

Sub-Saharan Africa



Ethiopia

Strengthening of the Quality Infrastructure for Innovations in the Agricultural and Food Industry

Objective Increase the use of quality infrastructure (QI) services, which contribute to the application of quality-related innovations in the selected project regions and enhance the value chains of the agricultural and food sector in Ethiopia.

Approach The project supports the development of innovations in the agricultural and food sector in selected rural regions of Ethiopia. Implementing said innovations requires appropriate framework conditions, key among which is access to demand driven quality infrastructure (QI) services. The reinforcement of national QI institutions' capacities for providing reliable services in metrology, standardization, conformity assessment (testing, inspection, certification) and accreditation is crucial to attaining this goal. To this end, the project works with QI and agri-food sector actors, reinforcing capacities of both public institutions and private sector actors on relevant aspects of quality assurance through targeted capacity building measures. Interventions at the macro level include policy advice on increasing the integration of QI elements and improving inter-ministerial coordination in the agri-food sector.

Working towards improving quality assurance in the wheat, pulses, and honey value chains (from seed production to processing to the quality control of finished products), the main intervention areas of the project are: improving framework conditions for the introduction of quality assurance measures by small and medium enterprises (SMEs); supporting QI organisations (standardization, metrology and testing laboratories in particular) in expanding their range of services; and increasing demand for quality assurance services in agricultural value chains (production and processing) by enhancing awareness of quality requirements and of available quality assurance services.

Impact The project contributes to improving access to quality infrastructure (QI) services for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in agricultural production and processing, thereby driving improvement in produce quality through quality assurance of inputs and production processes. This improves compliance with regulatory and market standards, enhancing competitiveness of these SMEs in local and international markets. Furthermore, QI services contribute to consumer protection (e. g., through product and food safety, occupational health and safety), and thus to securing peoples' quality of life. The main beneficiaries are small-scale farmers and SMEs. The project aims at ensuring the creation of new jobs and contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development. All measures are aligned with national priorities and policies to ensure the long-term commitment and support of relevant stakeholders.

Cooperation As part of the initiative *One World – No Hunger*, the project works in close cooperation with the programme Promoting Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

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