



PROCEEDINGS

of the 2nd Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
Forum on Responsible Governance of
Investment in Land

29-31, March 2022,
Bahir Dar, Ethiopia



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Organized by
Ministry of Agriculture, Bureau of Land of the Amhara Regional State, and
the Responsible Governance of Investment in Land Project



Abbreviations and Acronyms

AISD	Agricultural Investment Support Directorate
AU	African Union
BDU	Bahir Dar University
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung,
BoL	Amhara National Regional State Bureau of Land
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
BoLSA	Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs
BoWCYA	Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs
CBE	Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EABC	Ethiopian Agricultural Business Corporation
EAILAA	Ethiopian Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency
EBC	Ethiopia Broadcast Corporation
ECCLD	Environment and Climate Change Coordination Directorate
ECX	Ethiopian Commodity Exchange
EFCCB	Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bureau
EHDA	Ethiopian Horticulture Development Agency
EIC	Ethiopia Investment Commission
ENA	Ethiopian News Agency
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GIZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
GLAD	Green Love Appreciative Development
GMbH	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
IA	Investment Agency
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MSD	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
NRLAIS	National Rural Land Administration Information System
OBN	Oromia Broadcast News
OLAUB	Oromia Land Administration and Use Bureau
PDC	Peace and Development Centre
REILA	Responsible and Innovative Land Administration Project
RGIL	Responsible Governance of Investment in Land
RLAUD	Rural Land Administration and Use Directorate
RLLP-WB	Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project_World Bank
SLMP	Sustainable Land Management Program
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNECA	UN Economic Commission for Africa
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests.

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Executive Summary

The second Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue Forum (MSD 02) was held from 29 to 31 March 2022 in Bahir Dar city, the capital of the Amhara region. The MSD Forum brought together 115 representatives of government officials, technical experts, investors, local community representatives, development partners, and the media in order to find solutions to the various challenges in the governance of large-scale agricultural investments in Ethiopia. The three-days MSD meeting included presentations, group work and field visits. Participants identified four categories of critical governance challenges in the land administration sector and proposed corresponding solutions to the identified issues.

These four categories of concerns that urgently require the attention of those authorities, that are directly or indirectly involved in the operations and management of the large-scale agricultural investments, are i) legal framework and policy issues on land administration and land use; ii) land data and information management system; iii) institutional and human capacity development needs; and iv) actor harmonization.

I) Legal framework and policy issues on land administration and land use

The bottlenecks under the legal frameworks and policy category include a breach of the existing land policy and of different laws, due to a lack of awareness of the existing land policies and relevant legal instruments. The MSD participants pointed out that the existing legal frameworks on land in Ethiopia do not encourage smallholder farmers to be potential large-scale agricultural investors. Hence, the participants of the MSD proposed the following recommendations:

- Federal and regional institutions working in the land administration sector should establish harmonized institutional arrangements on land administration and land use issues.
- The Regional Bureau of Land should provide capacity development for those who are working in the land administration sector
- Regional and federal government authorities should establish a clear working procedure and a simple workflow that harmonizes actions among various stakeholders
- Multiple stakeholders and actors should develop joint strategies and perform intensive awareness-raising actions on the responsible governance of large-scale agricultural investment.
- Regional land bureaus should develop a land-use plan proactively before transferring lands to the investors and practice a due diligence process on land-use suitability.
- Regional land bureaus should develop a legal instrument that encourages and upgrades model farmers to potential large-scale farmers.
- The federal and regional bureau of land should develop a comprehensive web-based database and monitoring tool.

II. Land data and information management

system

The second category of obstacles identified by the MSD includes various challenges related to Spatial Data Generation and Information Management. The overall concern basically focused on land-related data quality, information generation, lack of transparency, and poor information sharing platforms. The required spatial data infrastructure/database and human resources to deal with it is very weak. Updating of the spatial data is another challenge mentioned and inconsistency of data was observed in various reports. The lack of clear administrative boundaries of investment lands and related use rights data in some districts is another observed challenge. Besides, lack of transparency and will for information sharing among relevant stakeholders is also an issue.

The forum proposed the following solutions to resolve these issues:

- The MoA in collaboration with relevant stakeholders should establish a platform that serves for information exchange among stakeholders (this could be both web-based and periodical face to face meetings)
- The Federal and Regional Bureaus of Land offices should develop an integrated information system in order to manage the identification, delineation, and transfer of land for large-scale agricultural investment.

III. Limited Harmonization among actors

Actors' harmonization is the third category of challenge. Under this category, identified major issues include the overlap of mandates among various government institutions working in the land sector. As a result, institutions issue contradicting directives, rules, and regulations. The weak regulatory capacity of government institutions and the lack of skilled manpower in the sector are associated with this problem. Lack of efficient monitoring and evaluation system as well as lengthy bureaucracy in transferring land to the investors are important issues that need to be addressed. The MSD 02 forum proposed the following solutions:

- Investment and land administration offices should establish a one-window service and/or develop a web-based online service so that investors can easily apply.
- Relevant government institutions should revise and define clearly the roles of the various stakeholders. The roles of those having similar mandates should be streamlined or consolidated.
- The relevant government offices should improve the management of the land sector by providing a smooth workflow.
- MoA or relevant government offices should develop and set up an integrated and well-coordinated regulatory framework.
- Periodic forum has to be established to bring together all relevant stakeholders to discuss and find out solutions to challenges facing the LSAI.



IV. Human and institutional capacity gaps

Human and institutional capacity gaps in the land sector are the fourth category of barriers identified by the MSD. Inconsistent organizational setups of the land administration sector both at the federal and regional levels are a major issue. Besides, assigning unskilled manpower to the sector is reported. A high rate of staff turnover is a challenge in the land administration sector. The second MSD forum therefore proposed the following recommendations:

- Install a special task force that is accountable to the Office of the Prime Minister and which shall study and redesign the organizational structure of institutions responsible for large-scale agricultural investment both at the federal and regional levels.
- Install a special task force accountable to the Office of the Prime Minister which shall establish an institution that leads the operations of largescale agricultural investment
- Relevant Government authorities should assign the right person to the right position, and organize incentive mechanisms (for example in the form of training) to minimize the rate of staff turnover.
- The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with devel-

opment partners should organize periodical awareness-raising forums for policymakers.

Visibility and Communications

The second Multi Stakeholders Dialogue in Bahir Dar had a wide media coverage both during the opening and closing sessions of the forum. The exhibition corridor created an additional opportunity for stakeholders to display their services and products. In terms of communication and visibility, various street banners and roll up banners branded the venue and major avenues of the Bahir Dar city. In general, the organization, coordination, time management, attendance, participation, and logistical arrangement made the second MSD forum a successful event.



1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In order to promote the benefits of responsible governance in large-scale agricultural investment, the RGIL Project planned to conduct three Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Forums during the lifetime of the Project at three locations in Ethiopia. The purpose of these MSD forums are to raise the awareness of relevant government authorities, large-scale agricultural investors, and local communities, regarding the advantage of managing large-scale agricultural investment in a responsible manner. To this effect, in October 2021 the first MSD forum was successfully conducted in Gambella. The second Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) forum was conducted in Bahir Dar in March 2022. Finally, the third MSD forum is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in early 2023.

The Amhara Regional Government through the Amhara Bureau of Land hosted the second MSD forum. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is implementing the Responsible Governance of Investment in Land (RGIL)

project in cooperation with the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit GmbH). Relevant Government authorities, large-scale agricultural investors, and local communities are the three key actors of the RGIL project. The project is operating to develop the capacities of these three actors.

The RGIL project is co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung, BMZ).





1.2 Objective of the forum

The overall objective of the MSD forum is to bring relevant stakeholders together to enable them to exchange information, establish mutual trust, create cooperation on land governance and support each other on common goals and economic development aspirations.

The specific objectives of the second MSD forum were:

- Develop a clear understanding of responsible governance of investments in land
- Increase specific knowledge on selected topics
- Facilitate open experience exchange between actor groups
- Draw lessons and good practices for sharing among actor groups and participants
- Identify challenges and opportunities for influencing actions at the operational, institutional and policy, and legal levels

1.3 Expected outputs

The expected outputs of the three-day MSD forum are:

- Key challenges identified and opportunities in large scale agricultural investments are being understood and potential solutions are proposed
- Cooperation and mutual trust are established among the three actor groups (government authorities, large scale agricultural investors and local communities)
- System of periodical communication platform among the three actor groups is installed.

1.4 Participants

A total of 115 delegates from various sectors of the society attended the MSD forum in Bahir Dar. These include representatives of government officials, technical experts, investors, local community representatives, academia, research institutions, development partners and consultants, and the media.





2 Opening Session



The opening session of the second MSD forum began with a welcoming remark and messages from the host institution. Representing the host institution, Mr. Sisay Damtie who is the Head of the Amhara Bureau of Land, delivered a welcoming remark. Then, representatives of development partner institutions delivered their opening statements. Dr. Oliver Schoenweger, coordinator of RGIL Project based at the GIZ head quarter in Bonn, Germany, delivered a virtual message. Then, Mr. Christian Messmer, project coordinator of S2RAI and RGIL in Ethiopia, and Mr. Mersha Argaw representing the European Union made statements on behalf of the RGIL GIZ project in Ethiopia and the EU respectively.

