

Effective Aid for Small Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa: Southern Civil Society Perspectives



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ETHIOPIA CASE STUDY

Foreword

This document is a country case study on agricultural development carried out in Ethiopia, in the second half of 2006. This studies was commissioned by the Canadian Food Security Policy Group as a way of giving voice to Ethiopian civil society organizations concerned with agricultural development in this CIDA-priority country. The civil society organizations consulted were intended to be representational but, obviously, not comprehensive.

The views expressed in this case study and may or may not reflect the specific views of all of the members of the Canadian Food Security Policy Group.

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The Canadian Food Security Policy Group brings together Canadian international development agencies, emergency relief providers, farmers/producers' organizations and human rights groups who have worked for decades in sectors related to enhancing food security in developing countries and in Canada.

Members include Canadian Council for International Co-operation, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, CARE Canada, Christian Reformed Church, Developing Countries Farm Radio Network, ETC Group, Inter Pares, Mennonite Central Committee Canada, National Farmers Union (Canada), Oxfam Canada, Oxfam Québec, CHF - Partners in Rural Development, Rights & Democracy, UPA développement international, USC Canada, United Church of Canada and World Vision Canada.

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1. Introduction: About the assessment¹

This summary of civil society perspective on the agricultural development and poverty reduction in Ethiopia was done following the Terms of Reference provided by the Canadian Food security Policy Group.

This assessment has been undertaken involving 13 organizations - 4 international NGOs, 1 donor, 8 Local NGOs (1 umbrella organization for over 250 NGOs, and 1 network of professional associations in agriculture and rural development. They were selected based on their experience and merit, particularly their current engagement supporting agriculture and rural development in Ethiopia.

Interview and discussion was made with professionals representing the respective civil society organization. To facilitate and guide the discussion a line of questions was prepared and used. The line of questions is provided in annex 2. The paper briefly examines and summarizes areas of past and current intervention in agricultural development by the civil society organizations (CSOs), their judgment of the policy constraints and future interventions, and suggested priority areas of intervention for agricultural development and poverty reduction. Conclusions and policy implications are drawn towards the improvement of the performance and livelihood of smallholder producers, food security and poverty reduction in the country at large.

2. Agricultural Development Strategy and Food Security an Poverty Reduction challenges in Ethiopia

2.1. Overview of the agricultural sector

Ethiopia is an agrarian economy based country where the agricultural sector plays an important role in the national economy, livelihood and socio-cultural system of the country. The sector supports employment of over 80% of the population, accounts for 45-50% of the National GDP, and makes the largest contribution to raw materials for agro-industries, food security and foreign exchange earnings. While the *commercial* farming sub-sector is limited, the dominant sub-sectors are mixed farming of the *smallholder agriculture*, and the *pastoral livestock system*. The smallholder mixed farming system is dominant in the highlands and medium altitude zones while the pastoral livestock production system prevails in most of the warmer lowland areas of the country.

The smallholder agriculture accounts for over 95% of the cultivated land and production. Production system is largely characterized by subsistence orientation, low levels of external inputs, dependency on rainfall, and limited integration into the market. As the country has so far only developed only a very small share of the potentially irrigable land, agricultural is vulnerable to the vagaries of nature, particularly rainfall instability and drought.

¹ This report was prepared by Berhanu Adenew (Ph.D), a senior researcher at the Ethiopian Economic Association/Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute, assisted by Mesfin Haile. Contact badenew@eeaecon.org. The opinions in this report are neither those of the researchers nor the Canadian Food Security Policy Group.

Owing to the low productivity/low production and insignificant saving, the smallholder producers are predominantly caught in the poverty trap. Lack of saving constrains capital investment in expansion and intensification of production. Hence, with low external level of input, the crop cultivation and natural resources management operates at an imbalance between nutrient input and extraction leading to soil and land degradation, with consequent declining productivity and production. The rising population pressure particularly in the highland agricultural zones has exacerbated the problem in relation to declining farm holdings and land fragmentation.

Attempts have been made during the last many years to expand the use of modern input technologies like chemical fertilizers, improved seed, herbicides/pesticides and new agronomic practices. Although high yields can be obtained in good soil and favorable weather conditions, the overall national average yield of major products, particularly cereals and pulses did not show much improvement. A combination of many factors including weakly functioning agricultural markets, low purchasing power of the consumers, overall low level of technical knowledge of the producers, and a high illiteracy rate of the rural communities have hindered the much expected technical change and farm productivity.

The country's agricultural sector has shown no significant structural transformation and is dominated by smallholder producers. Large-scale commercial productions run by the state were not given attention any more following the economic liberalization policy and programs of public enterprise privatization. Private commercial farms are still very limited although their role is growing.

2.2. Government agricultural development, food security and poverty reduction strategies

The Ethiopian government has been devising and implementing various economy wide and sectoral policies and strategies. During the last one and half decade, the government has identified agriculture as a priority sector for development, and hence, devised the Agriculture Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy. In order to realize the development goals, agricultural extension services were expanded and supplies and applications of modern inputs increased leading to some improvements of aggregate production particularly of grain, and some localized increase in land productivity. In the interest of improving food security, major emphasis has been in increasing foodgrains production. Hence, the extension program failed to give adequate attention to the other sub-sectors such as livestock, cash crops, fruits and vegetables, and fisheries. The country is said to have a large potential resource for fisheries production in the lakes and rivers.

The public interventions and efforts made to boost production starting the second half of the 1990s were not adequately sustained since the intervention focused largely on supply side measures without adequate accompanying measures on the demand side like market infrastructure, purchasing power of the mass of consumers and value-adding. The extension curriculum has not been asset-based, and did not consider ecological, geographic, socio-economic, and cultural diversity of millions of smallholder producers. The large livestock resources in both highland and pastoral systems have not been adequately assisted by the extension activities.

Based on some evaluations of past experiences, some adjustments have been attempted by the government through time. From the production side it was observed that there is a need to prepare and implement the agricultural development packages tailored to and compatible with different agricultural extension zones (AEZs). Strategies of identifying potential commodities for cash crops, domestic and export market studies, promoting farmers marketing cooperatives and unions, facilitating domestic output markets including local purchase by donors of grain for use in food aid and a wide range of training programs for middle level agricultural extension workers that would provide extension and training service at the community level are some of these adjustments.

In response to the urgency and pressing need to give adequate attention to the demand side of the agricultural sector by way of market sector development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) launched a comprehensive “National Agricultural Input and Output Marketing Strategy” in April 2005. The strategy is meant to address the core issues relating to developing functioning and viable agricultural markets in Ethiopia. MoARD and the Ethiopia Strategy Support Program (ESSP) in collaboration with the Economic Development Research Institute (EDRI) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), held an Agricultural Markets Summit on May 18-20, 2005 entitled “*Unleashing Markets for Agricultural Growth in Ethiopia: An Agenda for Action*”. The Agricultural Marketing Development Strategy has the principal objective of making agricultural development rapid and sustainable, increasing the volume of agricultural products sold in domestic and international markets, and, in general, benefiting consumers, producers, traders, exporters, and processors.

