Agricultural Development Programme
Stimulating innovation in agriculture

Agriculture is a major part of Ethiopia’s socio-economic fabric, contributing over 40% of the national GDP and employing around 80% of the population. Ethiopia’s agriculture sector is predominantly driven by small holder farmers where women play a significant, but unrecognized, role. This has meant an unlevel play ground for women farmers where they have less access to assets, services and farm inputs.

UNDP promotes climate smart agriculture practices to help the country cope with vulnerabilities related with climate change.

Our Approach

UNDP’s support for Ethiopia’s agriculture development programme has focused on supporting key innovative interventions that address systemic bottlenecks as well as help meet the needs of smallholder farmers.

UNDP’s support has focused on building the capacity of national institutions. Engagement with the Ministry of Agriculture has been complemented by helping Ethiopia to set up the Ethiopian Commodities Exchange (ECX) as well as the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) and deploy staff to lead both institutions.

These institutions have been instrumental in introducing solutions for systemic constraints faced by Ethiopia in the agriculture sector. The programme improves access to farm inputs, credit facilities, storage facilities, adoption of new technologies and marketing.

UNDP also support the government to develop and mainstream gender into its climate smart agriculture strategy.

In 2016

**5.3 million** small holder farmers benefitted from the input voucher system which is part of an overall Rural Financial Services (RFS) strategy.

The voucher system helped to address challenges related to costs and access to inputs, credit and appropriate improved technology packages.

**2.2 million** farmers benefitted from the introduction of new technology and practices such as improved seed variety for Teff with row planting. Scaling up of this intervention has led to **38%** increase of Teff production.

Small holders farmers in **70 woredas across four regions** have had their access to inputs enhanced through the introduction of a direct seed marketing approach that brings them in contact with well trained private retailers.

**1.3 million** people and **7.8 million** livestock accessed water supply schemes implemented over 4,760 hectares of irrigated land.
Going forward

In 2017, UNDP will be rolling out a new livestock programme to enhance Ethiopia’s national capacity for livestock development and transformation.

The livestock programme is expected to run until 2020 with a budget of USD 12 million. It will build resilience, improve quality, create local employment opportunities and diversification of local economy.

Focus areas

The new programme will focus on a number of cross-cutting interventions to enhance the income and change the lives of smallholder farmers through;

- Strengthening agribusiness linkages
- Improving animal health, animal feed and animal genetic make up
- Enhancing technology transfer for livestock development
- Promoting value addition and market oriented production of cow dairy, red meat and poultry
- Policy & regulatory advisory support

Targets by 2020

- Meat production projected to increase from 1,321 thousand tons in 2014/15 to 2,103 thousand tons
- Milk production projected to increase from 5,304 million liters in 2014/15 to 9,418 million liters
- Skins and hides production projected to increase from 22.4 million in 2014/15 to 35.6 million
- Eggs production projected to increase from 163 million in 2014/15 to 3,938 million
- Average daily milk yield from crossbred cows projected to increase from 8 liters/cow/day in 2014/15 to 12 liters/cow/day
- Average cattle meat yield is projected to increase from 107 kg in 2014/15 to 138 kg