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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation in Ethiopia

2026 to 2040

National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation in Ethiopia (2026 to 2040)

December 2025

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Alliance
Bioversity & CIAT

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World Agroforestry

Ministry of Agriculture, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and CIFOR-ICRAF, 2025. *National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation in Ethiopia (2026 to 2040)*. Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, The Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

ISBN: 978-9966-108-97-5

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Acronyms

AE	Agroecology
AGP	Agricultural Growth Program
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CBHI	Community-based health insurance
CBO	Community-based organization
CoPs	Communities of practice
CRGE Strategy	Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy
CSA	Climate-smart agriculture
CSO	Civil society organization
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
ESIF	Ethiopian Sustainable Land Management Investment Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GLI	Green Legacy Initiative
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
HCD	Human-centred design
HLPE	High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition
IDP	Internally displaced person
IES	Institute of Ethiopian Standards
IPM	Integrated pest management
KPI	Key performance indicator
LLRP	Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project
MILLs	Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands
MInT	Ministry of Innovation and Technology
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoPD	Ministry of Planning and Development

MoTRI	Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
NMIS	National Market Information System
NTCA	National Technical Committee on Agroecology
PACT	Participatory Agriculture and Climate Transformation Programme
PES	Payment for ecosystem services
PESTEL	Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental and Legal
PIF	Policy and Investment Framework
PLWHIV	People living with HIV-AIDs
PPP	Public-private partnership
PRM	Participatory rangeland management
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
PWDs	Persons with disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	Sustainable land management
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TWGA	Technical Working Group on Agroecology
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

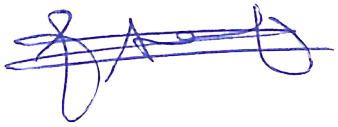
Foreword

Agriculture remains the backbone of Ethiopia's economy and the primary source of livelihood for the majority of our rural population. However, the sector is largely dominated by smallholder and rain-fed systems, making it highly vulnerable to climate variability and extremes. Land degradation, biodiversity loss, declining soil fertility, and increasing population pressure further constrain productivity and resilience. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires a transformative approach that strengthens food and nutrition security while restoring and safeguarding our natural resource base.

In line with this, the Government of Ethiopia has adopted a multisectoral growth approach in its second Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda in order to address these interconnected challenges. Among the five pillars of the agenda, agriculture is pursued as the central engine for ensuring climate-resilient growth and national transformation. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture is mandated to enhance the productivity of land and water resources, reduce environmental degradation, and promote inclusive rural development. Thus, agroecology provides a comprehensive, science-informed pathway to achieve these goals by integrating ecological principles with local knowledge, strengthening diversified farming and pastoral systems, and enhancing the sustainability of food systems. Globally, agroecology is increasingly recognized as a means to reconcile productivity with environmental stewardship and long-term resilience.

Ethiopia's rich heritage of integrated crop–livestock systems, soil and water conservation, agroforestry, and community-based watershed management aligns strongly with agroecological principles. Building on these foundations, the Ethiopian National Agroecology Strategy (NAES) offers a coherent national framework to consolidate ongoing efforts, guide coordinated investment, and scale agroecological approaches across diverse livelihoods. Developed through an inclusive, year-long consultative process led by the Ministry of Agriculture, the NAES reflects the shared vision of the government, research institutions, civil society, development partners, and the private sector.

The Government reaffirms its commitment to creating an enabling environment for the effective implementation of the NAES. I call upon all stakeholders to mobilize resources, align interventions, and strengthen monitoring and accountability. Through coordinated action, the NAES will contribute significantly to resilient livelihoods, restored landscapes, sustainable food systems, and the prosperity of our nation.



H.E. Addisu Arega Kitessa
Ministry of Agriculture

Message from the State Minister, Natural Resources Development Sector

Ethiopia's agricultural transformation depends on the health and functionality of our natural resource base inducing soils, water, biodiversity, and landscape. However, climate variability and extremes, land degradation, nutrient depletion, erosion, and increasing pressure on land and water are undermining productivity and resilience in many parts of the country. These challenges are interconnected and cannot be addressed through fragmented interventions. The Ethiopian National Agroecology Strategy (NAES) and its Implementation Matrix provide a scientifically grounded and operational framework to tackle these challenges in an integrated way linking farm-level practices to watershed and landscape outcomes.

From the Natural Resources Development Sector perspective, NAES is particularly important because it positions landscape functionality, soil health, and water security as core drivers of sustainable productivity. It recognizes that durable gains require measurable improvement in soil organic matter and nutrient cycling, which result in reduced erosion and sediment loss, enhanced water retention and groundwater recharge, and strengthened ecosystem services. The Implementation Matrix is a key instrument to translate these objectives into prioritized actions by agroecological zone and livelihood system, with defined activities, budgets, responsibilities, indicators, and sequencing them for effective delivery.

Technically, NAES consolidates and strengthens our national approach around four practical pathways: (i) soil health restoration through integrated soil fertility management, organic amendments, residue/biomass management, legumes, and context-specific mineral inputs—including acidity management where needed; (ii) watershed and erosion control through physical and biological measures, gully rehabilitation, riparian buffers, and community-based watershed management to reduce runoff and stabilize slopes; (iii) water-smart landscape management through water harvesting, improved irrigation efficiency where applicable, groundwater recharge measures, and protection of wetlands and headwaters; and (iv) biodiversity-based systems including agroforestry, diversified production, and improved rangeland management to strengthen ecological regulation and reduce vulnerability.

To ensure impact at scale, NAES must be implemented with a strong monitoring, evaluation, and learning system that tracks both adoption and biophysical change. We will work with partners to harmonize indicators and strengthen evidence systems using field verification complemented by geospatial and remote sensing analytics tracking, for example, vegetation cover trends, erosion risk proxies, soil condition (including SOC and acidity where feasible), and water availability proxies—alongside livelihood and inclusion outcomes.

I reaffirm the Government's commitment to providing an enabling environment for NAES implementation. I call upon federal and regional institutions, research and higher learning institutions, development partners, civic society, and the private sector to align investments, strengthen frontline implementation capacity, and ensure coordinated monitoring and accountability. With shared technical responsibility and disciplined coordination, NAES can deliver measurable improvements in land and water resources, resilience, and sustainable livelihoods across Ethiopia.

H.E. Prof. Eyasu Elias
State Minister,
Natural Resources Development Sector,
FDRE Ministry of Agriculture

Acknowledgements

The Ethiopian National Agroecology Strategy (NAES) and its Implementation Matrix are the product of a year-long, multi-stakeholder process led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and co-developed through extensive national and regional consultations. The strategy was advanced through a phased roadmap that combined high-level policy guidance, sustained technical drafting, inputs from thematic working groups, and broad national validation – ensuring technical rigor, practical relevance and strong stakeholder ownership.

The Natural Resources Development Sector of the Ministry of Agriculture extends its deepest appreciation to the NAES Technical Task Force for its stewardship, technical leadership, and continuous follow-up throughout the drafting, review, and validation phases. We sincerely acknowledge the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (Co-Chair) and CIFOR-ICRAF (Secretariat) for providing comprehensive technical and facilitation support, including drafting, editing, convening, and integrating inputs across multiple iterations. The process was supported by several projects and programs of the Agroecology TPP, which receives core funding from the French Government. Particularly, this work benefited from dedicated technical and financial support through the Agroecological Transitions Programme for Building Resilient and Inclusive Agricultural & Food Systems (TRANSITIONS), namely the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT-led Private Sector Incentives and Investments (PSii) and the ICRAF-led Metrics projects. The TRANSITIONS Programme is generously funded by the European Union (EU) under the DeSIRA Initiative and managed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Additional support was provided by the Liechtenstein Development Service–funded Food Systems Transformations through Agroecology project, and the CGIAR Science Programs on Multifunctional Landscapes and Policy Innovations. The contributions of the Thematic Working Groups were made possible with financial and technical support from Irish Aid, WorldVeg, GIZ, the CGIAR Multifunctional Landscapes and CGIAR Policy Innovations Science Programs, and AICCRA-Ethiopia.

We gratefully recognize the contributions of the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) and the many technical experts who developed the detailed implementation components, including strategic activities, budgets, indicators and prioritization. We also acknowledge, Irish Aid, WorldVeg and GIZ for their financial and technical contributions that supported the TWG Writeshop and strengthened the Strategy's implementation readiness. In addition, we acknowledge the CGIAR Multifunctional Landscapes and Policy Innovations Science Program and AICCRA-Ethiopia for financing dedicated expert support that accompanied the process through to completion.

Our sincere appreciation extends to the broad community of stakeholders representing federal and regional government institutions, academia, research organizations, civil society, development partners and the private sector – whose participation and constructive feedback shaped NAES into a nationally owned blueprint. We particularly thank all participants of the National Stakeholders Consultation Workshop (23–24 October 2025) and the Final Validation Workshop (11 December 2025, ILRI Campus), which brought together key actors to build consensus, strengthen clarity, and endorse the consolidated Strategy for political approval and implementation.

We also acknowledge the two external reviewers commissioned to provide an independent final technical review, strengthening the document's coherence and alignment with national priorities and wider transformation agendas. Finally, we thank the CIFOR-ICRAF editing and communications teams for their editorial, design and layout support, which enhanced the quality and accessibility of the outputs produced through this process.

We are grateful to all partners and stakeholders who share the vision of NAES, and we look forward to continued collaboration to translate this Strategy into coordinated action and measurable impact across Ethiopia's diverse food systems and landscapes.

The FDRE Ministry of Agriculture

Executive summary

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood and employment in Ethiopia, as well as the country's main generator of foreign currency. Smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are responsible for approximately 95 percent of the nation's agricultural output. However, the sector faces numerous challenges, including climate change, limited access to modern technology, pests and disease outbreaks, soil degradation, land fragmentation, post-harvest loss, and inadequate institutional services and infrastructure.

Cognizant of Ethiopia's dependence on agriculture and its vulnerability to food insecurity and climate-related risks, agroecology has emerged as a promising pathway to transform the country's food system. It leverages ecological principles and local knowledge to promote sustainable farming, making it particularly relevant in contexts with diverse ecosystems and socioeconomic challenges. It has a multitude of benefits, including enhancing soil health and fertility, increasing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, improving food security and nutrition, empowering smallholders and preserving traditional knowledge, minimizing reliance on external inputs, and improving rural livelihoods. Recognizing the potential of agroecology in transforming food systems, there is a growing interest among the government, NGOs and other development partners in Ethiopia. Despite its potential, the widespread adoption of agroecological practices was hindered by barriers such as limited political support, insufficient investment, low technological capacity, lack of community engagement, environmental pressures and gaps in legal and policy frameworks.

Tackling these challenges and realizing the potential of agroecology in Ethiopia requires developing and enforcing a National Agroecology Strategy (NAES) to transform its food and agricultural systems. This strategy aligns with a broader regional movement in East and Southern Africa towards sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. The NAES is designed to align with national development policies in rural livelihoods, land use and environmental protection to ensure policy coherence and integration based upon the principles of ecological sustainability, social equity and improved livelihoods.

The NAES envisions building a resilient, sustainable and inclusive agroecological food system. It reflects Ethiopia's commitment to agricultural transformation through evidence-based planning and inclusive stakeholder engagement. The strategy outlines six core strategic objectives, each aligned with the country's agricultural priorities, local environmental context, African Union Agenda 2063 and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These include: (1) Promote sustainable and resilient agricultural practices and technologies; (2) Enhance knowledge, research, and capacity for agroecological innovation and extension services; (3) Support market system development; (4) Create an enabling environment for policy and governance; (5) Strengthen social inclusion and empowerment; and (6) Promote sustainable consumption and healthy diets.

To ensure effective implementation, the NAES includes a detailed implementation matrix that outlines specific activities, indicators, responsible actors, timelines and resource requirements. This structured approach enables systematic monitoring, evaluation and accountability, ensuring that progress aligns with the strategy's goals and delivers measurable outcomes for farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, ecosystems and society at large. The implementation of this NAES will involve a wide range of stakeholders from both public and non-public sectors to ensure its effective roll-out and long-term impact. Relevant stakeholders such as ministries, regional bureaus, development partners, research institutes, universities, CSOs, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders are identified for the implementation of the NAES. They will contribute resources and technical expertise, and support grassroots implementation capacity. Strong coordination among these actors is required for the effective implementation of the strategy. Coordination mechanisms will be put in place at the federal, regional, woreda (district) and kebele levels.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Agriculture remains the backbone of Ethiopia's economy, with smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists accounting for 95 percent of agricultural production, primarily engaged in subsistence farming (Kebede, 2020). Major crops include cereals like teff, maize and wheat, alongside pulses, oilseeds, and high-value export crops like coffee. Ethiopia is the largest producer of teff, a staple crop central to the Ethiopian diet (Minten et al., 2018). As the origin of Arabica coffee, Ethiopia's coffee sector provides income to millions, contributing about 30 percent of foreign exchange earnings (Adugna, 2021). Livestock farming is also integral, with Ethiopia hosting the largest livestock population in Africa (World Bank, 2020). Livestock plays a crucial role in the agri-food system, particularly for pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in regions such as Afar, Somalia and Oromia. Ethiopia's livestock sector contributes to both domestic consumption and export markets, with leather being a major export.

Ethiopia's agriculture plays a critical role in the country's economy, supporting millions of livelihoods and forming the foundation for food security. With agriculture accounting for approximately 33 percent of GDP and employing over 80 percent of the population (Wondimu, 2021), its significance in Ethiopia's food system cannot be overstated. The food system encompasses activities spanning production, processing, marketing and consumption, all of which are vital to the country's development (von Braun et al., 2021; HLPE, 2017). The system, however, faces several challenges, from environmental stressors to infrastructural deficits, which have been the subject of extensive academic and policy-oriented research.

Transformation of the Ethiopian food system is fundamentally linked to a unifying concept of agroecology where these two elements are not merely compatible, but also deeply synergistic, presenting the blueprint for a resilient and thriving national food system and sustainable development. Agroecology

is a science, a practice, and a social movement that can contribute to sustainable food systems. Agroecology emphasizes biodiversity, resource efficiency and social equity. It seeks to create farming systems that are resilient, sustainable and adaptive to local environmental and cultural contexts. Agroecology provides the practical and conceptual foundation for redesigning food systems that are ecologically sound, socially just and economically viable. It promotes local food networks, fair trade and community participation while reducing dependence on chemical inputs and long supply chains.

1.2 Rationale

The rationale for developing a National Agroecology Strategy (NAES) in Ethiopia stems from the urgent need to transform a vulnerable, input-dependent agricultural sector into a more resilient, sustainable and equitable food system. The strategy will address critical national challenges, including pervasive soil degradation, high vulnerability to climate change (droughts and floods), biodiversity loss, and persistent food and nutrition insecurity. By adopting a holistic, ecosystem-based approach, the Strategy aims to restore natural resource health, reduce reliance on expensive external chemical inputs, enhance on-farm resilience and productivity in a climate-smart manner, and promote social equity for smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, thereby securing long-term food sovereignty and sustainable development goals.

The legal enforcement of this National Agroecology Strategy is a policy paradigm shift that directly aligns with the implicit guarantees of the Ethiopian Constitution, specifically the Right to Development (Art. 43) and the Right to Adequate Food (Art. 90.1) by ensuring agricultural production is sustainable and not achieved at the expense of natural resources or future generations (FDRE, 1995). Furthermore, it would be a strategic instrument for operationalizing Ethiopia's commitment to the Ethiopian Food System (EFS) Pathway, which envisions an inclusive, equitable and nature-positive food system (GoV, 2021). The Strategy is fundamentally aligned with the nation's paradigm shift towards agroecology as articulated in the recently endorsed Agricultural and Rural Development (ARD) Policy (GoV, 2024). This new ARD Policy explicitly prioritizes a holistic approach that emphasizes agroecological principles, moving away from a narrow focus on chemical-intensive productivity to one grounded in resilience, environmental stewardship and biodiversity conservation. It is primarily driven by the imperative to translate key Ethiopian policies into actionable strategies for a sustainable food system. By institutionalizing agroecology, the strategy aims to mitigate severe challenges such as climate change vulnerability, land degradation and soil depletion; enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers/pastoralists/agro-pastoralists; and ensure a consistent supply of diverse and nutritious foods, thereby making the constitutional rights and national development visions economically and ecologically achievable.

Agroecology, which integrates ecological principles with agricultural practices, holds great potential to support Ethiopia's food system by addressing many of the country's critical challenges of productivity, sustainability and resilience. Agroecology emphasizes using local resources, biodiversity and traditional knowledge to create sustainable farming systems. In Ethiopia, where smallholder agriculture dominates, agroecological approaches can enhance food security, promote sustainable land use, improve the livelihoods of rural populations, and sustain Ethiopia's agri-food system.

1.3 Concepts and principles of agroecology

1.3.1 Definitions/glossary

Agroecology is a science, a set of practices, and a social movement. Agroecology is "an integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems" that "aims to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into account the social aspects that must be addressed for a sustainable and equitable food system" (HLPE 2019). When agroecology emerged in the early 1980s, it was primarily seen as both a form of resistance and an alternative to the sweeping changes brought about by the Green Revolution. This period was characterized by the simplification of agriculture through monocultures, the industrialization of food production, processing and distribution, and increasing corporate control over the food system. During this time, agroecology was commonly defined as the application of ecological concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agroecosystems, essentially being recognized as the science of sustainable agriculture (Gliessman, 2013).

1.3.2 Key principles

The 13 principles of agroecology, established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2018) and widely recognized in the field (HLPE, 2019; Nicholls et al., 2016), outline the essential elements for creating a sustainable, resilient and equitable agricultural system. These 13 principles offer a comprehensive framework that not only enhances environmental sustainability, but also respects social and cultural values, fostering economic resilience and community empowerment. Agroecology seeks to create food systems that are sustainable, equitable and resilient in the face of global challenges through adhering to these core principles. The details of these principles are highlighted as follows:

1. **Biodiversity**: This principle encourages crop diversity and the integration of animals, trees and other organisms into farming systems. Diverse farming systems are more resilient, support greater biodiversity, and reduce dependence on chemical inputs by enabling natural pest control and nutrient cycling.
2. **Co-creation of knowledge**: Agroecology promotes a participatory approach, integrating scientific research with traditional and local/traditional knowledge. This collaborative learning process helps tailor agroecological practices to the local context and needs of farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists or food producers.
3. **Synergies**: By promoting beneficial interactions between different components of the farming system (e.g., crops, livestock, trees and soil), agroecology optimizes productivity. Synergies in the system can reduce the need for external inputs, as plants and animals can support each other.
4. **Recycling**: Agroecology focuses on minimizing waste by recycling nutrients and organic matter within the farm. For example, crop residues and animal manure can be used to enrich the soil, optimizing the need for chemical fertilizers and closing nutrient loops on the farm.
5. **Land and natural resource governance**: Access to land and secure land tenure are crucial for farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to invest in long-term sustainable practices. Agroecology emphasizes fair and equitable access to land, water, seeds and other resources, particularly for marginalized groups.
6. **Animal health and welfare**: Agroecology values the humane treatment of animals, with systems designed to meet animals' natural behaviours and nutritional needs. Ethical treatment of livestock also benefits human health and contributes to balanced ecosystem functioning.

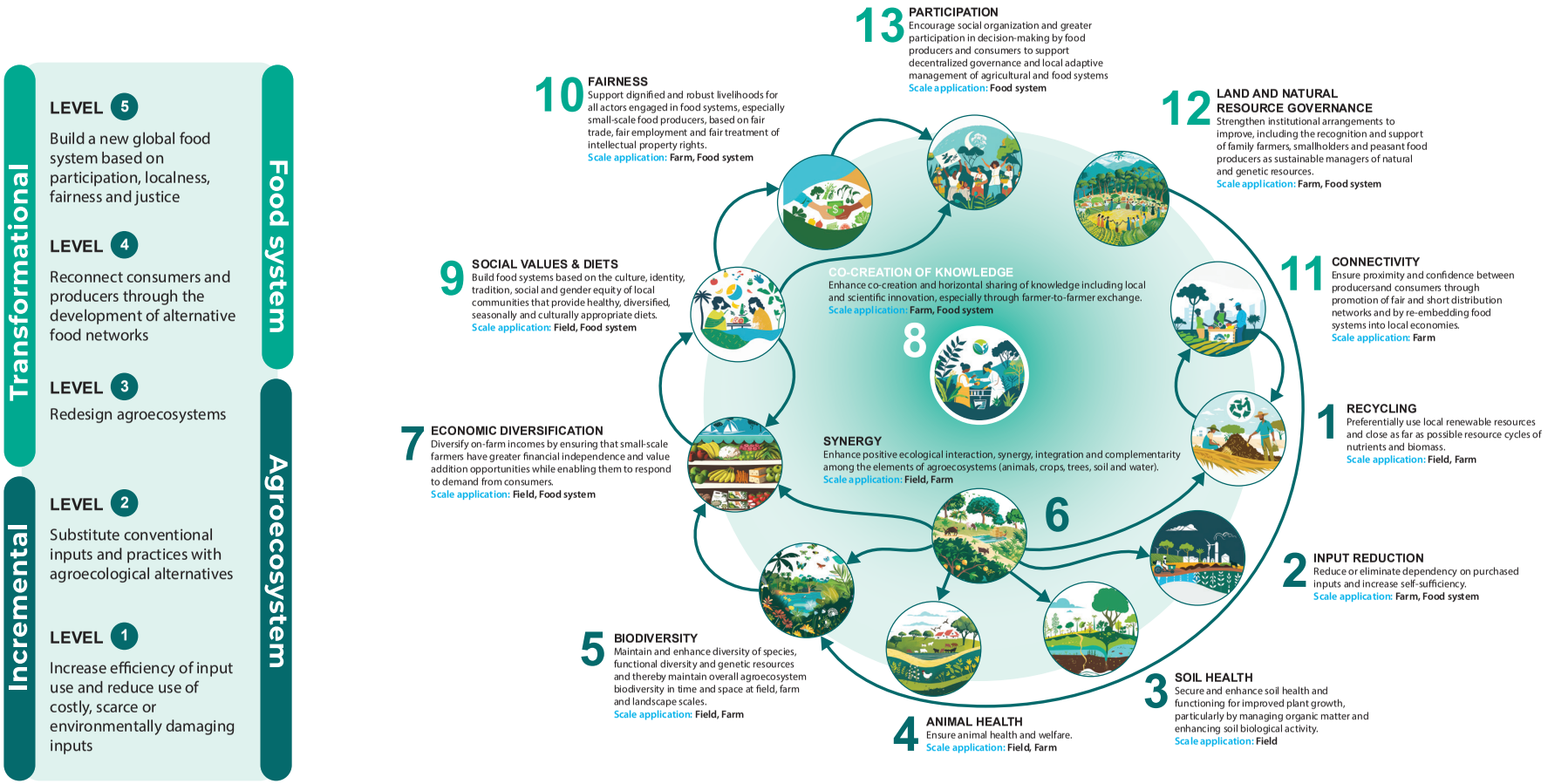


Figure 1. The five Gliessman levels of food system transformation and the related HLPE 13 principles of agroecology (Agroecology TPP, 2026)

Source: Adapted from Gliessman (2007), HLPE (2019), Agroecology Europe (2021)

7. **Connectivity**: This principle promotes collaboration across various levels, from farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to consumers, fostering connections between urban and rural areas. Strong networks among stakeholders strengthen the food system, increase knowledge sharing, and create more resilient local economies.
8. **Input reduction**: Reduce or eventually eliminate dependency on purchased inputs from external sources and increase self-sufficiency by relying on local sources.
9. **Soil health**: Secure and enhance soil health and functioning for improved plant growth, particularly by managing organic matter and enhancing soil microbiological activity.
10. **Economic diversification**: Diversify on-farm incomes by ensuring that small-scale farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists have greater financial independence and value-added opportunities while enabling them to respond to demand from consumers.
11. **Social values and diets**: Build food systems – based on the culture, identity, traditions, and social and gender equity of local communities – that provide healthy, diversified, seasonal and culturally appropriate diets.
12. **Fairness**: Support dignified and robust livelihoods for all actors engaged in food systems, especially small-scale food producers, based on fair trade, fair employment, and fair treatment of intellectual property rights.
13. **Participation**: Encourage social organization and greater participation in decision making by food producers and consumers to support decentralized governance and local adaptive management of agricultural and food systems.