Poverty reduction strategy: the government’s Poverty Reduction Agenda has the central goal of building a free-market economic system which will enable the economy to develop rapidly, come out of dependence on food aid and ensure that the poor are the main beneficiaries of economic growth (ADB, 2003). The first cycle of the country’s poverty reduction strategy (PRSP) or the sustainable development and poverty reduction program (SDPRP) has advanced to a second generation program termed Plan for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (PASDEP). Also the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) take agricultural development as a central and strategic direction for poverty reduction in Ethiopia.

PASDEP also provides a framework for five-year national and sectoral development programs including the agricultural sector strategies for the years 2006 – 2010. The government has an ambitious five year plan starting in 2006. It plans to increase the role of water resources development and expanded irrigation agriculture, market and export-led agricultural growth.

In broader terms, the poverty reduction strategy consists of four major building blocks: (i) Agriculture Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy, (ii) judiciary and civil service reform, (iii) decentralization and empowerment, and (iv) capacity building. Crosscutting issues (gender, environment and population and HIV/AIDS) are also elements of the strategic framework for poverty reduction. The SDPRP is however weak in the areas of private sector and financial sector development and more fundamental reforms are still needed in these areas to open up the sectors to competition and more private sector (including foreign) participation .

The poverty reduction strategies of the country give focus to the agricultural sector thinking that agriculture and rural development policies and strategies are vital for the growth of the national economy and poverty reduction. Given its current and potential role in employment generation, and contributions to the GDP, and export earnings, Ethiopian agriculture is considered as an

important engine of growth and poverty reduction. Its role in poverty reduction is justified by the fact that rural poverty is rampant and deep in rural areas as it is in urban settings in Ethiopia. Hence, it is argued that agriculture-based growth would play the role of poverty reduction through effects in enhancing food security, increasing demand for agriculture labor, raising rural household income, and providing the necessary bases for agro-processing and economy wide linkages. Agricultural export is a major source of foreign exchange in Ethiopia that provides resources for importation of capital inputs needed for investment and economic growth.

Although there is a strong rationale for Ethiopia to follow agricultural development led industrialization (ADLI) strategy, many critics including some CSOs comment that the strategy is biased against the development of the industrial and other non-agricultural sectors. These sectors are vital to providing livelihoods for those leaving the land. They argue that without strong linkage between agriculture and the non-agricultural sector and equal support for the later development will not be realized.

In early 2001 when the first phase of the PRSP was designed, the civil society organizations attempted to include their perspectives in the national document. Hence, the civil society PRSP Task Force was established and hosted by the umbrella organization of NGOs (Christian relief and Development Association). The task force worked hard to identify and incorporate the CSOs issues and views about in the country's socio-economic development. However, not all demands of the CSOs were accommodated in the national strategy document at that time.

Food security strategies: one of the features of the Ethiopian agriculture and the national economy at large is the inability to produce sufficient food to feed the population. Hence, dependence on foreign food aid both for emergency assistance following drought and famine and to feed the chronically food insecure population has been a practice for three decades now.

In order to improve the food security situation of the country, successive national Food Security Strategies have been designed in 1996, 2002 and 2003/04. Following the recent famine of 2002/03, donors and the government have designed an ambitious national food security program called the New Coalition for Food Security (EFDRE, 2003). The program aims at improving the food security of a large segment of the vulnerable population, i.e. the 15 million people considered as most food insecure. These are 5 million chronically food insecure people and 10 million people increasingly vulnerable to shocks and subject to transitory or acute food insecurity in times of drought. The three major objectives that compose this program are availability of food, access to food and health. The program activities also include resettlement of about 2.2 million people from the degraded and 'resource-poor' areas to other locations in order to improve their access to productive land and make them self-sufficient in food production (EFDRE, 2003).

The critics, from the CSOs and others, with regard to the new Coalition for Food Security raise three major issues. First, the program is ambitious as it seeks to raise a huge total amount of resource as big as over 3 billion USD for the program. Second, the timeframe of 3-5 years set to achieve food security for the target population was unrealistic. Three, many are skeptical about the potential of resettlement programs given the past bad experiences of resettlement in 1980s in the country. Moreover, the social and environmental implications of settling people into new areas of unproven agricultural potential have been emphasized.

Productive Safety Net program: another and a relatively recent national program is the Productive Safety Net envisaged by the government and donors. The government has launched

the Productive Safety Net Program based on the urgent need to address the basic food needs of food insecure households via a productive safety net system financed through multi-year predictable resources, rather than through a system dominated by emergency humanitarian aid (MOARD, 2004). This program also intends to shift the mode of financing from food aid to cash. The Productive Safety Net Programme is designed to operate within the framework and as a component of the national Food Security Programme and to address the problems of chronically food insecure communities in the 262 woredas of the country. The Productive Safety Net Program consists of two components: i) a labour-intensive Public Works component; and ii) a Direct Support component to those households who have no labour at all, no other means of support, and who are chronically food insecure. Transfers are to be made either in the form of food or cash. The programme is expected to address immediate human needs while simultaneously (i) supporting the rural transformation process, (ii) preventing long-term consequences of short-term consumption shortages, (iii) encouraging households to engage in production and investment, and (iv) promoting market development by increasing household purchasing power.

Some CSOs which were interviewed are of the opinion that safety-net programs meant to improve food security are characterized by spending a lot of resource and that has created dependency syndromes in rural areas of Ethiopia. However, as safety-nets as such are recent intervention strategies, such an effect may not be observable yet.. However, the fear of dependency could relate to the earlier food aid programs including food for work. Other NGOs have the opinion that implementation of safety-net program may suffer lack of effective partnership. They indicated that safety-net program is designed to be implemented through coordinated efforts of NGOs and line departments of government ministries as a way of sharing the workload.

Commercialization of smallholder agriculture and agricultural export led-growth: the recent development in agricultural sectoral policy and strategies is a move towards market based, high value crop and livestock production, and export orientation. There is more and more recognition that the supply side driven agricultural sector intervention measures did not yield much effects in improving performance and growth. Hence, measures towards enhancing the demand side factors and market facilitation are getting attention, albeit at low rate of realization.

The challenges in this respect are technical, institutional and behavioral. Although there seems to be a growing demand for export, for instance in the meat and live animals export in 2005 and 2006, there has not been an adequate supply response. The smallholder producers and pastoralists are not in a position to respond to the demands since their production system is largely seasonal, and they are not well aware of the emerging market situation. In addition, the technical capacity to support producers with better and improved technologies, and capital needs for planned production for markets is limited. This suggests that there is a need for coordinated demand side and supply side strategies.

