

# FOOD SECURITY AND LAND GOVERNANCE FACTSHEET

## Ethiopia



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### ABSTRACT

In Ethiopia, food security and integrated water resources management are closely related to access to land, tenure security and collective user rights. Major challenges to land governance are demand for land driven by the growing population, land fragmentation and the small size of land holdings in many areas, the pressure on natural resources, the weak institutional arrangements responsible for land governance and the policy to attract (foreign) direct inward investment in land. As landlessness in rural areas is widespread, rental markets have become important. In the past years, Ethiopia has made much progress with registration of user rights over farmland. Women's rights over land are recognized during registration but require active facilitation. A source of controversy is the government policy to increase medium and large-scale leasing of land. It has lead local communities and farmers to lose access to land or to be displaced, which undermined their livelihood systems. These risks for local communities are reinforced by the lack of transparency which characterizes these transactions and weak land governance system put in place.

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### **About LANDac**

LANDac, the Netherlands Academy on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development, is a partnership between Dutch organizations working on land governance. The partners are the International Development Studies (IDS) group at Utrecht University (leading partner), African Studies Centre, Agriterra, the Sociology of Development and Change (SDC) group at Wageningen University, HIVOS, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The LANDac network conducts research, disseminates information, and organizes courses and training, focusing on new pressures and competing claims on land and natural resources. Guiding question is how to optimize the link between land governance, sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

[www.landgovernance.org](http://www.landgovernance.org)

### **About F&BKP**

The Food and Business Knowledge Platform (F&BKP) is one of the five Knowledge Platforms initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is an open and independent initiative where representatives from international networks and organizations of business, science, civil society and policy come together. The Platform shares, critically reflects on, generates, deepens and improves (interdisciplinary) knowledge and feeds practices and policies on food and nutrition security. Land governance is one of the prioritized themes in its mission to develop a more focused knowledge agenda.

[www.knowledge4food.net](http://www.knowledge4food.net)

### Regulatory land governance framework

Historic events have influenced land policy in Ethiopia. There were complex land tenure systems during the imperial regime that includes communal land ownership system called *rist*<sup>1</sup> – dominant in the northern highlands, the *gult* system<sup>2</sup> and two-third of the land owned was owned by the Ethiopian Orthodox church and by the landlords in the southern highlands. Absentee landlordism was rare in the northern highlands, but was common in the southern highlands and tenants used to pay up to 50% of their produce to landlords (Ofcansky & Berry 1991). Peasants paid taxes and land rents to absentee landlords even during famine period and were evicted from their land when they failed to pay tributes to landlords (van Santen, 2011). In the lowland regions, the land tenure system was dominated by communal ownership of pastoralists and governed through customary rules.

Following the overthrow of the imperial regime of Haile Selassie by the Derg in 1974, the latter introduced a major program of land reform, nationalizing all land (Ministry of Land Reform 1975). The Derg also prohibited the renting out of land, hiring of farm labour, permanent dislocation and other transactions (sales, mortgages, sharecropping) were severely restricted. Nationalization was followed by redistribution of land through Peasant Associations within communities. Peasants were given usufruct land rights to a maximum of 10 ha of land and a right to transfer it to their immediate heirs (Rahmato 1993; Yeraswork 2000). The land reform had generally resulted in changes in land-property relationship between the state and the peasantry, and between tenants and landlords.

After the fall of the Derg in 1991, the new federal government drafted a constitution (1995). The constitution assigned legislative power over land to the federal level of government and reserved implementation of federal land laws to the States, which was reinforced by a Federal proclamation in 1997 (updated in 2005). Land remains public property, and the prohibition of sales and exchanges was also continued or restricted, but renting out of land was now allowed. The last massive land distribution took place in the mid-1990s, but this practice ended with the introduction of land certification programs. Despite this decision, the hope for landless people to access land in their home areas remained. Resettlement programs are still in place but now voluntary and mostly within the State towards the lowlands or forestland.

The question of land continues to be a major theme in socio-economic and political discussion (e.g. elections 2005). Opinions differ on issues related to ownership and providing tenure security: maintaining state ownership over land versus privatization<sup>3</sup>).

The policy legal framework shaping land governance includes the land policy and laws at federal and regional levels, and also related laws such as the investment proclamations and the biofuel policy. Regional States are responsible for land administration and the main regions have all issued several laws pertaining to their jurisdictions.