These 13 principles are aligned with 10 elements of agroecology (FAO, 2018) as presented diagrammatically in Figure 1.

1.4 Essentials of agroecology

The transition to resilient food systems requires moving beyond conventional approaches to embrace agroecology's core philosophy and practices. At its heart, these essentials, ranging from recycling and biodiversity to knowledge co-creation and social values, form the integrated framework necessary to simultaneously achieve ecological health, economic viability and social equity in Ethiopian agriculture.

Enhancing soil health and fertility

One of the primary benefits of agroecology is its focus on improving soil health through natural and sustainable practices. Ethiopian agriculture faces significant challenges from land degradation, soil erosion and nutrient depletion, which are particularly problematic in the highland areas. Agroecology encourages the use of techniques like terracing, contour farming and agroforestry, which help prevent soil erosion and improve water retention. In Ethiopia, these techniques are essential for combating land degradation and improving soil fertility, particularly in areas prone to soil erosion due to deforestation and overgrazing (Snapp, 2017). Agroecological practices promote the use of organic compost and natural fertilizers rather than relying heavily on external chemical inputs. This approach restores soil nutrients and improves soil structure, organic matter content and water retention capacity, thereby making it more resilient to climate shocks and more productive in the long term (Snapp, 2017).

Increasing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience

Agroecology emphasizes biodiversity in farming systems, which can improve both productivity and resilience to environmental stresses such as droughts, dry spells, incidences of disease, and pest outbreaks. Ethiopian smallholders traditionally

grow multiple crops in diverse forms of associations, a practice that aligns with agroecological principles of poly-culture. These systems enhance biodiversity, reduce pests without chemical pesticides, and improve yields by ensuring crops support each other. For example, growing cereals like maize alongside legumes improves soil nitrogen content and enhances productivity (Pretty et al., 2018). Agroecology also promotes the integration of trees and shrubs into crop farming systems, which provides multiple benefits such as shade, wind protection, and additional food and feed sources. In Ethiopia, agroforestry has shown promise in improving soil health, increasing fodder availability for livestock, and contributing to household income through the production of fruits, timber and fuelwood (Mbow et al. 2014).

Improving climate resilience

Agroecology offers pathways for adapting to climate change, a major challenge for Ethiopia's agri-food system, which is highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Climate variability in Ethiopia frequently results in droughts, erratic rainfall and floods, affecting crop yields and livestock. Agroecology promotes the use of assorted local drought-tolerant crop varieties that are adapted to Ethiopia's diverse agroecological zones. These varieties, often maintained by smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, are crucial for building resilience to climate shocks (Veronesi and Di Falco, 2012). Agroecological practices like water harvesting, mulching and the use of small-scale irrigation systems help smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists manage water resources more efficiently, reducing vulnerability to droughts and erratic rainfall (World Bank, 2021). These techniques can also help sustain agricultural production during dry periods.

Supporting food security and nutrition

Agroecology helps diversify food production, which is critical for improving nutrition and food security in Ethiopia. The focus on biodiversity-based and mixed farming systems leads to the production of a wide variety of food crops, including fruits, vegetables and legumes, which are essential for balanced diets. Agroecological systems promote crop diversification, which directly enhances household food security by providing diverse and nutrient-rich diets. This is particularly important in Ethiopia, where malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies (such as Vitamin A and iron) are widespread (Masters et al., 2016). By growing diverse crops and varieties, farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists can improve dietary diversity and reduce dependence on a few staple grains like teff or maize. Agroecology fosters local food systems by shortening the supply chain, reducing reliance on external inputs and markets. This not only strengthens food sovereignty, but also makes local communities more resilient to global food price fluctuations and supply disruptions.

Empowering smallholders and preserving traditional knowledge

Agroecology values the knowledge of smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, and sustainable local/traditional practices, which are often well-suited to local environments. In Ethiopia, smallholders have centuries of experience managing complex agroecosystems, for instance, the local/traditional agroforestry practices of the Gedeo community and the stone terraces of Konso. Agroecology encourages participatory approaches where farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists experiment, innovate and share knowledge about sustainable

practices. This approach helps smallholders in Ethiopia develop context-specific solutions that improve productivity without relying on expensive inputs (Altieri and Toledo, 2011). Ethiopia is known for its rich biodiversity, particularly in traditional crops like teff, barley and enset. Agroecology supports the conservation and use of local seed varieties, which are often more resilient to local environmental conditions than commercially produced uniform hybrid seeds (Salgotra and Chauhan, 2023).

Reducing reliance on external inputs

Agroecological approaches reduce reliance on external agrochemical inputs (such as chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides), which can be expensive and harmful to the environment when overused, and to humans and animals when mishandled. Ethiopian smallholders often lack access to costly external inputs, making agroecology a suitable approach as it emphasizes locally available resources such as compost, biological pest control, and traditional sustainable farming techniques. This approach is more sustainable and accessible for resource-poor farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists (Pretty et al., 2018). Agroecology promotes integrated pest management (IPM), which combines biological control, habitat manipulation, and the use of resistant varieties. This reduces the need for chemical pesticides, which can harm ecosystems and human health (Pretty and Bharucha, 2015).

Strengthening rural livelihoods

Agroecology enhances rural livelihoods by increasing income through diversified production systems, creating opportunities for value addition, and promoting sustainable farming practices that can be passed down through generations. By encouraging the cultivation of a variety of crops, including high-value products such as fruits, nuts and medicinal plants, agroecology helps Ethiopian farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists diversify their income sources (Wezel et al., 2009). Additionally, agroecological practices often lead to higher yields over the long term, thereby improving household income. Agroecological approaches support local economies by encouraging the production and consumption of local products and reinvesting income to enhance production. This reduces dependence on imported foods and external markets, empowering rural communities and strengthening local food systems.

In summary, the rationale of enforcing agroecology strategy in Ethiopia is marked by a decisive trajectory of moving towards a more sustainable and resilient agriculture and food system. By exploring and leveraging the partnerships and momentum, Ethiopia has the potential to position itself as a leader in transforming its agriculture and food systems in ensuring both food security and environmental sustainability.

2 Situation analysis

2.1 Food system challenges

2.1.1 Challenges in production, aggregation, storage, processing, distribution and consumption

Challenges in production: Declining soil health and fertility, increasing biodiversity loss, dependency on external inputs, shortage of animal feed, livestock watering, and livestock health, limited access to technology, pests and diseases, and land fragmentation are the key challenges affecting food production. Ethiopia's agricultural system is predominantly rain-fed, making it vulnerable to climate variability (Conway and Schipper, 2011). Frequent droughts, land degradation and soil erosion exacerbate food insecurity. According to Veronesi and Di Falco (2012), climate change has a significant impact on agricultural productivity, particularly among smallholders, necessitating climate-adaptation strategies like irrigation and the use of drought-resistant crop varieties. Recent literature (reports) pointed out the need for more climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices to enhance resilience against climate change (Komarek et al., 2019; Teklu et al., 2022). Innovations such as integrated soil fertility management, conservation agriculture and agroforestry can help mitigate environmental degradation and increase agricultural productivity (Arslan et al., 2021). Ethiopia has made efforts to promote CSA through initiatives like the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, which integrates sustainable practices into national development (Paul and Weinthal, 2019). Smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists often lack access to modern agricultural technologies, quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Productivity in Ethiopian agriculture remains low due to fragmented land holdings, traditional farming methods and limited use of modern inputs such as fertilizers and improved seeds (Bahir et al., 2020). These constraints are compounded by poor infrastructure and limited access to markets, which reduces farmers' ability to sell surplus production (World Bank, 2010).

Challenges in aggregation: The agricultural sector faces significant challenges that impede farmers' abilities to efficiently market their produce. Poor infrastructure, characterized by inadequate transport and logistics, hampers the effective aggregation of crops from rural areas to urban markets. Additionally, limited access to collective marketing mechanisms further exacerbates inefficiencies, resulting in lower prices for farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Compounding these issues are information gaps and lack of access to essential market data, which diminishes their bargaining power and hinders their ability to respond to market demands effectively.

Challenges in storage: post-harvest losses present a critical issue for food security, primarily due to inadequate storage facilities and poor handling practices that contribute significantly to waste. The lack of cold chain facilities further exacerbates the situation, as perishable goods like fruits and vegetables experience reduced shelf life, increasing the likelihood of spoilage. Additionally, inadequate storage practices can lead to pest infestations and contamination, compromising food quality and safety.

Challenges in distribution: The effective movement of food products is significantly hampered by transport challenges, including poor road conditions, unreliable transport services and insufficient logistics infrastructure. This situation is further complicated by the fragmentation of food markets, which leads to inefficiencies and restricts producers from accessing larger markets. Additionally, urban-rural disparities in distribution channels result in urban areas enjoying better access to food compared to rural communities, exacerbating the inequalities in food availability and access.

Challenges in processing: The lack of adequate food processing facilities significantly limits value addition across the agricultural sector, perpetuating dependence on raw agricultural exports. Much of the processing occurs within an informal sector that operates without regulation, raising serious food safety concerns. Furthermore, investment challenges persist, with insufficient funding in the food processing sector stifling innovation and the adoption of modern technologies that could enhance efficiency and product quality.

Challenges in food safety and standards: In the Ethiopian food system, challenges in food safety and standards remain significant due to weak regulatory enforcement, limited laboratory capacity, and fragmented institutional coordination among agencies responsible for quality control. The absence of harmonized food safety standards aligned with international benchmarks, inadequate inspection systems across the value chain, and poor awareness among producers and consumers further exacerbate risks of contamination and adulteration. Moreover, informal markets dominate food distribution, often lacking proper hygiene and traceability mechanisms, while limited infrastructure for cold storage and transportation undermines food quality and safety assurance.

Challenges in food and nutrition security: Food insecurity and poverty significantly restrict access to diverse and nutritious foods, leading to widespread malnutrition. Additionally, cultural preferences often favour traditional diets, which can hinder the acceptance of new food products that might enhance nutritional intake. Compounding these issues is a general lack of awareness and education on dietary diversity, nutrition and food safety, which adversely affects consumption patterns and overall health outcomes.

Challenges in capacity and knowledge: Many actors across the value chain, including smallholder farmers, extension agents, cooperatives and local institutions, have limited technical and managerial skills to adopt improved agricultural practices, post-harvest handling and value addition technologies. Weak institutional coordination,

inadequate research-extension-farmer linkages and insufficient investment in vocational and higher education related to food systems hinder innovation and knowledge dissemination. Moreover, data management, digital literacy and evidence-based decision-making capacities are low, leading to gaps in planning, monitoring and policy implementation across the food system.

2.1.2 Environmental challenges of food systems

Soil fertility depletion and land degradation: Land degradation often results in biodiversity loss and soil erosion, which reduces the amount of arable land and leads to desertification in some areas, further compounding food production challenges. This degradation, coupled with depleted soil fertility/health, leads to reduced agricultural output, as nutrient deficiencies adversely affect crop growth and result in lower yields that fail to meet the dietary needs of the growing population. Additionally, poorly managed and degraded soils contribute to greater crop losses due to increased vulnerability to pests, diseases and adverse weather conditions. Moreover, depleted soils negatively impact soil organisms that are critical for maintaining agricultural biodiversity and ecosystem services, ultimately reducing long-term agricultural productivity. Healthy soils play a crucial role in improving water retention and drought resilience, whereas soil degradation makes agricultural systems more vulnerable to climate-related events, such as droughts and heavy rainfall. As farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists cope with declining fertility, many resort to unsustainable practices like mono-cropping, over-reliance on chemical fertilizers and inadequate crop rotation, which can exacerbate soil health degradation. Moreover, farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists experiencing losses of fertile land may lack the resources to adapt their practices to changing climates, further diminishing agricultural resilience.

Water availability and management: In Ethiopia, agriculture is largely rain-fed, making it highly dependent on seasonal rainfall patterns, where limited water availability can lead to reduced crop yields and a significant impact on food security. The country is also susceptible to recurrent droughts, with prolonged dry periods resulting in crop failures, livestock losses and increased food prices, thereby heightening food insecurity, particularly among vulnerable rural populations. Many communities rely on livestock as a primary source of income and nutrition, and water scarcity directly affects the availability of grazing land and the health of livestock, which in turn reduces productivity and increases mortality rates among animals. Additionally, water availability influences agricultural output, affecting food prices; years of low rainfall and reduced crop production often lead to higher costs, making it challenging for households to afford adequate nutrition. Limited water availability can exacerbate pest and disease pressures on both crops and livestock, as stressed conditions make plants more susceptible to both, thereby threatening food security further. A reliable water supply is essential for cultivating a diverse range of crops, and water scarcity may force farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to focus on a few staple crops, limiting dietary diversity and adversely affecting nutritional outcomes. Moreover, the effects of climate change, with shifts in rainfall patterns and further impacts on water availability, present significant challenges for Ethiopians dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Hence, adaptation strategies such as improved water management practices and climate-resilient crop varieties are necessary to bolster the resilience of the food system.

Climate change challenges: Frequent droughts, land degradation and soil erosion intensify food insecurity in Ethiopia. Research by Veronesi and Di Falco (2012) indicates that climate change adversely affects agricultural productivity, particularly for smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, highlighting the necessity for climate

adaptation strategies such as irrigation and drought-resistant crop varieties. Recent literature emphasizes the importance of implementing climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices to build resilience against climate change, with innovations like integrated soil fertility management, conservation agriculture and agroforestry proving effective in mitigating environmental degradation and boosting agricultural productivity (Arslan et al., 2021). Ethiopia has made strides in promoting CSA through initiatives like the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, which integrates sustainable approaches into national development efforts (Paul and Weinthal, 2019). Climate change poses additional threats to Ethiopia's agro-ecosystems, further exacerbating existing challenges. Fluctuations in temperature and precipitation patterns can significantly affect water availability and the distribution of vital plant and animal species, ultimately impacting crop yields and food production. This vulnerability is compounded by intensive agricultural practices that degrade soil health.

Agrochemicals: Agrochemicals play a complex role in Ethiopia's food system, influencing agricultural productivity and food security both positively and negatively. On the one hand, the use of fertilizers and pesticides can enhance crop yields and protect against pests and diseases, which is crucial for a country facing food insecurity due to challenges like drought, land degradation and climate change. Increased agricultural productivity can help feed a growing population and improve farmers' incomes. However, the reliance on agrochemicals also poses significant risks. Overuse and misuse can lead to soil degradation, water contamination and loss of biodiversity, undermining the long-term sustainability of the agricultural system. Additionally, the health impacts of agrochemicals on farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoral and rural communities are a growing concern, as exposure can lead to serious health issues. Moreover, the dependency on chemical inputs can create a cycle where farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists become reliant on them for maintaining yields, which may not be sustainable, especially if input costs rise or if there are disruptions in supply chains. Furthermore, agrochemical use can also have socioeconomic implications, where smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, who often lack access to resources and education, might not be able to use these chemicals effectively, leading to disparities between wealthier farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists and those less able to afford such inputs. To balance these effects, there is a need for integrated approaches that emphasize sustainable agricultural practices, promoting organic farming and the use of agroecological methods that can enhance resilience, protect the environment, and ensure food security in Ethiopia.

Biodiversity challenges: Ethiopia faces significant challenges related to habitat loss, monoculture practices, climate change, soil degradation, the introduction of invasive species and the erosion of traditional knowledge, all of which have profound implications for its biodiversity and food systems. Rapid urbanization, agricultural expansion and land-use changes have led to habitat destruction, threatening the diverse plant and animal species that are essential for ecological balance and agricultural productivity. This loss of biodiversity can diminish the availability of native crops and livestock, which are critical for ensuring food security. Moreover, the growing trend of mono cropping – where a single crop is cultivated over large areas – has increased the vulnerability of the agricultural system to pests and diseases. By limiting genetic diversity, monoculture practices make crops more susceptible to the impacts of climate change and other environmental stresses, undermining agricultural resilience.

The excessive use of agrochemicals and ineffective land management contribute to soil erosion and degradation, rendering soils less productive and diminishing the nutritional

quality of food. As a result, the agricultural sector's capacity to support the population's needs diminishes, posing further risks to food security.

The introduction of invasive species exacerbates these challenges by disrupting local ecosystems and outcompeting native species essential for maintaining biodiversity and agricultural productivity. These invasive species can lead to reduced crop yields and increased costs for pest management. Additionally, the erosion of traditional farming practices and local knowledge regarding biodiversity management diminishes agro-ecosystem resilience. Modern agricultural techniques often overlook the importance of local/traditional knowledge, which has historically supported sustainable farming practices adapted to local conditions. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires an integrated approach that prioritizes biodiversity conservation, promotes agroecological practices, and revitalizes local knowledge to build a more resilient and sustainable food system in Ethiopia.

2.1.3 Socioeconomic challenges of food systems

The Ethiopian food system faces several interconnected challenges that significantly impact the livelihoods and incomes of farming communities, gender roles and participation in agriculture, access to markets and value chains, nutritional status of communities, and the quality of food produced. Each of these issues requires careful consideration and integrated strategies for improvement. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that includes improving access to resources for women, enhancing market infrastructure, promoting sustainable agricultural methods, and ensuring that farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists receive fair compensation for their products. Sustainable development initiatives that engage both men and women, focus on market access and value chain improvements, and enhance food security through diverse agricultural practices are essential to transforming the Ethiopian food system and supporting farming communities effectively.

Livelihoods and income of farming communities: Many Ethiopian farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists rely on subsistence agriculture, which often yields limited income. Vulnerability to climatic shocks, such as droughts and floods, exacerbates poverty levels. The predominance of mono-cropping reduces resilience to market fluctuations and climate variability, limiting income-generating opportunities. High costs of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides can deter farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists from adopting better practices, leading to low productivity and stagnant incomes.

Gender roles and participation in agriculture: Despite women playing a crucial role in agriculture, they often have limited access to land, credit and extension services. This restricts their ability to participate fully and benefit from agricultural activities. Gender roles and societal norms can limit women's decision-making power within households and rural communities, affecting their ability to take on leadership positions or entrepreneurial roles. Women frequently carry a disproportionate burden of unpaid labour, which can detract from their ability to engage in income-generating agricultural activities or training.

Access to markets and value chains: Limited road access, inadequate storage facilities and insufficient market information hinder farmers' ability to reach markets and sell their products at fair prices. Many farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists lack access to crucial information about market prices and demand, which can lead to exploitation by middlemen and low-income returns. Low-value addition due to inadequate processing capacity and limited access to quality supply chains reduces the profitability of agricultural products.

Nutritional status of communities: A combination of low agricultural productivity, seasonal variations and market constraints contributes to chronic food insecurity, undermining nutritional status. High rates of malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant women, are compounded by limited dietary diversity and poor access to nutrient-rich foods. Nutritional deficiencies can have long-term health implications, hampering physical and cognitive development and leading to increased healthcare costs.

Impact of current agricultural practices on food quality: The reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides can diminish soil quality over time and pose health risks to consumers through residues in food. While some traditional agricultural practices are sustainable, reliance on outdated methods can lead to lower yields and compromised food quality. Current agricultural practices may not be resilient to climate change, affecting crop quality and quantity. Adoption of climate-smart agriculture is necessary, but often faces resistance due to a lack of knowledge and resources.

2.2 PESTEL, SWOT and stakeholder analyses

2.2.1 PESTEL analysis

A PESTEL (Political, Economic, Sociocultural, Technological, Environmental and Legal) analysis of agroecology in Ethiopia examines the complexities surrounding agricultural practices that integrate ecological principles with traditional and modern farming systems. Agroecology is particularly relevant in Ethiopia due to the country's heavy reliance on agriculture, diverse ecosystems, and challenges related to food security and climate change. In summary, agroecology in Ethiopia is influenced by a complex interplay of political, economic, sociocultural, technological, environmental and legal factors. While there are significant opportunities for sustainable agricultural development through agroecology, challenges – including political instability, economic investment, community engagement, technological access, environmental impacts and legal frameworks – must be addressed to enhance the adoption and effectiveness of agroecological practices throughout the country.

Political factors: The Government of Ethiopia has recognized the significance of agricultural innovation and sustainability, and the need for implementing policies that promote agroecological practices to enhance food security, improve livelihoods and encourage rural development. However, the political structure, based on ethnic federalism, influences the implementation of these practices across various regions, depending on local governance and community priorities. Various international organizations and NGOs are actively involved in promoting agroecology in Ethiopia, offering funding and technical assistance that can shape national policies and practices. Despite these efforts, political instability and enforced conflicts – particularly those stemming from civil unrest and border disputes – can disrupt agricultural systems and hinder the effective implementation of agroecological practices, ultimately impacting food security and local economies.

Economic factors: Agriculture plays a crucial role in Ethiopia's GDP and employment, and agroecology presents a sustainable alternative that can enhance productivity while reducing reliance on external chemical inputs. Improving market access for smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists is key to realizing the economic potential of agroecological systems, as it can create incentives for adopting such practices. However, limited access to funding for small-scale farmers, and the absence of price incentives for agroecological products remain barriers for the adoption of agroecological methods. Therefore, government and international investments are essential in providing the necessary resources to promote agroecology. Additionally, agroecology fosters

practices that bolster resilience to climate change, which is increasingly pertinent as Ethiopia encounters climate variability that affects agricultural productivity.

Sociocultural factors: Ethiopia has a rich history of traditional agricultural practices that align closely with agroecological principles and function in harmony with nature. These practices hold cultural significance and can be effectively integrated into modern agroecological systems. Successful agroecological initiatives frequently engage local communities in decision-making processes, fostering a sense of ownership that enhances the likelihood of success. There is a growing awareness of the importance of food sovereignty and security, which aligns with agroecological principles aimed at strengthening local food systems. Furthermore, increasing awareness and education on sustainable farming practices is essential for shifting societal attitudes towards agroecology among farming communities, facilitating a transition to more sustainable agricultural production systems.

Table 1. SWOT analysis for agroecology in Ethiopia

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Rich biodiversity: Ethiopia's diverse ecosystems and varied climates allow for a range of agroecological practices and crop diversity, improving biodiversity, resilience and productivity. **Traditional/local knowledge**: Many Ethiopian farmers/pastoralists/agro-pastoralists have deep-rooted knowledge in organic traditional farming practices that align well with agroecological principles, promoting sustainable farming and resource management.	**Limited awareness, training and extension service**: Farmers/pastoralists/agro-pastoralists often lack formal training or awareness of agroecological techniques, limiting their adoption. **Low investment and infrastructure**: Ethiopia's agricultural infrastructure, including storage, transportation and markets, is underdeveloped, limiting the scale-up of agroecological products.	**Growing demand for organic products**: There is increasing global and domestic demand for agroecologically produced agricultural products, which agroecology can provide. **Support from international and local organizations**: Development partners/NGOs and certain government initiatives are increasingly supporting sustainable agriculture in Ethiopia, providing funding, research and advocacy for agroecology.	**Climate vulnerability**: While agroecology improves resilience, extreme climate events (such as droughts, floods, rising temperatures, frost etc.) can severely impact productivity, especially in the early adoption stages. **Policy and market barriers**: Ethiopian agricultural policies rarely support price incentives and special market access to agroecological products. **Land degradation and soil erosion**: Calamities in land degradation and soil erosion can make agroecological efforts less productive, discouraging producers.