Water resources development strategies: one of the greatest challenges of Ethiopian's agriculture is its vulnerability to vagaries of nature, particularly rainfall variability. Not only is the performance of the sector clearly rainfall dependent, but also that variability of the sector's performance largely affects the national economy. Despite a huge resource potential for irrigated agriculture, the country uses only an insignificant portion of this potential. It is said that the country's water resource provides an estimated potentially irrigable 3.5 million hectares of agricultural land. Some of the major underlying reasons for inability to use water resources are

lack of capital to invest in water resources development, lack of appropriate water resources development strategy for long period, and others. In addition, the fact that many of the larger Ethiopian rivers flow out of the country makes the transboundary water issues important and complex.

Within the framework of PASDEP, the government's agricultural sector five year plan, as well as that of the water sector have promised to give more attention to water resource development. The recent government plan shows that irrigation of many hundred thousands of hectares of land will be realized for the purpose of crop and livestock production (growing irrigated fodder crops for livestock).

At various moments, the country has been making an attempt to enter into dialogue and negotiations to make use of the big water bodies, mainly the Nile waters. In recent years, a program called the Nile Initiative has been launched. The initiative incorporates a small grants program. It provides micro funds for natural resources rehabilitation and improved production through investment in small scale irrigation and water harvesting in the Nile basin areas. Some local NGOs that operate in the basin regions have received small funds to further support smallholder farmers.

3. Summary of the CSO perspectives on small farmers' development and food security improvement priorities in Ethiopia

3.1. Agricultural development in Ethiopia and the role of Civil Society Organizations

In Ethiopia, civil society organizations with their diverse programs have a history and experience of over four decades. The presence and intervention of NGOs increased following the drought problems in early 1970s and mid 1980. Although the areas of interventions could be as many as the number of CSOs/NGOs, some pattern of activities can be thought as shown in table 1 below.

Although the early period missions of NGOs is known to be humanitarian aid and emergency programs related to mainly drought induced famine and disasters, currently they are engaged in diverse socio-economic development activities. Many of them are providing support towards improving the food security situation of the vulnerable communities and accessing basic services including clean water, education and health. Others have been active in supporting soil and water conservation and rehabilitation of the natural resources at large, provision of improved agricultural technologies and practices, water harvesting and small scale irrigation, etc. Wider aspects of capacity building for communities, asset rehabilitation, enhancing access to market, advocacy for the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups of the society are the recent trends in interventions of many NGOs and CSOs.

Many NGOs have their projects in different parts of the country. NGOs like the Word Vision Ethiopia, Oxfam GB, Agri-service Ethiopia, Ethiopian Rural Self Help Association (ERSHA), Mekaneyesus Church (MKC), Action for Development (AFD), and the Ethiopian Organic Seed Action participated in capacity building programs in the form of training to the governments line departments particularly to extension department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and sometimes to farmers directly.

Agri-service is a local NGO with over 25 years service in supporting rural communities to increase conservation and use of natural resources, and enhance farm productivity. Among its program areas are promoting participatory extension and the concept and practice of farmers'

field school (FFS), and innovative farmers' programs. Agri-service focuses on attitudinal change of farm households through education, training and awareness raising. It has projects in different parts of the country – in Amhara region, SNNPR, and Oromia, and others.

Oxfam–GB used to work on humanitarian activities, alleviating production constraints, and supporting education for communities. Oxfam had a project in Deder woreda (district), eastern Hararghe zone of the Oromia region. It was learnt that currently, it is running a small farmers development project in North Wollo zone of the Amhara region. The World Vision Ethiopia has been working on provision of improved technology, capacity building for agricultural extension, water harvesting and small-scale irrigation development, and natural resources rehabilitation. Among its program areas are some woredas in South Wollo of Amhara Region, and communities in Wolayita zone of the SNNPR.

The Canadian Hunger Foundation introduced a multi-phase project that aimed at improving food security and restoring sustainable livelihoods to the community in Bati, area of the Wollo zone, the Amhara regional state. The interventions are based upon the assets possessed by the communities. The project activities include developing clean water sources to build natural capital, skills training to build human capital, a micro credit program to build financial capital, and an advocacy program to build political capital. The projects of both Oxfam GB and CHF are aimed at providing safety-nets against famine while also creating opportunities for sustainable rural economic development. Support for Sustainable Development (SSD) has made irrigation development as an entry point to promote sedentary agriculture in pastoralist areas of the Afar regional state of Ethiopia. It has introduced improved forage and pasture in the drought prone areas of the country.

Thinking that the marketing side is a missing link in agricultural development and support for food security, an NGO called HUNDEE has established women and elder groups and supported them to purchase grain during harvest time at a lower price and resale to the community later in the year when food grain becomes scarce. The organization also supports poor women by providing improved heifers for dairy production. It also engages in environmental rehabilitation activities through support in raising tree seedlings. HUNDEE has its projects in the central highland areas in Oromia regional state. Similarly, ERSHA has established grain banks with a revolving fund for farmers in its project areas in West Shoa zone of Oromia. Representatives of these NGOs indicated when they were interviewed that the efforts made by these NGOs to establish grain banks in the respective intervention areas have helped to ensure households' access to food.

Ethio-Organic Seed Action (EOSA) works in advocating integrated conservation, use and management of agro-biodiversity. It is also working towards bringing together farmers, researchers, food processors and users in order to enhance sustainable production through enhanced social and economic incentives particularly for farmers. According to EOSA, there should be a joint venture/partnership between ultimate product consumers, marketers and processors, the research system, NGOs, and farmers. That will help farmers to know what the marketers and processors need, and in turn inform the processors and ultimate users about the farmers efforts and inputted values so that they would be ready to pay them fair prices.

The projects of Action for Development (AFD) support livelihood diversification and access to basic services for communities. In addition, the organization provides emergency response services and also works towards strengthening good governance. AFD has been active

particularly in the Borana zone of the Oromia region, in southeast Ethiopia. The Mekaneyesus Church aid program supports food security improvement, access to health and non-formal education.

Table 1 Past and current areas of intervention of selected CSOs

WVE	SSD	HUNDEE	AFD	MKC
Facilitating access to agricultural technology	Development of irrigation scheme	Organizing grain banks of farmers	Livelihood diversification	Food security
Extension service capacity building	Forage demonstration	Provision of heifers for poor women	Access to basic services	Non-formal basic education
Irrigation scheme: river diversion	Food aid for development	Raising and distribution of tree seedlings	Emergency response	Health
Development of water harvesting structures		Awareness creation on women's rights	Strengthening good governance	Child sponsorship
Area development program: to help the poorest of the poor		Helping destitute and old persons by providing grain food		
		Child protection		

Source: interview with CSOs, August 2006.

As with the NGOs, professional associations in the field of agriculture and rural development have also been emerging during the last few decades. The Ethiopian Association of Agricultural Professionals (EAAP) is a network of fifteen agricultural professional societies. The aim of the network is to consolidate the efforts of the different professional associations working in the field of agricultural development. Among its areas of activities, the association plans to actively work in identifying knowledge gaps, appraising projects and organizing various discussion forums for the purpose of constrictive policy dialogue.