A documentary film that was thematically developed for the event was also displayed. The message highlights best practices of export oriented agricultural investment using contract farming as a business model. Finally, on behalf of the Office of the President of the Amhara Regional State, Mrs. Aynalem Nigusie, economic cluster coordinator of the Amhara Regional State, officially opened the second MSD forum. The opening session was concluded by a press briefing and group photo session.

Following the opening session, a team of high-level dele-

gates inaugurated the exhibition specifically organized for this event. The exhibition displayed services and products of various stakeholders of both private and public institutions engaged in large-scale agricultural investment. Basic messages of the opening sessions are summarized below.

2.1 Welcoming remarks by Mr. Sisay Damtie, Head Bureau of Land

Mr. Sisay Damtie, Head of the Amhara Bureau of Land (BoL), welcomed participants of the second MSD forum. In his welcoming remark, he emphasized the contribution of land resources to the socio economic development of Ethiopia in general and the Amhara region in particular. He underscored that the livelihood and the survival of both urban and rural communities of the region depend on the produce of the land.

Mr. Sisay underlined that large-scale agriculture investment is a key development driver and policy direction for it contributes to ensuring food security; encouraging knowledge transfer to smallholder farmers; and enhancing foreign direct investment. He highlighted his bureau's effort in installing a fair and sustainable land administration system in the region. He also informed participants that



Mr. Sisay Damitie, Head of the Amhara Bureau of Land (BoL),

large-scale agricultural investment in the region is being operated on more than 216,000ha of land. In his welcoming message, he shed light regarding the significant role and importance of conducting due diligence before engaging in large scale agricultural investment .

Finally, Mr. Sisay appreciated the Federal MoA and development partners for organizing this MSD 02 Forum and wishes a successful deliberation.

2.2. Statement by Dr. Oliver Schoenweger, coordinator of the RGIL based in Germany

Dr. Oliver Schoenweger is the coordinator of RGIL Project based at the GIZ headquarter in Bonn, Germany who delivered a virtual message. In his statement, he briefed the progress of the RGIL and S2RAI projects from inception up to the present status. He also highlighted the advantages of large-scale agricultural investment for socio-economic development of a nation. Responsible governance of investment in land has inclusive benefits. Not only the investors but also the local communities and the government are beneficiaries of the outputs of large-scale agricultural investment. He has highlighted that the (Support to Responsible Agricultural Investment) S2RAI project has put in place an IT based information systems known as the Commercial Agricultural Management Information System (CAMIS) which supports the inventory and monitor the performance of agricultural investments.

Dr. Schoenweger recalls the major crises in the world such as COVID pandemic, the conflict in Ethiopia and the war in Ukraine and its impact on food supply. These have a significant impact on the agricultural food sector globally with repercussions in Ethiopia as well. Responsible governance in large-scale agricultural investment therefore plays a significant role in meeting food security in the country.

He also noted that the RGIL project is a regional project that is implemented in Ethiopia, Uganda and Laos. He concluded his remark by wishing a fruitful deliberations.

2.3. Opening statement by Christian Mesmer, Coordinator of RGIL

Mr. Christian Mesmer is project coordinator of the RGIL and Support to Responsible Agricultural Investment (S2RAI) Projects of GIZ Ethiopia. He recognized the presence of the host regional government representatives, the EU Delegation and welcomes all participants.

He expressed the objective of the second MSD Forum. It is organized to bring together government officials, technical experts, investors and local community representatives, development partners and the media to weave solutions to the governance challenges on large-scale agricultural investment. Mr Christian lamented that globally in many land transactions local communities do not benefit from large scale agricultural investment due to a lack of safeguarding and consultation mechanisms during the land allocation process. Mismanagement of land resources results in land degradation, food insecurity, disputes and eviction events preventing an inclusive and sustainable development pathway. Hence, he noted that many countries have committed to FAO 's voluntary guidelines for governance for tenure in land, forest and fisheries (VGGT) to pave the way for good land governance. However, he cautioned that there are yet many challenges to overcome these concerns. With its reform agenda, he acknowledged that the government of Ethiopia demonstrated its commitment towards land governance and food security. The principles for responsible agricultural investment and food systems provide a suitable framework for understanding responsible agricultural investment in food systems, he emphasized.

Mr Christian noted that recognizing the rights of local communities, responsible governance in large-scale agricultural investment can enhance food security and create enabling environment for effective agriculture investment. Nowadays, he acknowledged that the concept of RGIL is one of the top agendas in the agriculture sector. He appreciated the commitment of the MoA to systematically address the issue of RGIL. In line with that Mr. Christian disclosed that the RGIL project is also operating in line with Ethiopia's strategies and policy framework. Hence, he added the output of the event would help Ethiopia to design appropriate measures both at the federal and regional levels.

Finally, he wished all insightful deliberations and a great networking experience.



Mr. Christian Mesmer is project coordinator of the RGIL and Support to Responsible Agricultural Investment (S2RAI) Projects of GIZ Ethiopia

2.4. Statement by Mr. Mersha Argaw, representative of the European Union delegation to Ethiopia

Mr. Mersha Argaw, a representative of the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia, on his part delivered a statement on behalf of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia. In his statement, he stressed that land governance is an essential element in achieving inclusive economic goals, sustainable development and food security. In line with this intent, he disclosed that the European Union has shown a commitment to land governance and related issues since 2004. Mr Mersha noted that the EU and BMZ financed the first phase of support to the RGIL Project in Ethiopia from 2014 to 2019 with a total budget of 3.3 million euros with a significant share of the EU.

He reminded participants that the S2RAI project is a similar initiative which is being implemented in the Benshangul-Gumuz region through the delegation agreement with the GIZ. Apart from building the capacity of local government, and commercial agriculture investors, Mr Mersha acknowledged that the S2RAI project produces various important outputs which include IT based database systems known as CAMIS which was piloted in Benshangul successfully. Based on the experience gained from S2RAI, EU and BMZ financed the promotion of responsible governance of investment in land. Currently, the RGIL Project is being implemented in Ethiopia, Uganda and Laos. It was also noted that the project runs from 2019 to 2023 with a total budget of 12.4 million euros and The EU has a significant share of contribution. Mr. Mersha recognized some of its achievements including conducting baseline study on capacity gap assessment, communication and visibly strategy and organizing the first Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in Gambella in October 2021. He trusted that the second MSD would be a success too, and wished fruitful deliberations.



Mr. Mersha Argaw, a representative of the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia



Mrs. Aynalem Nigussie, President Office of the Amhara Regional Government

2.5. Official opening speech by Mrs. Aynalem Nigussie, economic cluster coordinator of the Amhara Regional State representing office of the President of the Amhara Region

Representing the President Office of the Amhara Regional Government, Mrs. Aynalem Nigussie who is economic cluster coordinator of the Amhara Regional State officially opened the second MSD forum. In her opening speech, she highlighted the expected outcome of the second MSD forum will be a contribution towards realizing Ethiopia's endeavor to ensure food security, and to enhance productivity of large-scale agricultural investment in Ethiopia. Part of the Ethiopian government's strategy is for agricultural products to supply industry with raw materials, and she noted that that would help boost the country's economy and while at the same time reducing poverty.

Mrs. Aynalem noted that the region has improved its legal procedure, directives, as well as technical and organizational structure. This endeavor is intended to create an enabling environment for large-scale agricultural investments in the region.

Finally, Mrs. Aynalem expressed the regional government's commitment to modernize the agricultural sector in the region. In this regard, she appreciated the role of the Amhara regional government in encouraging both local and international private investors to participate in large-scale agricultural investment through a lease agreement. She hoped the second MSD would contribute its share in bridging the gap among the three actor groups; investors, local government, and local communities.

She urged upon delegates' insightful deliberations as that would help identify critical gap, challenges and suggest possible solutions. Finally, she acknowledged the participation and support of the BMZ, EU and MOA in making the forum a reality and declared that the MSD is officially opened.

2.6 Presentation of a documentary film on export oriented agricultural investment in Koga

A documentary film specifically developed for the MSD event was shown right after the official opening. The film depicts how an agricultural investor with only 52 ha of land is engaged in export-oriented market. The (Koga Veg Agricultural Development PLC (Koga Veg) investment farm

uses contract farming as a business model and engages various smallholder farmers to plant avocado trees under the technical support of the investor.

The documentary film narrates the good practices of Koga Veg in knowledge transfer and building the capacities of local farmers. Testimonies of local farmers narrated that they are benefiting from the contract farming in terms of income and livelihood enhancement.. The farm also creates job opportunities to local communities.





3 Keynote addresses

After the official opening, two keynote addresses were delivered both by virtual presentations by senior international experts and in a personal presentation by a national expert.

3.1 The status of responsible governance of investment in land: International perspective by Dr. Babette Wehrmann, NIRAS-IP consult

Dr. Babette Wehrmann's presentation noted that large-scale land-based investments by international and national investors are found in all continents globally. She identified land grabbing a reason for violating responsible governance practices and for being one of the major challenges in large-scale farming. She added that such malpractices could negatively affect the local environment and violate local communities' human rights and land rights. She emphasized the need for these investments to be done responsibly so as to curtail such challenges. Her presentation also noted responses of the international community towards land-grabbing. These include awareness-raising by CSOs and the media; negotiation and adoption of international principles and guidelines, regional principles and guidelines; inclusion of the issue into private sector standards, and introduction of the national due diligence act.