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Table 1. Continue

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Ensure resource efficiency: Agroecology promotes practices that improve soil health and water retention, addressing resource scarcity issues in regions facing drought. **Climate adaptability**: Agroecological systems can improve resilience to climate change impacts, which is crucial for a country facing increased weather variability. **Community involvement**: These practices often involve local communities in decision making, fostering social cohesion, and empowering farmer knowledge systems. **Diversity-based smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists**: A large majority of Ethiopian agriculture is dominated by smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists who often practice subsistence family farming. This allows for the integration of agroecological practices at a local scale.	**Yield gaps**: Initial yields under agroecological practices can be lower compared to conventional methods, which can deter farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists focused on short-term economic gains, compromising long-term ecosystem benefits. **Dependency on external inputs**: Some Ethiopian producers still rely heavily on external chemical fertilizers and pesticides, making the transition to agroecology challenging. **Limited access to resources**: Smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists may have limited access to essential resources such as credit, quality seeds, markets and appropriate agricultural inputs for agroecology transition. **Scant education, research and training**: There is often insufficient formal training, education and research on agroecological practices.	**Climate change funding**: International funds are available for projects that mitigate climate change impacts, a major focus in agroecological practices. **Growing digital platforms supporting knowledge sharing and market linkage**: Successful pilot projects and farmer networks can share practices that make agroecology more accessible. **Government policies**: Shifts in government policy towards sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture could create a favourable environment for agroecology. **Youth engagement**: Involving the youth in agriculture and agroecology can revitalize interest in sustainable farming and local innovation.	**Population pressure**: High population growth and land fragmentation can lead to unsustainable land-use pressures, complicating the adoption of agroecology. **Unplanned urbanization**: Reduction of cultivable lands due to expansion of built-up areas. **Market dynamics**: Fluctuations in market prices and competition with industrial agriculture (without price differentiation) can threaten the viability of agroecological farms. **Migration**: Rural-urban migration could present a challenge for the retention of youth in traditional agriculture.

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Table 1. Continue

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Integrated farming systems: Many farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists use integrated farming systems, which promote crop-livestock interactions and contribute to soil health and ecosystem services. **Availability of scientific evidence** on the importance of agroecology for sustainable food systems.	**Policy and institutional support**: Weak coherence among sectoral policies and institutional frameworks that support agroecological practices can limit their implementation and dissemination. **Absence of clear land use and wetland policies**: This hinders integrated land management and the sustainable implementation of agroecological principles.	**Local and traditional knowledge**: This provides a strong foundation for implementing agroecology principles, as they embody centuries of experience in managing diverse ecosystems.	

Table 2. List of stakeholders, their roles, interests and power

Stakeholder	Role	Interests	Influence/ Power
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	Leads policy formulation, agricultural extension, and national agroecology programmes; Promotes sustainable farming systems	High	High
Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)	Regulates environmental governance, climate adaptation/mitigation, and biodiversity conservation	High	High
Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI)	Produces evidence and safeguards genetic resources, local seeds and local knowledge	High	High
Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD)	Plays a central coordinating role and ensures NAES alignment with national medium- and long-term development plans	High	High
Regional Agricultural Bureaus (zone, district and kebele-level agriculture offices)	Implement national agroecology policies through extension and local programmes	High	High
Agricultural universities/colleges	Train experts, conduct agroecology research and innovate sustainable agriculture curricula	High	Low

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Table 2. Continue

Stakeholder	Role	Interests	Influence/ Power
Agricultural research institutes (EIAR, Forest Research Institute, RRIs)	Conduct research and develop agroecological technologies, biofertilizers, improved varieties and agroforestry models	High	High
Some government ministries (finance, planning, health, education)	Support agroecology policy and alignment	Low	High
Local NGOs and civil society organizations	Implement community agroecology, train farmers, and enhance local knowledge	High	Low
International NGOs	Support sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation and farmer capacity building as well as promoting agroecological practices	High	Low
International research organizations	Conduct research and agroecology evaluations, landscape restoration research, and provide evidence	High	High
Farmers' cooperatives	Organize smallholders, provide seeds, inputs, markets and training	High	High
Smallholder farmers/ agro-pastoralists/ pastoralists	Primary implementers responsible for applying sustainable practices and managing biodiversity, soil, water, livestock and landscapes	High	Low
Local and traditional knowledge holders	Provide Indigenous practices for soil, seed, water, grazing and pest management	High	Low
Agroecological enterprises	Supply organic inputs, compost, bio-fertilizers; conduct eco-friendly production	Low	High
Food processing companies	Create market demand for agroecological produce	Low	High
International development agencies	Provide funding and technical support for agroecology programmes	High	High
Bilateral and multilateral aid organizations	Support capacity building, ecosystem restoration and policy development	Moderate	High
Agroecology-focused networks	Coordinate actors; facilitate knowledge-sharing; advocate for agroecology	High	Moderate/ low
Professional associations	Provide scientific expertise (soil science, ecology, plant sciences)	High	Low
Consumer cooperatives	Create demand for agroecological products; link farmers to urban markets	High	Low
Food advocacy groups	Promote food sovereignty, sustainability and rights-based food systems	Moderate/ high	Low
Media	Promote agroecology strategy and education	High	Low/ Moderate

Technological factors: Developing and promoting agroecological techniques, such as intercropping, agroforestry and organic farming, can significantly enhance productivity and sustainability in agriculture. Investment in agricultural research focused on agroecology is crucial, as it can yield region-specific innovations that improve adaptation to local conditions. The rise of digital technology in agriculture offers opportunities to facilitate better agroecological practices, including enhanced data collection for monitoring and improved communication among farming communities. However, despite these advancements, limited access to appropriate agricultural technology and resources in rural areas can impede the effective implementation of agroecological practices, highlighting the need for targeted investments and support for all communities (farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists).

Environmental factors: Agroecology aims to enhance biodiversity, which is particularly critical in Ethiopia, given its diverse agro-ecosystems. Practices that promote biodiversity can help maintain ecological balance and resilience in the face of environmental changes. Furthermore, agroecological practices emphasize improving soil health through the use of organic inputs and regenerative methods, effectively addressing issues of soil erosion and fertility loss that are prevalent in the country. Sustainable water management practices within agroecology can also play a vital role in mitigating the effects of droughts and floods, which are increasingly common in Ethiopia. By implementing such practices, farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists can better cope with variable climatic conditions. Additionally, agroecology provides strategies to adapt to and mitigate climate change, making it essential for ensuring food security and protecting natural resources. Overall, the integration of these agroecological principles offers a pathway towards a more resilient and sustainable agricultural future in Ethiopia.

Legal factors: State control over land ownership in Ethiopia can pose significant challenges for implementing agroecological practices, as farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists may face restrictions on land use that limit their ability to adopt diverse and sustainable farming and invest in long-term land improvement measures. Ethiopia's lack of wetland policy also fuels uncontrolled conversion, which destroys essential ecosystem services like water filtration, flood control and soil enrichment. This directly destabilizes agroecology, making sustainable farming vulnerable to drought and fertility loss. Moreover, current agricultural policies often favour conventional farming methods, which may hinder the effective support and promotion of agroecological practices. This necessitates urgent reform to create an enabling environment for scaling agroecological approaches. Another critical challenge is the lack of clear national standards for organic products, which can adversely affect pricing and market access for goods produced through agroecological methods. This limitation hinders farmers' ability to capitalize on the growing organic markets, reducing their potential income and incentives to shift towards sustainable practices. On the positive side, establishing strong legal frameworks to preserve local/traditional knowledge and crop varieties can significantly bolster the agroecological movement. Such frameworks not only protect farmers' rights and sustainable traditional practices, but also safeguard against bio-piracy, ensuring that local communities retain ownership and control over their agricultural heritage. By addressing these challenges and leveraging existing opportunities, Ethiopia can advance its agroecological agenda and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable agricultural future.

2.2.2 SWOT analysis

Agroecology has strong potential to enhance sustainability and resilience in Ethiopian agriculture, leveraging local knowledge, biodiversity and resilience-building practices. However, its success depends on addressing knowledge gaps, improving infrastructure, and developing supportive policies and market access to scale up adoption effectively. A SWOT analysis provides a structured overview of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to implementing agroecological practices within the country's agricultural sector.

2.2.3 Stakeholder analysis

Mapping key stakeholders related to agroecology in Ethiopia involves identifying the various groups and organizations that play a significant role in promoting and implementing agroecological practices. Engagement among these stakeholders is essential for advancing agroecology in Ethiopia, fostering a collaborative approach to building sustainable agricultural systems that support food security, environmental health and food sovereignty. Agroecology in Ethiopia involves a diverse network of actors who influence policy, research, implementation and market systems. Their collaboration is essential for advancing sustainable agriculture, food sovereignty, ecosystem health and climate resilience. Key stakeholders in agroecology, their roles, interests and power, are indicated as follows.

2.3 Existing policy, strategy frameworks and programmes

Scaling agroecological practices requires supportive policies and strategies that create an enabling environment for farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, researchers and value chain actors. Such frameworks can align national priorities with sustainable development goals, incentivize eco-friendly practices, strengthen institutional coordination, and ensure inclusive participation of communities. Investing in agroecology-focused policies is essential for transforming Ethiopia's food system into one that is sustainable, resilient and capable of meeting present and future needs.

2.3.1 Existing national policies and regulations

Over the past two decades, the Government of Ethiopia has pursued several policies, strategies and programmes aimed at transforming the food system, focusing on productivity, commercialization and achieving food security.

Agriculture and Rural Development Policy

The Agriculture and Rural Development policy was launched in 2016 Ethiopian calendar (2024 GC) with the following key objectives:

- Ensuring rapid and continuous growth in agricultural production and productivity;
- Contributing significantly to ensuring national food and nutrition security and food sovereignty;
- Commercializing and modernizing agriculture to be self-sufficient for industrial inputs and export extra products;
- Enhancing sustainable use of natural resources by improving development and conservation;
- Meeting the national demand for forest products by increasing forest development and sustainable utilization;
- Providing ecologically safe and economically viable agricultural development, minimizing exposure to the effects of climate and other natural events, thereby building resilience;
- Expanding economic and social infrastructure in rural areas, ensuring the transition, and changing the lifestyle of the rural population.

Land Management and Administration Policy

Ethiopia's land management and administration policy is critical to the country's socioeconomic development, as land is a vital resource for agriculture and livelihoods, and is a limited natural resource that requires wise management. Under the current constitution, all land in Ethiopia is publicly owned, with the state and the people as the ultimate owners. This system prevents private land ownership, though individuals or communities can obtain land-use rights. The policy grants land-use rights to individuals and communities, which can be transferred, inherited or leased, but cannot be sold. This is aimed at ensuring equitable access while preventing land speculation. The Government of Ethiopia has moved towards decentralizing land administration, allowing regional states to tailor land policies according to their specific socioeconomic contexts. This includes regional land administration offices that manage land allocation, use and registration. The government has implemented land registration and certification programmes to enhance the security of tenure for landholders. Notably, these programmes have focused on issuing certificates to rural households, which helps to reduce land disputes and encourages investment. These highlights reflect Ethiopia's efforts to manage land in a way that supports economic development, social equity and environmental sustainability while navigating the complexities and challenges inherent in land governance.

Environmental Policy

The formulation of Ethiopia's first environmental policy in 1997 marked a significant shift. This policy emphasized the need for sustainable land and water management, incorporating community involvement and integrated approaches. The main objectives of the policy include:

- Sustaining essential ecological processes, preserve biodiversity, and maintain renewable resource capabilities;
- Extending benefits from non-renewable resource exploitation into the future while minimizing negative impacts on other resources;
- Developing underutilized natural resources through new technologies and innovative applications;
- Integrating the full economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of resource development into planning and decision making;
- Improving human settlements to meet the diverse needs of inhabitants sustainably;
- Preventing pollution of land, air and water cost-effectively;
- Conserving and sustainably managing Ethiopia's cultural heritage;
- Empowering and involving communities in environmental management;
- Increasing public awareness of the connections between the environment and development.

Ethiopian Water Resource Management Policy

The Ethiopian Water Resource Management Policy was developed in 2001 with the overall goal of enhancing and promoting all national efforts towards the efficient, equitable and optimum utilization of the available water resources of Ethiopia for significant socioeconomic development on a sustainable basis. This policy had the following key objectives:

- Developing the water resources of the country for the economic and social benefit of the people, on an equitable and sustainable basis;
- Allocating and apportioning water, based on comprehensive and integrated plans and optimum allocation principles that incorporate efficiency of use, equity of access, and sustainability of the resource;
- Managing and combating drought as well as other disasters associated with delayed-onset and/or early withdrawal of the rains through inter alia, efficient allocation, redistribution, transfer, storage and use of water resources;

- Combating and regulating floods through sustainable mitigation, prevention, rehabilitation and other practical measures;

Conserving, protecting and enhancing water resources and the overall aquatic environment on a sustainable basis.

National Livestock and Fisheries Extension Strategy and Roadmap

This livestock and fisheries extension strategy has been designed to create a sustainable and thriving livestock and fisheries sector, empowered by efficient and effective extension services, driving economic growth, food security and improved livelihoods. The strategy has four pillars to target improvement across policy and governance, human capacity, content, and delivery mode of livestock and fisheries extension services.

Ethiopian Seed Law

In 2013, the Government of Ethiopia adopted a new seed law, Seed Proclamation 782/2013, repealing the previous Seed Proclamation 206/2000. The Seed Proclamation 782/2013 remains the current seed legislation in Ethiopia and is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. This revised seed law provides for certain provisions towards the safeguarding of farmers' rights. Article 3, which provides for the scope of application, provides the following exceptions: a) the use of farm-saved seed by any person; b) the exchange or sale of farm-saved seed among smallholder farmers, pastoralists or agro-pastoralists; c) seed to be used for research purposes; and d) forestry seed. Regarding the first exception, 'use' is not defined in the Proclamation, and the ordinary meaning of the verb use has to be ascribed here, to include: take, hold or deploy (something) as a means of accomplishing or achieving something; to employ. The current seed law of 2013 provides for much wider safeguards for the possible realization of farmers' rights than its predecessor, which it replaced. In this revised seed law, specific references are made to small-scale farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, as compared with the previous legislation of 2000.

The Agricultural Growth Program (AGP)

Launched in 2010, the AGP has aimed to increase agricultural productivity and market access for smallholders in high-potential areas. According to Berhane et al. (2017), the AGP has had a positive impact on agricultural yields, but its reach is limited, and more investment is needed to address the needs of low-potential areas and marginalized regions.

Climate Resilience and Green Economy (CRGE)

Ethiopia's Climate Resilience and Green Economy (CRGE) strategy is a comprehensive framework aimed at promoting sustainable development while addressing the challenges posed by climate change. The primary aim of the CRGE strategy is for Ethiopia to achieve middle-income status by 2025 while simultaneously building a climate-resilient economy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The vision is to create a green economy that supports sustainable development, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework for sustainable land management

The Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework (ESIF) for sustainable land management was developed in 2010 to address the issue of land degradation using improved sustainable land management practices at both local and regional levels. The ESIF offers a collaborative strategy for government and civil society to address barriers to sustainable land management (SLM) in Ethiopia. Previous efforts have inadequately tackled the multi-dimensional issue of land degradation. The ESIF promotes a multi-sectoral partnership

approach, encouraging stakeholders to align their investments to restore and enhance Ethiopia's natural ecosystems, ultimately aiming to alleviate rural poverty.

Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)

The PSNP, established in 2005, is a major social protection programme designed to improve food security for the most vulnerable households. It provides cash and food transfers to millions of needy rural Ethiopians affected by chronic food insecurity (Hoddinott et al., 2012). While the PSNP has reduced food insecurity and improved household resilience, further reforms are needed to ensure sustainability in the face of recurrent and growing climate risks (Gilligan et al., 2009).

Growth and transformation plans (GTPs)

Under the Growth and Transformation Plans (GTP I and II), the Government of Ethiopia sought to industrialize agriculture, improve infrastructure and promote agro-processing. While some success has been achieved in increasing crop production, the challenge of scaling up these initiatives to benefit all smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists remains a challenge to be addressed (Bachewe et al., 201b).

Vision 2030: Transforming Ethiopian Food Systems

The Ethiopian food system transformation (Vision 2030) centres on transforming the food system for access to safe, nutritious food while preserving natural resources and biodiversity. The food system strategy addresses availability, sustainable consumption, agri-policy integration, digital innovation, market access, risk management and rural infrastructure. More importantly, agroecology needs to be prioritized for producing a healthy diet locally as it offers both a science and a practice for transforming food systems to be more sustainable, equitable and resilient.

Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy

The Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy was approved by the Council of Ministers in October 2020 and emphasizes the sustainable management of rangelands, livelihood diversification, and improved resilience of pastoral communities. The policy promotes community-based natural resource management, participatory planning, and the integration of Indigenous knowledge in rangeland and livestock management, reflecting agroecology's focus on local context and ecological balance. It encourages mobility and rotational grazing as adaptive ecological practices that sustain soil fertility and biodiversity, while supporting livelihood diversification through crop-livestock integration and value addition to enhance socioeconomic resilience. By prioritizing ecosystem health, social equity and adaptive management, the pastoral development strategy serves as a foundation for advancing agroecological transitions in Ethiopia's dryland and semi-arid regions.

2.3.2 Global and regional policy frameworks

Global and regional policy frameworks increasingly align with the principles of agroecology, promoting sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems. Some of the major ones are:

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 15 (Life on Land), emphasize sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management, directly supporting agroecological approaches.

The UN Food System Strategy: The UN Food Systems approach aligns with Ethiopia's Agroecology Strategy by promoting sustainable, resilient and inclusive food

production and consumption patterns, emphasizing ecosystem-based practices, biodiversity conservation and local knowledge integration. Both frameworks prioritize strengthening smallholder livelihoods, enhancing soil and water health, reducing food loss, and fostering circular and regenerative practices, creating coherence between global food system goals and national agroecology principles.

The African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the African Union Agenda 2063: Both advocate for climate-smart, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development, which resonates with agroecology's focus on ecological balance, local knowledge and resource efficiency.

2.3.3 Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in promoting agroecology in Ethiopia by providing technical assistance, training and resources to farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and communities. They help the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices that enhance food security, improve biodiversity, and promote ecological balance. NGOs often facilitate knowledge-sharing and capacity-building initiatives, educating farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists about agroecological methods such as crop rotation, intercropping and organic farming. Additionally, they advocate for policy changes that support sustainable agricultural practices and engage in community-based projects that empower local farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, including youth, women and persons with disabilities (PWDs). By fostering partnerships with local communities and stakeholders, NGOs contribute significantly to the adoption and scaling of agroecological practices throughout the country.

2.3.4 Research and extension services availability

Research and extension services in Ethiopia are pivotal in promoting agroecology, providing farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists with the necessary knowledge and support to adopt sustainable agricultural practices. Various research institutions, including the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and universities, are engaged in agroecological research. They focus on developing and disseminating sustainable farming practices that enhance productivity while protecting the environment. Moreover, research efforts often emphasize the importance of local/traditional knowledge, local crops and diverse agroecological systems, exploring how these can be integrated into modern farming practices.

The Government of Ethiopia, alongside NGOs and international organizations, has established extension services aimed at providing on-the-ground support to farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. These services include training programmes that educate farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists about agroecological principles, such as biodiversity conservation, organic farming and soil health management. Extension workers often collaborate with farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists through demonstration plots to showcase successful agroecological techniques, making it easier for farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to learn and adopt locally suited agroecological practices.

2.3.5 Education and training programmes

The status of agroecology within Ethiopia's education system reflects a growing awareness and integration of sustainable agricultural practices into curricula and training programmes. Some universities and colleges in Ethiopia (for example,

Haramaya University) have begun to incorporate agroecology principles into their agricultural science programmes. This includes coursework on sustainable farming practices, organic agriculture and ecosystem management. Training programmes for extension agents focus on enhancing their understanding of agroecology so that they can effectively convey this knowledge to farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. This includes topics like integrated pest management (IPM), agroforestry, and soil and water conservation techniques. Farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are often trained in participatory approaches that encourage them to share their own knowledge and experiences, fostering innovation by local communities.

2.3.6 Aligning national agroecology strategy with other strategies and policies

The NAES provides a unifying framework for transforming Ethiopia's food and agriculture systems towards sustainability, climate resilience and nutrition security. Its principles such as ecological farming, community participation, diversified production, recycling and circular economy would be directly complemented with the following major national policies and programmes.

- **Natural resource management and climate action:** NAES reinforces the Sustainable Land Management Programme, Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Programme, ESIF, National Drylands Restoration Strategy, Green Legacy Initiative, and National REDD+ Strategy by promoting soil health, forest restoration, and low-emission farming.
- **Water and landscape governance**: It supports the Water Resource Management Policy, Community Watersheds Proclamation, and Early-Warning Roadmaps through integrated watershed management and climate-smart water use.
- **Agriculture and food systems**: NAES aligns with the National Seed Law, Cluster Farming Approach, Digital Agriculture Roadmap, National Agricultural Investment Plan, Dairy Development Strategy, Feed Resource Strategy, and Food Systems Resilience Programme by encouraging farmer-led seed systems, food processing, diversified markets, and innovation for nutrition and income.
- **Health, nutrition and social protection**: Synergies exist with the Ethiopian Food and Nutrition Policy, Seqota Declaration, National Food Fortification Initiative, the Ethiopian Food-Based Dietary Guidelines, and community-based health insurance by fostering diverse, nutrient-rich diets and resilient rural livelihoods.
- **Economic transformation and development planning**: The strategy complements the 10-Year Development Plan, Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda, Vision 2030, and LT-LEDS by linking agroecology to green growth, low-carbon development and inclusive economic pathways.

By integrating these initiatives under a shared agroecological vision, Ethiopia can coordinate investments, avoid duplication and accelerate progress towards resilient landscapes, sustainable food systems and national climate commitments.

Key national strategies and initiatives that can be aligned with the National Agroecology Strategy (NAES) of Ethiopia are:

1. Agricultural Commercialization Cluster (ACC) Initiative and Farmers Production Cluster (FPC)
2. Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF)
3. Bounty of the Basket (Yelemat Turufat) Initiative
4. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Roadmap
5. Community Watersheds Development, Management, and Utilization Proclamation

6. Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI)
7. Digital Agriculture Roadmap (2025–2032)
8. Environmental Policy of Ethiopia
9. Ethiopia's National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) 2021–2030
10. Ethiopian Fertilizer and Soil Health Roadmap
11. Ethiopian Food and Nutrition Policy
12. Ethiopian Meteorology Institute-Early Warning Systems
13. Ethiopian National Drylands Restoration Strategy
14. Ethiopian National Agroforestry Development Strategy (2026–2035)
15. Ethiopian National Dairy Development Strategy (2022–2031)
16. Ethiopian National Dry Lands Restoration Strategy
17. Ethiopian Seed Law
18. Ethiopian Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management (ESIF)
19. Ethiopian Water Resource Management Policy
20. Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP)
21. Forest Development, Protection, and Utilization Policy
22. Green Legacy Initiative (GLI)
23. Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda: A Pathway to Prosperity
24. Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project LLRP)
25. Multi-Hazard, Impact-Based Early Warning Roadmap (2023–2030)
26. National Feed Resource Development Strategy
27. National Food Fortification Initiative
28. National Livestock and Fisheries Extension Strategy and Roadmap (2023–2033)
29. National Market Information System (NMIS)
30. National REDD+ Investment Plan
31. National REDD+ Strategy (2016–2030)
32. Participatory Agriculture and Climate Transformation Programme (PACT)
33. Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) Initiative
34. Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy (2020)
35. Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Programme
36. Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation
37. Seqota Declaration
38. Sustainable Land Management Programme
39. The 10-Year Development Plan of Ethiopia (2021–2030)
40. The Long-Term – Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)
41. Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2021)
42. Vision 2030: Transforming Ethiopian Food Systems

3 Strategic framework

3.1 Goal, vision and mission

Overall goal

The overall goal is to transform Ethiopia's food systems through agroecology, fostering sustainable farming, resilient ecosystems, empowered communities and inclusive access to resources, thereby securing nutrition, food sovereignty and prosperity for all.

