FOREWORD FROM THE CEO

For millennia, agriculture has proven to be the backbone of Ethiopia’s economy with traditional practices that have been handed down through generations still practiced in many parts of the country. While Ethiopia’s vast natural resources, human capital, and biodiversity offer huge potential, concerted efforts must be made to transform the agricultural sector and improve the lives of the smallholder farmers. Climate change and erratic weather conditions have been constantly challenging the sustainable growth of the sector in the past years which put smallholder farmers’ livelihoods at risk. The questions of sustainability and inclusivity occupy higher priorities than ever before to ensure that recent gains and share fairly among the country’s diverse population.

Over the past ten years, the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) has primarily focused its strategic interventions towards increasing the production and productivity of prioritized crop commodities and bolstering implementation capacities of implementing partners across the agricultural value chains. It also made a more concerted effort to encourage and facilitate private sector involvement across the broader agricultural sector.

With the start of a new chapter, the agency continued to expand and enhance its efforts to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, ensuring food security, and strengthening agriculture to act as an engine for overall economic growth. Furthermore, following the new Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda, the agency was able to prepare its 10-year strategy which has been approved and is currently under implementation.

Apart from the works that we are doing externally, we have also made some changes within the Agency as well. With the aim of increasing the capacity of our regional offices, we have empowered regional staff through expanding their respective delegation in terms of level and authority. Moreover, we have also taken steps to adjust the salaries of staff because we value their contribution and help them adjust to the increasing cost of living.

The ATA’s achievements rely heavily on strong relationships and contributions of our implementing partners. We will continue to work closely with governmental, non-governmental, and private sector actors, and benefit from the critical thought partnership and financial support of our development partners. The strong links with our partners and our shared commitment to the transformation of Ethiopian agriculture makes us confident that the years ahead will be fruitful and successful.

Mandefro Nigussie (PhD)
Chief Executive Officer
BACKGROUND TO THE ETHIOPIAN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Endowed with abundant natural resources, Ethiopia has one of the most diverse agro-ecological configurations in the world. With 74.3 million hectares of arable land spread over 18 major agroecological zones at altitudes ranging from 148 meters to 4,620 meters above sea level, the country’s diversity makes it suitable for growing over 100 types of crops. Agriculture forms the biggest component and bedrock of Ethiopia’s economic development, contributing to about 32.7% share of the country’s GDP and 65.62% of employment. With 80% of Ethiopia’s 105 million people living in rural areas, the agriculture sector primarily consists of smallholder farmers who make their living from less than two hectares of land. The agriculture sector has experienced significant growth in recent years, with GDP contribution increasing from 531.7 billion ETB in 2014/15 to 650.3 billion ETB in 2019/20. The share of agriculture to GDP went down from 39% in 2014/15 to 32% in 2019/20 which indicates a gradual structural shift of the economy towards industry and service sectors. It is obvious that there are no countries that have developed without first transforming agriculture. In this regard, Ethiopia has embarked on the right path of development with clear strategic direction and committed government support to enhance inclusive and sustainable growth of the sector thereby ensuring structural transformation.

As the second phase of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTPII) concluded in 2019/20, the agricultural sector has achieved substantial improvements in productivity, quality, and competitiveness. In the coming years, the agriculture sector is expected to continue supporting the country’s goal to sustain economic growth, eradicate poverty and reach middle-income status by 2025 G.C. In the past five years, the sector has been growing by 4.7% on average. In 2018/19, cereal production increased by 5.3% while livestock sub-sector has been growing an average of 3.5% per year. The total grain production reached 315.6 million quintals of which, cereal production accounted for 88 percent, pulses 9.5 percent and oil seeds 2.5 percent.

Despite these encouraging results, however, Ethiopia has not yet realized its full agricultural potential as farming practices are still subsistence-oriented with low level of productivity, limited technology adoptions, sub-optimal agronomic practices constrain the ability of farmers to improve yields, and highly dependent on rain-fed farming, making the sector highly vulnerable to challenging pest and weather patterns. Addressing such challenges and commercializing the sector could lead Ethiopia to further exploit its agriculture potential both in crops and livestock sub-sectors hence, driving inclusive growth besides attaining food security.

