formulation and implementation of responsible land policies and sensitizes private enterprises investing into agriculture and forestry to follow internationally well-recognized principles for responsible investments.

Objectives and outputs

The specific objective of the project is to ensure that investments in land are productive, contribute to sustainable land management, and respect the rights and needs of local populations, in particular vulnerable groups and women.

The project aims to achieve the following three outputs:

1. Strengthened capacities of government authorities
2. Strengthened capacities of investors
3. Strengthened capacities of local land users, especially agricultural smallholders and vulnerable groups

Key results



250 private investments
in land will comply with the agreed land use



60% of local land users
affected by private investments in land are generally satisfied with the investment



60% of the disputes
that occur in the target communities are resolved with the participation of civil society actors



250 investments in land
in the project areas are guided by the principles of national and international standards

Learning from experience

RGIL capitalizes on previous lessons learned and products developed through the S2RAI I Project such as a digitized land investment management and monitoring system and the development of monitoring guidelines and contract templates. In addition, through continuous capacity building and training on the job of partner organizations, the compliance with international guidelines and principles has improved. Thus, the negative social and environmental impacts have been reduced.

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Contact	Christian Mesmer, Project Manager christian.mesmer@giz.de M +251 (0)996 855 145

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