Vision

By 2040, Ethiopia will have a transformative agroecological system that promotes sustainable farming, empowers communities, restores ecosystems, strengthens climate resilience, and ensures equitable access to food, nutrition and resources for all.

Mission

To promote a comprehensive agroecological framework that enhances environmentally sustainable farming practices, transforms livelihoods, and fosters gender and social inclusion and empowerment. This will involve collaboration among farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, researchers, policymakers and stakeholders to enhance agricultural production, restore ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change, and ensure food sovereignty and nutritional security for all Ethiopians.

3.2 Theory of change

This theory of change outlines how Ethiopia can transition towards a resilient, sustainable and equitable food system through the scaling of agroecological approaches (See Figure 2). The pathway begins with key inputs and enablers, including strong government leadership and policy alignment, effective technical and financial partnerships, robust research and innovation systems, inclusive community participation, and access to climate finance and public-private partnerships. These are underpinned by

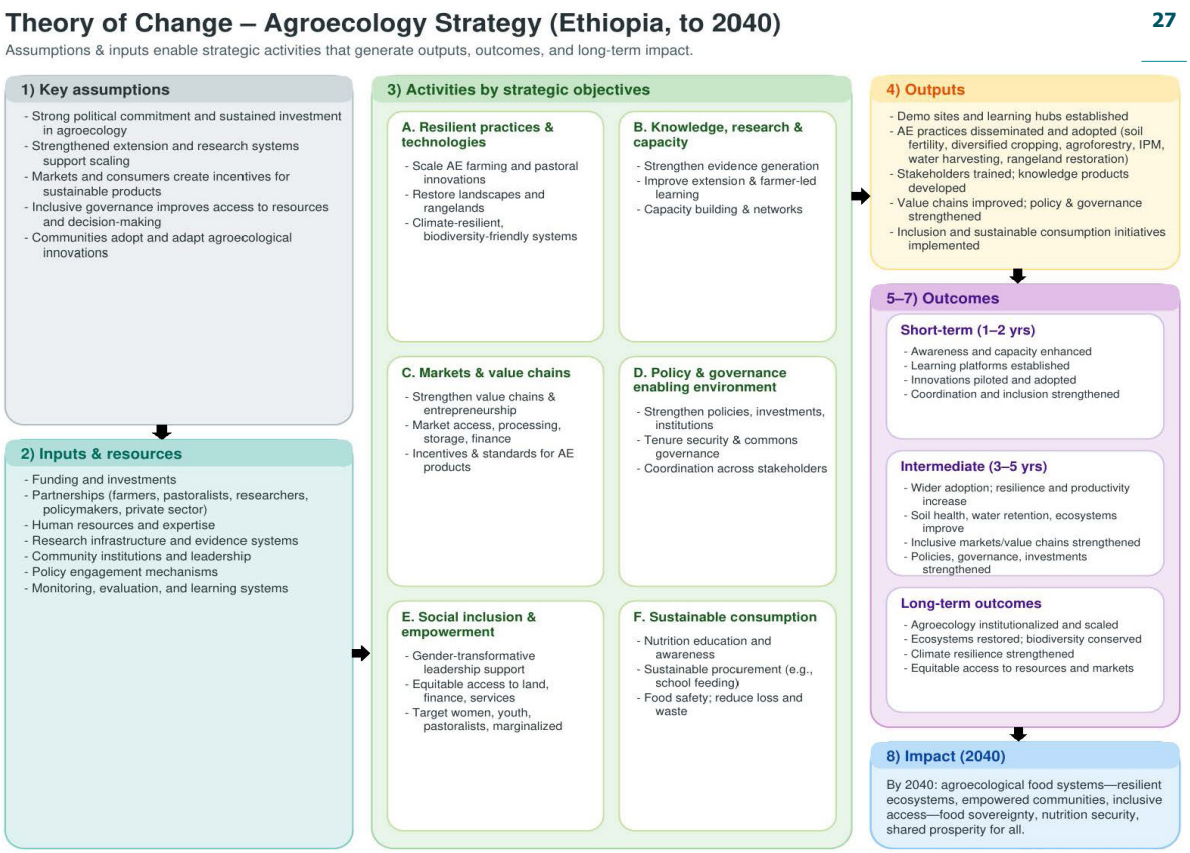

Figure 2. Theory of change for the NAES

critical assumptions, notably sustained political commitment, adequate resource mobilization, growing market demand and effective institutional coordination.

Through targeted key activities – such as participatory landscape and farming systems assessments, development of training materials and digital advisory tools, strengthening research-extension-education linkages, integrating traditional knowledge, and improving access to climate finance – tangible outputs are generated. These include the adoption of sustainable practices and technologies, enhanced knowledge and capacity, strengthened markets and value chains, improved policy and governance frameworks, greater social inclusion and empowerment, and promotion of sustainable consumption and diets.

By 2030, these outputs contribute to intermediate outcomes, including widespread adoption of sustainable and climate-smart farming practices, stronger local and regional agroecological value chains, increased consumer awareness and demand for healthy local foods, supportive policy and financing frameworks, and shifts towards sustainable consumption and diets.

Over the long term (by 2040), these changes lead to transformative outcomes: restored ecosystems and improved biodiversity, enhanced climate resilience of agricultural systems and communities, improved food and nutrition security, diversified and inclusive economic empowerment – especially for women and youth – and a strengthened knowledge, innovation and governance ecosystem that institutionalizes agroecology

across national policies and programmes. Collectively, these outcomes deliver the intended impact of a food system that restores ecosystems, enhances livelihoods and ensures nutritious food for all Ethiopians.

3.3 Strategic objectives

The strategic objectives (SOs) collectively aim to foster a more sustainable, resilient and productive agricultural system in Ethiopia, benefiting all communities, the environment and broader society. The following key strategic objectives were developed based on the agricultural food system challenges in Ethiopia:

1. Promote sustainable and resilient agricultural practices and technologies
2. Enhance knowledge, research and capacity for agroecological innovation and extension services
3. Support market system development
4. Create an enabling environment for policy and governance
5. Strengthen social inclusion and empowerment
6. Promote sustainable consumption and healthy diets

3.4 Strategic areas of focus

Strategic Objective 1. Promote sustainable and resilient agricultural practices and technologies

Sustainable and resilient agricultural practices and technologies in Ethiopia emphasize building a farming system that enhances productivity while maintaining ecological balance, supporting livelihoods and withstanding climate shocks. Agroecology directly supports this objective by promoting practices that integrate ecological principles into agriculture. These include crop diversification, intercropping, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, integrated soil fertility management and integrated pest management.

In Ethiopia, where agriculture is highly vulnerable to land degradation, erratic rainfall and acute climate variability, agroecological approaches are not merely beneficial options, but also the indispensable, most reliable pathway to securing resilience, fundamentally rebuilding the environmental and economic base by radically improving soil health, conserving water, dramatically enhancing agro-biodiversity, and reducing dependence on external inputs. They also empower smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists through knowledge-intensive, locally adapted innovations rather than resource-intensive technologies that are beyond the reach of smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.

By deploying this strategic objective, agroecology contributes to sustainable food production, long-term productivity and climate adaptation, ensuring that farming systems remain viable and profitable for the present and future generations in Ethiopia. Key strategic focus areas under this strategic objective include:

1. Promoting sustainable soil health and fertility management technologies and practices;
2. Promoting climate adaptation and mitigation technologies, information services, and capacities;
3. Promoting integrated pest management (IPM);
4. Strengthening the seed system;
5. Enhancing and promoting conservation and use of locally adapted farmer-managed seed and livestock breeds;
6. Promoting crop-livestock integration farming systems;
7. Promoting integrated landscape restoration and conservation;
8. Promoting eco-friendly and adaptable mechanization technologies and innovations.

Strategic Objective 2. Enhance knowledge, research and capacity for agroecological innovative and extension services

Knowledge, research and capacity development for AE-innovations services extension focuses on generating, sharing and applying context-specific knowledge to advance agroecological transformation in Ethiopia. Agroecology thrives on locally adapted innovations that integrate traditional knowledge with scientific research. Strengthening research on agroecological practices such as soil fertility management, biodiversity conservation and climate-resilient cropping systems helps to generate solutions that are evidence-based and tailored to Ethiopia's diverse agroecological zones and localities.

Capacity development is central, equipping farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, extension agents and institutions with the necessary skills to implement and scale agroecological innovations. This includes participatory research, farmer field schools and digital advisory tools that promote peer-to-peer learning. By enhancing knowledge systems and extension services, Ethiopia can accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices, improve production, and build resilience to climate change through the following strategic focus areas.

1. Ensuring integration of local/traditional knowledge and science-based agroecological innovations;
2. Demand-driven capacity development AE-innovations;
3. Establishing partnerships and linkages among key actors working in agroecological innovations;
4. Participatory research, co-creation of innovation for AE-advisory services extension;
5. Developing digital dissemination channels/hubs to meet local language requirements for AE-advisory (human-centred design/HCD);
6. Accelerating digital climate information services (CIS) to support AE innovations;
7. Ensuring AE innovations' institutionalization, scaling and sustainability within AE communities of practice (CoPs);
8. Developing capacity among national research, education and extension systems to co-create knowledge and skills on agroecological research, innovations and practices.

Strategic Objective 3. Support market system development

Market system development within the context of agroecology in Ethiopia should focus on creating fair, sustainable and inclusive market systems that support agroecological products and practices. Agroecology emphasizes not just production, but also equitable access to markets that reward environmentally friendly farming. Strengthening value chains for agroecological produce such as organic coffee, honey, pulses and local/traditional crops can increase farmer incomes while promoting biodiversity and climate resilience.

Developing these markets involves building infrastructure for storage and transport, establishing quality standards and certifications (e.g., organic or fair-trade), improving market information systems, and linking smallholder farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to domestic and export markets. By fostering partnerships among producers, cooperatives, processors and buyers, Ethiopia can enhance demand for agroecological products, reduce post-harvest losses, and ensure that value addition benefits local communities adopting AE practices. Four focus areas of this strategic objective include:

1. Improving farmer access to sustainable inputs and markets;
2. Investing in market infrastructure, including rural collection centres, cold storage and local processing units;

3. Facilitating links between agroecological producers, processors, retailers and institutional buyers;
4. Promoting local processing, packaging and eco-labelling that increase product value and traceability.

Strategic Objective 4. Create an enabling environment for policy and governance

Creating enabling environments for policy and governance is about establishing supportive laws, policies and institutional frameworks that facilitate the transition to agroecological farming in Ethiopia. Agroecology requires coherent policies that integrate sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation and inclusive rural development. This necessitates a comprehensive and urgent recalibration of agricultural, environmental, trade and food security policies aimed at systematically dismantling barriers such as perverse subsidies that artificially promote reliance on imported agrochemical inputs, while simultaneously establishing robust incentives that aggressively favour and resource local, knowledge-intensive practices like organic farming, agroforestry and conservation agriculture.

Strengthening governance structures ensures multi-stakeholder participation, empowering farmers/pastoralist/agro-pastoralists' organizations (cooperatives, business/social/economic groups), CBOs, local legal systems (e.g., the Abbaa Gadaa system) and local communities to shape decisions. It also requires coordination across ministries, research institutions and development partners, as well as accountability mechanisms to monitor progress. An enabling policy and governance environment ensures agroecology moves from isolated projects to a national framework supporting sustainable, resilient and equitable food systems in Ethiopia. Attention shall be given to the following priority areas:

1. Policy enactment, amendment and alignment/integration for the promotion of agroecology (subsidy, land reform, eco certification, tax exemption, etc.);
2. Collaboration among stakeholders for policy coherence and participatory engagement;
3. Monitoring and evaluation of agroecology policies, plans and financing;
4. Inclusive and participatory governance for equitable access to resources and agroecological innovations;
5. Financial mechanisms to support and scale agroecological practices;
6. Bargaining and finance access to farmers' groups and facilitating access to land, credit and extension for youth and women farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists;
7. Ensuring the right to food and nutrition security and food sovereignty to all citizens.

Strategic Objective 5. Strengthen social inclusion and empowerment

Strengthening social inclusion and empowerment ensures that agroecology in Ethiopia benefits all segments of society, particularly marginalized groups such as women, youth and local/traditional communities. Agroecology's participatory approach values local knowledge, promotes equitable access to resources like land, water and credit, and enhances decision-making power at the household and community levels.

By empowering women farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists who play key roles in seed systems, food production and household nutrition, agroecology improves livelihoods and food security. Engaging youth in agroecological enterprises (e.g., seed banks, organic input production and value addition) creates jobs and reduces rural unemployment. Social inclusion also strengthens community resilience by fostering collective action, fair benefit-sharing and stronger local institutions. These will be achieved by targeted efforts in the following focus areas:

1. Creating a sustainable and socially inclusive knowledge base integrating agroecology into the curricula of formal and non-formal education systems;
2. Supporting youth-, women-, PWD-, IDP-, PLWHIV-, etc.-led enterprises in agroecological value chains;
3. Creating mentorship programmes for marginalized, minority and vulnerable groups, and establishing peer networks;
4. Addressing challenges and cultural barriers and norms that inhibit marginalized, minority and vulnerable groups, such as women and PWDs etc., from participating and benefiting from agroecology;
5. Embedding social inclusion, including gender equity, in all agroecology policies and institutional frameworks;
6. Strengthening the resilience capacity of marginalized, minority and vulnerable groups, and promoting agroecologically-based sustainability.

Strategic Objective 6. Promote sustainable consumption and healthy diets

Promotion of sustainable consumption and healthy diets focuses on ensuring that Ethiopians have access to diverse, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods produced in environmentally sustainable ways. Agroecology supports this objective by encouraging diversified farming systems – such as integrating cereals with legumes, fruits, vegetables and livestock – that improve household nutrition while reducing dependence on imported or highly processed foods. In Ethiopia, where malnutrition and diet-related health challenges persist, agroecological approaches enhance dietary diversity, improve food quality, and maintain traditional, nutrient-rich crops like teff, millet and local/traditional vegetables.

By linking producers to territorial markets, shortening marketing channels, supporting the value addition of healthy foods and raising consumer awareness, agroecology strengthens both supply and demand for sustainable consumption and healthy diets. This contributes to improved public health, resilient food systems and reduced environmental impacts from food production and consumption. This important strategic objective is achieved through the following four key focus areas:

1. Awareness and advocacy on healthy and sustainable consumption;
2. Agroecology-based home and school gardening;
3. Protection and promotion of healthy local/traditional food cultures;
4. Food waste reduction and food safety.

Table 3. Summary of outcome indicators with respect to the six SOs

Strategic Objective (SO)	Number of strategic focus areas (SFAs)	Outcome Indicators	Number of activities
SO 1. Promote sustainable and resilient agricultural practices and technologies	8	1.1. Percentage of farmers adopting improved soil fertility and conservation practices 1.2. Percentage of farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists applying climate-smart practices and technologies in response to climate information 1.3. Percentage reduction in chemical pesticide use among farmers adopting IPM practices 1.4. Number or proportion of farmers accessing quality-certified seeds through formal and informal seed systems	69
		1.5. Number of local crop varieties and livestock breeds conserved and actively utilized by farmers 1.6. Percentage of farming households practicing integrated crop-livestock systems with measurable productivity improvements 1.7. Area (hectares) of degraded land restored or under sustainable management 1.8. Percentage of target farmers adopting sustainable, energy-efficient, or locally adaptable mechanization technologies	
SO 2. Enhance knowledge, research, and capacity for agroecological innovation and extension services	8	2.1. Percentage of AE innovations that incorporate local/traditional knowledge alongside scientific practices 2.2. Number of farmers, pastoralists and extension staff completing demand-driven AE training and applying the skills in practice 2.3. Number of active partnerships or collaborative initiatives established among AE stakeholders 2.4. Number of AE innovations developed through participatory research and co-creation involving farmers and extension staff	38

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Table 3. Continue

Strategic Objective (SO)	Number of strategic focus areas (SFAs)	Outcome Indicators	Number of activities
		2.5. Number of digital platforms or hubs providing AE advisory content in local languages, with active user engagement 2.6. Percentage of AE stakeholders regularly accessing and applying climate information services to inform farming decisions 2.7. Number of AE innovations formally adopted and scaled through CoPs with evidence of sustained use 2.8. Number of research, education and extension institutions with staff trained and actively applying AE co-creation methods	
SO 3. Support market system development	4	3.1. Percentage of farmers with reliable access to sustainable inputs (seeds, organic fertilizers, etc.) and functional market outlets 3.2. Number of functional market infrastructure facilities established or upgraded in target areas 3.3. Number of active market linkages or contractual arrangements between AE producers and buyers 3.4. Percentage of AE products processed, packaged and eco-labelled, with evidence of increased market value or traceability	30
SO 4. Create an enabling environment for policy and governance	7	4.1. Number of agroecology-related policies enacted, amended or aligned to support sustainable practices (e.g., subsidies, land reform, eco-certification, tax incentives) 4.2. Number of multi-stakeholder platforms or forums actively coordinating agroecology policy and programme implementation 4.3. Proportion of agroecology policies and programmes with functional monitoring and evaluation systems in place 4.4. Percentage of marginalized groups (women, youth, PWDs) with equitable access to AE resources and innovations	31

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Table 3. Continue

Strategic Objective (SO)	Number of strategic focus areas (SFAs)	Outcome Indicators	Number of activities
		4.5. Amount of funding disbursed through AE-specific financial mechanisms to farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists 4.6. Number of farmers' groups accessing land, credit and extension services, disaggregated by youth and women's participation 4.7. Percentage of households achieving minimum dietary diversity and food security targets in target regions	
SO 5. Strengthen Social inclusion and empowerment	6	5.1. Number of formal and non-formal education programmes integrating agroecology curricula with inclusive content for marginalized groups 5.2. Number of youth-, women- and vulnerable group-led AE enterprises established or strengthened and generating income 5.3. Number of mentorship programmes or peer networks established and actively supporting marginalized AE stakeholders 5.4. Percentage of targeted marginalized groups reporting improved participation in agroecology programmes 5.5. Number of AE policies and institutional frameworks with explicit provisions for gender equity and social inclusion 5.6. Percentage of marginalized stakeholders adopting AE practices that improve livelihood resilience and sustainability	38
SO 6: Promote sustainable consumption and healthy diets	4	6.1. Percentage of target population demonstrating increased knowledge and adoption of healthy, sustainable consumption practices 6.2. Number of households and schools implementing agroecology-based gardens and producing diverse, nutritious crops 6.3. Number of initiatives or programmes preserving and promoting local/traditional foods and dietary practices in target communities 6.4. Percentage reduction in post-harvest food losses and incidence of foodborne illnesses among participating households or institutions	34

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4 Implementation mechanism

Successful implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy (NAES) will require the active participation of a wide range of stakeholders in Ethiopia, encompassing both multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary governmental and non-governmental actors operating at the national, regional, zonal, district and kebele levels. These actors, through coordinated actions, will play critical roles in ensuring the strategy's objectives are achieved. Specifically, they will be responsible for directly implementing several activities under various strategic objectives and focus areas. Coordinating the efforts of various partners is necessary to ensure synergy, avoid duplication, and enhance collective impact. To achieve the desired outcomes, the strategy's execution will require adequate financial resources and human capital, as well as strong technical support from both the public and private sectors. Mobilizing these resources will be key to ensuring sustainability and long-term success.

Moreover, the strategy's effectiveness will largely depend on the establishment of a robust system for monitoring, evaluation and risk management. Such a system will enable timely tracking of progress, identification of potential challenges, and implementation of appropriate corrective measures. Risk management will also be integrated to anticipate, assess and mitigate potential threats that may hinder implementation. This chapter, therefore, provides detailed guidance on the coordination and implementation arrangements, the financing mechanisms to support strategic actions, a comprehensive risk analysis and mitigation framework, and a structured approach to monitoring and evaluation. It also outlines mechanisms for managing information and knowledge to promote learning and adaptive management, while providing clear provisions for periodic review and updating of the strategy to ensure its continued relevance and responsiveness to emerging needs and priorities.

4.1 Coordination mechanisms

The implementation of the NAES for food system transformation will involve a wide range of stakeholders from both governmental and non-governmental organizations to ensure its effective roll-out and the attainment of its anticipated long-term impacts. On the governmental organizations' side, participation will encompass ministries, bureaus, departments and offices at the national, regional, zonal, district and kebele levels.

These entities will be mandated to integrate agroecology principles and strategic interventions into their sectorial plans and programmes. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), on the other hand, will include private sector associations, development partners and community-based organizations (CBOs), all of whom will contribute resources and technical expertise, and strengthen grassroots implementation capacity. The effective implementation of this strategy will hinge on strong coordination among these diverse actors. This coordination is essential to align their efforts, avoid duplication and maximize the synergy of interventions.

At the national level, respective line ministries and agencies will retain full responsibility for fulfilling their assigned mandates in accordance with existing executive orders and legal frameworks. They will also be accountable for internal monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the progress and outcomes of their respective actions in supporting agroecological transitions.

At the regional level, bureaus of agriculture, forestry, environment, health, and education collectively will take the lead in operationalizing the strategy. Each will be responsible for developing and implementing specific work plans designed to guide the transition to agroecological practices within their respective sectors and jurisdictions.

To ensure high-level coordination and effective oversight of agroecology initiatives, an Agroecology Strategy Implementation Coordination Unit will be established. This unit will bring together key government ministries and institutions to foster collaboration and streamline efforts across sectors. Members will include the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, and the National Agricultural Research System, as well as the Ethiopian Forest Development Authority. Other participating bodies will include the Ministries of Education, Water and Energy, Irrigation and Lowlands, Health, Trade and Regional Integration, Industry, Planning and Development, Labour and Skills, Innovation and Technology, and Women and Social Affairs, along with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and the Environmental Protection Authority. By engaging this diverse set of stakeholders, the Coordination Unit will provide strategic guidance, ensure policy coherence, and facilitate the successful implementation of agroecological strategies nationwide.

In addition, representatives from development partners and the National Farmers' Association will participate as integral members of the Coordination Unit, ensuring inclusivity and fostering partnerships across all levels of implementation.

In expediting an appropriate coordination mechanism among these multiple stakeholders, adhering to optimal policy-stakeholder interactions is critically important. The following summary recommendations are suggested:

- **Harmonize policy instruments**: Ensure new strategies align with existing proclamations and guidelines.
- **Multi-stakeholder platforms**: Institutionalize CRGE forums at regional/ woreda level.

- **Mandatory stakeholder inclusion**: Include marginalized groups by law in environmental assessments and National Adaptation Planning (NAP).
- **Decentralized budgeting**: Enable local governments and CBOs to access direct adaptation funds.
- **Build institutional bridges**: Appoint climate liaison officers between ministries and stakeholder groups.
- **Capacity building for legal enforcement**: Train local officers to enforce environmental laws and protocols.