Land Policy	Content
The federal Land Administration and Land Use Proclamation 1997	All land belongs to the state and peoples of Ethiopia and shall not be subject to sale or to other means of exchange (article 40.2 Proclamation No. 1/1995) Federal level has legislative power; states are in charge of implementation
Rural Land Administration and Land Use Proclamation No. 456/2005 (which replaced 89/1997)	Aim: increase tenure security, improve productivity and avoid expectations of land re-distribution. Farmers have a perpetual use right on their agricultural holdings, and this right will be strengthened by issuing certificates and keeping registers. The federal land law only provides a framework. Each region arranges land registration in its own regional Proclamation.
The Revised Amhara National Regional State Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation No. 133/2006 Proclamation	Aim: to determine and provide the rural land administration and use; to maintain its fertility and to be able to transfer to the next generation by using it properly; to create conducive situation in the region to fully make practical the rights of farmers and semi-pastorals to get and use land freely and not be displaced from it.

1 Land under this system is inherited from the family and those outside the family serve as tenants.

2 Land ownership right is acquired from the monarch as compensation for serving the monarch or provinces. The *gult* owners collected tribute and received labour services as payment in kind from peasants.

3 A reason given by government to resist privatization is the fear that poor farmers will sell their lands and become landless.

Land Policy	Content
Benishangul Gumz Regional State Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation No. 85/2010	Aim: to give security of land possession for rural land users, and to create conducive environment so as to enable them to make the proper care for the land they possess by knowing their rights and duties; to use the land and its resource according to plan establishing legal system for administering, and controlling measures to be taken for solving disputes, controversy and problems to utilization arises on using the land and the resource of the land is required.
The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional state Rural Land Administration and Utilization. Proclamation No.110/2007	Aim: to sustainably conserve and develop natural resources and pass over to the coming generation through the development and implementation of a sustainable rural land use planning based on the different agro-ecological zones of the region.
The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State, Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation No 66/2000.	Aim: a regulation to implement this rural land administration and use proclamation
The Ethiopian Somalia region Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation No 128/2013	Aim: to establish a land administration system and legal framework to defeat the traditional clan-based communal land tenure system as well as to ensure land ownership and user right of women.
Tigray National Regional State Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation No.97/2006	

#### Related legislation of importance to land governance

Investment proclamations and the regulations 2002, 2003, 2008	Investment proclamations and the regulations governing incentives provided to foreign and domestic investors. Guarantees against expropriation/nationalization except when required for public interest – but then fully compensated at prevailing market value and paid in foreign currency. Tax exemptions and export facilitation offered (FDRE 2002a, 2003a; 2003b, 2008b)
Investment Directives, 2010	Sets the priority investment area, new lease tariff calculation etc. (issued by MOA in 2010)
Biofuel strategy 2007	Bio-energy production by foreign and domestic investors with government providing land, financial incentives and other support -24 million hectares of suitable but unutilized land available, leasing out these lands will not interfere with food crop production/food security.
Directive council of ministers issued in 2010	Centralization at the federal level of procedures for allocating large-scale land leases of over 5000 ha to investors: delegation by regional government (FDRE 2010).
Agricultural Investment and Land Lease Implementation Directive issued in 2010	Aim: to provide a guideline on how best to value land lease for agriculture investment based on land return. Therefore, the implementation directive, which looks at the basic content mentioned before, will be adopted throughout the country in terms of agricultural investment services.
Council of Ministers Regulation No. 283/2013	The then Agricultural Investment Support Directorate (AISD) is re-structured to a new name called "Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency (AILAA)"; which is directly accountable to the Ministry of Agriculture.

#### Land tenure forms

The nationalization of land in 1975 led to the extinguishing of previously existing (customary) rights to land in the highlands, but not in the lowlands. In Benshanguel Gumuz regional state, land lease by the local population to highlanders was a common practice until recently. Though not completely stopped, the regional government banned the practice of land clearing and leasing by the local people after allocating up to 10 ha of land to households through its re-settlement scheme.

Elements of customary tenure are still in use for allocating and managing grazing and forest lands.

Tenure arrangement	Description
User rights	Farmers have user rights. Conditions for keeping these rights are being present in the kebele (see: 1.3), using the land and proper land use); Violation of these conditions can lead ultimately to losing user rights. Most land certified (in local level land register).
Leases	There are three types of lease arrangements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lease to other farmers,</li> <li>• lease by farmers to investors</li> <li>• lease by the state to investors.</li> </ul> Farmers are legally allowed to lease out their lands for shorter period than the state.

