



ETHIOPIA

COUNTRY PROFILE

2019



Bezina Abinet roasting coffee beans with her son in her shop in Dodata, Oromia, Ethiopia.

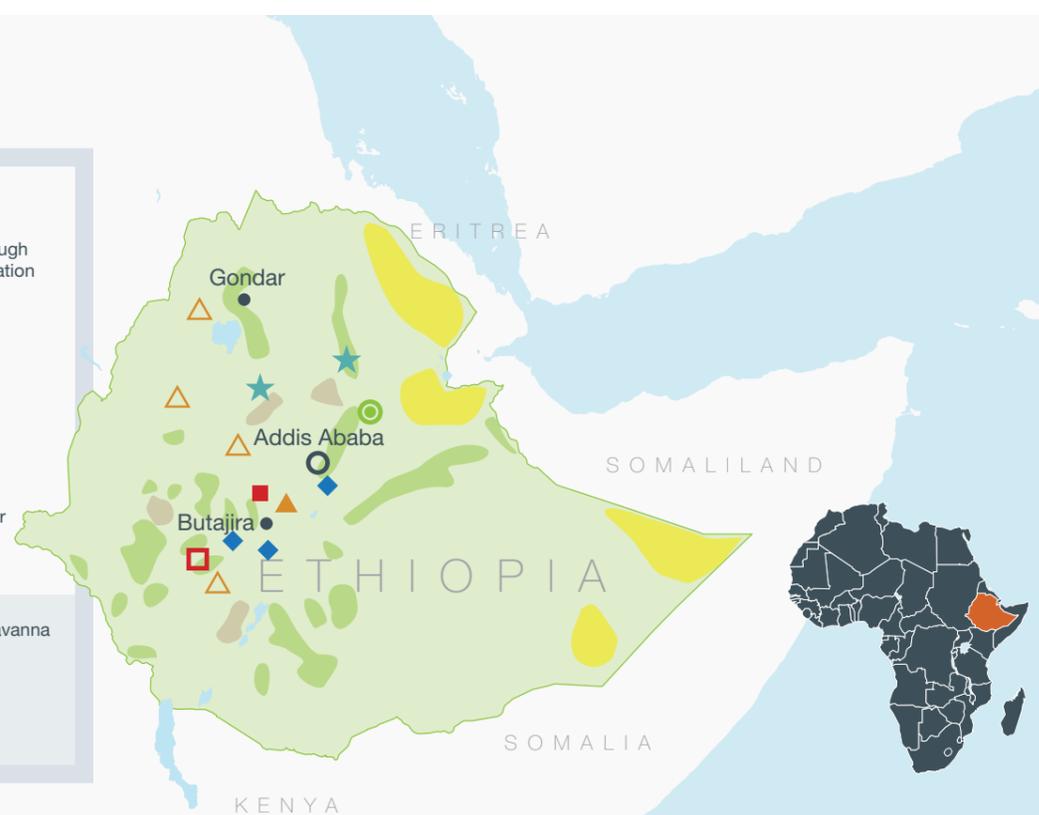
Scaling up agricultural production, improving nutrition security, developing new enterprise and market opportunities for farmers, strengthening community-based seed production and building climate resilience, are all key areas of Self Help Africa's work in Ethiopia.

Last year, the organisation was involved in implementing close to a dozen development projects, all of which are being undertaken in collaboration with local and/or international partners.



PROJECT KEY

- ◆ Scaling up RuSACCOs
 - ▲ Building Opportunities through Seed Enterprise Transformation
 - Feed the Future
 - ◎ Dairy for Development
 - ★ Stronger Together
 - Climate-Smart Agriculture
 - △ Capacity Building of Farmer Training Centers
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- Extensive Agriculture and Savanna
 - Forest, Rainforest, Swamp
 - Barren
 - Desert