NGOs, research institutions, and education systems play complementary roles in advancing agroecology in Ethiopia. NGOs provide technical assistance, training and resources to promote sustainable practices, strengthen food security, and empower women, youth and persons with disabilities, while also advocating supportive policies. Research institutions and universities generate evidence on sustainable farming systems, local crops and traditional knowledge, which is disseminated through government-led extension services using training and demonstration plots. At the same time, universities and training programmes increasingly integrate agroecology into curricula and extension education, building the human capacity needed to sustain and scale agroecological transitions nationwide.

4.1.1 Coordination at the national level

To ensure effective coordination and oversight of agroecology implementation in Ethiopia, a National Technical Committee on Agroecology (NTCA) will be established at the national level, coordinated/led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). This committee will serve as the central platform for integrating agroecology principles, policies and practices across all relevant sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, health, education, trade, water and environment. The NTCA will have the following core responsibilities:

1. Oversee and coordinate the implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy for food system transformation across all sectors.
2. Provide strategic guidance and recommendations to line ministries, departments and agencies on key measures required to achieve the strategy's objectives.
3. Assess implementation progress, consolidate sectoral reports, and steer the preparation of comprehensive national progress reports covering outputs, outcomes and impacts of agroecology initiatives.
4. Facilitate collaboration and engagement with regional and international initiatives on agroecology to ensure alignment with global best practices and commitments.

A Technical Working Group on Agroecology (TWGA) will also be established under the MoA to support the NTCA. Where necessary, the NTCA will have the mandate to establish additional TWGAs to address emerging priorities and specialized technical issues. These TWGAs will be tasked with advancing the strategy's core objectives, namely:

- Promote sustainable and resilient agricultural practices and technologies
- Enhance knowledge, research and capacity for agroecological innovation and extension services
- Support market system development
- Create an enabling environment for policy and governance
- Strengthen social inclusion and empowerment
- Promote sustainable consumption and healthy diets

In addition to the line ministries mentioned above, partners, civil society organizations, farmers' associations, and other community-based organizations can be members of the NTCA and TWGAs. Among others, representatives of the Intersectoral Forum on Agroecology, farmers' and growers' organizations, researchers/academia,

plant health inspectorate services, CSOs, processors, manufacturers, marketing organizations, development partners and consumer organizations can be members of the NTCA and TWGAs.

4.1.2 Coordination at the regional, zonal, district and kebele levels

To ensure the effective implementation of the NAES, regional, zonal, district and kebele technical working groups (TWGs) will be established within the proposed framework. These TWGs will serve as the primary coordinating bodies for integrating agroecology principles and actions into regional, zonal, district and kebele planning and implementation processes. The types and numbers of kebele-level working groups may vary depending on existing structures across different regional states, or contexts.

4.1.3 Financial mobilization mechanism

Successful implementation of the NAES requires substantial financial resources and technical support to ensure that interventions are effective, sustainable and scalable. Financing a systemic, multifunctional approach like agroecology requires holistic planning, long-term commitment and coordinated investments across sectors.

Adequate funding is essential not only for operational activities, but also for scaling up interventions, building capacity, fostering innovation and ensuring sustainability. The financial resource mechanism will draw from multiple sources, combining public, private and development partner contributions, as well as innovative financing instruments. The financing approach for agroecology must therefore be diverse, flexible and coordinated to leverage the strengths of different funders while ensuring alignment with the strategy's objectives. Projects and programmes aimed at mainstreaming agroecology in agriculture and food systems will be promoted, and depending on the stage of the food supply chain, may be domiciled within the relevant line ministries, bureaus, departments and offices.

Public sector funding

The government, through national and regional budgets, will play a central role in financing agroecology initiatives. Key mechanisms include:

- **Sectoral budget allocations**: Line ministries, departments and agencies will allocate funds within their annual budgets to support agroecology programmes, including research, extension services, capacity building and infrastructure development.
- **Regional funding**: Regional governments will allocate resources to support local implementation, domestication of the national strategy into zonal and district-level action plans.
- **Conditional grants and incentives**: The national government may provide conditional grants or performance-based incentives to regions or agencies that demonstrate progress in implementing agroecology initiatives, including value recognition and fair payment for ecologically produced foods.

Private sector investment

The private sector will contribute to the financial sustainability of the strategy through:

- **Agro-processing and market development**: Investments in value addition, processing facilities and marketing systems for agroecological products.
- **Corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes**: Funding from private companies to support community-based agroecology projects, training and research initiatives.

Table 4. Composition of technical working groups at the bureau, zone, district and kebele levels

National	Regional Bureaus	Zonal Departments	District Offices	Kebele Offices
Ministry of Agriculture	Bureau of Agriculture	Department of Agriculture	Office of Agriculture	Development agents (Agriculture)
Ethiopian Forest Development	Bureau of Forest Development	Department of Forest Development	Office of Forest Development	Cooperatives and unions
Ministry of Education	Bureau of Education	Department of Education	Office of Education	CBOs at the local levels
Ministry of Water and Energy	Bureau of Water and Energy	Department of Water and Energy	Office of Water and Energy	Social affairs workers
Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands	Bureau of Irrigation and Lowlands	Department of Irrigation and Lowlands	Office of Irrigation and Lowlands	Kebele chairpersons (coordinating all actors)
Ministry of Health	Bureau of Health	Department of Health	Office of Health	Health extension workers
Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration	Bureau of Trade and Regional Integration	Department of Trade and Regional Integration	Office of Trade and Regional Integration	Community representatives
Ministry of Planning and Development	Bureau of Planning and Development	Department of Planning and Development	Office of Planning and Development	Education supervisors
Environmental Protection Authority	Bureau of Environmental Protection	-	-	Woman and Youth affairs representatives
Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute	Biodiversity Centres	-	-	
National Research Systems	Regional Research Centres	-	-	
Ministry of Industry	Bureau of Industry, Investment and Trade	Department of Investment and Trade	Office of Investment and Trade	
Ministry of Innovation and Technology	-	-	-	

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Table 4. Continue

National	Regional Bureaus	Zonal Departments	District Offices	Kebele Offices
Ministry of Labour and Skills	Bureau of Labour and Skills	Department of Labour and Skills	Office of Labour and Skills	
Ministry of Women and Social Affairs	Bureau of Women and Social Affairs	Department of Women and Social Affairs	Office of Women and Social Affairs	
Ethiopian Public Health Institute	-	-	-	

- **Public-private partnerships (PPPs)**: Collaborative ventures between government and private actors mobilizing resources to implement large-scale agroecology interventions, including supply chain development and technology dissemination.

Farmers and cooperative sources

- **Microfinance and credit financing**
- **Designing an insurance system as a financial mechanism**
- **Development partner support**

Bilateral and multilateral development partners will support agroecology through:

- **Technical and financial assistance**: Grants and concessional financing for capacity building, pilot projects, research and innovation.
- **Co-financing arrangements**: Partnerships with government or local institutions to jointly fund initiatives and leverage additional resources.
- **Knowledge and technology transfer and best practices**: Providing expertise, technical guidance and experience from successful agroecology programmes in other countries.

Innovative and alternative financing mechanisms

To enhance resource mobilization and sustainability, the strategy will explore innovative and alternative financing options at various levels. These mechanisms include:

- **Climate finance access**: Utilize national and international climate finance sources, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other environment-focused funds, to support agroecological initiatives.
- **Dedicated agroecology funds**: Establish targeted funding programmes for smallholder farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, cooperatives and enterprises that adopt and implement agroecological practices.
- **Payment for ecosystem services (PES)**: Implement PES schemes to incentivize farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and communities for conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil health, and delivering other ecosystem services essential for sustainable agriculture.

4.2 Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL)

Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) and reporting will play a central role in ensuring the successful implementation of the NAES. A well-functioning MEAL system shall be in place to provide evidence-based insights to guide decision making, enhance learning, and support adaptive management of the strategy.

Purpose and Importance of MEAL

During the implementation stage of the NAES, MEAL will enable the Federal Government, regional authorities, and other implementing partners to:

- Assess progress towards achieving the strategy's objectives and targets;
- Identify gaps and areas requiring improvement on time to ensure effective implementation;
- Ensure accountability to stakeholders, including government institutions, development partners, the private sector and citizens;
- Promote learning and adaptive management, allowing for real-time adjustments and better planning for future interventions.

Through regular participatory assessment, MEAL will ensure that the intended outcomes of the Strategy such as sustainable food systems, improved nutrition, enhanced livelihoods, and environmental resilience are achieved.

MEAL framework and key performance indicators (KPIs)

A comprehensive MEAL framework will be developed by the Ministry of Agriculture to guide systematic monitoring and evaluation of the strategy's implementation. This framework will include:

- **Key performance indicators (KPIs)**: Aligned with the NAES strategic objectives and goals, KPIs will provide measurable metrics to track performance. These indicators will include both output indicators (measuring activities and deliverables) and outcome/impact indicators (measuring long-term results such as improved soil health, increased adoption of agroecological practices, or enhanced household food security).
- **Benchmarks and baseline surveys**: Clear benchmarks will be established initially, supported by baseline, midline, and end-line data to enable accurate comparison and measurement of progress over time and assess impact by the end of the implementation period.
- **Data collection tools and systems**: Robust tools will be developed to capture reliable data. This will include surveys, field assessments, remote sensing tools, financial tracking systems, operational statistics and participatory monitoring approaches that involve communities and farmer organizations.
- **Integration with national and international reporting obligations**: The MEAL framework will also track progress against key national and international commitments, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Ethiopia's nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, and other sustainable development goals (SDGs) relevant to food system transformation.

- **Data management and reporting**: Effective data management will ensure that accurate, timely and relevant information is available for decision making. Key elements will include:
  - **Regular data collection**: Data will be collected at appropriate intervals by implementing agencies at both the national and regional levels to ensure up-to-date and actionable insights.
  - **Structured reporting**: Reporting formats, templates and schedules will be standardized to ensure consistency and comparability across sectors and regions.
  - **Multi-level reporting**: Reports will be produced at national, regional and cross-sectoral levels, ensuring that each stakeholder group receives the information most relevant to them.
  - **Content of reports**: Reports will present both quantitative data (performance against KPIs, financial expenditure, etc.) and qualitative insights (case studies, success stories, lessons learned).

Stakeholder engagement in MEAL

Stakeholder involvement will be integral to the MEAL process. Specific stakeholder information needs will be identified, and tailored reporting will ensure that decision makers, development partners, communities and the private sector receive relevant and actionable insights. In formulating multi-stakeholder platforms, regular review meetings, learning events and stakeholder workshops will be held to discuss progress and challenges, and collectively explore opportunities for improvement.

Continuous learning and adaptive management

The MEAL system will not only measure progress, but also serve as a platform for continuous learning. Evidence from monitoring and evaluation activities will be used to:

- Refine implementation strategies and interventions;
- Inform future programming on agroecology at both national and regional levels;
- Support knowledge sharing across sectors and regions to scale up successful practices.

By embedding a robust MEAL system within the strategy's implementation framework, Ethiopia will be better equipped to track results, respond to challenges, and ensure that the NAES delivers its intended benefits for people, the economy and the environment.

4.3 Knowledge and communication management

By fostering a vibrant, interconnected knowledge ecosystem, a knowledge management system will ensure that information, expertise and learning continuously flow throughout the agroecology landscape, supporting the transformation of Ethiopia's food systems into sustainable, resilient and equitable systems.

The main objectives of knowledge management and communication are to:

- **Promote knowledge creation and innovation**: Encourage the generation of new knowledge on agroecological practices, technologies, policies, and business models through research, experimentation, and documentation of best practices.
- **Facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange**: Establish platforms and mechanisms for sharing knowledge across stakeholders at district, regional, and national levels, including farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists,

researchers, policymakers, civil society, and the private sector.
- **Ensure accessibility and usability of knowledge**: Make knowledge resources available in user-friendly formats tailored to the needs of different stakeholders, ensuring that the right knowledge reaches the right people at the right time.
- **Strengthen capacity for learning and adaptation**: Build the skills and competencies of actors within the agroecology landscape to enable continuous learning, adaptive management, and evidence-based decision making.
- **Enhance accountability and performance measurement**: Integrate knowledge management into monitoring and evaluation processes to track progress, assess impacts, build on successes, and inform future strategies.

Key components of knowledge management encompass the full knowledge lifecycle, including:

- **Knowledge creation**: Generating new information through research, innovation, pilot projects, and field experience.
- **Knowledge capture and organization**: Systematically documenting, classifying and organizing knowledge from diverse sources.
- **Knowledge storage and retrieval**: Establishing digital repositories and databases to ensure knowledge is preserved and easily accessible.
- **Knowledge sharing and transfer**: Facilitating knowledge dissemination through workshops, knowledge hubs, peer-to-peer learning, digital platforms and user-friendly publications.
- **Learning and training**: Providing continuous capacity development opportunities for stakeholders on agroecology, including training programmes, experience exchange visits and reciprocal learning for cascading by communities of practice.
- **Knowledge validation and governance**: Ensuring the credibility, relevance and quality of agroecological knowledge through peer review, stakeholder consultations and standard setting.
- **Performance measurement**: Tracking how knowledge management activities contribute to improved outcomes and decision making in agroecology.

Knowledge management initiatives under the strategy will be coordinated by committees established at both the national and regional levels of government:

- The National Technical Committee on Agroecology will oversee knowledge management at the national and regional scales. It will also facilitate linkages with regional and global knowledge platforms on agroecology, as appropriate.
- Technical Working Groups at the national and regional levels will coordinate knowledge management efforts within regions, collecting, analysing and disseminating context-specific data and insights to inform local planning and decision making.
- A reporting framework will be developed to connect the regions and national levels, enabling two-way knowledge flows. This framework will facilitate horizontal communication between actors at different levels of government and sectors, ensuring actions are strategically aligned, complementary and contributing to the desired results.

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Annexes

Annex I. Process of developing the National Agroecology Strategy

Figure 3. Process of developing the NAES

1. Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement is the foundation for developing an inclusive and effective agroecology strategy. It involves identifying and involving key actors such as government ministries, research institutions, universities, civil society organizations and development partners. Early engagement ensures that diverse perspectives, needs and experiences are incorporated into the strategy. This process fosters ownership, enhances transparency, and builds partnerships that are critical for the successful implementation of agroecology initiatives.

2. Establish the core team/taskforce

A core team or taskforce is established to provide strategic leadership, technical guidance and coordination throughout the development of the agroecology strategy. This taskforce typically includes representatives from key ministries, research institutions, civil society and development partners. The taskforce defines roles and responsibilities, develops timelines, and ensures alignment with national policies and international commitments. It acts as the central coordinating body, ensuring coherence and accountability throughout the process.

3. Drafting the strategy

The drafting process involves consolidating evidence, policy reviews and stakeholder inputs into a structured document. This includes defining the vision, goals, guiding principles, strategic objectives, priority actions, implementation arrangements, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Technical experts in agroecology, food systems and policy planning collaborate to ensure the strategy is evidence-based, context-specific and aligned with Ethiopia's development priorities. The draft document serves as a basis for the subsequent technical write-shop and consultation workshop.

4. Technical writeshop

A technical write-shop brings together subject matter experts to refine the draft strategy. This participatory process focuses on ensuring technical accuracy, coherence and alignment across sectors. Experts in agronomy, ecology, climate change, economics, nutrition and social sciences review the draft, address gaps, harmonize language, and strengthen cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth inclusion and local/traditional knowledge. The write-shop also ensures that the strategy is implementable by outlining realistic interventions, resource requirements and institutional arrangements.

5. Consultative workshop

The consultative workshop provides a platform for a wider group of stakeholders, including regional governments, local communities, private sector actors and development partners, to review and provide feedback on the draft strategy. It allows for critical discussions on priorities, feasibility and potential challenges, ensuring that the strategy reflects national consensus and local realities. Inputs from this workshop are essential for enhancing the legitimacy, inclusivity and practicality of the strategy.

6. Validation workshop and launching

The validation workshop is the final stage before formal adoption. It involves presenting the refined strategy to high-level decision makers, including senior government officials, development partners and representatives from key sectors. The workshop confirms that stakeholder inputs have been incorporated and that the document is ready for official endorsement. Once validated, the strategy is launched publicly, signalling political commitment and mobilizing implementation support. The launch often includes media coverage, policy briefs, and the dissemination of the final document to all stakeholders.

Annex II. Key alignment actions of the agroecology strategy with other strategies, programmes, policies and proclamations

S.N.	Instruments	Key alignment actions
1	Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLM)	Integrate agroecology packages into SLM manuals and training materials
2	Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Programme	Co-design restoration–livelihood agroecology pilots
3	Ethiopian Seed Law	Recognize and support farmer-managed seed systems and PVS
4	ESIF for SLM	Map agroecology to ESIF investment windows and indicators
5	National Drylands Restoration Strategy	Prioritize dryland-adapted agroecology packages and communities
6	Land Administration and Use Proclamation	Secure user rights for long-term agroecological investments
7	Forest Development, Protection and Utilization Policy	Protect on-farm trees and enable agroforestry seed access
8	Community Watersheds Development and Utilization Proclamation	Link watershed groups to agroecology technical packages
9	Water Resource Management Policy	Promote on-farm water harvesting and conservation practices
10	Environmental Policy of Ethiopia	Reference agroecology as a means to meet environmental targets
11	Green Legacy Initiative (GLI)	Coordinate species/nurseries for agroforestry and survival
12	Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM)	Embed pastoralist-led agroecology (fodder, grazing rotations)
13	Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP)	Tailor agroecology packages for lowland contexts and markets
14	10-Year Development Plan (2021–2030)	Map agroecology contributions to plan KPIs
15	Multi-Hazard, Impact-Based Early Warning Roadmap	Integrate EWS triggers into agroecology advisories
16	Bounty of the Basket Initiative	Link agroecology producers to aggregation and nutrition channels
17	Seqota Declaration	Promote nutrient-dense crops and homestead gardens
18	Cluster Farming Approach	Use clusters as agroecology demonstrations and seed hubs
19	Digital Agriculture Roadmap (2025–2032)	Digitize agroecology advisories and monitoring tools
20	National Market Information System (NMIS)	Integrate agroecology commodities into NMIS feeds

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Annex II. Continue

S.N.	Instruments	Key alignment actions
21	National Food Fortification Initiative	Coordinate staple supply and promote nutrient crops
22	Meteorology Institute — Early Warning Systems	Provide localized forecasts to agroecology networks
23	Food Systems Resilience Programme (FSRP)	Include agroecology in resilience investments and value chains
24	Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI)	Link agroecology income gains to CBHI uptake strategies
27	Vision 2030: Transforming Food Systems	Position agroecology as a core pillar with targets
28	Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Roadmap	Harmonize CSA and agroecology metrics and pilots
29	Participatory Agriculture and Climate Transformation (PACT)	Use PACT participatory trials for farmer innovation
30	National Dairy Development Strategy (2022–2031)	Integrate fodder, silvopasture and feed diversity packages
31	National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) 2021–2030	Include agroecology in NAIP investment lines and budgets
32	Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda	Incentivize agroecology SMEs and eco-enterprises
33	National Feed Resource Development Strategy	Promote on-farm fodder systems and multi-purpose forages
34	Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF)	Add agroecology project pipelines to PIF
35	Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)	Include agroecology mitigation (soil C) in MRV and project lists
36	Food and Nutrition Policy	Advance nutrition-sensitive agroecology (home gardens)
37	National REDD+ Strategy (2016–2030)	Recognize agroforestry and trees-on-farms in REDD+ measures
38	National REDD+ Investment Plan	Propose agroecology-and agroforestry project pipelines for funding
39	National Livestock and Fisheries Extension Strategy (2023–2033)	Train extension on integrated agroecological livestock practices
40	Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2021)	Include agroecology measures in NDC MRV and reporting
41	Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy (2020)	Promotes sustainable rangeland management, livelihood diversification and community-based natural resource governance that strengthens agroecology implementation

Annex III. National Agroecology Strategy Implementation Matrix

Strategic Objective 1. Promote sustainable and resilient agricultural practices and technologies