### Institutional framework

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is responsible for coordinating land issues. Each Regional State has its own institutional arrangement for land administration (e.g. the Environmental Protection, Land Administration and Use Authority in Amhara Regional State; Regional Environmental Protection Land Administration and Use Authority (EPLAUA) in Tigray; the Bureau of Land and Environmental Protection (OBLEP) in Oromia Regional State; Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development in SNNPRS etc). Ethiopia is discussing a revision of the institutional structure for land administration systems (Melkamu and Shewakena, 2010).

In rural areas, land administration and the daily management of land issues is delegated to local governments (woreda and kebele level). The kebele administrators had previously registered community members holding land, noting names and area in terms of local measures, as the basis for taxation. The woreda is also in charge of the issuance of certificates. The register in which the certificates are noted is kept at the woreda level.

### Land registration

Ethiopia has developed an innovative approach to securing land rights, which is massive in scale, pace and cost effectiveness. Land registration and certification started in 1995 and covered the states of Tigray, Oromia, Amhara and SNNP. The other states such as, Benshanguel Gumuz, Gambella, Somalia, Harari and Afar are not yet included in the scheme. Over 15 million households have received a certificate (registration is by household and not by plot) in the first level land certification. A second level land registration and certification is piloted by the government. This involves technically advanced land survey methods and computer registration in a bid to improve limitations with respect to the maintenance and updating of land registration records that was apparent in the first-level land registration and certification. But reported to have low demand for it as the farmers as don't believe that tenure security will not be improved by issuing second-level land certificate (Bezu and Holden 2014).

The registration of farmland is systematic and takes place at the lowest levels of local government (woreda and kebele). The registration of user rights and confirmation of the field boundaries is done in public and neighbours are to be present. The work is done by the so- called Land Administration Committee (LAC). The members of a LAC are from the community and work as volunteers. They are selected in consultation with the community and women are to be included, according to the instructions. The LACs are trained by woreda officials (agricultural bureau). The LAC is proposed to be a permanent institution that will continue to play a role in land conflict mediation, formalization of land rental markets, implementing land use planning and monitoring and enhancing more sustainable land use. The downside of the approach used is that it is limited to administrative records, which lack basic spatial framework and registry maps. The updating of the register and issuing of new certificates (following divorce, inheritance etc.) is relatively time taking. Various pilots are ongoing to develop operational and affordable solutions for spatial referenced data capturing and maintenance.

Studies have shown that the registration of land has increased the willingness to invest in crops and soils, which is important for improving food security (Deininger et al 2008; Bezu an Holden 2014).

### Gender

Women represent 49% of Ethiopian labour force (World Bank 2010). The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE 1995) allowed equal access to land for unmarried women. This was implemented during the land redistribution that took place in the 1990s and improved women's access to land. Women's user rights were subsequently confirmed by the land registration process.

In addition, the land registration process now include also special measures to protect and strengthen women's' rights (plot, boundaries). The woredas have been instructed that women should be included in the LAC, which is important to

protect rights. In practice, female representation/participation was weak in many committees (Deiningner et al 2007). In the land registration and certification, both the names and pictures of the husband and wife are included (IIED 2005). Joint titling of parcels is reported to have improved perceived tenure security of women (Girma & Giovarelli 2013).

### **Foreign direct investment**

The Constitution has given the government of Ethiopia the right to expropriate land for “public purposes”, including allocating land to those who may be able to use land more productively such as investors, cooperatives and other entities.

In post 2009, the Ethiopian government has centralized the management of large-scale land investments for blocks of land of over 5000 ha and appointed the federal MOA as lead agency (FDRE 2010). A so-called “land bank” is set up at the federal level which can be accessed by investors through MOA. In 2010, about 3,5 million ha of land was identified and transferred by the regions to the federal land bank (Dessalegn 2011). According to the land matrix (ILC, 2016), there are 64 concluded transnational deals which have been stroke over 988,079 ha (contract size), mostly for large-scale agriculture. Including domestic deals the total number goes up to 95 concluded deals with a size of 1,280,393 ha (contract size). While the government and investors see this as a positive development, it creates conflicts with local population and small-scale farmers.

