



Ethiopia

# Enhancement of Quality Infrastructure Services for Innovation in the Agriculture and Food Sector

**Objective** Increase the use of quality infrastructure services that contribute to the application of quality-related innovations in selected regions and value chains of the agriculture and food sector in Ethiopia.

**Approach** The project is based on a multi-level approach. Its interventions at the meso-level are directed at stakeholders from the agriculture and food sector and from quality infrastructure (QI) institutions such as the national standards body, testing laboratories and the national metrology institute. Institutions and structures are supported by means of capacity development measures (especially training and consultation) to improve and expand their services (e.g. laboratory analysis, calibrations and availability of suitable standards). Interventions at the micro-level aim to develop service offers for smallholders and food-processing companies in order to increasingly integrate quality-related aspects into selected value chains. The project is focussed on the value chains of wheat and faba beans in the Arsi region.

The main intervention areas of the project are as follows: to enhance awareness about the importance of quality in general and the benefits of QI for the agriculture and food sector; to establish and strengthen the capacities of local testing and calibration laboratories along the selected value chains; to support local providers of interlaboratory comparisons; to establish and strengthen specialist laboratory networks; and to strengthen the national system of legal metrology.

**Impact** As part of the German government's special initiative "One World – No Hunger", the project is focussed on small-scale agriculture, thereby contributing to improving food security and rural development, as well as securing employment and income for smallholder farmers.

Quality-related services are an important prerequisite for the efficiency and quality of agricultural production and its associated fields. By raising awareness and supporting local QI capacities, the project aims to increase quality assurance along the entire value chain, from inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides), harvesting and storage all the way to marketing and processing of agricultural products. It improves access to QI services for the rural population, such as soil analysis and calibrations of humidity meters and scales; this access is an important prerequisite for applying quality-related innovations in the agriculture and food sector in order to increase crop yields and food safety and minimize post-harvest losses.

All measures are closely oriented towards national priorities and policies to assure long-term support from all stakeholders.

**Cooperation** As part of the initiative "One World – No Hunger", the project complements and interacts closely with the programme "Increasing agricultural production through innovations" coordinated by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). A parallel project is being implemented in Ghana, thereby creating links for close cooperation between both countries.

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**Contact** Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
General Extension Directorate

Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt  
Tobias Diergardt  
PTB Project Coordinator  
+49 531 592 8228  
tobias.diergardt@ptb.de