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
1. Promote sustainable soil health and fertility management technologies and practices	1. Promote Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) technologies (integrated use of organic manure, cover crops, vermin-compost, compost, FYM and inorganic fertilizers, improved agronomic practices, improved seed varieties.)	• No. of guidelines revised • No. of demonstrations • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists implemented ISFM • % of hectares covered by ISFM	MoA, MoF, MoPD, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, BoF, RARIS, universities, ATI	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, IFDC and other NGOs, CBOs			
	2. Promote integrated acid soils management (IASM) (liming, acid-tolerant crop varieties, enterprise change)	• No. of guidelines revised • type of crop varieties promoted • No. of demonstrations • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists implemented IASM	MoA, MoF, MoPD, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIS	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, IFDC and other NGOs, CBOs, lime and cement industries, Lersha, agrodealers			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
		• % of hectares covered by IASM • No. of lime crushers established and functionalized • No. of supply chains revised • No. of private actors engaged						
	3. Promote Integrated Vertisols Management (IVSM) (BBM technologies, water conservation practices, waterlogging-tolerant crops)	• No. of guidelines revised • No. of demonstrations • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists applied IVSM • % of hectares covered by IVSM • No. of water harvesting ponds constructed • Types of crop varieties used • No. of private actors engaged	MoA, MoF, MoPD, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIS	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, IFDC and other NGOs, agro-dealers, service providers/ Lersha, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	4. Promote soil salinity management (Biosaline, agriculture, saline soil amendment, irrigation water management)	• No. of guidelines revised • No. of demonstrations • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists applied bio-saline agriculture • % of hectares covered by improved water irrigation management • % of saline soils amended by gypsum • Types of crop varieties used • No. of private actors engaged	MoA, MoF, MoPD, MILLs, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIS	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, IFDC, IFAD, AfDB and other NGOs, CBOs			
	5. Promote fertilizer and soil health decision support tools	• Types of decision support tools developed and used • No. of user guidelines developed • % of target farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists using decision support tools	MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities, Telecom	BoA, RARIS	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, IFDC, Digital Green, Development Gateway and other NGOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	6. Establish farmers' field schools focused on soil health and conservation techniques	• No. of field schools established • No. of FTCs strengthened • No. of guidelines developed • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists engaged	MoA, ATI,	BoAs,	NGOs, CBOs			
	7. Capacitate soil testing laboratories and provide accessible soil testing services through mobile labs and community-based advisory services	• No. of soil laboratories capacitated • No. of guidelines developed • Types of advisory services provided • No. of mobile soil testing services provided • Types of soil maps developed and interpreted	MoA, EIAR, national soil labs	BoAs, RARIs, Regional soil labs, private soil labs	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, IFDC, Digital Green, Development Gateway and other NGOs, etc.			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	8. Strengthen the urban-rural nexus in urban and peri-urban solid waste management and recycling	• No. of youth groups organized and trained in urban solid waste management • No. of urban waste recycling and composting facilities (composter, biochar kiln) established • No. of urban-rural linkages facilitated for product sale (compost and biochar) • No. of biogas established and functionalized	MoE, MoA, ATI	BoA	CG centres, GIZ, SNV and other NGOs, CBOs			
	9. Establishing agroecology transition monitoring and learning sites where integrated AE thematic activities to be showcased	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of monitoring sites established based on farming systems or key eco regions.	MoA, ATI	BoAs	CG centres, GIZ, SNV, and other NGOs and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	10. Provide ToT on ISFM technologies and practices	• No. of ToTs provided	MoA, EIAR, national soil labs, private soil labs, universities, ATVETs	BoAs, RARIs, regional soil labs	Development partners and NGOs, CBOs			
2. Promote Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Technologies, Information Services and capacities	1. Disseminate drought-tolerant crop varieties adapted to local agroecologies	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of crop varieties adapted • % of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists involved	MoA, EIAR, universities	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, IFDC and other NGOs CBO			
	2. Introduce agroforestry systems that combine multipurpose trees, crops, and livestock	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • % of hectares of land covered • % farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists involved	MoA, EIAR, EFD, ATI	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, IFDC and other NGOs, farmers, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	3. Encourage conservation agriculture (minimum tillage, crop diversification, and crop rotation)	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • % of land covered by CA • % of HHs engaged • Type of farm implements used	MoA, EIAR, EFD, ATI	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	FAO, GIZ, CFGB, SAA and other NGOs, private sector			
	4. Introduce and promote water harvesting structures (WHS) such as small ponds and rooftop rainwater harvesting systems	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of WHS introduced/ promoted • Ha of land irrigated by WHS • No. of HHs engaged	MoA, EIAR, ATI, MoH	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ and other NGOs, private sector, ERHA			
	5. Promote an integrated horticultural crops production system	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • Ha of the land covered • No. of HHs engaged • Type of irrigation technologies used	MoA, EIAR, ATI, EHDA	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ and other NGOs, private sector, EHPEA-			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	6. Strengthen and promote agroclimatic advisory services and disseminate seasonal agro-climatic forecasts via mobile alerts and radio in local languages	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of advisory tools developed • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists received advisory services	MoA, EIAR, ATI, EMI	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, ICPAC, Digital Green and other NGOs, Lersha, others			
	7. Identify and promote local/traditional knowledge, technologies and practices	• No. of local/traditional knowledge and practices identified and documented • No. of local/traditional knowledge and practices promoted • No. of HHs involved	MoA, EIAR, ATI	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, PELUM Ethiopia, ISD and other NGOs, CBOs, professional societies, etc.			
	8. Identify and promote improved feed and breed systems to increase productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of HHs producing improved feed varieties • No. of community-based breeding programmes established • No. of improved breeds supplied • No. of HHs engaged in improved breeds	MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa, and other NGOs, private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	9. Introduce and promote alternative energy sources and saving technologies	• Type of alternative energy sources promoted • No. of HHs involved	MoWE, MoA, EIAR, ATI, ELPA, EPA, HEIs	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, SNV and other NGOs, private sector			
	10. Provide ToT on Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Technologies and Information Services	• No. of ToTs provided	MoA, EIAR, EMI, EPA ATI, HEIs	BoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, SNV and other NGOs, private sector			
3. Promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	1. Implement pest regulatory practices and technologies for livestock, water, seeds and planting materials	• No. of practitioners capacitated • No. of seed and planting material lots inspected for pest and disease compliance per season	MoA, EAA, researchers, regulators	RBoAs, regional regulators	NGOs, DPs			
	2. Promote pest surveillance practices for evidence-based pest management (IPM)	• No. of extension agents or community scouts equipped with pest monitoring tools (e.g., hand lenses, traps, data sheets)	MoA, researchers, HLI	RBoAs	CGIAR, DPs, FAO, CABI, SNV, GIZ			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
		• No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists and extension agents trained on pest surveillance • % of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists that practice farm scouting						
	3. Promote the use of resistant varieties	• No. of resistant varieties registered • No. of resistant varieties promoted	MoA, researchers	RBoAs, RARIs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	4. Train farmers on IPM through field schools and demonstration plots, emphasizing ecosystem-based approaches	• No. of FFS established • No. of member farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists participated, graduated, and practiced FFS	MoA, researchers	RARIs, RBoAs	SNV, SoS Sahel, GIZ, PACT, PAN Ethiopia			
	5. Promote the use of beneficial insect-attracting plants to increase beneficial predators, parasitoids and pollinators	• No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists aware of biological methods. • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists adopted the practice	MoA, researchers, Apiculture Research Centre, RARIS	RBoAs, RARIs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	6. Promote the use of pest-repellent and trap crops (push and pull factors)	• No. of of farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists implemented the push and pull factor for pest management	MoA, researchers,	RBoAs, RARIs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	7. Promote the use of botanical pesticides	• No. of training sessions organized on the preparation and use of botanical pesticides • farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists trained and applied botanicals	MoA, researchers, agriculture universities	RBoAs, RARIs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	8. Revive traditional knowledge and practices, such as intercropping, crop rotation, and soil amendment for pest management	• No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists practicing traditional/cultural pest management practices	MoA, researchers, agriculture universities	RARIs	CBOs, NGOs, DPs			
	9. Manage soil moisture to manage soil-borne pests	• No. of water management methods (e.g., raised beds, drainage ditches, mulching) established to prevent waterlogging.	MoA, researchers, agriculture universities, RARIs		NGOs, DPs, CSOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	10. Implement environmentally friendly pesticides and non-highly hazardous pesticides through mechanisms that reduce hazard, such as spot application (targeted application)	• % of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists used environmentally friendly pesticides • % of farmers/ pastoralists/agro pastoralists practiced judicious pesticide use through spot application, time.	MoA, researchers, agriculture universities	RARIs	NGOs, DPs, private farms			
	11. Awareness creation on disposal of hazardous pesticides	• No. of awareness creation events provided • No. of community members aware • Tons of hazardous pesticides disposed of	MoA, institutions working on environment, agriculture universities	RBoAs, RARIs	NGOs, DPs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	12. Promote postharvest pest management practices and technologies such as cold storage and hermetic bags	• No. of awareness sessions, demonstrations conducted on postharvest pest management practices • No. of post-harvest management technologies promoted • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists practiced promoted technologies.	MoA, researchers, agriculture universities	RBoAs, RARIs	NGOs, DPs			
4. Strengthen the seed system	1. Support the establishment of community seed banking and field gene bank systems to ensure access to planting materials and manage and exchange climate-resilient traditional varieties	• No. of established community seed banks and field gene banks • No. of crop types and varieties in the seed bank • No. of beneficiaries from the seed bank • No. of trained community groups	MoA, gene bank, researchers, agriculture universities, Institute of Biodiversity	RARIs	CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	2. Encourage farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists to participate in local seed fairs and exchange events to strengthen seed sovereignty	• No. of seed and food fairs organized yearly	MoA, ESA		NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	3. Provide training on participatory variety development (ecologically distributed)	• No. of research groups organized • No. of farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists in the research group trained	MoA, universities	BoAs, RARIs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	4. Provide training on seed/ planting material storage techniques to maintain quality and viability	• No. of communities capacitated	MoA, universities	BoAs, RARIs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	5. Encourage and support farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists to save and preserve quality seed and planting material to strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change	• No. of field days organized	MoA, gene bank, researchers, agriculture universities	RBoAs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	6. Strengthen seed quality assurance measures: laboratory, traceability system	• No. of trained personnel • No. of seed testing laboratories upgraded or established • No. of seed mobile cleaners available • % of seed lots tested that meet certified quality standards	MoA, researchers, EAA, ATI, agriculture universities	RBoAs, regional regulators	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	7. Promote seed marketing and distribution systems	• No. of digital systems developed and adopted (market information system)	MoA, ATI, cooperatives, agriculture universities	RARIs	NGOs, DPs			
	8. Strengthen the local seed exchange system and stakeholders' platform	• No. of stakeholders' exchange platforms undertaken (both federal and regional) • No. of bottom-up consultations undertaken	MoA, ATI, cooperatives, agriculture universities	RARIs, RBoAs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	9. Create an enabling environment and incentive mechanisms for private sector engagement in the seed system	• No. of enabling arrangements/ facilitations made • No. of incentives designed	MoA, ATI, cooperatives, agriculture universities	RARIs, RBoAs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
5. Enhance and promote conservation and use of locally managed seed and livestock breeds (local/ traditional seed and livestock conservation)	1. Support community breeding programmes for hardy local/traditional livestock	• No. of community-based breeding programmes established or strengthened • No. of breeding infrastructure developed stations/facilities set up or upgraded • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists trained in community-based breeding practices • No. of trained community groups	MoA, researchers, ATI, gene banks	RARIs, RBoAs, farmer groups	NGOs (ILRI), DPs, CBOs, private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	2. Strengthen local gene banks and databases, and registries for plant and animal genetic resources.	• No. of trained experts in genetic resource collection, preservation, and database management • No. of seeds/planting materials and animals registered in the database	MoA, gene banks, researchers	RARIs, RBoAs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	3. Promote branding and value chain development for products derived from local breeds (e.g., local honey, milk, or meat) and crop varieties	• No. of brands and value chains developed for plant species and animal products	MoA, researchers, nutrition institutions	RARIs, RBoAs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	4. Engage local elders and women custodians in documenting and passing down breeding and selection knowledge	• No. of events organized for knowledge exchange	MoA, researchers	RARIs, RBoAs	NGOs, DPs, traditional community knowledge groups			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	5. Strengthen the potential of local/traditional plant and livestock genetic resources and promote their sustainable utilization for improved livelihoods and climate resilience	• No. of local/traditional plants and animals promoted • No. of research undertaken in relation to this.	MoA, gene banks, researchers	RBoAs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
	6. Strengthen the linkage between the farming community, research, and the national gene bank	• No. of established trilateral cooperation platforms between the three • No. of MoUs signed between the three actors	MoA, gene banks, researchers	RBoAs	NGOs, DPs, CBOs			
6. Promote crop-livestock integration farming systems	1. Promote improved feed and pasture, and rangeland management (fodder, forage development)	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • Ha of land covered by fodder and forage • Ha of the rangeland managed • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists involved • No. of seed banks established	MoA, MILLs, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa, Mercy Corps, Land 'o' Lakes and other NGOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	2. Promote the use of animal manure for soil fertility management	• Hectare of land integrated with animal manure utilization • No. of households that produced and used animal manure for soil fertility management.						
	2. Introduce and promote beekeeping and other pollinators	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of beekeeping developed • No. of HHs engaged in beekeeping • No. of pollinators focused on plants integrated	MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	NGOs, private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	3. Promote integrated poultry and aquaculture farming	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of poultry farms established • No. of modern aquaculture established • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists benefited • No. of incentive mechanisms introduced	MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	NGOs, private sector			
	4. Strengthen animal health infrastructure	• No. of infrastructure developed for animal health services • No. of animals vaccinated and treated • No. of HHs benefited • No. of of para-veterinarians trained and licensed	MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs. RARIs	NGOs, private sector			
	5. Provide ToT on crop livestock integration for farming systems diversification	• No. of ToTs provided	MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	NGOs, private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
7. Promote integrated landscape restoration and conservation	1. Promote landscape-scale restoration initiatives that blend reforestation, agroforestry, water harvesting, area closure, and erosion control measures etc.	• No. of guidelines revised • Ha of the land restored • No. of landscape restoration maps developed • No. of seedlings produced and planted • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists involved in restoration • Ha of land reclaimed from invasive species	MoA, EFD, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	CG centres, WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa and other NGOs, CBOs, private sector			
	3. Promote planting of native grasses and trees to reclaim degraded lands and enhance biodiversity	• No. of community-based nature conserved sites • No. of nursery sites established/ strengthened • Area (ha) planted with native species • No. of seedlings and native species planted/ reintroduced	MoA, EFD, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	CG centres, WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa and other NGOs, CBOs, private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	4. Align restoration work with climate adaptation and food production goals to ensure multifunctional benefits	• No. of restoration projects incorporating climate adaptation and food production objectives • No. of households benefiting from diversified livelihood opportunities through landscape restoration	MoA, EFD, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs, FARM Africa and other NGOs	CG centres, WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM CBOs, private sector			
	5. Develop, strengthen and implement participatory land use planning	• No. of participatory land-use plans developed and approved • No. of stakeholders engaged in land use planning processes. • No. of land use plans effectively implemented	MoPD, MoA, EFD, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	CG centres, WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa and other NGOs, CBOs, private sector			
	6. Promote protection and restoration of wetlands, rivers, and riparian zones	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • Area (ha) of wetlands/ rivers/riparian zones restored or protected • No. of maps developed/ revised • No. of water quality monitoring points established	MoA, EFD, EIAR, MoWE, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	CG centres, Ethio-wetland, WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa, and other NGOs, CBOs, private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	7. Develop and enact an incentive mechanism for environmental restoration and protection	• Type of incentive mechanisms developed/revised and implemented • No. of beneficiaries accessing incentives	MoA, EFD, ATI, etc.	Regional governments	CG centres, WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa, and other NGOs, CBOs, private sector			
	8. Strengthen the water users association and promote improved irrigation water management	• Area (ha) under improved irrigation water management / irrigation/ practices • Type of technologies promoted • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists involved in water-efficient irrigation • No. of water user associations formed or revitalized	MoWE, MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	CG centres, WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa, and other NGOs, CBOs, private sector			
	9. Strengthen watershed user cooperatives and irrigation water users' associations	• No. of water users association members trained in governance and technical water management	MoA, EIAR	BoAs, RARIs	CG centres, WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa, and other NGOs			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	10. Provide ToT on integrated landscape restoration and conservation	• No. of training sessions delivered by trained trainers	MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs. RARIs	NGOs, the Private sector			
8. Promote eco-friendly and adaptable mechanization technologies and innovations	1. Promote solar-powered irrigation technologies	• No. of solar-powered irrigation systems installed • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists trained in operation and maintenance of solar irrigation systems • Area (ha) under solar-powered irrigation • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists using solar power irrigation systems	MoWE, MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	RBoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, SNV, and other NGOs Private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	2. Promote machinery that supports minimum tillage, SWC, and efficient input use	• No. of conservation agriculture machines distributed (seed drills, planters, etc.) • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists trained and engaged • Area of land covered, and demonstrations established for minimum tillage and SWC-machinery	MoA, EIAR ATI, universities	RBoAs, RARIs, etc.	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, CFGB, SAA, SNV and other NGOs, private sector			
	3. Introduce and promote small-scale machinery for ploughing, harvesting, threshing, and processing (e.g., feed processing, honey, milk)	• No. of small-scale machines provided or financed • No. of processing units established or upgraded • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists involved	MoA, EIAR ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs, etc	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, SAA, SNV, and other NGOs, private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	4. Establish and strengthen agricultural mechanization service centres	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of mechanization service centres established/ strengthened • No. of service contracts delivered annually	MoA, EIAR ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, SAA, SNV and other NGOs, private sector			
	5. Promote private sector engagement in machinery services (hire and maintenance)	• No. of private sector operators providing machinery hire and maintenance services • No. of training centres established • No. of partnership agreements or contracts signed between farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists and private providers	MoA, ATI	BoAs	CG centres, FAO, GIZ, SAA, SNV and other NGOs, private sector			

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Strategic Objective 1. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (69)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBos/CG	Short term (S)	Medium term (M)	Long term (L)
	6. Develop and enact an incentive mechanism for private service providers	• No. of guidelines developed/revised • No. of incentives framework for private mechanization service providers developed and approved. • No. of private providers benefiting from incentives.	MoA, EFD, ATI	Regional governments	CG centres,WVE, GIZ, SNV, FARM Africa and other NGOs, CBOs, private sector			
	7. Provide ToT on mechanization technologies and practices	• No. of trainers trained in mechanization technologies.	MoA, EIAR, ATI, universities	BoAs, RARIs,	NGOs, Private sector			

Strategic Objective 2. Enhance knowledge, research and capacity for agroecological innovation and extension services

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
1. Ensure integration of local/traditional knowledge and science-based agroecological innovations	1. Participatory identification and documentation of IK on AE practices	• No. of local/ traditional identified and documented	MoA, EBI, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, PELUM-ET, CBOs			
	2. Integrate local/ traditional systems into the research process	• No. of integrated local/traditional -science-based research activities or projects	EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATVET, ATI	RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, PELUM-ET, CBOs			
	3. Co- implement the integrated IK-science-based AE innovative solutions	• No. of co-created IK innovations	EIAR, MoA, agriculture HLIs, EBI, ATI	RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, PELUM-ET, CBOs			
	4. Engage the progressive and pro-ecological farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists to train the broader farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists to build a self-supporting mindset	• No. of experienced farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists engaged in training	EIAR, MoA, agriculture HLIs, EBI, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, PELUM-ET, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	5, Organize cultural events that recognize local/ traditional agroecological innovations that work best	• No. of AE practices related cultural events to be celebrated • No. of validated IK-AE practices • No. of recognized/ rewarded model farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists and farmer institutions.	MoA/ extension, EIAR, agriculture HLIs	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, PELUM-ET, CBOs			
2. Demand-driven capacity development AE-Innovations Extension	1. Need assessment for AE curricula development	• No. of AE-interfaced academic programmes/ courses suggested	Agric- HLIs, MOA/ATVET	HLIs	CGIAR, GIZ, SWR			
	2. Develop curricula for universities, ATVETs, and basic education	• No. of AE-interfaced academic programmes mainstreamed into regular education systems	HLIs, MoA/ ATVET, MoE	Agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, GIZ, SWR			
	3, Develop AE-interfaced short-term training materials for farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists, extension workers and researchers	• No. of and the type of training materials developed	EIAR, MoA, HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	4, Train farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists, extension workers, and researchers on AE practices	• No. of trainees • No. of impacted farmers/communities of practices (positive change)	EIAR, MoA, HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR			
	5. Collect feedback on the co-learning processes for improvement	• Frequency of feedback • No. of responses made to the feedback	EIAR, MoA, agriculture HLIs	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR			
	6. Develop and disseminate educational materials, toolkits, and online resources that support agro ecology education	• Type of educational materials developed/ published materials • No. of disseminated educational materials	agriculture HLIs, EIAR, MoA/ Extension, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
3. Establish partnership and linkage among key actors working in agroecological innovations	1. Identify and map the knowledge actors of partners along the supply/'enablers', private actors/intermediaries/ digital solution providers and demand chain	• No. of partners defined by supply-intermediaries-demand chain categories • No. of supply 'enablers' (govt institutions at large) mapped • No. of intermediaries/ private actors/digital solution providers, such as ACATECH Technology Group, financers (eg, weather insurers) • No. of demand side (broader farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists, Coop-Unions, aggregators, processors and quality product exporters)	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EABC	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, EABC, private actors, cooperative-unions, farmers, financers (credit and insurance)			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	2. Establish formal partnerships both at national and local levels, including local knowledge centres, i.e., FTCs, to enhance agroecological research and development efforts	• The MoU was signed among the partnering institutions • No. of focal persons and experts assigned for AE innovations • No. of innovative partnerships established (national/local level) across geographies. • No. of joint research proposals written to co-mobilize funds from donors and government	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EABC	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, EABC, private actors, cooperative-unions, farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists			
	3. Periodically organize workshops, conferences, and seminars to strengthen networking, coordination for AE-focused advisory services 'content, and knowledge exchange	• No. of events organized	MoA, EIAR, HLIs, ATI, EABC	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, EABC, private actors, cooperative-unions, farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	4. Design and implement collaborative AE innovation research initiatives	• No. of AE-interfaced research initiatives designed and implemented at various scales (field, farm, landscape) and FTCs/ farmers/ climate field schools	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EABC	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, EABC, private actors, cooperative-unions, farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists			
4. Participatory research, knowledge co-creation of innovation for AE-advisory services extension	1. Conduct needs assessments to understand localized AE challenges and farmers' requirements	• Types and No. of AE-specific challenges and corresponding innovative solutions documented	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, EABC, cooperative-unions, farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	2, Co-design AE-focused research projects to identify the corresponding best bet/innovative solutions	• No. of research co-designed projects and activities • Type of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools developed and used. • No. of M&E conducted	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, EABC, private actors, cooperative-unions, farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists			
	3. Implement participatory field trials to test AE practices, thus allowing farmers/pastoralists/agro-pastoralists to experience and evaluate results	• No. of AE advisory trials identified for participatory implementation • No. of participatory AEP trials/ tested and evaluated	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, cooperative unions, farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists			
	4. Organize forums (e.g., field days, community meetings) for farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists to share skills and knowledge on achievements and success stories (end-line)	• No. of community events organized over time • No. of participants across events	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, cooperative unions, farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	5. Adapt a framework for assessing the impacts of AE practices at localized scales, along with farmers' feedback	• No. of existing AE practices baseline info.) • No. of innovations introduced and implemented by the pro-AE and communities of practice (CoPs) • No. of validated AE innovations	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, private actors, cooperative-unions, farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists, financers, tractor or chemical spray service providers			
	6. Conduct an impact assessment to document successful AE practices and innovations (readiness for scaling)	• Digital impact assessment tool customized/ developed, and employed. • No. of successful AE- innovations and stories documented	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs,			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	7. Scaling successful AE innovations across different geographies and local communities.	• No. of scaled AE innovations • No. of communities of practices addressed	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, cooperative-unions			
5. Develop digital dissemination channels/hubs to meet local language requirements for AE-advisory (human-centred design/ HCD)	1. Evaluation of the existing dissemination systems to identify the gap for intervention 2. Synthesize 'content/ product' (best practice) for dissemination	• No. of contents developed on the best AE innovation and embedded into the digital tools • No. of digital tools adapted/customized/ developed, or brand-new AE innovations software • No. of best AE 'contents' translated to different local languages • Frequency of dissemination per season/in-season	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs, financers (insurance, credit)			
	3. Building digital infrastructure (hardware) at local knowledge centres to enhance digital literacy	• No. of and type of infrastructures / knowledge sharing hubs established at a localized scale	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoAs, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	4. Develop a user-friendly digital platform (software) (website and/or mobile app) in multiple languages	• No. of user-friendly digital platforms developed • No. of local languages accommodated: Mobile App/AI-Agent	EIAR, MoA, CGIAR in collaboration with digital solution providers (e.g., ACATECH PLC, that are software developer), through a public-private partnership					
	5. Train local facilitators on agroecological innovations and effective communication strategies	• No. of facilitators trained and followers data • No. of impacted farmers/communities of practice (CoPs) due to facilitators' intervention • • •	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoA, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
6. Accelerating tailored Digital Climate Information Services (CIS) to support AE innovations	1. Co-creation of seasonal/ sub-seasonal weather forecast and climate prediction	• Frequency of consensus-based co-creation of climate prediction) and released per year	EMI, EIAR, agriculture HLIs	EMI branch offices, MoA, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR			
	2. Seasonal and in-season climate information translation into digital AE-advisory to minimize risks of bad climate (foe) or take advantage of good climate (friend)	• No. of translated seasonal climate prediction and weather forecasting	EMI, EIAR, HLIs, ATI and MoA/Extension	EMI, EIAR, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, WB, AfDB			
	3. Dissemination of AE-climate-advisory services using digital channels/tools	• Frequency of AE-advisory services extension using digital dissemination channels	EMI, EIAR, agriculture HLIs and MoA/ Extension, ATI (8028 Hotline)	Extension services	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
		• No. of bundled core AE innovations (e.g., drought/ waterlogging tolerant crop variety, improved animal breeds) and complementary innovations (e.g., insurance or credit, crop/ livestock diseases and pests protection, mechanized services, etc.) • No. of feedback received for co-learning and enhancing services						
7. Ensure AE innovations' institutionalization, scaling, and sustainability within the AE communities of practice (CoPs)	1. Assigning focal points at relevant government offices to institutionalize or mainstream into the government's normal development plans, programmes, projects and activities	• No. of institutions owned or established 'Desk' for the promotion of AE innovations • No. of focal persons and experts dedicated to the AE innovations	MoA, EIAR, EMI, ATI	EMI branch offices, EIAR research centres, HLIs				