Cognizant of its potential, the roles it plays in the economy, and its challenges, the sector has been at the center of a number of strategies designed and implemented by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) with the goals of accelerating growth, reducing poverty, enhancing sustainability and inclusiveness, and eliminating the country’s dependence on overseas development aid. The Government of Ethiopia, based on the Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda, has embarked on several subsequent reforms in various sectors including agriculture. The Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda which highlights 6 pillars of Agricultural Sector Reforms has a clear pathway for growth over the next 10 Years. Based on the Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda and lessons drawn in the sector, the Ministry of Agriculture has set its priorities in 10 thematic areas are: land; technology & input; finance; irrigation & water use; output marketing; infrastructure; enhanced sector contribution to the balance of payments; rural entrepreneurship; private sector participation; and implementation capacity.

1  NBE Annual Report 2019-2020
2  FAOSTAT, 2018
3  NBE Annual Report 2019-2020
The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) is the outcome of an extensive diagnostic study of Ethiopia’s agriculture sector led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and facilitated by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2009. The study found that traditional approaches taken to change the sector were too narrow, with many projects and programs only focusing on selected aspects and leading to disconnected interventions that did not address the root causes of problems. One key finding of the study, based on the experience of other countries in East and Southeast Asia in the 1960s to 1980s, was the need to establish a dedicated organization to help catalyze and drive accelerated agricultural development.

Based on these recommendations, in December 2010 (2003 EFY) the Council of Ministers in Ethiopia passed Regulation 198/2010 and (Amended) Regulation No. 380/2016. ATA’s operating model is centered around 4 mandate areas, and 2 approaches to transformation:

### ATA’s Operating Model

ATA’s current operating model is directly derived from the organization’s legal mandate as articulated in the Council of Ministers Regulation No. 198/2010 and (Amended) Regulation No. 380/2016. ATA’s operating model is centered around 4 mandate areas, and 2 approaches to transformation:

#### Mandate Areas

- **Studies:** Identify systemic constraints of agricultural development, through conducting studies, and recommend solutions in order to ensure sustainability and structural transformation.
- **Projects:** Recommend and follow-up the implementation of recommended solutions as projects.

#### Values

- **Innovative:** We search for and generate transformational ideas and technologies that catalyze change.
- **Evidence-Based:** Our decisions and actions are driven by data, analysis, evaluation, and learning.
- **Focused:** We work on a limited set of priorities that best use resources, reduce complexity, and maximize impact.
- **Collaborative:** We closely engage diverse colleagues and partners to decide, act and learn together.
- **Impact-Driven:** We strive to transform the lives of smallholder farmers by understanding and addressing their evolving priorities.

#### Approach to Transformation

- **Support the identification and implementation of interventions to address systemic bottlenecks done through the Agricultural Transformation Agenda program.**
- **Geographic Programs – Coordinate agricultural and related projects in specific geographies to catalyze agricultural transformation done through geographic programs.**

### ATA Mandates & Strategic Priorities

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#### Approach to Transformation

- **Support the identification and implementation of interventions to address systemic bottlenecks done through the Agricultural Transformation Agenda program.**
- **Geographic Programs – Coordinate agricultural and related projects in specific geographies to catalyze agricultural transformation done through geographic programs.**
One of the mandates of the ATA is to identify systemic bottlenecks in agricultural development and recommend solutions. In 2020/21, a total of 44 analytical studies were conducted with the involvement of multiple teams, including Analytics and Evaluation & Learning. The studies covered policy, market analysis, organizational effectiveness, and project design, planning, and implementation.