Dr Babette reminded participants that the United Nations (UN) issued a guiding principle on business and human rights in 2011 which recently the international law takes on a new dimension. Until then, the human rights framework only addressed state governments. As noted by Dr Babette, in addition to the duty of the state to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights has been established. This duty of the state and responsibility of business enterprises also applies to land rights (VGGT, CFS/FAO 2012): States should recognize and respect legitimate tenure rights, safeguard them against threats and infringements and promote and facilitate their enjoyment; Non-state actors including business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights and legitimate tenure rights.

Responsible Governance of Investment in Land goes beyond the respect of human rights and tenure rights. 10 non-binding UN principles encourage businesses and firms worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and to report on their implementation. The CFS-RAI principles (CFS/FAO 2014) cover social, economic, environmental, cultural, health, and governance issues. The African Union (AU) also responded to the land grabbing challenge at the continental scale by developing guiding principles and codes against land grabbing and

irresponsible governance of investment in land. In 2014 the AU in collaboration with the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa published guiding principles on large-scale land-based investments in Africa. In 2016 the draft Pan-African investment code was also published by the African Union and the UNECA. At national levels countries also developed legal frameworks to address the issue of land-grabbing.

The Vigilance Act by France and Supply Chain Due Diligence Act by Germany are good examples of various private sector-oriented developed standards and frameworks. Dr. Wehrmann concluded her key note with the following three points on the status of RGIL at an International scale. These are: Responsible investment in land is incorporated in international law, particularly in international soft law; it is also partly included in standards by private sector initiatives used for identifying and managing risks, reporting and certification; and Governments in Europe are beginning to legally require corporate social responsibility from their companies and their suppliers, which includes respect for human rights.

3.2. The status of Responsible Governance of Investment in Land in Ethiopia Dr. Achameleh Gash

Dr. Achameleh Gash commenced his keynote address by reminding participants that Ethiopia's economy and the livelihoods of its population are highly dependent on agriculture and the country has abundant agricultural resources and its diverse agro-ecological zones. However, he lamented that the sector is still in its traditional subsistence form. The identified challenges identified by Dr Achameleh included small scale and declining size of holdings, fragmentation of farm plots, low farm input supply, poor extension service, lack of credit service and farm machinery service and poor market service are the main obstacles of the agricultural sector.

He noted that since the mid-1990s the government of Ethiopia has been promoting a strategy to improve food security, increase foreign exchange earnings, and employment opportunities. His presentation also pointed out that a homegrown economic reform plan (2021-2030) embarked recently put the agriculture sector as one of the top priority sectors. Dr Achameleh recognized that the sector aspires to enhance agricultural productivity as a major development driver and strategic pillar. To achieve this goal, he recommended that Ethiopia seeks to leverage on developing huge unutilized arable land and encourage the private sector to engage in the agriculture sector. He also disclosed that as large tracts of land (above 3.5m ha)

suitable for Large Scale Agricultural Investment all over the country were identified and available in the land bank adding that approximately 2.4 million hectares of land have already been allocated to approximately 6,000 foreign and local investors. He also revealed that the government has been also offering incentive schemes such as tax exemption for investors.

The keynote underscored among others that the awareness of international principles and guidelines are very low at all levels and the participation of local communities in land identification and transfer process is almost null. Investors fail to respect local community interests. As a result, the relationship between local communities and investors are hostile, he underscored.

Finally, the keynote message spotlighted the need to conduct tailor-made awareness raising campaigns on promoting CFS-RAI principles, that empower local communities. These include i) incorporating VGGT and CFS-RAI principles in the national and regional legal and policy frame-

works, ii) integrating CFS-RAI principles in the recruitment/evaluation criteria of investment projects, iii) promoting for approval and implementation of the national guideline on CFS-RAI principles, iv) address political decision-makers through policy briefs and familiarization programs.



Dr. Achameleh Gash, keynote message

4 Thematic presentations

During the thematic presentations, three topics were discussed. These were

- VGGT, CFS-RAI, key international frameworks for land governance and responsible investment
- Frameworks for Investors, Tenure Due Diligence—Principles and Practice
- Amhara Agricultural Investment experience

4.1 VGGT, CFS, RAI, Key international frameworks for land governance and responsible investment by Dr Darryl Vhugen, NIRAS-IP consult

NIRAS-IP-Consult Land Tenure Consultant, Dr Darryl Vhugen has delivered a virtual presentation on key international instruments for land governance and responsible investment. These two key international instruments are the VGGT and the CFS-RAI. VGGT was developed and unanimously endorsed by the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in May 2012. The primary objective noted was to improve the governance of the tenure of land, fisheries, and forests. It is a soft law instrument without the force of law primarily for governments but some provisions are aimed at investors. It sets forth basic requirements for responsible governance of tenure, including recognizing, respecting, and safeguarding legitimate tenure rights and the people who hold them; inclusive consultation and participation for indigenous peoples; gender equity and lack of discrimination. It was also noted as it would guide conflict resolving mechanisms and prevents disputes and while providing access to justice.

While discussing on the ways VGGT support to responsible investment, Dr Darryl underlined that businesses should act with due diligence to avoid infringing upon human rights and legitimate tenure rights, contributing to minimum standards for responsible land-based investment. It was also mentioned that as it would help to inform

international best practices as well. He underscored that the guideline would encourage investors to care about land tenure because weak land rights create significant financial, legal, operational, and reputational risks. The other instrument discussed was the CFS-RAI principles. Dr Darryl said that CFS-RAI was approved by the CFS in 2014 and as it is voluntary and non-binding. He added that it's the CFS-RAI primary objective is to promote responsible investment in agriculture and food systems and also noted that it was for the first time that governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, UN agencies, development banks, foundations, research institutions, and academia all agreed on. Such commitment from all relevant stakeholders revealed that the CFS-RAI is broader than VGGT which is limited to tenure. It was also noted that CFS-RAI covers all types of investment in agriculture and food where VGGT is explicitly incorporated into Principle 5 of CFS-RAI. While the overarching values for implementation are consistent both to emphasize support for smallholders, it also stresses the essential role of governments and is the result of a multi-stakeholder and consensus-driven approach. It was also noted that both VGGT and CFS-RAI inform internationally accepted best practices, such as Do-No Harm to food security and nutrition; respect for labor rights, fair wages, poverty eradication; the importance of fostering gender equality, and empowering women and youth. It also informs respect for rights to land, water, forests, and fisheries, Dr Darryl concluded.

4.2 Frameworks for Investors, Tenure Due Diligence – Principles and Practice by Dr Zerfu Hailu, NIRAS-IP, RGIL project country coordinator

Dr Zerfu Hailu, the country coordinator of NIRAS-IP Consult's assignment within the RGIL Project, presented under the topic "Frameworks for Investors, Tenure Due Diligence – Principles and Practice". His presentation underlined that land is a finite natural resource that has



Dr Zerfu Hailu, the country coordinator of NIRAS-IP

4.3 Amhara agricultural investment experience by Mr. Tigabu Belay, agricultural investment directorate director, BoL

Mr. Tigabu Belay, agricultural investment director at BoL in the Amhara Region shared the experiences of BoL. He said that BoL has a mission to increase production and productivity, enhance technology transformation and employment creation by modernizing large scale agricultural investment. It was told as it was one of the key players in the process of land identification and transfer of land to investors. The BoL also plays a supportive role to the large-scale agricultural investors, Mr. Tigabu recognized.

He reminded the gathering that large-scale agricultural investment in the region was started in 1980s in various districts of the region. So far, Mr Tigabu said, 1,485 investors are engaged in large-scale agricultural investment and 195,042 ha of land transferred to large-scale agricultural investors in the region.

The major achievement of his bureau recently was that the profiles of investors are now managed using CAMIS.

Mr. Tigabue also listed the main challenges of large-scale agricultural investment in the region. These included:

- Lack of skilled man power
- Limited utilization of improved technology and agricultural input
- Lack of awareness on the importance of agricultural investment
- Limited infrastructure development (road, water, electricity and telecommunication)
- The problem of security due to conflicts in the neighboring regions
- Information and data management system is under construction, it is not currently fully functional
- Limited agricultural investment and stakeholder coordination



significantly high economic importance. He noted that if land is miss-administered, it may lose its productivity through extreme climate vents such as flooding, poor farming system, overgrazing, salinization, and inappropriate cultivation degrade the productivity of land.

His presentation noted that land administration is a process of determining, analyzing, recording, and disseminating information about land ownership, value, and use of land when implementing land management policies. He added that as it implies that land administration institutions that generate and record land information are service providers to those who need reliable information to make evidence-based decisions. He also highlighted land governance concerns including policies/rules, processes and structures/institutions through which decisions are made about the use of and control over land; how the decisions are implemented and enforced; and the way competing interests in land are managed. Fundamentally, land governance is about power and the political economy of the land, Dr Zerfu underlined.

Due diligence was identified by Dr Zerfu as it is a process or effort to collect and analyze information before making a decision or conducting a transaction so a party is not held legally liable for any loss or damage. He noted that practicing due diligence means gathering the necessary facts to get to a wise and informed decision. He underlined that practicing large-scale agricultural investment without due diligence is the root cause of conflict among the three actors and failure of large-scale agricultural investment. Hence, his presentation emphasized the importance of due diligence, before engaging investors in the large-scale agricultural investment.