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	2. Evidence generation research for scaling the AE-innovations to maximize the number of farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists reached through farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists, training centres and and other appropriate entry points.	• No. of farmers/ pastoralists trained and participated in continuous/iterative training. • No. of farmers / pastoralists reached out by regions • No. of influenced target groups (community of practices, livelihoods etc.) • Area of hectares covered by AE innovations by geography	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	BoA, RARIs, HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	3. Measure the sustainability of innovative AE practices in terms of a given innovation's affordability, accessibility, and level of acceptance	• Volume of analysed time series data on the number of communities involved in the AE innovative practices • No. of sustained AE innovations by communities (embedding into farmers' ritual practices) ☐ durable or short-lived	MoA, EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI	RBoA, RARIs, agriculture HLIs	CGIAR, NGOs, GIZ, SWR, CBOs			
8. Developing capacity among national research, education, and extension systems to co-create knowledge and skill on agroecological research, innovations, and practices	1. Design and develop research project proposals for innovative AE solutions that can be game-changers	• No. of approved AE interfaced research proposals and funded from the central treasury across partnering institutions • No. of projects funded from the external sources	EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EMI	RARIs, agriculture HLIs, EMI-branch offices	CGIAR, CBOs, local NGOs			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	2. Conduct on-station experiments to evaluate an innovative solution Conduct on-station experiments to evaluate innovative solutions	• No. of projects implemented across NARS centres						
	3. Conduct on-farm piloting and validation of the most promising innovations to generate evidence of technical efficiency and financial viability for scaling purposes	• No. of successful validation plots across geographies	EIAR, EAA, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EMI	RARIs, agriculture HLIs, EMI-branch offices	EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EMI			
	4. Develop and execute research on AE innovations aimed at scaling and expanding outreach for evidence generation	• No. of grids identified as suitable for AE-innovation scaling • Area/hectare covered by proven AE-innovation • No. of integrated/ bundled innovations	EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EMI	RARIs, agriculture HLIs, EMI-branch offices	EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EMI			

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Strategic Objective 2. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (8)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National	Regional	NGOs/ CBOs/CG	S	M	L
	5. Conduct tempo-spatial modelling research to facilitate the extrapolation of proven AE innovations to agro-ecologies with similar environmental characteristics as pilot areas, utilizing advanced technologies such as satellites and drones for remote sensing	• No. of advanced/ high-resolution satellite-assisted bundled (core plus complementary) AE-innovations • No. of AE-innovations performing best at areas of extrapolation (land/ crop productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability).	EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EMI	RARIs, agriculture HLIs, EMI-branch offices	EIAR, agriculture HLIs, ATI, EMI			

Strategic Objective 3: Support market system development

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (30)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Timeframe		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	CSOs/NGOs/ CBOs/Others	S	M	L
1. Improve farmer access to sustainable inputs and markets	1. Conduct agroecological inputs market system analysis and development	• No. of agroecological input market system analyses conducted or no. of market mapping completed • No. of Policy recommendations developed	MoA, EIAR, EAA, ATI	BoA, regional input regulatory authority, RSE	GIZ, SNV, ISD, PELUM, MELCA, WRI			
	2. Train producers on agroecological inputs production and organize B2B	• No. of trained producers • No. of B2B linkages conducted. • % increase in input adoption	MoA, MoTRI, ATI, ECC	BoA, regional input regulatory Authority, RSE, regional Trade and Market Development Bureau, CPA,	GIZ, SNV, ISD, PELUM, MELCA, WRI			
	3. Support the establishment of community seed banks and seed enterprises to guarantee timely access to quality and diverse seeds	• No. of community seed banks supported • No. of local seed enterprises established • Volume of diverse seeds distributed • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists accessed diverse seeds, • Seed diversity index	MoA, ATI, ECC, EBI, EAA, EABC, ESI, ESE, EHPEA	BoA, CPA, ATI, EBI, RSE	Ethio-organic seed action, MELCA, SNV, SWR			

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Strategic Objective 3. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (30)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Timeframe		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	CSOs/NGOs/ CBOs/Others	S	M	L
	4. Establish/strengthen agroecological input actors (farmers' cooperatives, SMEs, Public and private enterprises) to provide inputs and extension services, including digital platforms	• No. of input actors established/ strengthened • Volume of agroecological inputs supplied • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists reached via digital platforms. • No. of cooperatives/ SMEs supported • No. of digital platform operational.	MoA, ATI, ECC, Ethiotelecom, MoLS,	BoA, ATI, ECC, Ethiotelecom, BoLSA, Kifiya	LERSHA, PxD, TNS, SNV, DG			
	5. Promote inclusive agroecology inputs, finance and investment fund tailored to agroecological input actors and access to low-interest "green loans"	• Amount of loan disbursed • No. of input actors accessed low-interest "green loans" • No. of Agroecology fund established • No. of actors accessing loans	MoF, DBE, CBE, and other FIs	BoF, DBE, CBE, RuSACCO, and other FIs	PULA			

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Strategic Objective 3. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (30)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Timeframe		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	CSOs/NGOs/ CBOs/Others	S	M	L
	6. Institutionalize and standardize agroecological inputs certification and quality control	• Agroecological input types standardized and certified Agroecological input certification scheme institutionalized • No. of certified inputs	ESI, EAA, MoA, ECAE, EFDA, MoIT, BTI, EIPA	BoA, Regional input Regulatory Authority	IFOAM, SWR, ISD			
2. Invest in market infrastructure, including rural collection centres, cold storage, and local processing units	1. Construct collection and aggregation centres at cluster level, supported with digital inventory systems	• No. of collection centres constructed • No. of digital inventory system deployed • Volume aggregated	MoA, ECX, ETBC, ATI, ECC, Telecom	BoA, Regional Trade and MD ATI, ECC, Telecom	TNS,			
	2. Promote eco-friendly cold chain facilities	• No. of eco-friendly cold chains promoted, energy efficiency rating • % reduction in post-harvest loss	MoTL, MoTRI, MoA	Regional Bureau of Market and Trade	EHPEA, Private logistic service providers, cold chain suppliers			
	3. Support/Invest in the development of processing facilities and rural transformation centres (RTCs) with food quality standards that embrace farmer cooperatives, MSMEs, and rural youth.	• No. of processing facilities/RTC supported • No. of processors supported/engaged	MoI, MoA, ECC, MoLS, IPDC, ESI, EFDPRI, EFDA	BoI, BoA, CPA, BoLS	UNIDO, GiZ, SNV, TNS,			

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Strategic Objective 3. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (30)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Timeframe		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	CSOs/NGOs/ CBOs/Others	S	M	L
	4. Upgrade rural feeder roads and link with infrastructure and transport networks	• Km of upgraded rural roads • % of market access improved	MoTL, ERA	Regional Bureau of road and logistics	Helvetas, Habitat4Humanity			
	5. Establish waste management units at major aggregation and processing centres	• No. of waste management units established, waste recycling rate Environmental compliance	MoI, EPA, EAA, MoH, ESI	Regional City Admin, SMEs, Regional EPA	ISD, GiZ, SNV, PELUM, MELCA, FAO			
	6. Support quality control labs safeguarding agroecological product safety.	• No. of quality control labs established or No. of labs operational Product safety compliance Lab accreditation status	EFDA, EAA, ESI, MoA, EPA, MoH, EMI/ Caliberation	BFDA, Regional AA, ESI, BoH, BoA, EPA, EMI/ Calibration	Hilina Food/Bless, JJ Labo, Pastor Institute,			
	7. Establish an agroecology products marketing outlet	• No. of market outlets created, • Sales volume Consumer reach	MoA, MoTRI, ECC, ATI, ETBC/Trade corporation, ECX	Trade bureau	EHPEA			
	8. Construct regional cold chain hubs with solar backup	• No. of cold chain hubs established	MoTL, MoA, MoWE, EHPEA, EIC, ATI, Telecom	Private cold chain and accessory suppliers	GiZ, SNV, Mercy Corps			

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Strategic Objective 3. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (30)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Timeframe		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	CSOs/NGOs/ CBOs/Others	S	M	L
3. Facilitate links between agroecological input suppliers, producers, processors, retailers, and institutional buyers	1. Facilitate market linkages and contract farming arrangements between producers and reliable institutional buyers and amp; export	• No. of contracts signed Amount of produce sold	MoTRI, MoA, ECX, ECC, ESA, ETBC	BoA, CPA, ATI, Trade bureau,	GiZ, SNV, iDE, TNS, Mercy Corps, SHA, Fair Planet, farmers' coops			
	2. Develop institutional procurement frameworks and embed agroecological sourcing into the national food policy	• Procurement framework/guidelines developed/revised • % of agroecological products sourced	MoA, MoTRI, EFDA, MoDP, MoF, MoE, MoH, Mayor's office	BoA, Trade and MD, BoF, BoE, BoH, Mayor's office	WFP, SNV, FAO, GiZ, HRF, Oxfam, Action Aid, CRS, coops, SLUF, PHE			
	3. Develop and expand digital and physical marketing platforms	• No. of platforms established • No. of transactions, and volume sold	MoTRI, MoA, ATI, ECX, ECC, EIC, INSA, Telecom	BoA, Trade and MD, Coops, ICT Agency, Mayor's office, Land Admin	Digital Green/DG, SNV, Oxfam, WFP, GiZ, ILRI, Farm Africa, FAO,			
	4. Organize and institutionalize agro ecology trade fairs, B2B, and multi-stakeholder and MSPs	• No. of B2B events conducted or # of events held • Stakeholder participation Deals closed	MoA, MoTRI, MoI, ATI, ECC, Chamber of Commerce, EIC, City Admin	BoA, Trade, Coops Chamber of Commerce, City Admin	SNV, Oxfam, ILRI, EPHEA, private trade fair organizers			

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Strategic Objective 3. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (30)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Timeframe		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	CSOs/NGOs/ CBOs/Others	S	M	L
	5. Strengthen farmer-producer groups to enhance their bargaining power	• No. of farmers' groups strengthened/formed	ECC, MoA, MoLS, ATI	Coop, BoA, Trade, BoLS, ATI	SNV, Oxfam, GiZ, WFP, Farm Africa			
	6. Develop national agro ecology product standards	• National agroecology standard developed	ESI, EAA, MoA, ECAE, EFDA, MoIT, BTI, EIPA, EPHI	BoA, Trade and BoH	FAO, SNV, Oxfam, IFOAM, UNDP, UNIDO			
	7. Support product differentiation, branding, traceability, and eco-labelling systems	• Type of Agroecology product differentiated (branded) • No. of producers and enterprises adopted the traceability system	ESI, MoTRI, EAA, MoA, MoI, EFDA, ECC	BoA, Trade, Coops, Regional standard and quality control units, Tourism	FAO, SNV, Oxfam, IFOAM, UNDP, UNIDO, EHPEA, Control Union, BCS, Euro-CERT			
	8. Provide business and technical skill training to agroecology market actors	• No. of market actors trained Business growth rate	MoA, MoTRI, MoLS, EIAR, HLI,	BoA, Trade, BoLS,	SAA, EDI, SWR, Chamber of Commerce			

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Strategic Objective 3. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (30)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Timeframe		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	CSOs/NGOs/ CBOs/Others	S	M	L
4. Promote local processing, packaging, and eco-labelling that increase product value and traceability	1. Ensure eco-friendly packaging solutions (biodegradable or recyclable materials)	• Eco-friendly packaging solutions introduced	ESI, EAA, MoA, EPA, ECAE, EFDA, EIC, MoTRI	Trade, Investment, Forest and Environment bureaus	MSMEs, SNV			
	2. Engage private sector actors in Agroecological product processing and packaging	• No. of private sector actors/firms engaged • Investment volume Product diversity	EIC, MoA, MoI, IPDC		Private processing companies and packaging materials suppliers, manufacturer and commodity associations			
	3. Provide agroecological processing incentives	• Incentive scheme launched • No. of agroecological processors received • Incentives • ROI on incentives	MoF, DBE, and other FIs, MoI, MoA, EIC, MoLS, MoR	BoF, FIs, BoI, BoA, II bureu BoLS, BoR				
	4. Support processors in quality certification schemes	• No. of processors certified • Compliance rate • Export readiness	ESI, MoA, MoTRI, EAA, ECAE, EEPA, MoH	BoA, Trade, Agric regulatory, BoH, EPA, Job creation, enterprises	FAO, SNV, Oxfam, IFOAM, UNDP, UNIDO, EHPEA, Control Union, BCS, Euro-CERT			

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Strategic Objective 3. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (30)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Timeframe		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	CSOs/NGOs/ CBOs/Others	S	M	L
	5. Provide technical and business skills training for processors	• No. of processors trained • Skill improvement index Business performance	MoI, MoLS, MoA, ATI, MoTRI	BoI, BoLS, BoA, ATI, Trade, TVET	UNIDO, GiZ, SNV, TNS,			
	6. Organize and train women and youth groups to provide business development services	• No. of youth groups established • No. of youth groups trained • No. of processors received BD service • Services provided • Income generated	MoI, MoLS, MoA, ATI, MoTRI, MoE, EDI	BoI, BoLS, BoA, ATI, Trade, TVET	UNIDO, GiZ, SNV, TNS, Chamber of Commerce			
	7. Promote consumer awareness and demand for safe, hygienic, and value-added products	• No. of campaigns conducted • Awareness index • Product demand	MoA, MoH, Ethiopian Media Authority (EMA) , MoIT, MoE, MoTRI		Consumer association, ISD, GAIN, PELUM, PAN,			
	8. Facilitate tailored financial products and services in processing, packaging, and eco-labelling technologies	• No. of processors received financial products and services • No. of products laun ched	MoF, NBE, DBE, and other FIs, ECC,	Coops, FIs, RuSACCO and SACCOs	Private SACCOs			

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Strategic Objective 4: Create an enabling environment for policy and governance

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
1. Policy enactment, amendment, and alignment/ integration for the promotion of agroecology (subsidy, land reform, Eco certification, tax exemption, etc.)	1. Promote for the enactment, amendment, alignment, and integration of policies (subsidies and incentives) for the promotion of integrated agroecology practices	• No. of policies enacted, • No. of policies amended • No. of policies aligned	MoA, MoR(Ministry of Revenue), Ethiopian Customs Commission, MoPD, EPA, EBI, MoH, FDA, EPHI, EIAR universities	BoA, BoF, REPA, BoH, RARIs	Ethiopian Sustainable Food System and agroecology consortium (ESFAC), Coops, private sector, ECCSA (Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association), community representatives (farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists)			
	2. Mainstream agroecology into key national development strategies (e.g., food security, climate, and land-use plans)	• No. of strategies/ programmes/plans mainstreamed agroecology principles and practices	MoA, MoPD, MoH, MoWSA, MoTRI, EPA, EIAR, universities, MoE	BoA, BoPC, BoH, BoWSA, BoT, EPA, BoE, RARIs, BoL	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA community representatives			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
	3. Develop legal frameworks for eco-labelling and organic certification for organic products	• No. of legal frameworks developed • No. of organic products eco-labelled and certified	MoA, MoPD, MoTRI, IES(Institute of Ethiopian Standards), FDA, EPHI	BoA, BoPC, BoH, BoT	ECCSA			
	4. Advocate for land use reform (communal, private, public) in favour of agroecology practices	• Hectare of land protected / demarcated for agroecological farming • No. of people adopted agroecological practices on their farms	MoA, MoPD, MoWSA, HPR EPA, EIAR, universities, MoE	BoA, BoPC, BoH, BoWSA, RC (regional councils), BoE. RARIs	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, community representatives (farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists)			
	5. Develop a partnership among the public, private, and community (PPPC) to enhance the agroecology system	• No. of partnerships established	MoA, MoTRI	BoA, BoT	Coops, the private sector, ECCSA, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
	6. Develop a mechanism for resource mobilization and channelling for agroecology	• No. of mechanisms developed and functional Value of resource mobilized and channelled	MoA, MoPD, MoF	BoA, PC, BoF	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, community representatives (farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists)			
	7. Conduct a study and generate evidence for policymaking, including urban-rural contextual studies for the regional states e.g., Regional land use planning.	• No. of studies conducted • No. of study documents produced • No. of study documents produced • No. of regions addressed in the studies	MoA, EIAR, ATI, EPSI (Ethiopian Policy Study Institute), universities	BoA, RARIs, universities	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, community representatives (farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists)			
	8. Promote policies and incentives that support sustainable pasture and rangeland management, including research on efficient fodder and range productivity in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas	• No. of policies developed/ amended/aligned • No. of research conducted	MoA, MoILL(Ministry of Irrigation and Low Land), MoPD, MoWSA, HPR EPA, EIAR, universities, MoE	BoA, BoILL, PC, BoWSA, EPA, RARI, universities, BoE	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCS, CSOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
	9. Develop guidelines on urban-rural waste circulation, nutrient recycling, and agro ecology aligned with urban agriculture	• No. of guidelines developed • No. of adopted agroecology aligned practices • No. of recycling centres established and volume of nutrients generated	MoA, EPA, MoPD, Chamber of Commerce, and Sectoral Association (CCSA)	Urban cities, REPA, Urban Agriculture Offices and Municipalities, Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Sectorial Association (CCSA)	Regional Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association (RCCSA), Coops, private sector, ECCS, CSOs, and CBOs			
2. Collaboration among stakeholders for policy coherence and participatory engagement	1. Establish a functional unit/ department in the relevant institutions (Federal and Regional States)	• No. of federal and regional states that established "Agroecology Units/ Departments"	MoA, EPA, MoPD	Regional States, City Administrations	Regional Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association,			
	2. Establish a steering committee for agroecology governance and coordination at all levels	• No. of steering committee established • No. of key decisions made	MoPD, MoA	PC, BoA, BoF	Coops, private sector, CSOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
	3. Establish multi-stakeholder agroecology councils at all levels (Federal to Kebele) composed of communities, CSOs, CBOs, media, Academia, research, think thank, private, etc.	• No. of councils established • No. of resolutions/ declarations passed	MoA, MoILL(Ministry of Irrigation and Low Land), MoPD, MoWSA, HPR EPA, EIAR, universities, MoE	BoA, BoILL, PC, BoWSA, EPA, RARI, universities, BoE	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA(Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association), community representatives (farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists)			
	4. Convene regular policy dialogue platforms to share knowledge, monitor progress, and ensure coordination	• No. of policy dialogues conducted • No. of best practices/learning compiled • No. of proceedings documented	MoA, MoILL, MoPD,	BoA, BoILL, PC	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, community representatives (farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists)			
3. Monitoring and evaluation of agroecology policies, plans, and financing	1. Develop agroecology metrics aligned with other national and international commitments and targets	• Number of agroecology metrics developed and aligned with other national and international commitments and targets	MoA, MoILL, MoPD,	BoA, BoILL, PC	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
	2. Develop Policy implementation, tracking, and reporting tools and outputs	• Policy implementation, tracking, and reporting tools and outputs	MoA, MoPD,	BoA, PC	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	3. Allocate the Budget and ensure other financial flows to agroecology interventions	• Budgetary allocations and other financial flows to agroecology interventions	MoF, MoA, MoPD	BoF, BoA, PC	Coops, private sector, CSOs, and CBOs			
4. Inclusive and participatory governance for equitable access to resources and agroecologically friendly innovations	1. Develop and implement land and water policies responsive to marginalized groups (women, youth, social minorities, PWD etc) to secure equitable access	• No. of Responsive policies developed and implemented	MoA, MoWE, MoPD, MoILL, MoWSA	BoWE, BoA, PC, BoWSA	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
	2. Establish and support resource management groups (watershed cooperatives, associations, committees) to manage resources transparently and in line with agroecology principles	• No. of groups established and supported	MoA, MoF, MoPD, MoILL, MoWSA, CPC	BoWE, BoA, PC, BoWSA, CPA	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	3. Develop participatory resource mapping and planning tools to identify and address access gaps and opportunities	• No. of important resource mapped • No. of gaps identified and addressed	MoA, MoWE, MoF, MoPD, MoILL, MoWSA, Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI)	BoWE, BoA, PC, BoWSA	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	4. Enact policies to promote community control over genetic resources (seed, plant, livestock, microbial)	• No. of policies enacted	MoA, EBI, EPA, MoPD, EARI, universities, CPC, MoWSA	BoA, PC, BoWSA, EPA, RARI, universities, CPA	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
5. Financial mechanisms to support and scale agroecological practices	1. Establish a national agroecology funding mechanism	• No. of funding mechanism established; Value of resource mobilized • No. of agroecological practices financed	MoA, MoPD, MoF	BoA, PC, BoF	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	2. Create access to grant schemes, credit, loans, and revolving funds for ecological entrepreneurs and cooperatives	• No. of entrepreneurs supported • No. of cooperatives supported, • Amount of capital granted	MoF, MoA, MoPD	BoF, BoA, PC	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	3. Put in place weather-indexed and other insurance products tailored for diverse agroecological zones	• Type of insurance products developed	MoA, MoF, MoPD,EMI(Ethiopian Meteorological Institute), Insurance companies	BoF, BoA, PC, EMA (Ethiopian Meteorology Agency)	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
	4. Establish a private partnership for blended finance to uphold sustainability standards	• No. of partnerships established	MoA, MoF, MoPD	BoF, BoA, PC	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
6. Bargaining and finance access to Farmers' Groups and facilitating access to land, credit, and extension for youth and women farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists	1. Provide legal registration and capacity building support for cooperatives on governance and related issues	• No. of cooperatives registered • No. of cooperatives capacitated	CPC, MoJ, MoA	CPA, BoJ, BoA	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	2. Facilitate access to working capital and market for farmer, pastoral, and agro-pastoralist groups	• No. of farmer groups accessed working capital • No. of market linkages created	MoA, MoF, MoPD, MoILL, MoWSA, CPC	BoA, BoF, PC, BoILL, BoWSA, CPA	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	3. Create land allocation programmes for youth and women-led initiatives	• No. of youth initiatives accessed land • No. of women-led initiatives accessed land	MoA, MoPD, MoWSA	BoA, BoWSA, PC	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 4. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (31)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs/ private sector/ community representatives	S	M	L
	4. Develop possible incentive mechanisms for financial institutions tailored to agroecology	• No. of Incentive mechanisms developed	MoA, MoPD, MoF, NBE	BoA, BoPD, BoF	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	5. Incentivize financial institutions to lend to women and youth in agroecology	• No. of financial institutions incentivized • No. of youth benefitted • No. of women benefited Amount of fund disbursed	MoA, MoPD, MoF, NBE	BoA, BoPD, BoF	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
7. Ensuring the right to food and nutrition sovereignty	1. Enact a national nutrition law	• No. of laws enacted	MoH, MoA, MoPD, EPHI	BoH, BoA, PC	ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			
	2. Incorporate agroecology principles within the food system policy	• No. of Policy revised			ESFAC, Coops, private sector, ECCSA, CSOs, and CBOs			

Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen social inclusion and empowerment