Some of the major studies undertaken include:

**Ethiopian Food Systems**

As part of the decade of action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the United Nations will convene the Global Food Systems Summit in September 2021. In line to this, the Government of Ethiopia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and various partners, has been working on developing a roadmap and position paper to transform the way we produce and consume. ATA was requested to play a coordination role in bringing together public institutions, multilateral and bilateral organizations, the private sector, civil society organizations, and universities and research institutes to collaboratively chart a course for food systems transformation. This has been done through a multi-stage and multi-sectoral process informed by a high-level roundtable discussion and background paper, followed by two sequential national dialogues. Overall, the Ethiopian Food Systems work has generated 22 Game Changing Ideas which will bring about tangible and positive change to the food system. These game changers envision to bring a holistic transformation of Ethiopia’s food systems from production to consumption that promotes enhanced food safety, nutrition, and diets, improved livelihoods, greater land preservation and restoration and greater resilience to shocks and stress.

**Soil Health and Fertility Management design**

Most of Ethiopia’s soil is poorly managed. Nearly all arable lands are affected by a host of soil health and fertility issues. While significant efforts are being exerted to improve soil health and fertility, there are implementation shortfalls in holistically delivering soil interventions. A high-level assessment revealed that four soil issues are facing the highest implementation gaps both in terms of geographical and thematic coverage of interventions. Hence, the Soil Health and Fertility Management project design focused on these priority soil issues, and the 10 interventions associated with them. The design has identified that the implementation gaps emanate from root causes around limited strategic focus on soil health, lack of coordinated efforts, and an investment gap coupled with poor enablers for private sector participation. Additionally, most efforts are siloed with very limited coordination amongst actors. The project design took a rigorous design approach which involved multiple engagements with federal and regional stakeholders to co-design specific solutions and coordinate efforts during implementation. The solutions are directed towards three key components in the soil landscape: soil information, research and extension, and soil input supply chain. Effective implementation of these solutions would significantly contribute to the achievement of ACC outcomes by increasing production and productivity as well as ensuring environmental sustainability.

**Agri-Finance Project Design and Implementation**

Access to agricultural finance is a major issue in Ethiopia with limitations present both on the smallholder farmer and financial institutions side. The ATA conducted a study that rigorously assessed the challenges in the agricultural finance ecosystem and prioritized four opportunities to address them. The identified opportunities initiated positive responses from two commercial banks with which they are being co-developed for implementation. These projects will be executed in parallel to serve the entire value chain and create sustainable linkages with the sector actors to deliver impact to smallholder farmers and the agriculture sector as a whole.

**ATA 10-year strategy revision**

The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency's 10-year strategy has been developed with the shared sector vision of “Consecrating to a transformed agriculture by 2030.” The strategy ultimately drives from the Government of Ethiopia’s homegrown Economic Reform Agenda, the 10-year strategy for the sector, the priority thematic areas of the MoA as well as ATAs founding and amended regulations. The ATA must ensure alignment with other key stakeholders in the sector to reinforce its role as a catalyst for accelerated agricultural transformation and as a system integrator. Hence, the Agency’s 10-year strategy has been revised to include high-priority collaboration areas with key sector stakeholders, such as MoTi, MoWIE, EIAR and EIC, for achieving deeper alignment and strategic coordination.

**Mini grids: Power Access and Irrigation**

Access to electricity catalyzes economic development in rural areas and can have a transformative impact on agricultural productivity and smallholder farmer income. The ATA is therefore currently working to pilot the use of mini-grid systems across multiple ACC sites. The ATA firstly conducted a detailed analysis of the impact and feasibility of potential productive use cases of mini grids in ACC sites, identifying electrified irrigation as the most beneficial option to support significantly increased income and productivity. The benefit of electrified irrigation was shown to be highest for water-intensive horticultural crops. This initial assessment was followed by a more detailed economic viability analysis, assessing the impact of electrified irrigation on farmer incomes at multiple ACC agriculture sites to validate our initial conclusions and show that mini grid powered irrigation would drive significant income benefits for farmers. The ATA is now working on a detailed project design for piloting electrified irrigation at 9 sites. This involves both defining the optimal business model to ensure long-term commercial viability and designing a program of support for farmers to ensure they are best placed to maximize the value of the electrified irrigation. This therefore represents an exciting project that will position ATA at the centre of the energy-agriculture nexus and allow ATA to leverage innovative energy technologies to benefit ATA farmers. For implementation, the ATA has the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and other major donors. We are expecting to commence implementation in 2022.
IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Supporting implementation partners to enhance their capacity to execute interventions effectively has always been central to the ATA’s way of working. In the 2020-21 budget year, there were 4 project teams’ activities that fall under Implementation Support Mandate areas implemented by ATA. Activities planned and performed under the Implementation Support include planning, technical support, capacity building, tracking, and reporting of implementing partners and the ATA itself.