Dr. Zerfu concluded his presentation by encouraging forum participants to thoroughly discuss the existing due diligence practices against the existing principles that will enhance responsible governance of largescale agricultural investment in the Amhara region in particular and in Ethiopia in general.

5 Practical experiences sharing

The session focused on sharing experiences, challenges and opportunities of four institutions. Their major points of discussions are summarized below

5.1 Ethiopian investment experience, challenges and opportunities, by Mr. Samuael Assefa , Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC)

On behalf of the EIC, Mr. Samuel Assefa presented the EIC's experiences, challenges and opportunities in the field of large-scale agricultural investment. His presentation discussed Ethiopia's potential for investment among which he mentioned Ethiopia is being Africa's second-most populous country with an active and trainable labor force of 54 million as well as the country's incentive packages for investors and access to international market is an asset to the investment sector.

Mr Samuel listed the major agro-industry sectors in Ethiopia namely; oilseeds, dairy production, animal feed and poultry. Furthermore, he noted that Ethiopia is building mega infrastructure projects to boost investment such as a new electric railway connecting industrial parks to Djibouti port in 4 to 12 hrs travel time, Africa's aviation hub, industrial parks located in economic corridors (Over 20 parks in total) and low Electric rate (3 cents/kWh) are also considered as investment attraction areas. He emphasized the proactive business environment, and fiscal incentives tailored to investment such as exemption from income tax from 3 to 9 years, exemption from duties and other taxes on imports of machinery, equipment, construction materials, spare parts, raw materials and vehicles, loss carry forward and full export duty exemption. Non-fiscal incentives tailored to investment, on the other hand, include a guarantee against expropriation, and a guarantee for repatriation of funds, he noted. Mr Samuel also disclosed that a new One-Stop-Shop Service under the EIC includes licensing and registration; after-care services and facilitation of market linkages.

Scarcity of arable land was among the the critical problems of agriculture in the country, Mr Samuel noted. . In Ethiopia, the scarcity of arable farmland and landlessness increased more than ever in general and is very high in the highland areas in particular, he said.

He further cautioned that the already small-size farmland of a family is further fragmented into very small pieces of land when the children inherit it. This is an impediment to increasing yield and rather leads to poverty and food insecurity, he underscored.

The other challenge mentioned was the negative impacts of climate change. Mr Samuel reminded that Ethiopia is vulnerable to climate change which poses a huge challenge to Ethiopians. Due to this problem, Ethiopia has lost a cumulative level of over 13% of its current agricultural output. More than 85% of the Ethiopian land is degraded to various degrees. In the past three decades, 23% of the land area is degraded based on estimations using satellite

imagery, which could be translated to 54 billion USD of losses in agricultural production, it was noted.

The discussion highlighted other challenges. Crop and animal diseases such as fungi, bacteria, viruses, and nematodes, insect pests, rodents, and birds are common problems in Ethiopia. The maize lethal necrotic viruses, leaf and fruit spot of citrus, bacterial wilt of ginger, and new races of wheat stem rust are some of them. Arthropod pests such as locust fall armyworm African armyworm stalk borer, cutworm, and fruit flies are also challenges in the Agriculture sector. Policymakers, scholars, and relevant institutions should anticipate these challenges and respond timely avail solutions, the presenter urged.

Mr. Samuel Assefa, concluded his presentation, by informing the participants about investment opportunity in the agriculture sector in Ethiopia. He categorized the opportunities into three categories. These are perennial crop production, annual crop production and animal production.

5.2 Agricultural investment experience in the past 10 years and the future 10 years perspective plan by Mr. Alemayehu G/Selassie, Director of AISD, MoA

Mr. Alemayehu Gebresilassie, Director of Agricultural Investment Support Directorate at the MoA, presented the status of agricultural investment experience in the past 10 years. His presentation discussed agricultural investment in Ethiopia specifically, on its achievements, challenges, opportunities and future actions. It was recognized that investment in the agriculture sector in the country is found to be more attractive and profitable in diverse sub-sectors ranging from establishment, expansion, and improvement of existing farms and ranches. The first Five-Year Plan (1957-61) sought to develop infrastructure and human resources and aimed to accelerate agricultural development by promoting commercial agriculture, Mr Alemayehu recognized citing examples in the Awash Valley, Rift Valley, and Humera. Counting on the historical narratives, Mr. Alemayehu noted tha tduring the 1980s socialist regime, large scale commercial farms were brought under state control. At that time, most of large-scale farms were transformed into state farms. Starting from the 1991 Ethiopia followed land rental markets, privatisation policy leading the engagement of private sector in large-scale agricultural investment.

Mr Alemayehu noted that Ethiopia has a huge market potential for crop and livestock production with a comparative advantage to the Middle East, Europe and Asia. He added that expansion of the agro-processing industry and development of Industrial Parks in various regions demanding bulk agricultural products as raw materials. These include oilseeds (sunflower and sesame), cotton, wheat and export crops such as pulse crops (soya bean, munge bean, hair cot bean), coffee and tea, as well food grains such as maize, sorghum and rice.



His presentation noted that low productivity is a result of limited access to improved crop varieties, fertilizers and agro-chemical, poor monitoring and evaluation system, insufficient infrastructures.

He noted that agriculture is one of the top priority areas in the ten-year development plan (2021-2030) of Ethiopia. The agriculture sector is projected to grow 6.2 percent per year over the next ten years, and to achieve this, the GOE seeks to strengthen the development of huge unutilized arable land and modernizing production systems.

Commercial farm cultivated land (for crop, vegetables, fruits) in the planning year 2020 was 986,492 ha and 85 million quintals. The ten-year agricultural development plan (2021-2030) aspires for 4.2 million hectares of land to be developed and 169 million quintals of produce are expected from the private sector at the end of the plan year i.e. 2030. To this effect, it was noted that the ministry has developed a 10 years' land development strategy that aspires to resolve the bottlenecks in the sector.

Finally, he expressed the commitment of the MoA in ensuring the proper development of responsible large scale agricultural investment in Ethiopia in collaboration with relevant stakeholders

5.3 Amhara Investors Association experience, experience, challenges and opportunities by Mr. Mesfin Kiflu,

Mr. Mesfin Kifle, chairperson of the Amhara Investors Association, shared the association's experiences, challenges, opportunities, and future plans. The chairperson introduced the establishment, core values and objectives of the association. The agricultural investors' association in Amhara region was established in 2014, at Gonder city with 42 founding members and 13 executive committee members. The main objectives are i) to reduce capaci-

ty constraints in an integrated manner ii) to contribute for agricultural growth through increased production and productivity iii) to resolve obstacles through cooperation, iv) to establish a sustainable communication bridge between government and investors.

Mr. Mesfin, chairperson of the association outlined the main challenges from three perspectives: government, investors and local communities.

Government

- Limited access to credit
- shortage of technology and input supply
- lack of coordination among stakeholders
- Limited support to agricultural investment
- Poor infrastructure at large scale agricultural farms (roads, electricity, and telecom networks)
- Border conflict and lack of peace and security

Investors

- Could not make Investment as a center of excellence
- investment projects are not led by trained manpower
- could not be entered as per the agreement
- improved agricultural input not widely available

Local communities

- Local community do not work closely with the large scale agricultural projects
- Lack of awareness of the benefit that agricultural investment can have
- Local community developed a dependency syndrome
- When security problems arise, the communities do not protect the properties of the agricultural investment projects

Finally, the chairperson appreciated the Association's commitment to contribute its share in creating an enabling environment that all actors may benefit from the large-scale agricultural investment.

5.4 RGIL project performance in three countries by Lorenz Jenni, International team leader for RGIL NIRAS IP assignment

Mr. Lorenz Jenni, representing NIRAS-IP Consult, presented the firm's technical support to the implementation of the RGIL Project in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Laos. His presentation highlighted RGIL's importance to contribute that investments in land are productive, contribute to sustainable land management, and respect the rights and needs of local populations in particular vulnerable groups and women.

It was noted that NIRAS-IP Consult's contribution in RGIL is mainly awareness-raising and capacity development for the three actors groups. Based on a needs assessment and review of existing international and national reference documents, NIRAS-IP Consult is generating Capacity Development materials including guides, manuals, fact-sheets, and advocacy material. The material will then be used for training curricula development, creating digital solutions, and conducting trainings, work still in progress. NIRAS-IP Consult is also entrusted to support the organisation of three MSD in each country of the RGIL project.

It was also learnt that in Ethiopia, the capacity need assessment conducted in 2021 at the federal level and in Amhara and Gambella regions revealed the need for ca-

capacity development in several fields of responsible governance LSAI. Three manuals, on agricultural extension for large scale agricultural investments, on investor manual on agricultural investment (farm) management, and on conflict management in large scale agricultural investment areas for local communities are being prepared.