3.2. Major policy and practical impediments to the development of Ethiopian agriculture and food security

This section provides a brief account of the policy and practical constraints to the development of the Ethiopian agricultural sector from the perspectives of the CSOs contacted for this study. From the details of the discussions made with the representatives of these CSOs, the problems and constrains can be categorized as shown below.

Lack of capacity at woreda and community levels to implement development plans:

Decentralization of administrative power to woreda/district levels has been a major government program over the last few years. However, there are many constraints including capacity limitations to plan and implement development activities mainly due to lack of experience of decentralized management, inefficient resource utilization, and scarcity of trained manpower.

Lack of adequate attention to pastoral development: according to Action for Development (AFD), a local NGO, pastoralism is not recognized by policy makers as much as sedentary agriculture. Pastoralists have their own way of life whose central feature is mobility of livestock and humans, and communal rangeland management. However, recently institutional reforms are emerging with the objective of encouraging sedentary agriculture . On the other hand, the

modern institutions have eroded the established local ones. Pastoralism is more viable in the presence of local institutions that have a long experience to resolve the problems related to the natural resources management and relationships within the community, between neighboring clans and others groups. In contrast, the state institutions are unable to perform all what should be done by local institutions, but rather created a gap following the phasing out of the local institutions. The impact is severe in the area of natural resource and water management. This is considered to be the result of an ambiguous government policy towards pastoralism. In addition, the current land certification policy is introducing individual ownership for land usufruct right in the areas previously held by a communal tenure system. The land certification encourages individual tenure than communal one. In general terms, to improve food security in the pastoral areas one of the issues is to give attention to and respect for the functioning of these local institutions.

Low and ineffective technology generation and dissemination: the NGOs/CSOs observe that the Ethiopian agricultural research system could not be as effective as expected for it has not been demand driven and not able to solve the complex problems of the agricultural sector.

Lack of coordination of institutions and organizations: it was indicated that due to lack of proper coordination among the institutions and organizations that provide development services for the sector and stakeholders at large, meaningful changes and improvement could not be attained.

Lack of proper land management: population pressure has led to land degradation, dwindling holdings, and fertility decline. This is exacerbated by the lack of land use planning and proper natural resources management system in the country.

3.3. Opportunities to improve the performance of agriculture

This section presents a discussion on the opportunities for improvement of the performance of the agricultural sector and well being of the farming communities as viewed by the civil society organizations.

Decentralization of governance structure: the program of administrative decentralization has been implemented in Ethiopia over the last few years in order to devolve administrative power down to the woreda/district levels. It is expected that the woredas will be empowered to identify problems, plan development, allocate and utilize budgetary resources. However, there are many constraints including capacity limitations to plan and implement development activities mainly due to lack of experience of decentralized management, the scarcity of trained manpower, infrastructure and communication. However, it is still believed that CSOs and NGOs can use the new established structures including Kebele level extension and farmers' training centers to reach the smallholder farmers when they wish to support them.

Conducive government policies: the existing government policies are considered to be in line with the CSOs and NGOs goals to bring about the smallholder farm development and ensure food security of the rural households. In some parts of the country local governments have pursued active partnerships with NGOs. For instance, in the Afar regional state the regional government has donated 30% to 100% of the budget for the small-scale irrigation projects to encourage the activities of the local partner NGO called Support for Sustainable Development (SSD).

Over the last few years, the government's agricultural development strategy emphasizes *market orientation* and *commercialization* of the smallholder agriculture. Hence, interventions that would support market creation and enhance market access have gained attention. Some NGOs have started to facilitate market functioning and value-adding through farmers' cooperatives and unions. For instance, Oxfam-GB looked at the possibility of increasing the number of beneficiary smallholder farmers through a new approach. Oxfam believes that beneficiaries and effectiveness of interventions can be increased if different stakeholders build alliances to bring development through learning, capacity building and partnership.

Presence of technology gap is an opportunity: the fact that there is a huge gap between the need and level of technology use by the smallholder farmers means that there is an opportunity for CSOs to operate towards filling this gap. It implies support for technology multiplication and training of farmers on how to multiply selected and adaptable agricultural technologies. Currently, although there is a high demand of improved agricultural technologies, the supply of inputs like improved seed does not meet the demand. Smallholder farmers can increase their income and food security if CSOs will support them to produce selected clean seeds and connect them to the market so that they can sell them.

Presence of some developed irrigation facilities: some NGOs noted that there are big irrigation facilities constructed on the Awash, Wabishebele, Beles, and Baro rivers but these are not effectively utilized. The presence of such resources is considered to be an opportunity whereby donors and CSOs may provide a support to rehabilitate these irrigation projects in order to increase agricultural production.

Capital needs and micro-finance: the need for a rural credit is crucial since the smallholder producers suffer from capital shortages. There are instances where the existing microfinance institutions work hand in hand with CSOs for the benefit of smallholder farmers. For instance, the World Vision Ethiopia and ERSHA facilitate the operations of micro-finance system work for communities.

Utilizing food aid as a development resource: food aid has a long history in Ethiopia and it has also evolved through different modes – emergency food aid, food for work, monetized food aid, etc. Some considered that food aid in the form of food for work can be linked with long term development. On the other hand, there has been a growing thinking by the government and some donors in favor of cash-for-work. A study of the pilot cash-for-work project implemented by Save the Children UK in Wollo area, northeastern Ethiopia, shows that cash-for work has some benefits for the target communities (EEA/EEPRI, 2003).

3.4. Priority areas for small farms development and rural food security improvement

The fact that the different CSOs have different areas of intervention, donors/ supporters and different beneficiary communities somehow show that they have diverse priority areas as regards the interventions needed to improve the performance of agricultural in Ethiopia as well (see table 2). It can be seen that there are broad ways of setting priorities. Priorities seem to be based on broad geographic locations, agro-ecological settings, wealth/ assets, etc.

3.4.1. Priorities for mixed farming systems of the smallholders

1. ***Improving demand side and marketing:*** Hundee and other NGOs have recognized the fact that the marketing and demand side of agricultural development is the missing link to

improve the production and food security of farmers in Ethiopia. In this respect, the WVE suggests that creating market opportunities for producers in the western parts of the country should be the priority areas to bring the development of smallholder farmers and rural food security. For HUNDEE attention to high value crops is a priority. AFD gives priority to infrastructure development to improve market functioning. Promotion of cooperatives that engage in cereal marketing is also mentioned as a priority. In this category, facilitating food transport between potential and low production areas was also indicated.