ATA Delivery Unit (DU) at MoA

In 2017 the Delivery Unit (DU) team was deployed to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and affiliate institutions, consisting technical experts and delivery specialists. The DU was formed to strengthen the coordination and implementation of strategic interventions designed to address systemic bottlenecks of the sector which were initially embodied in the GTP II & Agricultural Transformation Agenda Deliverables (TADs).

Following the ending of the GTP II and TADs the DU took an assignment from the Ministry in 2020 to support the designing of a 5-year Systemic Intervention Plans (SIPs) to help support the implementation of the Ministry’s 10-year perspective programmatic plans and the lately revised Agricultural and Rural Development (ARD) Policies.

Subsequently on Nov. 23, 2020, the Delivery Unit with an assigned Analytics team led the planning processes following the workshop opened by H.E. Ato Oumer, Minister of MoA. In collaboration with more than 300 agriculture experts from the Ministry and affiliate institutions such as the Federal Cooperatives Agency (FCA), Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), National Animal Genetics Improvement Institute (NAGII) and Ethiopian Agricultural research Council (EARCS), the Systemic Intervention Plans were completed after a series of workshops lasting until mid-Feb. 2021. The SIP covers key thematic areas in the sector ranging from land and natural resources development, technology and input, finance, irrigation, output market to integrated agricultural and rural infrastructure as well as economy development, private sector participation and implementation capacity. The SIPs, owned by the MoA, will now be implemented starting from 2021 and the DU will continue giving technical support in each program, tracking and reporting the implementation of the plans as well.
In 2020-21 budget year, under Systemic Interventions Vertical, 9 major projects have been planned for implementation. To achieve project targets, the program also performs in other ATA mandate areas. The major projects are:

RUSSACCO capacity building, Input Voucher System (IVS) Plant breeders’ Right Proclamation, Enabling Next Generation Agricultural Researchers through engaging seasoned scientists (ENARESS), 8028 Farmers Hotline, National Market Information System, EthioSIS fertilizer validation study, Agriculture Investment Mapping, and farmers production cluster (FPC) digitalization projects.

Summary of Systemic Interventions Projects performance in 2020-21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Annual 2020-21 Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSACCO Capacity Building</td>
<td>71 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input Voucher System</td>
<td>85 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Breeders’ Right Proclamation</td>
<td>77 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enabling Next Generation Agricultural Researchers through engaging seasoned scientists (ENARESS)</td>
<td>100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8028 Farmers Hotline</td>
<td>96 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Market Information System</td>
<td>84 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EthioSIS fertilizer validation study</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Investment Mapping</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CropIn Project</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8028 Farmers’ Hotline (IVR/SMS) Project

8028 Farmers Hotline is one of ATA’s flagship projects designed for implementation in collaboration with MoA, EIAR and Ethio-telecom. The 8028 Farmers’ Hotline project which was begun in disseminating improved agronomic practices and provision of advisory services on 21 crops to smallholder farmers and DAs has now expanded to the pastoral areas by incorporating livestock and Covid-19 pandemic contents into the system. Only during the 2020-21, the system has been accessed by more than 4 million callers (mainly farmers) for free by registering a total of 481,321 new users into the system.