	Programme	Donor	Total Budget	Time Frame	Implementing Partner	Programme Area
01	Climate-Smart Agriculture	Irish Aid	€806,695	2015 ▼ 2019	SOS Sahel, Farm Africa, Vita	SNNP region
02	Building Opportunities through Seed Enterprise Transformation (BOSET)	Church of Ireland Bishop's Appeal Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission Irish Aid	€142,249	2015 ▼ 2019	East Shewa Zone Agriculture Office, Cooperative Office and Finance and Economic Development Office	Oromia region
03	Scaling Community-Based Seed Production	Agricultural Transformation Agency	€1,450,176	2016 ▼ 2019	Hibret Fire, Halaba, Kenbata, Tegulet, Guna and Wemberma farmer cooperatives	SNNPR region and Amhara region
04	Stronger Together	Electric Aid Irish Aid	€29,726	2019 ▼ 2020	Edget Beadinet and Guna Seed Unions	South Gondar and West Gojam zones in Amhara region
05	Scaling Up Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives	Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation, Irish Aid, The Reed Foundation Impact Trade Union	€457,000	2016 ▼ 2019	Tinsaye, Bekelcha Sella, Fana Gudinna and Agnot RuSACCO Unions	North Shewa Zone of Amhara region, North Shewa Zone of Oromia region and Guraghe Zone of SNNPR
06	Dairy for Development	Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	€503,963	2018 ▼ 2021	Nesri Terign, Nano Mendida, and Adere Gordoma milk producers' cooperatives	Abichu Gna'a woreda, Oromia region
07	Feed the Future - Maize Value Chain Development	USAID Fintrac	\$251,964	2018 ▼ 2021	Bako Bore Farmers Cooperative Union, Ambo Farmers Cooperative Union	Ambo Zuria, Bako Tibe and Toke Kutaye Woredas, West Shewa zone of the Oromia region
08	Capacity Building of Farmer Training Centres	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)	€264,862	2019 ▼ 2020	Local government	Oromia, Tigray, Amhara and SNNP regions



Bezina Abinet pouring coffee in her shop in Dodata, Oromia, Ethiopia.



Shewangiza Andarge, Dejene Melka and Gerachew Miko, Dirma Village, Abichu Gna'a District, Oromia, Ethiopia.

01 CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Objective: To build the resilience and improve the food and nutrition security of 15,500 target households.

Ethiopia is predicted to be one of the countries most affected by climate change in the coming years. Since 2016, Ethiopia has experienced three consecutive years of extreme drought, leading to widespread food insecurity in many parts of the country.

The objective of this Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) project is to build the resilience and improve the food and nutrition security of 15,500 target households through the adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices.

A collaboration with SOS Sahel, Farm Africa and VITA, this CSA project started in June 2015. The project builds the resilience of individuals, households and communities to climate extremes by: improving and diversifying livelihoods; developing community-based management systems of resources such as water, farmlands, communal land and forests; and embedding location-specific climate change adaptation and mitigation into its development initiative.

The project also focuses on strengthening market access and building the institutional capacity of community-based organisations and business development service providers. The aim is to effectively engage resource-poor farmers in the production of high-value crops and small livestock, and also in the uptake of new production and processing technologies.

• 15,500 households

02 BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SEED ENTERPRISE TRANSFORMATION

Objective: To improve the resilience of smallholder farmers through disaster risk management practices.

Climate change is posing significant challenges to Ethiopian communities, affecting water and food security. The utilisation of drought-tolerant, early-maturing crop varieties, along with conservation agriculture and improved agronomic practices, are crucial to improving resilience.

The aim of the Building Opportunities through Seed Enterprise Transformation (BOSET) project is to improve the economic, ecological and organisational resilience of smallholder farmers through on-farm disaster risk management interventions in drought-prone areas of Boset district in the Oromia region. This is being delivered through training courses on conservation agriculture; building local seed enterprises; establishing a revolving fund for seed; and training members on cooperative management.

The adoption of conservation agriculture techniques, together with increased availability and utilisation of improved quality seed, is helping to increase crop production, enhance food security and alleviate rural poverty. Furthermore, by increasing the resilience of 3,880 smallholder farmers, they will be less vulnerable to drought and other climate risks and therefore better able to bounce back from disaster.

• 6,000 households



Tadesse Lema pictured outside Burgaa RuSACCO, Lume, Oromia, Ethiopia.

03 SCALING COMMUNITY-BASED SEED PRODUCTION

Objective: To improve crop production and productivity for smallholder farmers through community-based seed production.

Seed is a key input for improving crop production and productivity. Improving the quality of seeds used by smallholder farmers can significantly increase the yield potential of their crops and thus represents one of the most economical and efficient inputs for agricultural development.

Based on its previous experience in developing community-based seed production in Ethiopia, in 2016, the Agricultural Transformation Agency commissioned Self Help Africa to implement a project to address the shortage of improved seed in different regions of the country.

