



Self Help  
Africa



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**ERITREA**  
2020-21

# ERITREA

COUNTRY PROFILE

## 2020-21



ERITREA

### PROJECT KEY



Seed Enterprises for  
Equitable Distribution



Climate Smart Agricultural  
Research and Innovation  
Support for Dairy Value  
Chains





	Programme	Donor	Total Budget	Time Frame	Implementing Partner	Programme Area
01	Improved CSO capacity to support Community Sustainable Seed Systems and Improve Food Security in Eritrea (CSSS)	European Commission	€501,213	2019 ▼ 2023	Vita (lead partner)	Debub, Maekel and Anseba Zobas (regions), Eritrea
02	Climate Smart Agriculture Research and Innovation Support for Dairy Value Chains (DeSIRA)	European Commission	€4,248,057	2020 ▼ 2024	Teagasc (lead partner) and Vita, UCD, UCC, Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)	Debub, Maekel and Anseba Zobas (regions), Eritrea



Smallholder farmers, Eritrea.





Smallholder farmer, Eritrea.

01

Improved CSO capacity to support Community Sustainable Seed Systems and Improve Food Security in Eritrea (CSSS)

### Objective: To improve access to good quality seed in the Debub, Maekel and Anseba Regions

This project aims to contribute to a future in which smallholder farmers are empowered and capacitated to successfully use crop diversity to ensure their food security and that of their communities, to thrive in challenging conditions and to make their farms resilient.

The existing seed systems in Eritrea are largely informal and the quality of the seeds is poor. The yields from cereal and potato are very low, despite huge potential, and this poses a major challenge to food and income security of the farmers and the wider community.

This four-year seed enterprise project led by Vita is seeking to improve access to good quality seed for potatoes and cereals for 10,000 rural farming families in the Debub, Maekel and Anseba regions of Eritrea.

The purpose is to strengthen the informal seed sector, empower farmers, and develop viable seed businesses in the region. This will enable communities to adapt to changing climate by promoting better natural resource management and soil fertility management.

**500** local seed growers (**400** cereal and **100** potato growers) and **10,000** subsistence farmers (**8,000** cereals, **2,000** potato in Debub, Maekel and Anseba regions).



**Objective: Contribute to enhanced income and gender equitable livelihoods for smallholder dairy producers and other dairy value-chain actors through increased and sustained production and sale of high-value dairy products.**

This project has been designed based on the need to bring about an inclusive, sustainable and climate-relevant transformation of the Eritrean dairy value chain to enhance food and nutrition security, reduce poverty, and create job opportunities for young people by improving access of the rural poor to innovation and new technologies and by strengthening the capacity of national innovation support services.

In Eritrea, the dairy sector is seriously constrained by fodder and water shortages leading to a low-quality national herd which is unable to contribute the income and nutritional benefits normally associated with livestock farming.

This project aims to improve the productivity and profitability of the dairy sector, develop dairy value chains in each of the three host Zobas: Debub, Anseba, and Mackel. In doing so, the project aims to increase dairy consumption for its nutritional benefits.

**800** producer households (approximately **4,000** people) and an estimated **50** academic/scientific staff at research and educational institutes, some **1500** DAs and **320** SMSs, of which 20% will be women,

#### THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS:

- **5,600** net equivalent jobs created
- **20,000** cassava farmers linked to market opportunities
- **65** aggregation centres supported
- Building capacity of 14 micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives



Cattle Farmer, Eritrea

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