2. ***Land management, natural resources rehabilitation and soil fertility maintenance:*** World Vision Ethiopia looks at its priorities based on broader location of intervention areas. According to the WVE, environmental rehabilitation and soil fertility management are priority in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Similarly, Support for Sustainable Development (SSD) considers that rehabilitation of the vegetation cover of the land, reducing cultivation pressure on sloppy lands and eroded areas are priority areas. AFD also mentions the importance of implementation of appropriate land use plan as priority. Given the growing population pressure, WVE suggests working on land fragmentation problems and land consolidation measures in the southern part of the country.
3. ***Water resources development for agriculture:*** as the Ethiopian agriculture has a gloomy future with continued dependence on rain-fed system, it is vital to give necessary priority for water resources development and irrigation. Focusing on irrigation schemes, particularly the micro/small-scale irrigation was mentioned as a priority by Hundee and SSD. Oxfam GB considers that the challenge of the government and NGOs will be to speed up development in the high potential pockets areas through small to medium irrigation schemes and support to diversification into a range of high value crops.
4. ***Research, technology generation and dissemination:*** Seeing that despite long years of investment in agricultural research, the impacts on agricultural performance to date are below expectations, the need for a paradigm shift in research and technology generation has been pinpointed as a priority area. The Association of Ethiopian Agricultural Professionals considers the scaling-up of the existing agricultural technologies as a priority.
5. ***Gender and HIV:*** From the donors' perspective, in addition to food security and governance/capacity, CIDA's country development framework for Ethiopia gives important priority to gender equality and HIV/AIDS, two cross-cutting themes. Although HIV/AIDS is currently a major crisis that threatens the very wellbeing and performance of the rural and agricultural communities, the NGOs/CSOs included in this study did not explicitly mention HIV/AIDS as one of their priority areas in relation to agricultural development. It is known that many of the CSOs/NGOs in the country are currently active in combating HIV/AIDS. On the other hand, some of the NGOs interviewed put forward, working towards ensuring the rights of women as a priority area.
6. ***Access to capital resources:*** some NGOs indicated that the need for a rural credit and finance is crucial since one of the constraints to developing agriculture is shortage of capital. For instance, the World Vision Ethiopia and ERSHA gives this as a priority.
7. ***Empowering farmers*** in all aspects should be a higher priority area than introducing imported technologies. Therefore, NGOs should play a facilitation role to build institutions which help to use indigenous knowledge.

8. **Adult education:** considering the low human resources development level of the Ethiopian agriculture which is a major impediment, some NGOs mentioned capacity building for producers by providing adult education and training as one of the priority areas. Some NGOs suggest that the strategy for development should be to change the human mind setting/attitude with the help of formal and informal trainings.
9. **Livestock development:** producing fodder crops, applying a value-chain approach in rearing livestock are among the priorities.
10. **Saving habits:** bringing attitudinal change in terms of improved saving habit of farm households was emphasized as one of the intervention measures. In many highland areas where cereal production is relatively good, farmers earn significant cash income during the harvest seasons. However, the habit of extravagancy and unnecessary expenditure is reported quite often. Improving their saving habit should be considered as one aspect of the extension package for farmers.
11. **Development intervention approaches need to be geared to the wealth status/ asset base of farmers.** This means that and intervention strategies must be related to the farmers' asset base, their needs and adoption capacities . It is a common criticism that extension programs services recommendations have often been undifferentiated and failed to address the specific problems of farmers under different socio-economic and ecological settings.
12. **Effective partnership and coordination of efforts:** in order to bring about a sustainable food security of the country, most of the CSO share the conviction that there should be a coordinated effort among all the stakeholders. Oxfam terms these coordinated efforts as an alliances - alliance between donors, government bodies, local NGOs, international NGOs and CBO. Stakeholders need to coordinate efforts including development funds, expertise, technologies and others to bring sustainable changes in the performance of the smallholder farmers. Hundee and some others believe that building collaborative efforts among professionals, investors, farmers, and service-providing institutions is an important priority.
13. **Impact studies:** in this respect the Association of Ethiopian Agricultural Professionals considers the study and assessment of the problems that arise from export diversification, particularly effects on the environment, effects on welfare of the smallholder farmers and pastoralists and the sustainability of meat production and export.
14. **Agricultural graduates should get the minimum support to encourage rural entrepreneurship and open up their own agri-business.** An issue regarding the allocation of the trained human resources is important. There is a concern, from the personal opinion by the Canadian Hunger Fund (CHF), that the government's strategy of directing all graduates into public sector jobs in the departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD) in the name of strengthening the agricultural extension will starve private sector development. Government should focus on providing regulatory activities in the line department with the minimum possible manpower.
15. **NGOs should focus on knowledge transfer, and innovative activities which have long term effects.**

3.4.2. Priorities specific to pastoral farming systems

1. ***Improving demand side and marketing:*** The pastoral communities, being far away from the central markets are forced to sell their livestock in cross-border markets to the neighboring countries. Research reports show that the pastoral communities get very low prices for their livestock when they smuggle across boarder. Hundee and other NGOs have recognized the fact that the marketing and demand side of agricultural development is the missing link to improve the production and food security of farmers and pastoralists in Ethiopia. AFD gives priority to infrastructure development to improve market functioning. Issues were raised quite often regarding how to formalize the cross-border livestock markets in order not only to protect the rights of the pastoral communities and increase their revenue from sales but also to capture the national tariff revenue from the cross border transactions.
2. ***Land management, natural resources rehabilitation:*** Support for Sustainable Development (SSD) considers that rehabilitation of the vegetation cover of the land is important. In most of the range lands upon which the livelihood of pastoral communities depend, bush encroachment and degradation of pasture lands is widely reported. Hence, proper management of the pasture land and water resources is among the crucial interventions.
3. ***Irrigation:*** irrigated pasture land for pastoral communities is thought to have multiple effects. Not only does it help to mitigate the drought problems that recurrently occur in pastoral areas, but it also increases livestock productivity.
4. ***Improved production system and value-chain approach:*** ranching, producing fodder crops, applying a value-chain approach in livestock production are among the priorities relevant to the pastoral community areas.
5. ***Empowering traditional local institutions and recognizing communal resource ownership rights:*** Action for Development (AFD) emphasizes recognition for communal ownership of land and natural resources, empowering traditional institutions for mitigating conflict management in natural resource management as a priority intervention to improve food security in the dry land areas of the country. Therefore, NGOs are urged to play a facilitation role in building institutions which help to use indigenous knowledge.
6. ***Saving habit:*** bringing attitudinal change in terms of improved saving habit of pastoralist communities was emphasized as one of the intervention measures. Pastoralists do earn some income from sales of their livestock. Beyond using for their basic consumption needs, it is said that they spend quite often for non-essential consumption items like purchase of commodities imported cross-border as contraband. There is a concern that saving some of their cash income would help pastoralists to invest in improving their production system and livelihood. Example, purchase of veterinary inputs is crucial.
7. ***Impact studies:*** in this respect the Association of Ethiopian Agricultural Professionals considers the following issues as the priority areas. Study and assessment of the problems that arouse with respect to export diversification, particularly effects on the environment, effects on the welfare of smallholders and pastoralist households, and sustainability of meat and live animals production and export.