The platform with its Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and short message (SMS) can help to conduct surveys on the occurrence of crop diseases and insect pests with the participation of frontline extension workers. The findings of the surveys were shared to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) to further analyse with additional data sources and develop advisory contents. Thereafter, the developed advisory message was sent back to farmers to warn them about the occurrence of crops disease (such as wheat rust) and pest infestation (mainly Desert Locust). Moreover, the system has gathered 7,856 agriculture related questions from Farmers through 8028 Helpdesks module and provided detailed explanation to the requesters using the nearby Woreda helpdesk responders who are trained for this proposes.

NMIS Project

National Market Information System (NMIS) is designed to collect, process, and disseminate market data (price, volume, and type of product) from the rural market areas and provide timely, accurate, and relevant market information to all value chain actors (including smallholders, retailers, Wholesalers, and policy makers). The system has considerably helped the users to make informed market decisions since the information is processed and validated from the selected marketplaces.

For instance, by the end of the 2019/21, more than 30,670 different market data were gathered from 157 selected marketplaces in five regions (Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR and Sidama) on five crops (wheat, wheat, corn, soybean, and sesame). More than 314,539 newly registered users have received validated market information from the platform by calling to 6077 toll free telephone line. In general, the system has generated 1,910,587 calls by the end of the budget year. Training on data collection, organization, and analyses was given to a total of 369 market data collectors in the five regions mentioned above with the major objective of enhancing their skills, knowledge, and ensure sustainability. Similarly, awareness creation on the importance of the system was given for 244 regional, zone, and woreda level stakeholders.

Aim Project

ATA in partnership with the Rural Economic Development and Food Security (RED&FS) Secretariat of the MoA and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), has developed a project on an Agricultural Investment Mapping (AIM) web application tool to collect, centralize, and visualize agricultural investments information portfolio. By the end of 2020-21 budget year, the tools that works for both online and offline system was completed by the developing organization (Critigen). A total of 157 participants from Federal and Regions (Amara, Oromia, and SNNP) attended promotional events and data-gathering trainings organized by the project team. A total of 144 agricultural investment projects which were observed registering in the four regions (Amara (51), Oromia (46) and SNNP (47)), and 28 at the federal level. In general, a total of 173 agricultural investment projects were incorporated into the agricultural investment tool for visualization. The migration of the AIM tool to the MoA data centre was successfully carried out in July 2021.

Improving financial access for the Rural Communities

In response to the difficulties that smallholder farmers face in accessing credit for agricultural inputs, the Input Voucher System (IVS) engages local microfinance institutions (MFIs) or Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives (RuSaCCos) to qualify farmers for loans and issue cash or credit vouchers that can be used to redeem inputs at nearby cooperative stores. During the 2020-21 6.3 million smallholder farmers utilized the Input Voucher Sales (IVS) to purchase 12.2 million quintals of fertilizer, seed, and agro-chemicals that costed ETB 16.96 billion. By upgrading the paper-based input Voucher system to electronic or E-Voucher system, 920,000 transactions were made. These transactions were accessed by 658,000 farmers and purchased 3.2 million quintals of fertilizers, seeds, and agrochemicals with the value of 4.03 billion ETB on cash and 50 million ETB on credit basis.

By the end of the fiscal period, training on financial literacy were given to 459,000 participants out of which 84% were Female headed households.

EthioSIS The Ethiopian Soil Information System (EthioSIS) is the first initiative of its kind in Africa, employing remote sensing satellite technology and other state-of-the art technologies for soil surveying. It aims to map the country’s soil fertility status and compile in-depth soil fertility information, to guide fertilizer policies and recommendations, and drive significantly higher crop yields.

In 2020-21 a comprehensive national level digital Soil fertility status and preliminary Fertilizer recommendation atlas was prepared and released to the regions. Moreover, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) a proposal to determine the appropriate rate of nutrient requirements for major commodities has been developed and the field level experiments set to begin in the coming cropping calendar. Soil data generated through the EthioSIS projects is also being migrated to the National Soil Information System (NSIS) server located at MoA.
The Agricultural Commercialization Clusters (ACC) is market-driven value chain development to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers through an inclusive and environmentally sustainable approach. ACC focuses on interventions that improve crop productivity while reducing degradation, improving access to markets, increasing agro-processing and value-added activities, creating employment opportunities, and improving coordination of implementation efforts. In 2020-21 10 major projects were implemented by the ATA under the ACC program which aimed at achieving the set-out objectives.