Mr. Lorenz Jenni, representing NIRAS-IP Consult,



6 Experience sharing presentation

6.1 Environment and social safeguards in Ethiopian Agricultural Investment by Mr. Kassahun Abate, MoA, Environment and Climate Change Directorate (ECCD)

Mr. Kassahun's presentation noted that environmental management in Ethiopia is grounded on policy and legal frameworks. The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) is an umbrella legal instrument to govern the environment. The concept of Sustainable Development, Environmental Rights, and Environmental Objectives are stipulated in the constitutional article 43, 44, and 92 respectively. He then elaborated the following;

- The Environmental Policy of Ethiopia (FDRE, 1997), stipulates that public and private sector development programs and projects recognize any environmental impacts early.
- The Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation (Proc. № 299/2002), Article 3, stipulates that no person shall commence implementation of large-scale agricultural investment project without the EIA.
- Environmental Pollution Control Proclamation (Proc. № 300/2002) is an important proclamation in regards to pollution. It is promulgated with a view to eliminate or, when not possible, to mitigate pollution as an undesirable consequence of social and economic development activities.
- Labour proclamation № 377/2003 provided elaborate articles on the necessary measure that employers should take to safeguard the health and safety of the workers.

He also discussed MoA's mission in promoting sustainable development of a modern, efficient and competitive agriculture sector. It was said that the Ministry aspires to create a modern and highly productive agricultural system that uses more advanced technology which boost socio economic development. The Ministry is also mandated to promote and support large scale agricultural investment. The aim of promoting large scale agricultural investment is to enhance agricultural export items and avail enough raw materials for the industries. It is useful for import substitute as well, it was noted.

It was recognized that responsible large-scale agricultural investments would create job opportunities, enhances food security, knowledge and technology transfer and bring economic development to the community and improves social services. On the other hand, irresponsible large-scale agricultural investment not only damages the environment but also affects the local community, cautioned Mr Kassahun adding the negative impacts including, deforestation and forest degradation, loss of biological diversity, wildlife depletion, soil erosion, loss of rangeland resources, loss of livelihood, unwise use of agricultural inputs (agrochemicals), unsafe Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) situation.

Mr. Kassahun briefed participants that his office has reviewed more than 92 agricultural investment projects and trained agricultural investors and experts on Social and

Environmental Code of Practice (SECoP) on commercial agriculture. Inconsistent institutional arrangement is observed to be a major challenge. Different organizational structures are found in different regions. Besides, low capacity human resources, budget and logistics constraints, lack of integration among stakeholders are some of the challenges.

Finally, he recommends i) capacity development trainings for ECCCD, regional and woreda experts, ii) awareness creation events for stakeholders' investors and local communities, iii) SECoP/ESIA should be put into practice.

6.2 Machinery lease procedures and Agricultural Mechanization, by Helmut Spohn and Teshome Soressa

Mr. Helmut and Mr Teshome representing the consulting firm GFA Consulting Group, presented the practical experiences of the German Development Bank's (KfW) Machinery Lease and Agricultural Mechanization Project. They briefed the participants on the objectives of the project which are to i) strengthen the financial sector ii) establish the financial product of leasing in the market, iii) expedite the import of long-lasting and adequate agricultural machines. They argue that project action supports the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) by building internal capacities required to offer leasing for agricultural machines and implement it in a sustainable manner. It was also noted that as it would contribute in improving the sustainable access to finance through leasing of agricultural machinery lease.

The project target groups identified were Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) working in agriculture, agricultural services providers, private enterprises, cooperative associations and youth groups. The project avails machinery lease services both to large-scale agricultural investors and smallholder farmers.

The implementation of leasing machinery services involves relevant stakeholders and development partners including the GIZ and MoA, it was emphasized.





6.3 Ethiopian Textile industry develop Experience (experiences, challenges & opportunities) by Samson Assefa,

Mr. Samson discussed the global scenario in cotton production and in Ethiopia as well. He reminded the gathering that cotton has been grown and used in Ethiopia for a century. Spinning and weaving is still well widespread for traditional cloth and home textile. In 1962 Ethiopia established the Awash Valley Authority to promote large scale commercial cotton production. Mitchell cotton group (UK) set up the Tendaho cotton plantation S.C. The whole cotton and textile sector was nationalized in 1974. Starting from the year 2000 state farms and ginneries were privatized.

It was mentioned that cotton textile sector is among the top priorities of the government of Ethiopia. It creates jobs for youth and a means to earn foreign currency. Huge investments in the textile and garment sector have increased the country's capacity in textile, garment and apparel value resulting in greater demand for lint cotton. Therefore, a consistent supply of cotton at the right quantity, quality and price is critical for the sustainability and competitiveness of the textile sector

Mr. Samson also briefed participants the status of cotton production in Ethiopia.

- There are 21 installed ginneries but only 16 of them are operational.
- The installed total ginning capacity of the 21 ginneries is 200,000 to 300,000 tons of seed cotton per year. Out of 21 installed ginneries 17 are equipped with saw gins and 4 with roller gins.
- Ethiopia added more value than any other sub-saharan Africa country to the cotton textile value chain. 20 installed spinning mills with a processing capacity exceeding 100,000 tons of lint annually. 10 new textile mills investments are in pipelines demanding lint cotton of 100,000 tons per year

He also listed some challenges in the textile sector. These were:

- Minimal attention to the sector
- Minimal coordination between stakeholder/Organizational problem
- Research is inadequate and underfunded
- Availability and limited use of inputs is (Chemical, Quality of seeds)
- Man-made factors (security, land-use rights)

- The poor marketing platform
- Labor shortage during (weeding, picking)
- Poor infrastructure (irrigation infrastructure, Power)
- Lack/improper utilization of cotton investment finance
- Knowledge gap in crop-management and pest control
- Limited use of available potential land/low investment
- Ginneries use very outdated equipment, (affecting lint quality)
- Poor Cotton quality (production, harvesting and post-harvesting techniques)

Mr. Samson concluded his presentation the vision and future plans of the textile sector. He said increasing productivity and improving quality is a top priority for improving the competitiveness and profitability of the cotton and textile sector in Ethiopia. He noted that the long-term strategy of Ethiopia is to be self-sufficient in lint cotton supply and export the eventual surplus production.

6.4 National Responsible Agricultural Investment Guideline (NRAIG) by Birhanu Negash, MoA, expert in AISD

Mr. Birhanu is an expert at the MoA presented the status of National Responsible Agricultural Investment Guideline currently prepared. He discussed Ethiopia's potential for agricultural investment and its multidimensional benefits. Gambela and Benshangul regions' have transferred to investors huge amount of land for agricultural investment. Reports and available literature indicate that about 2.4 millions ha of land was transferred through lease modality for 6,000 national and foreign investors.

He discussed the need and objective of having available a National Responsible Agricultural Investment Guideline. He added that the Guideline is aimed at enabling stakeholders of agricultural investment to participate in decision-making process as well as to jointly define priority issues and to solve bottlenecks in the operations of large-scale agricultural investment. He noted as well that it would guide to modernize the land transfer system.

He disclosed that the guideline will be implemented in all regions in Ethiopia. It will serve as a practical guide that supports both national and international large-scale agricultural investors. He informed the gathering that the guide is applicable to all types of agricultural investment areas that include crops, horticulture and livestock.

6.5 Amhara investment and Industry Bureau by Yohannes Amare

Mr. Yohannes commenced his presentation by explaining that the agriculture sector in the Amahara region is well known in producing raw materials for industrial development. These agricultural produce also contributes to import substitution, foreign exchange earnings and employment opportunities in the region. Mr. Yohannes argued that the investors are attracted to invest in the region as a result of the suitability of the investment environment. The region agro-climate is suitable for fruits and vegetables, coffee, Strawberry, flower, livestock, and agro-processing. Therefore, he suggested that the prime task of the region is to encourage large-scale agricultural investors to invest in the region.

Mr. Yohannes briefed that the regional government so far has transferred 1071 ha of land for fruits and vegetables, coffee, flower, strawberry and irrigation scheme investment projects through lease arrangement. The region identified about 20,000 ha of land that can be transferred to agricultural investment projects. He also mentioned that the region allocated 302 millions ETB for infrastructure development supply particularly for prioritized sectors such as fruits and vegetables, coffee, flower, and strawberry.

He also identified the livestock development as the other fertile ground for agricultural investment in the region. Mr Yohannes further explained the details mentioning the following;

- There are 6,318,446 cattle, 10,386,223 sheep, 6,883,316 goats and 16,827,657 chickens in the region.
- The region also has abundant water resources that the agricultural investment sector may use wisely.
- There are 497 rivers in the region which are suitable for irrigation.
- There is 17,593 ha of irrigable land.

He then discussed the contribution of access to credit as being an instrument in creating an enabling environment in the region, mentioning as example that agricultural investors benefited from the credit arrangement about 271,691,361 ETB by the year 2021. Moreover, he appreciated that investment incentives for agriculture investors are free for 2 to 15 years from profit tax while 3 to 9 years from revenue tax and investors in fishery investment will pay only one per cent of royalty tax. On top of that he noted that agriculture investors are also permitted to import capital goods duty-free. Infrastructure supply also serves as an incentive for the agriculture investors in the region, Mr Yohannes noted adding that forest investment can get free land for 25 years.

He said that the region approved a license for 25,206 investment projects starting in 1992/93. Out of which 18% are agricultural investments. He also presented the major achievement in the region. He recognized the improved attention bestowed for agriculture investment both from the regional and federal governments. He mentioned that establishment of special support and incentive mechanism get proper attention, land supply, and foreign currency supply from 2009 to 2014 years and noting as well 83,840,270.08 USD is given for flower and fruit investment

and industrial input supply.