Table 2 Priority areas to improve agriculture in Ethiopia as seen by selected CSOs

WVE	SSD	HUNDEE	ERSHA	AFD
North: environmental rehabilitation, soil fertility management	rehabilitation of the vegetation cover /forest	attention to high value crops	concentration on high value crops	communal ownership of resource should be recognized
South: measures to combat land fragmentation problems	focus on irrigation schemes	micro irrigation schemes by peer groups	developing feed in area with vertisoils	implementation of appropriate land use plan
West: creating market opportunity for producers	avoid cultivating sloppy lands and eroded areas, especially in the north	attention to livestock rearing	ranching and high value crops in SNNRS	traditional institutions should be empowered for conflict management and NRM
	improving means of production	collaboration of professionals, investors and farmers	establishing cereal cooperatives in central highlands	Attention to drought cycle management
		Value-chain approach	paradigm shift in research	infrastructure development

Source: Interview with CSOs, August 2006.

3.5. Agricultural development and food security in Ethiopia: CIDA's perspective

Following a high-level consultation with the government of Ethiopia as well as with the civil society, Canadian stakeholders and Ethiopia's international development partners have confirmed the main orientation of CIDA's bilateral program (CIDA, May 2004, pp 14). This main orientation focuses on food security/ agriculture, and governance /capacity building. These orientations are said to be corresponding to the priority areas identified in Ethiopia's sustainable development and poverty reduction program (SDPRP) and to areas of Canadian comparative advantage. In addition to food security and governance/capacity, CIDA's country development framework for Ethiopia gives important priority to gender equality and HIV/AIDS, the two cross-cutting themes.

CIDA's memo entitled "reflection of food security in Ethiopia" stats that learning from past experiences where bumper crop harvest leading to price collapse was followed by greatest famine since 1984 revealed systematic and structural weakness in the Ethiopian agricultural development and food security system. It was further indicated that this weakness must be corrected by all stakeholders, the government, Ethiopian civil society and its main development partners. One of the implications given in this connections was to overhaul the traditional food aid approaches by a) broadening them to systematically better incorporate other dimensions of food crises like nutrition and health, b) creating greater synergy with development programming in a comprehensive long-term strategy.

Some major principles are indicated as useful guide in the formulation of a truly integrated food security strategy for Ethiopia. These are, creating new options for the poor, empowerment and capacity building, building and sharing the knowledge base, relying on partnership, and achieving gender quality.

Opinion obtained from the local representatives of CIDA shows that learning from the recent development and governance issues in Ethiopia, development assistance needs to look at the balance between how much support and resources should be directed to the government and how much directed to the civil society and private sector. In addition, the issue is also related to the mode of aid delivery- through Canadian NGOs, other donor groups, or the Ethiopian NGOs or the balance combining these. It is also important to look at the balance between short term needs and long-term development direction of the country.

4. Summary and conclusions

Being an agrarian country, Ethiopia relies on the agricultural sector for employment of its large population, food security, export earnings, and raw material support for agro-industries. The significance of the sector is also shown by the fact that the country adopted the 'agricultural development led industrialization' (ADLI) strategy and takes agriculture-centered growth as a way towards poverty reduction and improved food security.

There are some major constrains of the agricultural sectoral that need to be addressed in order to realize the broader goals of agriculture based economic growth, poverty reduction and food security. The sector relies excessively on rain-fed production system thereby facing a high level of uncertainty induced by climatic shocks, is dominated by the smallholder producers that are characterized by low resource base, low technical skill for commercial oriented production, high prevalence of illiteracy, and low infrastructure and market network. Limited access to credit facilities and low saving are among the major impediments to investment in improving the quantity and quality of crop and livestock production. Production system is seasonal in nature with consequent challenges for planning and management of marketing. In addition, the behavioral and culture factors like fasting have a significant effect on livestock and livestock products markets and the capacity utilization of agribusiness and processing sectors.

The CSOs visualize that there are some existing opportunities for improvement of the performance of the agricultural sector and well-being of the farming communities. These include decentralization of governance structure; supportive government policies; overcoming the technology gap; the completion and utilization of some partially developed irrigation facilities; capital needs and access to micro-finance facilities.

This assessment of the CSOs shows that there is some fertile ground for intervention towards the improvement of the agricultural sector and poverty reduction in Ethiopia. However, the CSOs themselves have lots of constraints including capacity and resources and the institutional environment in which they operate as many admit.

The fact that the different CSOs have different areas of intervention and target beneficiary communities show that they see diverse priority areas as regards the interventions needed to improve the performance of agriculture for poverty reduction in Ethiopia. These diverse priority areas also relate to the broader categories of the Ethiopian farming systems- the mixed farming

systems of the smallholder farmers in the highland and medium altitude zones and the pastoral farming systems found in the low land areas of the country.

The priority areas enumerated by the CSO/NGOs can be used as a guide for future intervention by the non-governmental organizations and donor supports towards agricultural development and poverty reduction in Ethiopia. These priorities also fall within the border framework of the government's short, medium and long-term development agenda.

Commentary on the CIDA-Supported Agricultural Development Activities in Ethiopia

Background

Canada's official development assistance (ODA) to Ethiopia comprises bilateral assistance and support to the work of Canada's partners, including international organizations such as the World Food Program, UNICEF, and Canada's many non-governmental development organizations. Canada's total ODA to Ethiopia totaled \$87.6 million in 2003-2004. The overall goal of CIDA's bilateral assistance is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in Ethiopia. The purpose is to support Ethiopia in the implementation of the sustainable development and poverty reduction program (SDPRP), particularly in the areas of food security/agriculture, and governance/capacity building. The food security programme aims both at preventing famine for the most vulnerable and building the capacity of Ethiopian institutions to address food security in a sustainable and gender-sensitive manner. In addition, the CIDA programme aims to promote gender equality throughout all its supports to increase women's access to decision-making. It also underlines that the bilateral programme is in the process of developing and implementing HIV/AIDS mainstreaming plans in all food security and governance programme.

Commentary

This commentary is based on a brief assessment of the current CIDA-supported agricultural development activities in Ethiopia in light of the perspectives of the civil society organizations in agricultural development and their views about the priorities for the development of smallholder farmers and pastoralist communities

1. Among the food security program intervention areas supported by the CIDA project, water harvesting and institutional strengthening in two regions – Tigray and Amhara – is indicated. CIDA's program document also shows that food security is supported through the Nile Basin Initiative, which helps Ethiopia to manage the watershed of its biggest river, the Nile. Water harvesting programs have been high on the Federal as well as regional government agenda in recent years. Water harvesting is a good development promoting strategy in those areas where the major constraint to improved production and productivity is water scarcity. It is quite welcome as a priority area taken up by CIDA's projects focusing on those areas that suffer water scarcity for agriculture. In recent years there were some problems in implementing water harvesting. For instance, in 2003/04 digging ponds to harvest water was given as an instruction throughout the villages of the country. In many places, farmers were forced to do it against their will, eventually leading to the abandonment of the ponds while different options including rivers diversions, spring developments, roof water harvesting, etc would have been possible alternatives to serve the purpose. In the future, CIDA's capacity building and strategy supports should be able to help and advise in correcting the practices of blanket recommendations as far as water harvesting is concerned. Depending on the local circumstances, water harvesting technologies should be diverse and adaptable, not one solution everywhere. In addition, similar intervention could be extended to the south eastern parts of the country where the problem of moisture scarcity and drought have been major livelihood challenges.