Regional governments continue to allocate land to investors for blocks of less than 5000 hectares that is not included in the federal land bank. The Regional Investment Commissions issue license for investment. The income from all land leases (land rent, income tax, and other payments) are intended for the Regions. The rental fee charged is determined by the regional land law and varies between regions. However, a tariff for land rent has been developed in the Investment Directive and serves as references for leases administered by the MOA. In 2012, however, Gambella and Benshanguel Gumuz regional states were banned from transferring land even of less than 5,000ha and the mandate to transfer any land to investors in those regions was completely given to the federal government (Shete & Rutten 2015).

The MOA’s Agricultural Investment and Land Administration Agency (the then Agricultural Investment Support Directorate) is responsible for preparing information and other technical inputs to attract foreign and domestic investors, signing contracts and transferring lands to those eligible, and undertaking follow-up and oversight. When the investor has signed a contract with the MOA or regional governments, the latter then instructs the relevant agricultural bureaus and woredas to provide support for follow-up and supervision, and to facilitate the transfer of land. The role of the Regional Land and Environmental Protection Bureau varies between regions. The woreda authorities have the difficult task of handling any grievances or claims voiced by local households regarding the land in question.

By law, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was responsible for reviewing and approval of environmental impact assessment reports. In 2009, this responsibility was transferred to MOA, although not having the technical and institutional capacity to carry out the duties involved (Dessalegn 2011). In many cases, the implementation of investment projects begins before submission and approval of EIA (Schoneveld and Shete, 2014).

## **INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

### **Regulatory framework for Integrated Water Resource Management**

Watershed management in Ethiopia is closely linked to the ability to protect and manage soils and forests. Sustainable Land management (SLM) and deforestation are policy concern for decades but land degradation and disappearance of forests continues.

The basis of the current legal framework guiding the use of forest resources started with the Environmental Policy, which is given effect via several proclamations to reconstitute the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA 295/2002), and for EPA to set and uphold environmental standards (299/2002, 300/2002). The federal Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization Proclamation (542/2007) provides the framework for forest resource management. This proclamation demonstrates a much greater acceptance of community management (Abebe et al 2010).

Forestry in particular has suffered from the frequent restructuring of both federal and regional government institutions. The federal level has lost much influence and is now almost non-existent (a few foresters are located in the Sustainable Land and Watershed Management sector of MOA). The importance of the regional level for forests and thus watershed

management has grown. Activities vary across regions with Oromia being most active in establishing new management regimes (IIED paper forestry).

Other institutional factors contributing to the loss of forest cover include weak regulation and land use planning, and limited availability of data on land classification and actual land use. As a result, government may not have enough insight in the real availability of land to allocate to, for example, investors or for resettlements. Moreover, there is limited capacity to supervise and enforce regulations for designated protected areas, participatory forest management (PFM) sites, or investment schemes (FAO, 2009).

## FOOD SECURITY

### **Current food security situation**

Household food security in Ethiopia, particularly for smallholder farmers, is determined by rainfall patterns, land degradation, climate change, growing populations, low agricultural investments, and global market forces. Ethiopia's rural poor also lack access to basic social services such as health care, schools, and safe drinking water. Households headed by women are particularly vulnerable. (IFPRI 2016)

Ethiopia has weather-related challenges, mostly linked to droughts and climate change. It is being recognized that the diverse impacts of climate change may have a dampening effect on Ethiopia's economic growth, having adverse impacts on poverty reduction, equality and human rights. Climate change has severe impacts on agricultural productivity and food security in Ethiopia.

Early 2016 in particular has seen adverse impacts of the El Niño warming phenomenon over the Pacific Ocean (a cyclical phenomenon that many scientists say has intensified in recent years because of climate change). El Niño is one of the causes of disrupted rains and is causing severe droughts in different parts of the African continent, including Ethiopia (The Washington Post 2016).

One of the issues making Ethiopia especially vulnerable to periods of drought and other effects of climate change is the fact that only 25 per cent of its arable land is cultivated and most of that land is rain-fed agriculture. 80 per cent of the country's 82 million people are employed by rain-fed agriculture (IFPRI 2016). Major cereal production declines, for example, can be traced back directly to major droughts (1973-1975 and 1984-1985) (WFP 2014).