He also presented the investment challenges in the region, as follows;

- The first challenge the government service and institutional arrangement is not in the interest and need of investors to make them competitive.
- Lack of agro-processing inputs. The incompatibility between demand and supply of land, unable to supply to agricultural investments that has a significant contribution to regional macroeconomics.
- Unable to avail land free from a third person.
- Keep fencing investment land for many years without doing anything.

He also pinpointed service improvement, coordination among stakeholders and solving the financial and infrastructure challenges of investors as the solution to the problem. Finally, his presentation concluded by indicating creating ease of doing business to attract genuine investors, fulfil sufficient land, energy supply, road, water supply etc. to identified investment destination areas. Encourage private sector participation in decision-making processes, he recommended.

6.6 Experience in Agricultural investment impact assessment by Abebe Molla, Amhara Environment, forest & wildlife protection Authority

Mr. Abebe's presentation argued that the cause of environmental problems is rapid population growth, unsustainable resource use, poverty, not including the environmental costs in the market prices. His presentation highlighted that Ethiopia has a wonderful legal framework on environment in Ethiopia. These legal instruments include:

- The Ethiopian Constitution 01/1987 which mentions environment protection.
- The Ethiopian Environmental impact assessment proclamation no 299/1995,
- the environmental pollution control proclamation 300/1995,
- industrial pollution control directives 159/2001,
- criminal law 414/1996,
- solid waste management proclamation 513/1999,
- electric and electronics waste handling and disposal directives 425/2010,
- industrial chemical registration and administration proclamation 1075/2010,
- dangerous waste handling and disposal control proclamation 1090/2010.
- ANRS environmental proclamation 181/2003,
- ANRS Tana Lake and surrounding biodiversity protection and administration directives 125/2008,
- ANRS cottage industry proclamation no 232/2008 and
- ANRS environmental impact evaluation manual 001/2010.

He however lamented that though the legal instruments are already there, many agricultural investment projects could not implement the environmental and social impact assessment studies developed at the inception of the project. Investors used the environmental and social impact assessment as access to credit, not really to protect the social and environmental impacts. The other challenges are agricultural investment projects expand their land illegally. The relevant government authorities lack in monitoring and evaluation of those environmental and social impact assessment studies, he lamented.



7 Technical field visits at selected agricultural investment farms

The second day of the afternoon session of the second MSD forum was fully dedicated to a technical field visit. The shuttle buses specifically arranged for the visit took the MSD participants to the Koga Irrigation and Dam Project area. The location of the field visit site is found some 45-kilometres South of the city of Bahir Dar, west Gojam Zone at north Mecha Wereda. The flow of water canal from the Koga Dam, and the green plantation scenery downstream of the dam look impressive. The Koga dam harvests water during the rainy season. Local farmers and investors enjoy this resource to produce various kinds of crops, vegetables, and fruits both during the dry and rainy seasons. The Koga Dam has the potential to irrigate 7,000 hectares of land. The technical visit identified three farm sites for the visit.

The first stop was at the Koga Veg farm. The farm manager and other staff of the KOGA VEG farm welcomed MSD participants and briefed them regarding Koga Veg's farming practices, the types of productions, and how the Koga Veg farm collaborates with the local household farmers through a contract farming business model. After visiting various spots of the Koga Veg, participants learned that the Koga Veg farm is operating its investment in a responsible manner. Some of the best practical examples of the farm include the following:

- The Koga Veg farm is developing the capacities of smallholder farmers through various pieces of training
- The Koga Veg farm has introduced new technologies and transferred skills and knowledge to the local smallholder farming communities
- The Koga Veg farm uses drip irrigation at its nucleus farm.
- The farm efficiently and effectively using its 52 ha of land
- The farm buys produce from smallholder farmers through contract farming agreements and exports.
- Currently, local farmers are enjoying the economic benefits through a contract farming agreement with Koga Veg farm.
- The observed number of young girls and boys working on the farm indicates that the Koga Veg farm creates job opportunities for the local communities.
- As compared to other locations in Ethiopia, investors and local farmers are operating in harmony at Koga Veg.

The farm manager highlighted that agricultural input supply and accessibility is the major challenge in their farming operations. Infrastructure and logistical issues are also another challenges observed at Koga Veg. Especially during the process of harvesting, packing, and exporting. The visit at the KOGA VEG farm concluded and visitors were directed to the next visit site.

The MSD forum participants moved to the second selected farm. The farms belong to the local smallholder farmers who have started planting avocado trees for the ex-

port market. Participants observed the local farmers' wise practice of planting various crops in between the avocado trees. Because avocado production for the export market takes some years before harvesting the fruits, local farmers didn't spend idle those years. As a transition from annual crop to perennial avocado fruit production, the local farmers produce various vegetables and crops in small spaces between the avocado trees rows. This intercrop strategy supported local farmers to sustain their families until avocados reach the age of fruiting. The Koga Veg farm provides follow-up and advice at various stages of the avocado farms so that local farmers meet the standard and protocol of avocado fruits for the export market.. When the avocado trees are matured enough and start producing, the farmers stop planting annual crops in between the avocado trees rows. Instead, they plant grass to protect the soil against erosion and as well as to feed their cattle. Participants were impressed by the practical wise actions of local farmers on the ground.

Finally, the MSD forum participants moved to the avocado farm of Mr. Necho, an agricultural investor. Mr. Necho, briefed visitors by comparing the two plots of avocado farms. The one has a drainage system and the other farm has no drainage system. The participants of the MSD draw lessons on how avocado production can be damaged by missing a drainage system, practically observing the damages on the field. The investor showed participants the two sites of his avocado farms. The one which has drainage is observed in a good condition. The other one which has no drainage system is damaged and dried. Mr. Necho noted that missing a piece of simple expert advice may result in a huge loss. Currently, he has made a drainage system on his damaged farm and plans to plant new avocado seedlings.

Mr. Necho showed visitors some kind of disease affecting avocado plants on his farm. The observed avocado disease is an alert and early warning for the government authorities and researchers to find solutions for the avocado tree disease at this infant stage. Otherwise, the disease may spread to other locations and may cause serious damage nationwide. Some participants' recalled the recent damage to mango farms in Ethiopia.

The investor noted that the road to the farm is a serious challenge. Especially, during the rainy season, the mud prohibits vehicles from entering the farm site. As a result, the collection of avocados is done using donkey carts. Consequently, the quality of avocados does not meet the standard and protocols of the export market. Hence, he urged responsible authorities to resolve these challenges. The field visit was concluded as per the schedule. MSD participants returned back to Bahir Dar on time.



8 Working group sessions to weave solutions to the challenges



The third day of the morning session was dedicated to working group discussions. The MSD deliberations identified four key categories of issues in relation to responsible governance of investment in land. These are legal issues, data management, capacity development, and actor harmonization. MSD participants were divided into four groups and elected their chairs and rapporteurs. Based on their experiences and expertise, MSD participants joined one of the four groups where they contribute the most. The four groups are listed below:

- Group 01: Land administration & use policies, legal frameworks, and international principles of RGIL
- Group 02: Spatial data generation and information management
- Group 03: Human and institutional capacity issues
- Group 04: Actors' harmonization for agricultural investment effectiveness

The aim of this session was to bring together like-minded participants to dig in-depth and identify challenges in their specific topic of the group, propose possible actions to resolve the challenges, assign responsibility to the relevant institutions and actor groups, and finally present at the plenary session for further input.

The rapporteurs of each group presented their key findings to the plenary. The observed challenges, proposed possible actions, and recommendations in relation to the four key categories of gaps on RGIL. Summaries of each group's presentations and findings are presented as follows.

8.1 Working Group 1: Land administration & use Policies, Legal frameworks, and International principles of RGIL

The focused group discussions have come up with various challenges in the area of land administration and land use policies, legal frameworks, and international principles. The groups have also proposed possible actions to be taken, assigned to relevant institutions and actors. The table below summarizes their findings.

Identified challenges and issues	Possible actions	Responsible actors
Violations of the existing land policies at various levels	Establish harmonized institutional arrangements on land administration and land use issues.	Federal and Regional authorities in the land administration sector
	Provide capacity development actions for those who are working in the sector	Bureau of Land
Lack of awareness of land policies and legal instruments	Establish a working procedure for harmonized and coordinated actions among stakeholders	Regional and Federal authorities
	Strategize and perform intensive awareness actions on RGIL through knowledge products	Multiple stakeholders, and actors
Some policy documents are copied from foreign countries	Revise the existing land policy so that it considers the local situation in Ethiopia.	Policymakers
Transferring lands to investors without analyzing the status of the land	Practice bottom-up approach in policy creation process on land administration and management issues	Bureau of Land Bureau of Investment
	Develop a land-use plan proactively before transferring lands to the investors – practice a Due Diligence process on land use suitability analysis	
Large scale agricultural investments do not encourage smallholder farmers	Develop a legal instrument that encourages and upgrades model farmers to potential large scale farmers	Bureau of land
Lack of enough land use data	Develop a well-organized database and regulations for investment in land	Policymakers Bureau of land

8.2. Working group 2: Spatial Data Generation and Information Management

Following a thorough group discussion, working group two identified various challenges on spatial data generation and information management in Ethiopia. The team also recommended possible actions and also suggested relevant implementing institutions and actor groups. The table below summarizes the list of challenges, possible remedies and recommendations.