This focused on building the capacity of six recently established seed unions across the Amhara and SNNPR regional states through the construction of large capacity seed stores and provision of seed cleaning machines and other essential infrastructure and equipment.

Self Help Africa is reinforcing the implementation of the project by providing technical support to community based seed producers, and mobilising additional local resources from community and local government.

• 8,787 households



Tadesse Lema and Mamitu Alemu with children Kalkidan and Haile Tadesse, at their home in Lume, Oromia, Ethiopia.



Alem Abebe and her husband Tafese Getachew pictured outside their home in Sire, Oromia, Ethiopia.

04 STRONGER TOGETHER

Objective: To establish strong linkages between primary cooperatives and local cooperative unions.

Sustainable increases in agricultural productivity are largely dependent on access to quality seed. Improved seeds yield crops that are high-yielding and may be drought-tolerant or resistant to pests and disease, thereby increasing crop production. The availability of quality seed in sufficient amounts, however, is currently a challenge for smallholder farmers throughout Ethiopia.

Self Help Africa (SHA) has taken a lead role in promoting community-based seed production through the development of farmer-owned and managed seed producer cooperatives and unions in Ethiopia to fill specific gaps in seed supply. Agricultural cooperatives play an active role in providing access to finance, input and output marketing, agro-processing, and other social and economic activities. These cooperatives therefore have inherent advantages in tackling the problems of poverty alleviation, food security and job creation.

The objective of the Stronger Together project is to establish strong linkages between primary cooperatives that are producing wheat, maize, barley and potato seed and their respective local cooperative unions. This is providing the unions with a larger and more regular supply of maize, wheat, barley and potato seed and the cooperatives with access to a wider market and increased bargaining power with buyers.

SHA is providing cooperatives with threshing equipment to improve the quality of seed and reduce the workload of farmers, and is also constructing storage units to retain the quality of seed. These investments are being complemented by training for union leaders on marketing, business skills and governance.

By increasing the supply of improved, quality seed, this project is enabling other farmers in the area to access higher quality seed and increase their yields.

- 4,630 households



Munira Hairedin, Kolololeka Village, Ethiopia.

05 SCALING UP RURAL SAVINGS AND CREDIT COOPERATIVES

Objective: To contribute to increased incomes, improved food security and reduced vulnerability in rural areas.

Ethiopia has one of the lowest levels of financial inclusion in the world, with only 22% of adults holding an account with a financial institution and just 14% able to access credit. This is because the financial sector is dominated by commercial banking, and the coverage of these financial services is still extremely limited and concentrated in urban areas. Most rural and remote areas of the country remain excluded or unbanked. Savings and Credit Cooperatives have better outreach in rural parts of the country than commercial banks, with greater potential to serve the low-income and active poor unbanked sections of the population.

For over a decade, Self Help Africa has supported a network of Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives (RuSACCOs) to provide financial services to over 53,000 people in Ethiopia. This has helped RuSACCOs members to develop on and off-farm enterprise, thereby increasing income and food security for poor rural households.

Building on the success of the first two phases of the RuSACCOs programme, in March 2016 SHA launched Scaling up RuSACCOs; a project which expanded its existing work with RuSACCOs in Ethiopia to new areas in Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR regions. The project targets four RuSACCOs unions and 704 affiliated primary

RuSACCOs with a combined total membership of 64,678 individuals, which is expected to grow by 15% each year as a result of the project's interventions. The project's overall objective of promoting higher levels of increasing financial inclusion through sustainable, community-owned financial institutions will be achieved through: enhanced governance and management capacity of RuSACCOs and unions; growth in membership of RuSACCOs and introduction of new products and services; and dissemination of lessons, approaches and good practices.

SHA has conducted tailored organisational capacity assessments and developed capacity-building plans for each of the unions. Training has been delivered on business planning, savings mobilisation, bookkeeping, leadership and management. Each union is also receiving ongoing mentoring support from a project officer with expertise in micro-finance. Based on learnings from the first two phases of the programme, a new component on adult literacy skills has been incorporated into the programme to enable formerly illiterate (mostly female) members to take up leadership positions on the boards and committees of their RuSACCOs.

- 93,783 households



Tirngo Girma, a member of Urji Berissa RuSACCO, Sire, Oromia, Ethiopia.

06 DAIRY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Objective: To increase food security and disposable income of smallholder households from dairy production in Ethiopia.