2. It is indicated that CIDA's program framework for Ethiopia takes food security seriously, and address it in a relatively comprehensive way. While support for the country's food security is the right strategy, the modalities of intervention have been argued by many including the CSOs. The government and donor's collaborative plan of food security "The New Coalition for Food Security Program" identifies about 220 woredas (districts) in the country as target locations for food security improvement. It is evident that CIDA supports the implementation of this program. Although rehabilitation of the degraded agricultural resource bases, capacity building, asset creation and income diversification of the target communities in food insecure areas are useful interventions, whether sustainable food security in Ethiopia would be achieved without equal attention and adequate support given to the rest of the country is much argued. There are parts of the country with high potential for food and agricultural production. Unfortunately and paradoxically, they are not adequately served with development activities. The CSOs' conference of January 2005 called to give the CSOs perspective on the New Food Security Program has emphasized this issue that the mere intervention through isolation of the food insecure areas will not be a lasting solution for food security in Ethiopia. There were serious concerns about the lack of connection between the food insecure areas and the high potential agricultural areas of the country. Linking the food insecure areas and the potential agricultural areas through food markets and labor movement is vital. This has implications for future donor food security support programs including that of CIDA.
3. Following that agriculture is Ethiopia's priority sector, CIDA's bilateral assistance to Ethiopia also takes agricultural development as a major area of focus towards poverty reduction and sustainable development in Ethiopia. No doubt that agriculture is a priority sector, and CIDA's intervention is right. Nevertheless, two major comments can be made in this respect. First, emphasis on agriculture is not actually backed by adequate national resource allocation. The share of capital budget for the agricultural sector has been low and inconsistent (EEA/EEPRI, 2004/05) ². Even if CIDA is said to be a small donor, it has not put adequate resource given the huge assistance needed. For instance, for three CIDA-supported projects - Ethiopian Strategy Support Program (ESSP) (2005-2009), Ethiopian PRSP (2001-2006), Water Harvesting and Institutional Strengthening in Amhara (2005 – 2011) CIDA gave \$17.93 million. In fact Canada's total ODA to Ethiopia for bilateral assistance and support to the work of Canada's partners, including international organizations such as the World Food Programme, amounted to \$87.6 million in 2003-2004.

The second argument regarding the agricultural development strategy is whether agriculture alone will bring a meaningful economic growth in the country given the overall weak position of the national economy and the structural problems and constraints in the sector itself. Many NGOs and CSOs and other discussion forums shared this debate on the ground that the fast growing rural population is putting the agricultural sector that is dependent on land and natural resources under heavy pressure. The increasing problem of landlessness,

² Between 1990 and 1996 there was a sharp decline of capital budget for agriculture reaching a minimum at 6.4 percent. The later was the lowest in 40 years period. The share has gradually increased starting in the year 1997 reaching close to 23 percent in the 2003. The data shows that the attention and support given to agriculture claimed by the Ethiopian government is not reflected in the capital budget allocated for agriculture (EEA/EEPRI, 2004/2005).

dwindling farm land holding, land degradation and declining soil quality and productivity are among the major constraints to achieving agricultural development. There has been a growing concern that unless adequate and equal emphasis is given to the development of the non-farm sectors of the economy in order to create employment opportunities for the surplus rural labour, the sector will remain in a vicious circle of low productivity and widespread rural poverty. The need for promoting strong linkages between agriculture and the other sectors of the economy is imperative in order for sustainable development and food security to be realized. Without such a linkage creating market for farm products and supplying needed inputs, agriculture will be difficult. Although priority for agriculture is an uncontested logic, given the large rural labour force, widespread rural poverty, agriculture cannot be a panacea for all the problems the country faces. It needs a rethinking of the government and donor strategies. CIDA's future program strategy in Ethiopia should help making efforts to promote a policy dialogue towards a balanced way of improving the national economy by critically analyzing the general development path and the link between agriculture and the non-agricultural sectors, without undermining agriculture's central role.

4. The link between the food security and agricultural development programs in Ethiopia is important. Food security programs have been managed and implemented by different organizations and institutions than those of the agriculture sector development main stream. It is also not clear what components of the national agriculture development programs are supported by the food security programs. At both the Federal and Regional States level, the food security program coordinating institutions are quite often closer to the political bodies than they are to the technical organizations like the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Research Organizations, Water Resources and Irrigations. CIDA in its support for food security should emphasize that the food security objectives for Ethiopia would be better achieved if the program implementation involved the activities of the agricultural extension, research, natural resources management, water resources development, and agricultural marketing as major areas needed for attaining food security, in addition to the other program components.
5. The CIDA program document strongly recognizes that environment and natural resources are the foundation of the Ethiopian economy. It is acknowledged that as a result of rapid population growth, climate and other factors, the quality of renewable natural resources such as land, water and forests has deteriorated, affecting the level of productivity. Land degradation and the associated threats to ecological support systems, with significant impact on agricultural production, is the most serious environmental problem facing Ethiopia today. As the primary food producers and water and fuel collectors, women and girls are particularly hard hit by environmental deterioration - their workload increases and their health deteriorates due to exhaustion and greater exposure to contaminants. CIDA's attention to the maintenance of the quality of natural resources is in line with the priorities indicated by the CSOs. As part of the issue on the basic natural resources for agriculture and rural livelihood, the need for land consolidation measures to curb the landholding fragmentation and degradation problems in many areas of the country like the southern regions is mentioned by some CSOs. They consider the importance of implementation of appropriate land use plan as priority in Ethiopia. CIDA's program areas did not address these issues yet.

