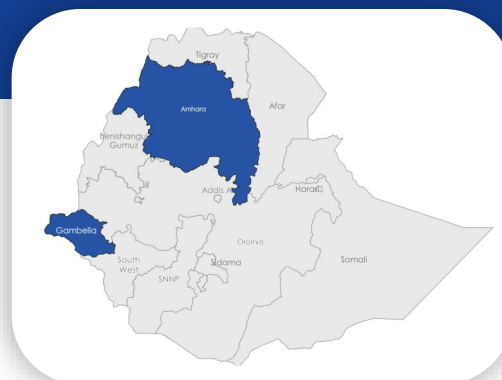




Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land



General context

A significant portion of the world's population directly depends on access to land and its safe, long-term use for their livelihoods. 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.

However, 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 December 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

Achievements

Strengthening CSOs - Through grant and local subsidy agreements, 2 local and 2 international CSOs have been supported and actively participated in responsible land governance matters in the intervention regions

Capacity building for the private sector - 205 private sector investors have been capacitated and received advisory services on Responsible governance of agriculture investments

Production of Knowledge products- Country specific Manuals on Responsible Agricultural investment, Agricultural Investment Extension methods, Conflict resolution, and Agricultural business management have been developed. With the help of this manuals relevant stakeholders have been capacitated on the subject matter

Multi- Stakeholder Dialogue MSD - Five different level (national and regional) MSD have been organized brought together higher government officials, donors, agricultural investors and local community to confer on promoting responsible agricultural investment of socially acceptable, economically feasible, and environmentally friendly.

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.

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices	Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Project	Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land Project Rahem Building, Diaspora Square, Megenagna Addis Ababa, Ethiopia www.giz.de/ethiopia
Contact	Christian Mesmer, Project Manager christian.mesmer@giz.de M +251 (0)996 855 145

Design/Layout GIZ-RGIL

Photo credits RGIL/GIZ

The programme is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication

As at August 2023, Addis Ababa