Food insecurity is closely linked also to pastoralist communities. More than 90% of rural households in Ethiopia rely on livestock, crop production, or a combination of the two as the main occupation of their household head. In Afar and Somali some 60% and 38% respectively rely on livestock only compared with 5% across rural Ethiopia. These farming households tend to be poorer and particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. (WFP 2014)

An important determinant of food insecurity are food price increases and food shortages; expectedly the impacts of such shocks are more common in urban areas. High inflation affected food security in Ethiopia in particular between 2008 and 2012. (WFP 2014)

### **Regulatory & institutional framework around food security**

The Ethiopian Constitution provides state obligations related to food security as a directive principle of state policy: 'To the extent the country's resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians with access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food and social security' (FAO 2008).

The last ten years have seen a shift away from ad hoc responses, such as those that characterized the major drought in 2002, to a planned, systematic approach. This was embodied in the government's Food Security Programme launched in 2005. When achievements of the programme were not satisfactory, the government of Ethiopia re-launched the Food Security Programme in 2009 with enhanced efforts being made to improve a key component, the Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP), and the new Household Asset Building Programme (HABP) (IFPRI 2013).

The PSNP is the major component of Government of Ethiopia's Food Security Program and plays a critical role in building the resilience capacity of chronically food insecure communities to shocks and climate change. PSNP's objective is to

prevent the depletion of household assets, to stimulate markets and improve access to services, and to rehabilitate and enhance the natural environment through labor-based public works. The program has a target caseload of more than six million beneficiaries in 319 *woredas* throughout Ethiopia and is funded by a consortium of more than 10 governments and international agencies (USAID 2016).

### **Food security and land governance**

In Ethiopia, strong linkages exist between land governance and food security. One such connection is through large-scale land-based investments by both domestic and foreign actors. Research shows that these linkages are however very complex, and apply to different levels. Firstly, there is the impact of land conversion. Places where large-scale land-based investments are being implemented had other types of land use before. This can lead to different types of land conversions, from smallholder food production (including pastoralists) to cash crops, from smallholder production to large-scale commercial food production, etc. At the same time, employment is created. Some outcomes of this include: increased purchasing power to buy food on local market and impacts on prices at local food markets (where prices may go up in times when salaries are paid). (Kirigia et al. 2016)

However, much depends of the type of jobs created. As WFP indicates, food security outcomes for salaried households are much better than those of casual and day labourers. More than half of households in Ethiopia that rely on casual work consumed less than the minimum daily energy requirement per day. (WFP 2014)

More indirectly, the investments can lead to stimulation of local petty trading and agricultural production in surrounding areas, to cater for the influx of employees at the companies. This can have poverty mitigating results, including more financial resources to buy food. Lastly, impacts on nutrition have been seen, with consumption of nutritious foods decreasing when more women are employed and have less time to prepare food for their families. (Kirigia et al. 2016)

Another important link between land governance and food security is at the level of land management: agriculture, and therefore economic growth and food security in the country rely on sustainable management of land and water. Land degradation is a major cause of the country's low and declining natural resource and agricultural productivity, persistent food insecurity, and rural poverty. A strategy of improving land administration is important in the governments' efforts to stimulate sustainable land management: insecure land tenure in the past, caused by frequent land redistribution, have encouraged farmers in Ethiopia to favor short term exploitation of land resources over long-term conservation, further contributing to land degradation and low farm productivity. (World Bank 2013; LANDac learning trajectory Land Governance & Food Security)

## **REALITIES ON THE GROUND**

Major challenges to land governance are the growing population, the small size of land holdings in many areas, the pressure on natural resources and the policy to attract (foreign direct) investment in land.

Landlessness and fragmentation of plot size is an issue in rural areas, particularly the highlands. As farming remains the main economic activity, there is a growing demand for leasing land and sharecropping. One alternative pursued by the government is resettlement (as a farmer). Resettlement, however, is restricted within the state. This is contrary to the practice of the previous regime in which farmers in the highlands of Amhara and SNNP with smallholdings are resettled in the lowland regions of Gambella and Benshanguel Gumuz regional states.

The land certification process has improved the tenure security in highland areas for farmers who can register their use rights, although there are challenges with keeping the system updated. This is important for investments that contribute to higher food productivity. However, the Government lacks the resources to scale-up work on land certification (USAID, 2010), while suffering from severe capacity constraints. Multiple donors are expressing interest in lending support (see below) and efforts are underway to scale-up early success stories. Moreover, this improvement is only valid for those benefiting from individual land rights<sup>4</sup>. Communal and group land rights (dominant in low land and pastoral areas) have

<sup>4</sup> In the State of SNNPR, for example, the so-called coffee forests are managed according to customary tenure systems. In SNNPR, the land registration process may even have stimulated the conversion of coffee forest in farm land, because forest land could not be registered. In other cases, such coffee forests have been allocated to investors, ignoring customary rights (FAO 2009).



been overlooked so far.