Summary of ACC Projects performance in 2020-21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Annual 2020-21 Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture One Stop Shop Project</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative Based Seed Production Project</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Seed Marketing Project</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Shallow Ground Water Irrigation Development</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Trade &amp; Investment Promotion</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AgriHub</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopian Agribusiness Acceleration Platform</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPC-Grain</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanization Service Center Project</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock &amp; Fisheries Sector Development</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Increasing Access to Agricultural Inputs

Access to quality inputs has been one of the major bottlenecks in Ethiopian agriculture, and to address it the ATA developed the Agriculture One Stop Shops and Service Centers (AGSS). The project aims to improve smallholder farmer’s productivity, food security, and incomes through establishing a network of agricultural one-stop input supply and service centers. The OSS project aims to create 200 one-stop input shops and centers in the Agricultural Commercialization Cluster (ACC) woredas in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP.

During 2020-21, familiarization workshops were conducted with federal and regional stakeholders in three regions. The AGSS team coordinated and provided business management and technical training to 145 functional centers selected from three regions. Moreover, in the stated period, 155 One-stop-centers have provided various agricultural inputs and services to 2.1 million smallholder farmers valuing at more than 800 million ETB.

The ATA also provided bookkeeping trainings and financial settlement trainings to 103 AGSS out of which 30 of them have gained access to credit from banks amounting to more than 135 million ETB which has helped them diversify their businesses.

Modernizing Seed Distribution

For years, the formal seed distribution and marketing mechanism in Ethiopia has been centralized and dominated by public institutions. These institutions plan and forecast seed demand from the information they obtain through the local level agricultural offices. This information was used to determine the quantities of seeds to be produced and distributed. ATA in collaboration with its partners introduced Direct Seed Marketing (DSM) modality to create an alternative marketing mechanism whereby seed companies (public, private and unions) distribute and market their products and services directly to the end users via their own marketing agents (cooperatives, private and own agents, and outlets). The project aims to create an efficient seed marketing system that ensures smallholder farmers’ access to improved seeds in a competitive manner, thereby enhancing their production and productivity, and ultimately their income.

In 2020-21 except for Tigray region, the three project regions Oromia, Amhara and SNNP conducted their annual evaluation along with learning and planning workshops which involved more than 449 stakeholders from the four regions. In the concluded year 45 new DSM project woredas were selected for the project expansion making the total DSM woredas reach 366.

Household Irrigation

The dependence of Ethiopian agriculture on rain and the variability of rainfall hampers the production and productivity of millions of smallholder farmers. The Integrated Shallow Ground Water Irrigation Development (ISGWD) project was developed to offer a viable alternative to Ethiopia’s erratic rainfall patterns and stabilize production, improve quality of produce, enable farmers to produce multiple times annually and allow diversification into high-value crops. To promote the use of shallow groundwater for small scale irrigation, to date, the project has mapped a total area of 68,772 km² making the total groundwater resources mapping area covered reach 234,772 km². From this area, 27.27 billion m³ of shallow groundwater computed using different recharge estimation methods at a depth of less than 30 meters. A total of 3,088,395 hectares of irrigable land has been defined, and 6,176,898 beneficiary households were identified on 356 total woredas.

A total of 27.27 billion cubic meters ground water has been identified at a depth of 30 meters in these areas which can potentially irrigate 3 million hectares of land benefiting 6.17 million households in 356 Woredas. To share the information for potential stakeholders, atlas published and distributed for 193 woredas this year that made a total of 267 atlas published and distributed to date.

To utilize this groundwater resource sustainably the introduction of energy efficient and water saving technology and training is underway. Accordingly in 2020-21, workshops and technical training for scale-ups and expansion of solar-powered pump technologies for regional, zonal, and woreda management & Experts in Amhara and SNNP regions were conducted. Moreover, in the completed year the project saw 21,804 hectares of land covered by high value horticultural crops such as onion, garlic, tomato, potato, pepper, carrot, and cabbage in Amhara, Oromia, and SNNP regions.