In the Oromia region of south-western Ethiopia, 75% of the population live in poverty. Chronic and acute malnutrition are highly prevalent and 38.4% of children under five are stunted. Despite being the biggest milk-producing region in Ethiopia, average yields in Oromia remains far below potential. Insufficient inputs, use of poor animal feeding and husbandry practices, and poor access to markets are hampering the potential of the dairy value chain. Addressing these challenges will revitalise the dairy sector's potential to improve the livelihoods of smallholder communities in the area.

The Dairy for Development programme focuses on boosting rural livelihoods and nutrition by enhancing production techniques, strengthening value chains and improving the genetics of dairy cows.

The project is designed to build the skills and knowledge of farmers and local government on commercial dairy production, improve the genetics of local dairy herds, and facilitate access to market for dairy products.

In order to improve the productivity of dairy cows, 600 producers are being trained on improved breeding management practices, as well as herd health management. The government's district nursery is also being supported to produce improved fodder to increase access for producers. The government's Artificial Insemination (AI) service is being strengthened through the training of AI technicians and the provision of equipment. 600 producers can now access

AI to improve the genetics of their herd.

The organisational and operational capacity of three dairy cooperatives is being increased through the provision of equipment and training in milk hygiene testing and processing, facilitation of links with local processors and buyers and training in marketing, business plan development, financial management and cooperative management. Value chain actors are also receiving gender training to address the barriers that women face in participating in the value chain.

The project also aims to improve nutrition at the household and community level. 600 producers are being trained in milk utilisation and basic nutrition education, with a focus on infant and young child feeding practices. To promote the nutritional benefits of milk and a diverse diet, 50 care group leaders are being trained in the basics of nutrition including the importance of dietary diversity, the consumption of dairy products for nutritional benefits, with a specific focus on infant and young child feeding practices. Practical demonstrations are also being delivered to train participants on cooking of local foods using different local recipes.

Revitalising the dairy sector in Ethiopia has the potential to have a significant impact on both the income, food and nutrition security of smallholder communities.

• 600 households

07 FEED THE FUTURE - MAIZE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Objective: To enable smallholder farmers to become better integrated into the maize value chain.

Self Help Africa is working with Bore Bako and Ambo Farmers' Cooperative Unions (FCU) and their member cooperatives to enable smallholder farmers to become better integrated into the maize value chain in Ambo Zuria, Bako Tibe and Toke Kutaye districts of the Oromia region.

Building on its Smallholder Support Scheme project (2015-2018), the purpose of the Feed the Future project is to increase maize marketing and dietary diversity among members of the two unions and their member cooperatives. This will be achieved through training on post-harvest management practices, establishing a contract-based forward marketing system between farmers, targeted primary cooperatives and respective FCUs, training on marketing, facilitating business coaching for primary cooperatives, providing technical support on the set-up and management of revolving funds for threshers and the establishment of commercial threshing services, organising business to business meetings among maize value chain actors, providing business management and cooperative leadership training for the targeted FCUs and respective cooperative members, and creating linkages with local financial institutions.

These activities will help smallholders to increase the volume, quality, and thereby value of maize aggregated and sold. They will also enhance smallholders' capacity to engage in profitable maize marketing, and will build the governance, business and leadership capacity of the unions and member cooperatives/farmers, helping to establish their position within the target communities as centres for aggregation, marketing and other services.

• 13,000 households

08 CAPACITY BUILDING OF FARMER TRAINING CENTRES

Objective: To enhance the transfer, adoption and dissemination of Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) technology and practices to target farming communities.

Ethiopia's agricultural extension system is heavily dependent on Farmer Training Centres (FTCs) and trained Development Agents (DAs) to provide extension support to farmers.

Despite the huge responsibility, their level of functionality varies greatly and most of the 12,500 FTCs that have been established over the last decade are not capable of providing the expected services to farmers at their full potential. The Capacity Building of Farmer Training Centres project is aimed at building the capacity of DAs and FTCs to enable them to disseminate information and training on improving soil fertility, one of the major constraints to agricultural productivity.

The project will also train Lead Farmers, further enhancing the support available to smallholders by developing a community-based extension system that complements the activities of DAs and FTCs.

• 968 direct, 6,600 indirect.

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Tirngo Girma, a member of Urjji Berissa RuSACCO, Sire, Oromia, Ethiopia
Photo credit: Christine Redmond, 2017.