A growing source of conflict is large-scale leasing of land when leading to loss of land, natural resources for local farmers and displacement. Large-scale land leasing is taking place in these “common” areas using arguments that land is “idle”, “unused” or “under-utilized”. For these reasons, perceptions of tenure insecurity and dispossession are widespread in these regions amongst farmers and agro-pastoralists for whom land is at the basis of their livelihood. Despite the transfer of huge tracts of lands to both foreign and domestic capital, implementations are sluggish and sometimes halted. Various reasons are associated to this situation, including, pressure by different right groups, donor agencies and researchers that called the land transfer ‘land grabbing’, weak capacity of investors relative to the size of land they leased in, the lack of proper identification of the land as per its suitability for specific cropping, conflicts between the local population and the investor, poor infrastructure, etc.

With respect to land allocation, concerns are voiced with respect to the process for identifying and mapping available land (environmental situation, implications for local people), the “degazetting” of protected forest, implications for wildlife and use of wetlands that play an important role in the hydrology of an area. Another concern is the lack of transparency around some deals, the assessment of business plans and the application of environmental regulations (FAO, 2009; Dessalegn 2011). For the farms already in place, (voluntary) codes are being proposed to stimulate more sustainable management of soils and other natural resources.

Overall, large-scale land acquisitions raises critical policy questions on balancing individual rights with state and national mandates for public and private investment, modernization and food security; managing the interests and tensions between biofuels for renewable energy and food production; and mainstreaming the rights of the poor and vulnerable groups in order to broaden and secure their access to productive resources (USAID, 2010).

## RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION

### Related country profiles

- USAID: <http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/ethiopia>
- FAO: <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index.asp?lang=en&ISO3=ETH>
- FAO/Gender: [http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/countries-list/general-introduction/en/?country\\_iso3=ETH](http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/countries-list/general-introduction/en/?country_iso3=ETH)
- IMF: <http://www.imf.org/external/country/ETH/index.htm>
- World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ethiopia>
- Land Portal: <http://landportal.info/book/countries/ETH?indicator=INDFAOACI2&comparing-country=DZA>
- IFPRI Food Security Portal: <http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/ethiopia>

### Laws, policy and regulations search engines

- FAO Lex (Land & NR search engine): <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/index.htm>
- Water Lex (Water laws search engine): <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex/waterlex.htm>

### Maps and databases

- Land and soils databases/information systems: <http://www.fao.org/nr/land/databasesinformation-systems/en/>
- Water database/information systems: [http://www.fao.org/nr/water/infores\\_databases.html](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/infores_databases.html)
- Land and water maps and graphs: <http://www.fao.org/nr/solaw/maps-and-graphs/en/>

### Portals and other resources

- <http://landportal.info/library>
- <http://www.landsa.org/what-we-do/sub-saharan-africa/ethiopia/>
- <http://www.landcoalition.org/en/countries/ethiopia>

### Ongoing donor support programs

The Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) quotes 31 donor programmes and projects in Ethiopia (finalized and active ones): <https://landgov.donorplatform.org>. Some of the major ones are highlighted below:

### *The Ethiopian Government, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany Partnerships:*

A partnership between the Governments of Ethiopia, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Federal Republic of Germany to improve rural land governance. The partnership aims to support greater transparency in rural land governance, promote responsible agricultural investment, and improve Ethiopia's legal framework and practices related to rural land administration and land use. It also aims to realize *the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*. This partnership will also support the Government of Ethiopia to implement its Rural Land Administration and Use Plan and to achieve its existing commitments under *the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition*, a partnership among G8 members, African nations, and the private sector to lift 50 million people out of poverty through coordinated policy reforms and responsible agricultural investment. In addition, it will help Ethiopia's development partners to amplify the impact of their development support by coordinating efforts, sharing knowledge, and leveraging limited resources. Through this partnership agreement, the UK and Germany are investing about 50 million pounds, and 3 million euro respectively in the expansion of second level certification in Ethiopia