Issues and challenges	Possible actions	Responsible actors
Data collection, data quality, updating data, transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct verification on the ground • Engage IT systems to manage the spatial data management system. • Fit for purpose land administration system (Data capturing, data updating, etc.) • update database continuously • Perform periodic land audit 	Land offices (kebele, woreda, zone, region, federal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investor associations • Projects that work on land • Universities on land use planning, LA • CSOs/ civil society organizations • Zone, Regional administrative offices • Bank
Human resources (both turnover and lack of capacity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize capacity development actions • Revisior of Job grad rrg 	Land offices (kebele, woreda, zone, reg on, federal)
Lack of Data/ information sharing among institutions	Establish a platform for information exchange (both web based and face to face meetings)	Integration between land office and other Sector offices (MoA, MoTr, Bank, ...)
Incorrect data/ Report sharing Unknown data/ information between administrative levels	Establish an integrated information system a. all levels (like NRLAIS)	Land offices at different levels

8.3 Working group 3: Human and institutional capacity concerning RGIL

The focused group discussions of group three addressed human and institutional capacity development issues in the operations of large-scale agricultural investment in Ethiopia. The team identified various human and institutional capacity challenges. The team also recommended possible actions. The table below summarizes the teams' findings and recommendations.

Issues and challenges	Possible actions	Responsible actors
Data collection, data quality, updating data, transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct verification on the ground Engage IT systems to manage the special data management system. Fit for purpose land administration system (Data capturing, data updating, etc.) update database continuously Perform periodic land audit 	Land offices (kebele, woreda, zone, region, federal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investor associations Projects that work on land Universities on land use planning, LA CSOs/ civil society organizations Zone, Regional administrative offices Bank
Human resources (both turnover and lack of capacity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize capacity development actions Revision of Job grading 	Land offices (kebele, woreda, zone, region, federal)
Lack of Data/ information sharing among institutions	Establish a platform for information exchange (both web based and face to face meetings)	Integration between land office and other Sector offices (MoA, MoTr, Bank, ...)
Incorrect data/ Report sharing Unknown data/ information between administrative levels	Establish an integrated information system at all levels (like NRLAIS)	Land offices at different levels

8.4 Working group 4: Actors' harmonization for agricultural investment effectiveness

Members of the group four have thoroughly discussed the issues concerning actors' harmonization for agricultural investment effectiveness in Ethiopia. The team have identified various bottlenecks and provided possible recommendations that may resolve those identified challenges. The team has also assigned possible actors who could translate the recommendations into workable actions. Their findings are summarized in the table below.

Identified challenges and critical issues	Possible actions/ recommendations	Responsible authority
A lengthy process of land transfer for agricultural investment	Establish one window service Develop a web-based online service	Investment, land office, and other regulatory bodies
Overlap of mandates among several government institutions	Revise and define clearly the roles of institutions having related mandates. (either condense or merge them) Establish a strong institution that has a smooth workflow	All stakeholders
Resource/Skilled manpower and mandate fragmentation	Condensing institutions having a similar mandate Establish a strong institute with a smooth workflow	Institutions and other concerned offices
Contradicting directives, rules, and regulations among stakeholders involved in the sector	Establishing a platform that harmonizes and synergizes stakeholders' roles and involvement in the land administration sector	Relevant stakeholders
Weak regulatory capacity of government institutions	Establish an integrated and well Strengthened regulatory framework	concerned stakeholders
Inconsistent laws on land and agricultural investment at Federal to grassroots (Woreda) levels	Harmonize laws, legal frameworks, and working processes at all levels (Both the federal and across all regions)	Policymakers in the Federal and Regional governments
Poor financial allocation from the government side and mismanagement of allocated funds from the investors' side	Perform strong feasibility study, evaluation, and appraisal mechanism Establish an integrated and synergized regulatory system Establish a transparent loan approval procedure	Financial institutions
Land identification and delineation are not done prior to the investor's request.	Proactively identify, delineate and organize available land for agricultural investment (in an integrated manner by involving all relevant stakeholders)	Regional land offices
Poor monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of institutions	Establish a strong and integrated monitoring and evaluation system	Concerned body
The majority of agricultural investments are not using skilled manpower in their operations	Avail intensive training in on-farm management practices for investors. Develop linkage mechanisms and platforms whereby investors, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and research institutes collaborate with each other.	Regulatory bodies and institutions
Lack of agricultural investment extension services for the investors	Establish an institution responsible for agricultural investment extension services Avail intensive training in on-farm management practices. Establish a platform whereby investors, TVET, and research institutions collaborate with each other.	Agricultural offices





9 Conclusions and Closing Session

The advisor to the state Minister, head of the Amhara BoL, and Director of AISD at the MoA were invited to take the high table for the closing session. His Excellency Mr. Sileshi Getahun, the advisor to the Minister chaired the closing session. He expressed an apology on behalf of H.E. Dr. Sofia Kassa, the State Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture who was expected to attend the closing session of the MSD. However, due to other competing urgent assignments, she couldn't make it.

Then, the advisor commended the efforts of the four groups for identifying various challenges, bottlenecks and proposing possible solutions as recommendations on the four major categories of identified issues. The three days' deliberations dived into various challenges, best practices, and weaved possible solutions together. The chairperson underlined that the group's recommendations would be an input for the nation's development plan in the agricultural sector. He expressed his Ministry's commitment to take up and work on those identified challenges and the realization of those recommendations into action.

Before the official closing statements, the chairperson invited participants to contribute any missing elements during the focus group discussions and opened for discussions. The following additional inputs were proposed by various participants in the room.

- The trade component is a key missing element in this MSD. The representative of the Ministry of Trade sheds light on the trade impacts of the usage of chemicals as an agricultural input. For example, due to the usage of certain chemicals in the agricultural production processes (land preparation, production, and harvest), the export market is affected negatively, unable to meet the export quality protocol due to chemical usage.
- Though the ultimate destination of large-scale agricultural investment is local food security and the export market. The presentations at the MSD 02 missed the

trade aspect of agricultural investment and recommends including challenges and best practices of the Ministry of Trade.

- Assigning the right professionals in the land administration sector is crucial. The participant highlights the importance of ICT based monitoring system and recommends large-scale agricultural investment sector utilize an ICT based system to monitor and evaluate the practice from the highest government structure to farm-level practices.
- In order to enhance the productive capacities of large-scale agricultural investors, there should be continuous advisory and technical support based on the various status and situations of investors (infrastructure).
- The recommendations for focus group discussions focus only on government responsibility. But, the investors and local communities also play a significant role. So, they should be added to the recommendations.

9.1 Remark by Mr. Alemayehu Gebresilassie, AISD Director at the MoA

Mr. Alemayehu Gebresilassie, Director at the MoA in his closing remark noted

- The Ethiopian government understands the crucial importance of large-scale agricultural investment for the socio-economic development of the nation.
- Identification, delineation and transfer of land for agricultural investment is the responsibility of the regional governments in Ethiopia. At the Federal level, the MoA supports regions in this sector.
- The ten years' development plan of Ethiopia aspires to develop 4.2 million hectares of land for large-scale agricultural investment. Responsible governance in large-scale agricultural investment is mandatory for the economic development of Ethiopia.
- The Ministry in collaboration with development partners provides capacity development actions to support large-scale agricultural investment.

- Discriminations in accessing loan from financial institutions based on the size of the number of hectares to be discussed with relevant authorities and financial institutions.
- Informed participants regarding the new responsibilities of DAs' in providing advisory services to the large scale agricultural investors as well. The government upgraded the status of DAs' and added responsibility mandates in their terms of reference so that they provide advisory services to large scale farmers in their respective districts.
- Developing an irrigation scheme is another key policy direction that increases the productive capacity of agricultural investment.
- In the upcoming MSD forum, we expect various challenges to be resolved and to witness best practices.

9.2 Remark by Mr. Sisay Damtie, the head of the Amhara Bureau of Land

Mr. Sisay, head of the BoL at the Amhara Regional Government, appreciated the active participation of all actor groups, investors, development partners and local communities who have attended the event. The MSD forum at Bahir Dar raised issues that support policymakers, researchers, investors, consultants and local community representatives to play their respective roles in addressing the identified challenges synergistically. The head of Amhara BoL in his remark underlines the following points.

- In order to resolve the identified challenges in relation to responsible governance in large-scale agricultural investment, the Amhara BoL is committed to integrating the proposed action items in its operational plan and continuously monitoring their implementation.
- The Amhara region has organized a dedicated bureau that handles agricultural land issues. The Amhara BoL has various directorates in it.
- Cadaster is fully implemented in 75 Woredas/ districts.
- 75 districts rural lands database are functional and practicing land transactions and this need to be scaled up.
- The implementation of land registration and certification benefits local farmers for access to loan from rural financial institutions.
- The Amhara BoL is trying to minimize lengthy bureaucracy in a transparent manner (open bid). And horticulture, and flower farming proposals will be submitted to the board and get approval.
- The Amhara Bureau of Land has gaps in conducting due diligence activities in the process of land identification, delineation and transfer.
- To mitigate conflict between investors and local communities, there is still more due diligence to be done. Amhara BoL is attempting to identify the overlap of land between investors and local communities.
- There is an investment board that coordinates at the regional level. This approach needs to be cascaded to the district level.
- Though there are model investors, there are some investors instead of fully utilizing their land in a productive manner they are renting the land to local farmers. This kind of Forums will resolve such kinds of issues.
- Academic and research institutions will support the

productivity of large scale agricultural investment lands through participation in this kind of forum and hearing the challenges directly.

