

# ATA NEWS



March-July 2021

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Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency

[www.ata.gov.et](http://www.ata.gov.et)

**Clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20-40 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub to protect yourself from viruses**

**ATA victorious at the Mercy Corps AgriFin ALE Awards 2021**

**Agro Processing forums**

**8028 Farmers Hotline passes 5.5 million registered**

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## Ethiopian Food Systems Dialogue

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Ethiopia is leveraging the attention that the UNFSS 2021 has generated to build momentum for positive food systems transformation. Under the leadership of the national convenors, HE Oumer Hussein, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, and HE Dr Lia Tadesse, Minister, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia is developing a position paper and roadmap to inform aligned actions by all actors to deliver positive food system transformation with strong sustainability considerations and accountability.

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# ETHIOPIAN FOOD SYSTEM

**May 10 - 11**



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MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ETHIOPIA

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## Ethiopian Food Systems Dialogue

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The national convenors have appointed the national curators, Mandefro Nigussie (PhD) from the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency, and Dr Dereje Duguma from the Ministry of Health who are leading the Technical Committee. To date, Ethiopia has developed a background paper, held a High-Level Roundtable, and hosted the first dialogue.

Dialogue 1 was set to inform stakeholders of the current state of the Ethiopian Food System, and to gather information to identify and prioritize catalytic Game Changing ideas to transform the current state. The dialogue also informed the development of the conceptual framework to pave the way forward. Dialogue 1 took place on the 31st of March and 1st of April 2021.

Speaking at the opening of the Dialogue, H.E Oumer Hussein said the productivity level of agriculture has still not reached its full potential, and diversification has remained limited despite the progress made in increasing cereal production.

H.E Dr. Lia Tadesse also stated that the dialogue will serve as an entry point for food systems transformation and sustainable healthier diets in Ethiopia for the coming years. The dialogue which is the first of its kind brought together various policy makers, and experts who presented food system policies, strategies, and results of programs in relation to the Food System Agenda.

Dialogue 2 for the Ethiopian Food System Dialogue took place on May 14th and 15th. During the session, prioritized Game Changing ideas will be reviewed and endorsed to inform Ethiopia's position paper and roadmap.

Finally, in mid-June the Ethiopian Food Summit (Dialogue 3) will commence ahead of the UN Food System pre-summit. The Summit will endorse the position paper and roadmap and foster commitments to action by all actors and development partners.

The ATA is proud to lead the efforts Ethiopian Food System position paper and roadmap development. Frequent updates will be shared in the coming months to engage the public.



## ATA victorious at the Mercy Corps AgriFin ALE Awards 2021

The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) has received two awards in two categories at the Agri Fin ALE Awards 2021. The awards were under the category “Use of Digital Data to Serve Smallholders” and “Innovations in Public-Private Partnerships Benefiting Smallholder Farmers”.

Under the first category, “Use of Digital Data to Serve Smallholders” the ATA in collaboration with Dalberg and Mercy Corps Agrifin Teams was able to create the ATA Data Hub which consolidates all existing data sources from the ATA into the Data Hub. By doing that the ATA was able to utilize the data from seven different ATA projects for more comprehensive analysis and decision making. The ATA Data Hub was also utilized to further support the ATA's Agriculture Commercialization Clusters of 2.5 million Farmers, develop more detailed farmer profiles, and position the Data Hub as an open resource that can be leveraged by government ministries, private sector partners and other stakeholders in a variety of ways.

“This recognition will serve as a big boost for the Ethiopian agriculture and for the agency as it recognizes the works, we are doing to help the smallholder farmers we strive to serve.” ATA CEO Dr. Mandefro Nigussie said. “Having a tool such as 8028 which is the biggest IVR system in Africa and other similar tools such as the National Market Information System (NMIS), backed by various partnerships with various stakeholders will help assist the relentless works that are being done to improve the sector.” Dr. Mandefro also added.

The second category “Innovations in Public-Private Partnerships Benefiting Smallholder Farmers” was won for the works done in collaboration with stakeholders and partners such as MoA, Mercy Corps, Turn.io, WFP, FAO, and Plant Village by using the 8028 Farmer's Hotline, and elocust3m tools for conducting surveys for identifying and locating the occurrence of the Desert locusts, and sending out an alert to inform or warn farmers in the nearby woredas or kebeles based on the predicted movement of the Locust.

Director of ICT for Agriculture at the ATA, Temesgen Gebeyehu for his part said “Over the past few years, the 8028 farmer's hotline has been steadily growing and has been providing crucial information to farmers. In addition to providing support to fight off Desert locust, the platform has also been conducting voice and SMS based survey for identifying the presence of crop disease and pest infestations such as Wheat rust, Maize lethal necrosis, fall army worm and others” Temesgen also added “the platform has also been providing an important information to smallholder farmers, Development agents, and agricultural experts so that they can use to break the spread of these diseases. 8028 Farmers Hotline basically provides advisory services to smallholders' farmers on Agronomy, livestock, and Covid-19 responses.

Launched in February 2014 in four regions, the 8028 Farmers' Hotline currently runs on 210 phone lines and is available in five languages. The service recently surpassed the 48 million calls mark from 5.5 million registered callers.

## Agro Processing forums



On 8 April 2021, the ATA took part in an Agriculture and Agro processing Webinar Forum organized by Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Ethiopian Embassy in Kuwait. The forum was a partnership between the Government of Ethiopia and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce with the aim of reactivating, growing, and improving commercial links between the two countries. The forum also served as a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and opportunities related to agricultural development and trading. Accordingly, on the forum, Henok Mesfin, Director of Private Sector Development of the ATA, presented the vast investment opportunities in the Agriculture and Agro processing sector while Ethiopian Investment Commission presented overall investment of Ethiopia.

Another forum took place on 24 April 2021, in which the ATA in partnership with Amhara Industry Park Development Agency organized an Agro-processing Investment Forum in Enjibara town. Participants from various institutions such as the Amhara Region Bureau of Agriculture, Market development, Investment, Research Institute, Cooperative Agency, Universities, Banks, Federal Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ethiopian Investment Commission took part in the forum.

The forum aimed at promoting and attracting investment potential of Bure Integrated Agro-industry Park to the region Cooperative Unions, Model Farmers and Private companies to engage in the food and beverage sector.

## 8028 Farmers Hotline passes 5.5 million registered

On 22 April 2021, the 8028 Farmer's Hotline reached 5.5 million registered users making 48 million calls to receive different agronomy and livestock-based information in Ethiopia using five local languages. The 8028 Farmers Hotline is a toll-free service that distributes agronomic best practices and collects field information via an automated hotline. It supports sustainable agriculture by empowering smallholders with access to agronomic best practices. The system's main objective is to ensure that smallholders have real-time access to pertinent agronomic information, which will help them make more informed decisions about their farming practices. The system is available in Amharic, Afan Oromo, Tigrigna, Sidamigna, and Wolaitigna languages and activities can be monitored in real-time via the 8028 Farmers Hotline dashboard, which is available to any approved administrator across government agencies.

This big milestone will serve as a big boost for the Ethiopian agriculture and for the agency as it indicates the works, the ATA is doing to help the smallholder farmers it strives to serve. This achievement was also made possible with the partnerships with the MoA, Ethio Telecom, EIAR and others which helped us better equip the system and help us deliver the proper information to the smallholder farmers.



**WE HAVE REACHED**  
**5.5 MILLION**  
**REGISTERED CALLERS**