### **The Ethiopian Land Administration to Nurture Development (LAND) Programme:**

The Ethiopian Land Administration to Nurture Development (LAND) Program supported by USAID is one of the contributions of the partnership agreement among the three donor groups. The program runs from 2013 to 2018 with a total outlay of US \$ 11 million. LAND works with Ethiopian federal and regional government partners in six regions, and with Haromaya and Bahir Dar Universities to further deepen the legal and regulatory framework related to land tenure and property rights and to expand capacity building for land administration and land use officials. The LAND project builds on two previous USAID/Ethiopia projects – Ethiopia Strengthening Land Tenure and Administration Program (ELTAP) (2005-2008) and the Ethiopia Land Administration Program (ELAP) (2008-2012) – to improve land governance and land administration and strengthen land tenure rights in Ethiopia and thereby promote economic growth, increase agricultural productivity, reduce conflict and resource degradation and improve women's rights to control and manage assets. The US has focused on improving property rights for smallholder farmers in the highland regions and by taking experiences from the highlands, the LAND programme aims to secure the property rights of up to 15 pastoral communities by 2019. More information:

LAND Programme: <http://www.bdu.edu.et/ila/?q=content/institute-land-administrant-ila-has-signed-memorandum-understanding-mou-ethiopian-land>

ELTAP: <http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/project/ethiopia-strengthening-land-tenure-and-administration-program>

ELAP: <http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/project/ethiopia-land-administration-program>

The earlier programmes (ELTAP and ELAP) are reported to bring tangible results by improving the legal framework for rural land administration; by demonstrating cost effective, modern surveying methods for rural land mapping; by increasing the awareness of multiple stakeholders about rural land administration and land use laws and regulations; and by strengthening the institutional capacities of the federal and regional land administration agencies. Over the last eight years, these two USAID projects helped land administration institutions of Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions to survey over a million parcels and to prepare maps leading to the certification of about 200,000 parcels of land.

### **Land Investment For Transformation (LIFT)**

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) LIFT (2014-2020) supports the Ethiopian government in the provision of map based land certificates to farmers and assist them to fully benefit from increased investment and productivity through the development of the rural land market and its supporting operations. The total budget of the project is £66,354,395.

### **Responsible and Innovative Land Administration Project (REILA)**

REILA (2011-2016) is the Finnish development cooperation with Ethiopia with a total outlay of 12.8 million euro. The project aims at strengthening people's rights to land by developing an efficient and transparent land administration system, increasing the beneficiaries' awareness of the importance of land rights, strengthening the Federal level's institutional capacity to harmonize land allocation procedures and developing and implementing a sustainable land administration system in Benishangul-Gumuz Region and in the Tana-Beles growth corridor.

### **The AU-AfDB-UNECA Land Policy Initiative**

The Land Policy Initiative (LPI) is a joint programme of the tripartite consortium consisting of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA).

The LPI is assisting AU Member States in developing or reviewing their land policies as well as in implementing and evaluating these policies.

### **Sustainable Land Management (SLM)**

*Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), 2015 – 2017*

The Sustainable Land Management (SLM) programme is part of a nationwide approach adopted by the Ethiopian Government. GIZ is providing advisory services and training to promote the knowledge and skills of the Ethiopian partners, enabling them to teach methods of sustainable land management more effectively at federal, regional and district level.

So far, sustainable land management practices are being applied by the rural populations on approximately 180,000 hectares of degraded land. Land degradation is being reduced by measures such as terracing, crop rotation systems, and improvement of pastureland and establishment of permanent green cover.

### **Civil society organizations working on land governance**

Members of International Land Coalition from Ethiopia:

- The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) participates actively in national and international discussions on land governance.

They also published in 2010 The Entebbe Declaration on Large Foreign Land Acquisitions <http://www.eaffu.org/go/downloads/EAFF%20Position%20on%20Land%20Grab.pdf> EAFF covers the following countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. General website: <http://www.eaffu.org/go/>

Members of EAFF in Ethiopia:

- Oromia coffee farmers cooperative union
- Oromia pastoralists association

Other CSOs:

- The forum for social studies is one of the think tanks active on land governance and members are engaged in various research programs around land governance <http://www.fssethiopia.org/>
- The Oakland Institute is an independent policy think tank organization, which is actively engaged in land issues both in Ethiopia and beyond. <http://www.oaklandinstitute.org/about>

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#### LANDac

More information about LANDac and our activities is available on our website: [www.landgovernance.org](http://www.landgovernance.org).

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