6. The Disaster Mitigation Support project assisted by CIDA has introduced a new element to the capacity building programs in the country. Among its components, it has supported the integration of disaster management to the curriculum of the higher education institutions in Ethiopia. The project supports training in disaster management at a bachelor degree level in some university colleges. It is a very relevant project given the fact that Ethiopia suffers many sorts of natural and man-made disasters. The project initiated the idea of capacity building through training professionals who can plan disaster mitigation strategies and copying mechanisms in a coordinated manner. By doing so, this project definitely supports the works of the CSOs, many of whom are concerned with disaster mitigations in their interventions.
7. The Ethiopian Strategy Support Program (ESSP) assisted by CIDA has been implemented during the last 2 years. The project was designed to strengthen policy research community within and outside the government to support the national Coalition on Food Security. This project is relevant in order to strengthen the capacity of policy analysis. However, despite the original plan to involve both public research institutions and the non-governmental ones in the program, the ESSP has been operating with government institutions alone without engaging the non-government ones, except some invitations at conferences or seminars. Given the fact that the non-governmental research institutions are emerging as important development partners in Ethiopia, CIDA could have made sure that the capacity building supports have involved them. On the other hand, CIDA supports the Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) from which the Ethiopian agricultural research organization benefit. The Pan-Africa Programme also supports the African Program for Onchocerciasis Control. It is shown that one million people are infected with *Onchocerca volvulus* (river blindness) in some regions of Ethiopia. The control of river blindness will stop farmers from abandoning the rich agricultural lands adjacent to the rivers currently infested by the river blindness vectors, and promote the repopulation of these same lands. This is a very relevant support from CIDA with its significant effect on improving access to land for agricultural production and food security.
8. Improving Productivity and Market Success: this project supports a pilot initiative, whereby 10 woredas /districts are selected to demonstrate / exercise on productivity enhancing interventions and market access/success. CSOs have stressed research, technology generation and dissemination as one of the priority areas. In this respect this project is relevant to test (through the pilot project) on effective ways of taking the available technologies to farmers operating under different circumstances. However, the project implementing agencies need to be clear about how the lessons/effects from the selected project would reach the rest of the Ethiopian countryside and agricultural communities. Ethiopia had experienced good initiatives in the past, but failed to replicate them on a large scale.
9. A brief summary of the development intervention strategies and activities of Partners in Rural Development (CHF) explains about a Partnership for Food Security (PFS) in Ethiopia, a multi-year relief-to-development (R2D) project implemented in Bati woreda of Amhara Region which has recently entered the third and final phase of implementation. Communities in Bati woreda being a long time dependent of food aid, this phase of the project seeks to promote a shift away from dependency on food aid to building and supporting sustainable livelihoods. It is mentioned that the project involves significant collaboration with various actors, including local NGOs, CBOs, and other donor-sponsored projects to ensure

complementarity and maximize synergies. This project gives a good lesson that it attempts to overcome one of the constraints in development interventions in Ethiopia – the lack of collaboration of actors and missed opportunities of synergies. The CSOs that gave their perspective also consider that coordinated effort among stakeholders is a priority area for agricultural development, poverty reduction and food security in Ethiopia.

10. Despite the notion that public–private partnership is the order of the day at various forums, support for civil society and the private sector in Ethiopia is not much observed in CIDA’s Ethiopia program. The role of the private sector in agricultural service provisions, marketing functions, and food production must be promoted and encouraged leaving the government’s role to important tasks of infrastructure development, regulatory functions, policy matters, etc. Some CSOs have raised such a concern. NGOs and CSOs have now widened their development programs to support for smallholder farmers in technology dissemination, extension and training. Their interventions should be supported as they bring in new ideas and innovative practices albeit on limited scale compared to the government agricultural extension services. For instance, Agri-service Ethiopia, an NGO with over 25 years experience in rural community development, has what is called an Innovative Farmers’ Program, and also introduced and practiced the concept of Farmers Field Schools, as an evolving extension methodology.
11. The following areas indicated by the CSOs as priority intervention areas for the smallholder farms development seem not to be covered by the CIDA program in Ethiopia.
 - a. ***The demand side and marketing***: until very recently, the country’s agricultural development intervention measures have been largely supply-based while the demand side was given less attention. Strengthening the demand side aspects – market functions, employment and income of consumers, agro-processing and value-adding are equally important for agricultural development and food security. There is an information that Canada provided some access to export commodity markets from Ethiopia. Canada’s imports from Ethiopia (coffee and oilseeds) are said to be already duty-free. The CSOs have emphasized production of high value crops, the majority of the volume of which is for export markets. This kind of support by allowing market access is a very important intervention to be encouraged for agricultural development in Ethiopia.
 - b. ***Facilitating access to capital resources***: lack of working capital as well as investment capital is a major constraint to the development of the smallholder farms. CSOs consider that rural credit and finance is a critical input for small farms development and agriculture at large.
 - c. ***Areas of livestock development***: specific interventions in fodder crops production, the application of a value-chain approach in livestock husbandry in order to improve supply for markets are listed as priority areas by CSOs.
 - d. ***Capacity building and behavioral changes***: adult education, empowerment and participation in development affairs, behavioral changes including improved saving habit are important aspects of agricultural development and food security in Ethiopia. Programs and projects that would help achieve these effects are essential.

12. The current CIDA-supported programs/projects in Ethiopia focus much less in the areas of the development of pastoral communities. There might be some contributions through the multi-lateral projects that engage in pastoral areas. Some components of the support for food security program may also reach the pastoral areas. Otherwise, it does not seem that there are projects that support interventions that relate to pastoral areas.

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6. Annex 1. Interviewed organizations/ person(s)

S. No.	Organizations participated in the opinion survey	Person(s) contacted
1	Action for development	Ato Yosef Negassa
2	Agri-Service Ethiopia	Ato Getachew Werku
3	CRDA	Ato Mitiku and Ato Regassa
4	ERSHA	Dr. Getenesh Sintayehu
5	HUNDEE	Ato Alemayehu Diro
6	Oxfam GB	Ato Mulu Tesfaye / Sue le Mesurier
7	World Vision Ethiopia	Ato Assefa Tofu
8	Support for sustainable development	Ato Menberu Melese
9	Ethiopian Organic Seed Action	Ato Regassa Feyisa
10	Mekanyesus church	Ato Sahlemariam Menamu
11	CHF	Ato Michael Assefa
12	CIDA, Addis Ababa	Mr. Marc-Andre Fredette, Head
13	Association of Ethiopian Agricultural Professionals	Dr. Demis Chanyalew
Organizations selected but who could not to participate in the opinion survey		
14	SOS- sahel	Secretariat
15	Save the Children-UK	Secretariat
16	Lutheran World Federation	Ato Abebe Bogale

7. Annex 2: Line of questions

Your experience and area of intervention in the development of smallholder agriculture and food security in Ethiopia?

What are the major policy and practical impediments and constraints to the development of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia?

From your organizations' point of view what are the opportunities to improve the performance, wellbeing and food security of small farming in Ethiopia?

What do you think are the priority areas of intervention to bring about the development of small farmers and rural food security in Ethiopia? Why? What are the roles of different stakeholders in this respect) government, private sector, CSO/NGOs, donors)?

If possible would you like to put the priority (s) on the time framework- short, medium, long-term?

What intervention strategies should be followed to implement the priority intervention measures?

Any other comment (you feel relevant) you would like to make in this respect?

Thank you so much for taking your time and sharing your views!