The Agriculture Trade and Investment Promotion (ATIP)

Aiming to transform Ethiopia’s agriculture sector through effective engagement of private sector, government organizations, and developmental partners by connecting smallholder farmers with commercial, market-focused supply chains to increase their incomes and improve livelihoods, the ATA established Agriculture Trade and Investment Promotion (ATIP).

Through its partnership works with various governmental and international stakeholders in 2020-21 ATIP organized two Agro-Processing forums targeting investment attractions for Bure and Bulbula Integrated Agro Industry parks. Moreover, the team took part in three international forums with promising results to showcase the potential Ethiopia offers to international investors in the Food and Beverage sector.

As part of a tri party agreement, in 2020-21 ATIP also extended support to Upper Awash Agro Industry Enterprise to finalize the installation of production machineries which has led to the supply of tomato paste to the British multinational consumer goods company, Uniliver.
FARMER PRODUCTION CLUSTERS

Background on the Program

The sub-set of the ACC program, the Agricultural Full Package Scale-up (AFPS) was introduced in 2017/18 as a set of farmer-level focused interventions, aiming at scaling up the adoption of full-package technology which will eventually result in establishing farmers owned agricultural enterprises. In 2018/19, the project was broadened to include both full-package uptake and commercialization as drivers of farmer income and renamed Farmer Production Clusters (FPC).

The FPC project clusters farmers together for faster diffusion of research recommendations, which improve farming practices and facilitated access to input finance by leveraging scale, which increases marketable surplus. It also makes modern technology, including machinery, more affordable, fosters bargaining power, and enables stronger market linkages as the cluster can serve large buyers, enhancing profitability through enhanced commercialization.

Interventions in 20

Currently the ACC-FPC project focuses on five priority commodities namely wheat, maize, tef, malt Barley and sesame with the information from the clusters available on the National Market Information System (NMIS) website to create market linkage.

Following the global COVID-19 outbreak, the ACC-FPC has prepared and distributed implementation supporting documents to regions to supplement capacity building trainings to areas that were affected by the pandemic.

In 2020-21 about 3.7 million smallholder farmers planted nearly 2.8 million hectares of land with the five priority commodities (wheat, maize, tef, malt Barley and sesame) out of which 47% of the ACC farmers and 27% of the ACC hectare of land are under the FPC project. To ensure the availability of agricultural inputs, about 590,800 quintals of seed and 5.4 million quintals of fertilizers were distributed to ACC- FPC farmers out of which 440,700 quintals of seed and 2.5 million quintals of fertilizer used by FPC farmers.

Moreover, during the year under consideration, about 368,300 ACC-FPC farmers accessed input credit services.
AMHARA REGION

In the 2020-21 G.C. cropping season 889,719 hectares of land were planted with five selected commodities (Sesame, Maize, Wheat, Malt Barley and Tef) in 82 ACC woredas by engaging more than 1.3 million farmers. According to the post- harvest assessment data, from planned 18.5 million quintals of productions, 31.2 million quintals were produced. In addition to these, 73,635 ACC farmers accessed agricultural mechanization services. In 2020-21 G.C., 445,843 quintals of commodities are sold through contractual agreements signed between farmers and buyers for the five priority commodities which valued about 770 million ETB.

In the 2020-21 G.C. production season, from 7,412 pre-basic FPCs assessed in the region 827 transited to basic cluster level while from the evaluated 300 basic clusters 80 moved to the intermediate level FPCs.

OROMIA REGION

In the 2020-21 cropping season more than 1.3 million hectares of land were planted with five selected commodities (Sesame, Maize, Wheat, Malt Barley and Tef) in 125 ACC woredas by engaging more than 1.4 million farmers and harvesting 55.6 million quintals. In addition to these, 353,134 ACC farmers in the region accessed agricultural mechanization services. In 2020-21, more than 2.6 million quintals of commodities are sold through contractual agreements signed between farmers and buyers for the five priority commodities which valued more than 4.6 billion ETB.