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
1. Create a sustainable and socially inclusive knowledge base integrating agroecology into the curricula of formal and non-formal education systems	1. Conduct sensitization and mass mobilization on an ongoing and regular basis on the importance and inclusion of agroecology in school communities	• No. of conducted sensitization and mass mobilization	MOA, ATI, MOE MoLSA, MoWSA	Regional Agricultural and Education Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	2. Integrate agroecology education into the curricula of pre-school, primary school, high school, and training centre programmes	• No. of education programmes that integrated agroecology in their curricula	MOA, ATI, MOE	Regional Agricultural and Education Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	3. Develop training programmes and manuals focusing on sustainable farming techniques, food production, resource management, and agroecological principles	• No. of developed training programmes. • No. of developed manuals	MOA, ATI, MOE	Regional Agricultural and Education Bureaus, Skill and Labour Bureau	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	4. Establish and support knowledge-sharing platforms equipped with a guiding manual to enhance sustainable collaboration among agricultural communities, researchers, and extension workers that incorporate garden-based learning and local case studies	• No. of established platforms • No. of developed guiding manuals	MOA, ATI, BoWSA	Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	5. Develop financing initiatives to encourage participation of youth and women in agroecology innovative agricultural practices, e.g., Financing training programmes, internships, etc.	• No. of developed initiatives to encourage youth participation	MOA, ATI	Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
2. Support youth- and women-led enterprises in agroecological value chains. (Support youth- and women, PWD, IDP, PLWHIV, etc.-led enterprises)	1. Identify feasible agroecology-based production and agri-food business enterprises managed by marginalized groups for a learning showcase	• No. of identified feasible production enterprises • No. of identified feasible agri-food business enterprises		Regional Agricultural Bureaus and concerned bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	2. Provide targeted business development services (BDSs) such as marketing, financial literacy, and cooperative management areas for marginalized groups	• No. of BDSs provided on marketing, financial literacy, and cooperate management • No. of participants trained		Regional Agricultural Bureaus and concerned bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	3. Facilitate and provide startup grants and seed funding for green businesses, including composting, food processing, and eco-tourism, and for scaling-ups in agroecological value chains	• Amount of grant provided for the startup • Amount of grant provided for seed funding • No. of beneficiaries benefited from the grant, seed funding, and scaling up		Regional Agricultural Bureaus and concerned bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	4. Establish rural innovation hubs and incubation centres to support business development for marginalized groups, including PWD, pastoralists, and minority groups	• No. of established rural innovation hubs • No. of established incubation centres • No. of people benefited from the hubs and centres		Regional Agricultural Bureaus and concerned bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	5. Facilitate preferential land access for resource-poor entrepreneur farmers/pastoralists/agro-pastoralists, youths, and women in agroecology through ensuring land certification	• No. of women provided with land certification • No. of land certificates issued jointly to the spouse		Regional Agricultural Bureaus and concerned bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	6. Support links to niche domestic and export markets for agroecological products	• No. of of agroecological producers or enterprise groups connected to niche domestic and export markets • No. of fair trade attended by producers or enterprise groups		Regional Agricultural Bureaus and concerned bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	7. Support mobile and digital platforms for market access and technical advice through improving infrastructure	• No. of mobile and digital platforms established • No. of beneficiaries benefited from the mobile and digital platforms		Regional Agricultural Bureaus and concerned bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	8. Promote the use of labour and time-saving, user-friendly agroecological and environmentally safe technologies for marginalized groups	• No. of user-friendly labour and time-saving technologies promoted • No. of technologies utilized by beneficiaries		Regional Agricultural Bureaus and concerned bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	9. Support collective enterprises such as cooperatives and Common Interest Groups through training (CIGs)	• No. of supported cooperatives • No. of supported CIGs		Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	10. Improve rural infrastructure, such as roads and markets, to facilitate access to inputs, services, and markets that enhance social inclusion for marginalized groups	• No. of improved rural infrastructures constructed/improved		Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
3. Create mentorship programmes for marginalized, minority, and vulnerable groups and establish peer networks	1. Identify mentees and mentors on inclusive agroecology	• No. of mentees and mentors identified and providing mentorship in agroecological practices		Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	2. Connect youth and women with experienced farmers/pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists and entrepreneurs through structured mentorship programmes	• No. of connections created • No. of youth and women mentees paired with experienced farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists and entrepreneurs		Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	3. Organize peer learning circles for young farmers/ pastoralists/agro-pastoralists and rural women, focusing on leadership, finance, and innovation	• No. of peer learning circles/platforms organized • No. of rural women and youth participated		Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	4. Enhance leadership roles of youth and women, establishing advisory councils and fellowships	• No. of youth and women advisory councils and fellowships established • No. of youth and women in the established councils and fellowship programmes		Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	5. Engage international and national professionals in mentorship	• No. of international professionals mentorship opportunities created		Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	6. Facilitate experience-sharing networks where individuals can share experiences, challenges, and best practices in agroecology	• No. of experience sharing networks created. • No. of beneficiaries benefited		Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
4. Address challenges and cultural barriers and norms that inhibit marginalized, minority, and vulnerable groups, such as women and PWD, etc., from participation and benefiting from agroecology	1. Assess the specific challenges and opportunities related to gender norms that inhibit marginalized, minority, and vulnerable groups and their benefit from agroecology	• No. of assessments on challenges and opportunities reported	MOA, MWSA, ATI, MPD, MOH	Regional MOA, BOWSA	UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, Action Aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
	2. Provide training on cultural sensitivity and inclusivity to community leaders, ensuring they promote diverse participation	• No. of community leaders reached at all levels	MOA, MWWSA ATI	Regional MOA, BOWSA	UN Women, USAID, Action Aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
	3. Empower and develop the skills of local communities, marginalized, minority, and vulnerable groups in decision-making on agroecological practices	• No. of women's, youth PWD represented in the agricultural decision-making process and leadership roles • No. of leaders who enhanced their level of awareness, knowledge, skill, and attitude on agroecological practices	MOA, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs	Regional MOA, BOWSA	UN Women, OXFAM, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	4. Incorporate and promote culturally appropriate practices into the agroecology strategy to enhance their participation and benefits from agroecology	• Number of culturally appropriate practices incorporated and promoted	MOA, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs	Regional MOA, BOWSA	UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
	5. Promote Gender Transformation Approaches (GTAs) such as gender model family (GMF), community conversation (CC), social analysis action (SAA), and nutrition model village	• No. of promoted Gender Transformation Approaches (GTAs)	MOA, ATI	Regional MOA, BOWSA	FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
	6. Raise Community awareness programme about agroecological practices and conservation to represent/ amplify their voice	• No. of people participated in awareness-raising programmes related to agroecology	MOA, MWSA, ATI	Regional MOA, BOWSA	UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
	7. Disseminate information about the benefits of agroecology and the importance of social inclusion using radio, television, and social media	• Type of information disseminated through different channels	MOA, MWSA, ATI	Regional MOA, BOWSA	UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	8. Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for assessing the effectiveness of gender and social inclusion efforts	• No. of M&E developed	MOA, MWSA, ATI, MOPD	Regional MOA, BOWSA	UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
5. Embed social inclusion, including gender equity in all agroecology policies and institutional frameworks	1. Enhance the awareness of policymakers, leaders, managers, experts, and practitioners on social inclusive agroecology through initiatives including advocacy, awareness-raising, consultative meetings, and technical training	• No. of capacity-building events conducted • No. of people reached at all levels	Government, civic organizations	Regional government	UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
	2. Mainstream gender equity and social inclusion into agroecology programmes and budgets	• No. of agroecology programmes that incorporated gender equity and social inclusion • The number of budgets explicitly incorporates budget allocation for gender and social inclusion	Government, civic organizations	Government, civic organizations	Development Partners, and Donors - UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	3. Devise gender-sensitive M&E frameworks to assess participation and action taken outcomes	• No. of gender-sensitive M&E frameworks devised.	Government, civic organizations	Government, civic organizations	Development partners, and donors such as UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
	4. Ensure representation of youth, women, and vulnerable groups in agroecology councils and decision-making bodies	• No. of represented youth in the agroecology council and decision-making bodies • No. of females represented in the agroecology council and decision-making bodies	Government, civic organizations	Government, civic organizations	UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	5. Introduce affirmative actions to access to land, credit, training, and leadership roles	• No. of land agreements established that prioritize women, youth and marginalized /minority groups • No. of access created loans grants, and financial support • No. of affirmative action policies implemented at all levels	Government, civic organizations	government, civic organizations, Development Partners, and Donors	Development partners, UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, Action Aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			
	6. Facilitate a consultative meeting to collaboratively review and revise the agroecology strategy	• No. of consultative meetings conducted on policy review and agroecology strategy	Government, civic organizations	Government, civic organizations,	UN Women, OXFAM, USAID, action aid, GIZ, FSRP, CARE, FAO, PSNP. RLLP, PACT, etc.)			

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Strategic Objective 5. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (7)	Activities (38)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional Institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
6. Strengthen the resilience capacity of marginalized, minority, and vulnerable groups and promote agroecologically-based sustainable	1. Strengthen and promote programmes that support food and nutrition security to enhance community resilience	• No. of beneficiaries receiving regular support • No. of strengthened and promoted programmes	MoA, ATI	Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	2. Strengthen collaboration between agriculture, social affairs, and health ministries to support marginalized groups holistically	• No. of collaborations strengthened and promoted between different actors.	MoA, ATI	Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			
	3. Develop social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations from the impacts of climate change and market fluctuations	• No. of developed safety nets.	MoA, ATI	Regional Agricultural Bureaus	Concerned NGOs, Community Institutions			

Strategic Objective 6: Promote sustainable consumption and healthy diets

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
1. Awareness and advocacy on healthy and sustainable consumption	1. Conduct national awareness campaigns on EFBDG (Ethiopian Food-Based Dietary Guidelines)	• Number of campaigns conducted • Number of individuals aware of EFBDG	MoA, MoH, MoE, EPHI, EIAR, HEI	BoA, BoH, BoE, RARI	All relevant DP, private, and international research institutes, NGOs, and CBOs			
	2. Contextualize culturally accepted FBDG into agroecological settings	Number of documents contextualized and released	MoA, MoH, MoE, EPHI, EIAR, HEI	Regional Institutions	All relevant DP, private, and international research institutes, NGOs, and CBOs			
	3. Train households on improved food preparation (cooking demonstration) that maximizes/retains nutrients, preservation, and hygiene	• Number of demonstration events • Number of households trained	MoA, MoH, MoE, EPHI, EIAR, HEI	BoA, BoH, BoE, RARI	All relevant DP, private, and international research institutes, NGOs, and CBOs			
	4. Sensitize to incorporate agroecologically produced and healthy foods into feeding institutions*	• Number of feeding institutions reached • Number of individuals having agroecologically produced healthy foods	MoA, MoH, MoE, EPHI, EIAR	BoA, BoH, BoE, RARI	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	5. Strengthen and promote the One Health approach (health interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment)	Number of training sessions to promote the One Health approach	MoH, MoA, LDI (livestock devt institute), EAA, EBI, EPA, Veterinary Institute	BoH, BoA, Bureau of livestock and fisheries (BoLF), BoWSA	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
		Number of participants sensitized on the One Health approach	MoH, MoA, LDI (livestock devt institute), EAA, EBI, EPA, Veterinary Institute	BoH, BoA, Bureau of livestock and fisheries (BoLF), BoWSA	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
		Number of practices and/or innovations promoted to strengthen One Health	MoH, MoA, LDI (livestock devt institute), EAA, EBI, EPA, Veterinary Institute	BoH, BoA, Bureau of livestock and fisheries (BoLF), BoWSA	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
		Number of individuals who know the One Health approach	MoH, MoA, LDI (livestock devt institute), EAA, EBI, EPA, Veterinary Institute	BoH, BoA, Bureau of livestock and fisheries (BoLF), BoWSA	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	6. Establish/ strengthen a diversified healthy diet and good food hygiene practices counselling center at TVETS, and FTC/PTC	Number of counseling centres established/ strengthened	MoA, EIAR, EPHI, MoLS	BoA, BoH, BoLS	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
		Number of individuals counseled	MoA, EIAR, EPHI, MoLS	BoA, BoH, BoLS	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	7. Introduce personalized nutrition advice using AI Tech and Apps	No. of users of the digital tracking technology	MoA, Eth. AI Institute (INSA), MiNT	-	All relevant DP, private, and international research institutes, NGOs, and CBOs			
2. Agroecology-based Home and school gardening	1. Establish a community dialogue platform on a diversified healthy diet and nutrition	Number of platforms established	MoA, MoH, MoE, MoWSA	BoA, BoH, BoE, BoWSA	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
		Number of individuals who participated in the dialogues	MoA, MoH, MoE, MoWSA	BoA, BoH, BoE, BoWSA	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	2. Introduce climate-resilient, nutrient-dense food crops to HHs with vulnerable groups	• Number of training events conducted • Number of HHs trained on nutrient-dense food production and consumption	MoA, EIAR, seed enterprises	BoA, regional research institutes, and regional seed enterprises	All relevant DP, NGOs and CBOs			
	3. Promote home gardening	• Number of training events in home gardening • Number of HH trained on home gardening for home consumption and marketing	MoA, EIAR, seed enterprises	BoA, regional research institutes, and regional seed enterprises.	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	4. Create an agroecology-based school gardening	• Number of school gardens created • Number of students reached	MoE, MoA	BoA, BoE	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	5. Introduce small ruminants and poultry at HH levels	• Number of HHs who have small ruminants and poultry	MoA	BoA	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
		• Number of workshops conducted	MoA, MoLS	BoA, BoLS	All relevant DP, NGOs and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	6. Promote composting of food waste at the household and community levels (NB: includes tools and materials)	• Number of households trained on composting of food waste	MoA, MoLS	BoA, BoLS	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	7. Promote the consumption of homestead products in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas	• Number of households consuming homestead products	MoA, MoH,	BoA, BoH	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	8. Promote utilization of underutilized/new varieties of nutrient-dense food sources	• No. of underutilized/ new variety nutrient-dense food sources developed • No. of households trained on utilizing underutilized/new variety nutrient-dense food sources	MoA, EIAR, MoH, EPHI	BoA/BoL, BoH, RARI,	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	9. Organize diversified healthy diet consumption promotion events	Number of events organized	MoH, MoA, MoE, MoCS	BoA/BoL, BoH, BoE, BoSC	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
		Number of individuals consuming diversified healthy diets	MoA, MoH, EPHI,	BoA/BoL, BoH	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	10. Develop agroecology-based diversified healthy diet recipes	Number of recipes developed	MoA, EIAR, MoH, EPHI	BoA/BoL, BoH	All relevant DP, NGOs and CBOs			
		Number of HHs who received the newly developed food recipes	MoA, EIAR, MoH, EPHI	BoA/BoL, BoH	All relevant DP, NGOs and CBOs			
	11. Promote food waste management and treatment	• Number of training workshops organized • Number of individual/ HHs trained	MoA, MoH, EPHI	BoA/BoL, BoH	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	12. Incentivize producers who supply agroecologically produced health food	Number of healthy food producers who are supported through the incentive system	MOA	BoA	CSOs			
3. Protection and promotion of healthy local and traditional food cultures	1. Document and revitalize local/traditional food knowledge through oral histories, recipe books, and educational media.	• No. of recipe books produced and stories documented • No. of people who accessed the recipe books • No. of people reached through media	MoA, EIAR, MoH, EPHI, EBI	BoA/BoL, BoH	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	2. Conduct events such as healthy traditional food festivals and regional cuisine days.	• No of festivals/events organized • No. of participants	MoH, MoA, MoE, MoCS, EBI	BoH, BoA/ BoL, BoE,BoCS	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	3. Develop optimized food recipes for underutilized foods	• No. of optimized recipes developed • No. of people who accessed recipes	MoA, EIAR, MoH, EPHI, and HEI	BoA, BoH, RARI	All relevant DP, NGOs and CBOs			
	4. Protect traditional and cultural food preparation through legal and policy frameworks.	Number of legal frameworks developed	MoCS, MoA, MoJ	BoCS, BoA/ BoL, BoJ	All relevant DP, NGOs and CBOs			
	5. Support storytelling, media campaigns (including digital platforms), and chefs' initiatives that elevate local/ traditional food culture	• No. of events organized • No. of individuals who participated by category • No. of media channels engaged and media analytics	MoH, MoA ,MoE, MoCS, MoLS	BoH, BoA/ BoL, BoLS,BoCS	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
4. Food waste reduction and food safety	1. Introduce and promote improved and agroecology-friendly technologies (household-level post-harvest handling of food and feed)	Number of innovative technologies introduced	MoA, EIAR, MoI, MoTRI, HEI	BoA/BoL, BoTRI	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
		• No. of food processing and preservation technologies promoted • No. of households reached	MoA, EIAR, HEI	BoA/BoL	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	2. Encourage public and private sectors to be involved in the supply and mass production of innovative and agroecology-friendly technologies for food and feed	• Number of public and private sectors engaged in the supply of appropriate technology • No. of households accessing the technologies	MoA, MoTRI, MOI, MiNT, Investment Commission, and the national bank, Development Bank	BoA/BoL, BoTRI	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	3. Train the community on food loss/waste reduction practices and techniques	• No. of training events • No. of individuals trained	MoA, EIAR, MoI, MoTRI, HEI	BoA/BoL, BoI, BoTRI	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	4. Contextualize the current national postharvest management strategy through the lens of agroecology	Number of documents released	MoA	BoA/BoL	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	5. Promote appropriate food preservation/storage technologies for a diversified healthy diet	• No. of preservation technologies introduced • No. of households that are familiarized with the technologies	MoA, EIAR, MoI, MoTRI, HEI	BoA/BoL, BoI, BoTRI	All relevant DP, NGOs and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	6. Strengthen advocacy, public awareness, and communication on agroecology-based food and feed safety and quality management systems	• No. of awareness events conducted • No. of individuals reached through the awareness events • No. of and types of promotional materials produced and distributed • No. of individuals/HHs reached	MoA,MoLS, MoCS, MoH, MoTRI, MoI	BoA, BoH, BoLS	All relevant DP, NGOs and CBOs			
	7. Promote food hygiene and WASH	• No. of promotional events • No. of and types of promotional materials produced and distributed • No. of individuals/HHs reached	MoH, MoA, MoWI	BoH, BoA, BoWI	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	8. Contextualize the current national food safety and quality strategy for primary agricultural produce through the lens of agroecology	No. of documents contextualized	MoA, MoH, and regulatory bodies (EAA, FDA)	BoA, BoH, regulatory bodies	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			

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Strategic Objective 6. Continue

Strategic Focus Areas (4)	Activities (34)	Indicators	Responsibility/Institutions			Priority/Time Frame		
			National institutions	Regional institutions	NGOs/CBOs	S	M	L
	9. Ensure the quality and safety of imported food products	• No. of legal frameworks developed/revised • No. of regulatory institutions capacitated or strengthened	MoTRI, MoI, MoA	BoA, BoTRI, BoI	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			
	10. Certify the quality of agroecologically produced local foods	• No. of local producers certified for quality food production • No. of farmers/ pastoralists/ agro-pastoralists/ cooperatives benefitting from certification	MoA, IP, EIAR, IES, MoTRI	BoA, RARI, BoTRI	All relevant DP, NGOs, and CBOs			

Annex III. List of taskforce members for the development of the NAES

No.	Name	Organization	Role in the TF
1.	Mitiku Ayele (PhD)	Ministry of Agriculture	Chairperson
2.	Zenebe Adimassu (PhD)	Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT	Deputy chair
3.	Endalkachew Woldemeskel (PhD)	CIFOR-ICRAF	Secretary
4.	Chala Wordofa, (PhD)	Ministry of Agriculture	Member
5.	Lire Abeyo (Mr)	Ministry of Agriculture	Member
6.	Solomon Mesele (Mr)	Ministry of Agriculture	Member
7.	Tsigereda Fikadu (Mrs)	Ministry of Agriculture	Member
8.	Ali Mohamed (Prof.)	Ministry of Agriculture	Member
9.	Temesgen Desalegn (PhD)	EIAR	Member
10.	Teferi Tadesse (PhD)	Haramaya University	Member
11.	Bayuseh Tsegaye (PhD)	ESFSAC	Member
12.	Tadesse Dessalegn (PhD)	GIZ	Member
13.	Degefie Tibebe (PhD)	Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT	Member
14.	Fikre Lemesa (Prof.)	GIZ	Member

Annex IV. List of technical working groups

A. Thematic Working Group One: Sustainable Farm Practices (SO1)

1. Ato Lire Abiyo (MoA)- Lead
2. Mr Wubshet Demissie (GIZ)
3. Dr Getachew Agenehu (ICRISAT)
4. Mr Girma Kibret (MoA-SLM)
5. Dr Zenebe Adimasu (ELaRP)
6. Dr Bekele Kassa (EIAR)
7. Dr Regassa Feyisa (EOSA)
8. Dr Zenebe Mekonnen (EFD, CEFDC)
9. Dr Abera Asefa (EIAR, MRC)
10. Prof. Fikre Lemessa (GiZ)
11. Dr Chanyalew Seyoum (Haramaya University)

B. Thematic Working Group Two: Knowledge, Research and Capacity Building (SO2)

1. Dr Girma Mamo (EIAR)-Lead
2. Dr Teferi Tadesse (Haramaya University)
3. Dr Atsede Solomon (EIAR-HARC)
4. Prof. Birhanu Belay (ICARDA-ILRI)
5. Dr Hailu Araya (PELUM Ethiopia)

C. Thematic Working Group Three: 3. Market System Development (SO3)

1. Prof. Ali Mohammed (MoA)- Lead
2. Mr Gemechis Jaleta (NIRAS International)
3. Mr Aschalew Lemma (ATI)
4. Mr Gizaw G/Mariam (ISD)
5. Mr Wegayehu Tesfaye (SNV)
6. Yodit Balcha (Ms), ABC

D. Thematic Working Group Four:

1. Dr Mitiku Ayele (MoA)- Lead
2. Mr Tamiru Sebsebe (ERSHA)
3. Mr Markos Haile (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)
4. Mr Bulcha Berecha (MoPD)
5. Mr Eshetayehu Tefera (Private Sector)
6. Mr Solomon Kebede (MELKA-Ethiopia)

E. Thematic Working Group Five:

1. Wro Genet Abdela (MoA)- Lead
2. Ms Hirut Kassa (Action Aid)
3. Dr Lemlem Aregu (ATI)
4. Ms Temenet Amanuel (GIZ)
5. Ms Tigist Worku (ILRI)
6. Ms Workalem Girma (Champions for Food Security (C4FS) Eth.)
7. Mr Mesfin Mengistu (Private Sector)
8. Mr. Abduljelil Nasir (MoA)

F. Thematic Working Group Six: Sustainable Consumption and Healthy Diets (SO6)

1. Dr Bayush Tsegaye (Agrecology Consortium)- Lead
2. Ms Eman Hassen (ABC)
3. Mr Tibebu Moges (EPHI)
4. Dr Mulugeta Tamir (MoA)
5. Dr Tinsaye Tamerat (WorldVeg)
6. Mr Irressa Woldegiorgis (EIAR-Melkassa ARC)

Annex V. External reviewers

1. Professor Emeritus Mitiku Haile (Mekele University)
2. Mr Eshetayehu Tefera (Ex. General Director of IFDC)

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation in Ethiopia (2026 to 2040)

The development of this strategy was led by the Ministry of Agriculture, with technical leadership and oversight provided by the National Agroecology Strategy (NAES) Technical Task Force. Technical and facilitation support was provided by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (Co-Chair) and CIFOR-ICRAF (Secretariat). The process was supported by several projects and programs of the Agroecology TPP, which receives core funding from the French Government. The strategy benefited from technical and financial support under the Agroecological Transitions Programme for Building Resilient and Inclusive Agricultural and Food Systems (TRANSITIONS), funded by the European Union under the DeSIRA Initiative and managed by IFAD. Additional support was provided by the Liechtenstein Development Service–funded Food Systems Transformations through Agroecology project and the CGIAR Science Program on Multifunctional Landscapes and Policy Innovations. Contributions of the Thematic Working Groups was made possible with financial and technical support from Irish Aid, WorldVeg, GIZ, the CGIAR Multifunctional Landscapes Science Program, and AICCRA-Ethiopia.

Funded by the European Union

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Irish Aid
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

IFAD
Investing in rural people

Liechtensteinischer Entwicklungsdienst

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CGIAR Multifunctional Landscapes

CGIAR Policy Innovations

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ISBN 978-9966-108-97-5