In the 2020-21 production season, out of the FPCs assessed, 2,105 FPCs transitioned from Pre-basic to Basic stage whereas, 296 FPCs transitioned from Basic to Intermediate stage. Farm business trainings were given to 1,488 FPCs to help the transition smooth.
SNNP Region

In the 2020-21 cropping season 297,903 hectares of land were planted with four selected commodities (Sesame, Maize, Wheat, and Tef) in 66 ACC woredas by engaging more than 644 thousand farmers and harvesting 11.2 million quintals. In addition, 89,305 farmers accessed agricultural mechanization services. In 2020-21, more than 576 thousand quintals of commodities are sold through contractual agreements signed between farmers and buyers for the four priority commodities which valued more than 1 billion ETB.

In the 2020-21 production season, out of the FPCs assessed, 562 FPCs transitioned from Pre-basic to Basic stage.

Tigray Region

Prior to the law enforcement operation that was conducted in Tigray Region in November 2020, in the 2020-21 cropping season 325,053 hectares of land were planted with three selected commodities (Sesame, Wheat, Tef) in 30 ACC woredas by engaging more than 372 thousand farmers. The average productivity for each commodity was estimated to be about 30.4, 17.5 and 7 quintals per hectare for wheat, tef, and sesame, respectively, with a target production at about 5,376,330 quintals.

In the 2020-21 production season, out of the FPCs assessed, 562 FPCs transitioned from Pre-basic to Basic stage.
Looking Forward

2020-21 witnessed various opportunities and challenges the agricultural sector. A very good rainy season created a fertile ground to land preparation and cultivations for Meher season. The COVID-19 pandemic has scared many of us though its impacts have not been significant in the sector during this reporting period. Building on the strong results of the past year, the agency will continue to support the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners to address systemic bottlenecks, deliver on the transformational agenda interventions, and the ACC program will continue to be implemented in full scale across target regions, strengthening implementation capabilities to address crosscutting issues of sustainability and inclusivity.

Beginning 2021-22, the ATA will continue implementing its ten-year strategy and structure which is designed based on programs rather than project-based models, where projects contribute to strategic programs objectives to ensure focus. Through the Crop ACC geographic Program, Systemic Intervention program and Livestock ACC Geographic impact programs the ATA aims to enhance agricultural production, productivity of crops and livestock.

Moreover, the ATA is also finalizing its Scale-up Regions geographic program which program aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Somali, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Gambella through an integrated approach to unlock the agricultural potential in these regions.

Through its strategic programs, ATA’s impact can be understood in terms of three key sector-level impact metrics. First, ATA is expected to contribute to overall national GDP growth. As an agriculture-focus organization, ATA will also contribute to agricultural GDP growth. Finally, given ATA’s focus reaches beyond economic impact, to include production, productivity, commercialization, and access to inputs (to name but a few), ATA will contribute to poverty reduction across Ethiopia.

As we continue the approved five-year plan, the ATA remains fully focused on delivering strong and impactful results, while also developing innovative ways to bring about agricultural transformation. We remain committed to working alongside our partners to enable Ethiopia’s smallholder farmers to become fully commercialized economic actors, with greater incomes, contributing to Ethiopia’s development and achievement of middle-income country status.

Partners

The ATA would like to thank all its partners, across the public sector, development community and donors, NGO, and civil society as well as in the private sectors, for their continued dedication to transforming Ethiopia’s agriculture sector. All the areas of progress outlined in this Annual Report are the result of successful collaborations and the commitment of many different institutions across the sector.

Lastly, the ATA would like to acknowledge the millions of Ethiopian smallholder farmers, who work tirelessly to feed the nation. In our eyes, these farmers are not passive beneficiaries of our work but rather critical partners who must be engaged as equals in the transformation of the country’s agricultural sector and economy.