- The Amhara BoL cannot transfer land to the investor directly. There are investors who wish to get land directly without passing through an open bid system.
- The land is a precious resource; the Federal government organizational arrangement should be redesigned to properly support land related issues at the national scale and provide support to regional land bureaus. Currently it is a small directorate inside the MoA. Regions like Oromia, Amhara and Tigray have merged urban and rural land administration. The Federal government has to take this into consideration and restructuring is essential.
- Organizational structures that handle land matters varies from region to region. There must be consistent organizational structures in all regions to support and cooperate each other.
- Such kinds of multi stakeholders' dialogues are to be conducted periodically.

9.3 Official Closing Statement by Mr. Sileshi Getahun, the advisor to the Minister of MoA

The Advisor to the Minister in his closing remark highlighted the following major point:

- The findings and outputs of this forum will be properly documented and will be integrated in the operational plans of relevant authorities.
- Agricultural investors are expected to be more productive using various farming technologies so that they can contribute to the economic development of the nation.
- There are some agricultural investors who has acquired huge farmland from the government and abuse the resource.
- Large-scale agricultural investment is crucial to building the local economy by producing inputs to the agro-processing industries, local market, and export market.
- The government expects a significant change in this sector, and corrective measures will be taken against those who operate in an irresponsible manner.
- The government is crafting policy directions on how the private sector can chip in in enhancing large scale agricultural investments (it could be agricultural input supply, or agricultural extension service).
- The government is similarly working on indiscriminate access to finance both by smallholder farmers and large scale agricultural investors.
- For the success of a responsible agricultural investment, the government, agricultural investors and the local communities should collaborate and operate responsibly.
- Investors should employ professionals to enhance their productivity.
- Investors organize themselves so that they can work in an organized manner.
- Investors should respect their social responsibility.



- Data collection from district to Federal level is an important activity and it has to be supported by an IT system.
- Regional government authorities need to support the identified model farmers in their respective regions so that they can be more productive and upgraded to large scale agricultural investment.
- Government from the federal up to the district level (Kebele) should revisit its organizational structures, efficient workflow, enhance human and technological capacity, so that seamless efficient services are provided for the sector. Avoid lengthy bureaucracy.
- Let investor lead their operation with professionals with appropriate additional extension support from the public.
- Usually, when we talk about the largescale agricultural investment we tend to focus on crop production only. We need to encourage livestock as well.
- In order to harmonize the interaction between local communities and investors proactive recurrent consultative meetings have to be organized by relevant government authorities. This will minimize conflicts that may lead to damage. When public unrest arises the local community tends to protect the properties of

- the investor.
- Supporting the opinion of the Amhara BoL head, the advisor to the state minister reiterated that the organizational structure at the Federal level in supporting land administration and land use is minimal. It needs to be revisited strategically.
- Such kind of important MSD forums are being organized with the collaboration of development partners through projects. The government needs to continue with the MSD with its own resources.

The advisor concluded by giving his thanks to the organizers of the second MSD forum in Bahir Dar. The MoL, Amhara BoL, the GIZ, and the RGIL Project officially closed the three days MSD Forum.

Finally, the Amhara BoL has awarded recognition certificates to individuals and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the land administration sector in the region.









**Draft of the program for the second Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue forum
Amhara National Regional Stat. Bahir Dar (29-31/2022)**

DAY 1 – (29/03/2022)

Duration	Agenda Items	Indicative Time	Presenters	Facilitators
08:00 – 12:00	Opening Plenary		Presenter	
	Registration	08:00 – 08:00	Organizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • GIZ RGIL • NIRAS-IP
	Introducing this program	08:00 – 08:05	Moderator	
	Welcome note and objective of the forum	08:05 – 08:10	Ato Sisay Jarabe ¹	
	Statement G Z RGIL Addis	08:10 – 08:15	Christian Weisner ²	
	Statement by GIZ RGIL Home office	08:15 – 08:20	Dr. Oliver Schoewig ³	
	Statement by FU	08:20 – 08:25	Ato Mersha Argaw ⁴	
	Statement by DWZ	08:25 – 08:30 08:30 – 08:35	Ms Laura ⁵ WFO	
	Statement by the Amhara president office		Aynalem Ygusie ⁶	
	Opening speech	08:35 – 08:40	Guest of honour	
	Film – Farmers' transformation (Annual to Perennial production, cereal to fruit)	08:40 – 08:50	Organizers	
	Group photo	09:00 – 10:00	Organizers	
	Exhibitions	10:05 – 10:50	Organizers	
	Coffee break/press conference	10:50 – 11:00	Organizers	
Overview (Keynote speech 1) – The status of Responsible Governance of investment in Land (International perspective)	11:00 – 11:30	Dr. Babette Wichmann ⁷		
Overview (Keynote speech 2) – The status of Responsible Governance of investment in Land in Ethiopia	11:30 – 11:40	Dr. Achamiekh Gessu ⁸		
Discussion	11:40 – 12:00	Participants		
Lunch break	12:00 – 02:00		Organizers	
02:00 – 03:30	Thematic Plenary			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • GIZ RGIL • NIRAS-IP
	Key international frameworks – VGGT, OHCHRAI (Human rights frameworks) Social and environmental safeguards)	02:00 – 02:20	Jerry Whagon (PhD) ⁹	
	Frameworks for investors (Tenure due diligence – theory and practice)	02:20 – 02:40	Zerfu Hailu (PhD) ¹⁰	
	Amhara – Agricultural Investment experience (Bureau of Land)	02:40 – 03:00	Tigseu Beay ¹¹	

¹ Amhara Bureau of Land, Head of the Bureau

² Coordinator GIZ RGIL project, Addis Ababa office

³ Home office coordinator for B2R4 RGIL project

⁴ FU representative

⁵ Representative from Germany Embassy, Addis Ababa

⁶ Amhara Region's former governor

⁷ International representative of NIRAS-IP project

⁸ Lecturer at LA, Bahir Dar University and chairman of the land administration professional association

⁹ International representative of NIRAS-IP project

¹⁰ Country coordinator for RGIL NIRAS-IP Association

¹¹ Amhara Bureau of Land, Director for agricultural investment Directorate

Time	Agenda items	Indicative Time	Facilitators	
	CoTee break	08:00 – 08:30	Participants	
	Experience stemming from practice – Session one			
08:00 08:30	Federal Investment Commission – Ethiopian investment experience, challenges and opportunities	08:30 – 09:00	Ato Samuel Assefa ¹⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • GIZ-RGIL • NIRAS-IP
	Agricultural Investment Support Directorate (AISD) - Agriculture Investment experiences in the past 10 years and the future 10 years perspective also Amhara investors' association – Experiences, experiences, challenges and opportunities	09:00 – 09:10	Ato Alemayehu Gezilias ¹⁹	
		09:10 – 09:30	Ato Mesfin Kiflu ²⁰	
	RGL project performance in three countries General reflection/discussion	09:30 – 09:50 09:50 – 10:30	Lorenz Jenn ²¹ Participants	
Day 2 (30/09/2022)				
Time	Agenda items	Indicative Time	Facilitators	
08:00 12:00	Environment and social safeguards in Ethiopian Agricultural investment experience	08:00 – 08:30	Ato Kassahun Abate ²²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • GIZ-RGIL • NIRAS-IP²³
	Amhara President office Delivery Unit Experience (experiences, challenges opportunities and future directions)	08:30 – 09:10	Teahay Asmam ²⁴	
	GFA consultant on Machinery lease procedures	09:10 – 09:30	Teshome sereyesa ²⁵	
	Agricultural Mechanization	09:30 – 09:50	clm: Epehr ²⁶	
	Ethiopian Textile industry development – Experiences(experiences, challenges, opportunities and future directions)	09:50 – 10:10	Samson Assefa ²⁰	
	National Responsible Agriculture Investment Guideline(NRAIG)	10:10 – 10:30	Simeon Negash ²⁷	
	CoTee break	10:30 – 11:00		
	Amhara investment and Industry Bureau	11:00 – 11:20	Yohannes Amare ²⁸	
	Amhara Environment, forest & wildlife protection – Experience in Agricultural investment impact assessment	11:20 – 11:40	Ababa Molla ²⁹	
	Discussion	11:40 – 12:00		
Lunch	12:00 – 01:00		Organizers	
	Field Program		Organizers	
	Field visit to (Agp/Ag) farm and discuss the farm management and actual field level discussion		Organizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • GIZ-RGIL

¹⁸ Ethiopian Investment Commission

¹⁹ Director, Agricultural Investment Support Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture

²⁰ Chair Man for Amhara investors' association

²¹ International team leader of the RGL/NRAS II assignment

²² KPA, Environment and Climate Change Directorate

²³ Amhara President Delivery Unit

²⁴ GFA - consultant

²⁵ GFA - Expert

²⁶ Ethiopian textile industry

²⁷ KPA expert in AISD

²⁸ Amhara bureau Investment and Industry

²⁹ Amhara Authority for Environment, Forest and Wildlife

Get in to the buses	01:00 - 01:30	Organizers	• MIRAS-IP
Travel to the farm and arrive at the campsite	01:30 - 02:10	Organizers	
Welcome by Farm owner and presentation at the campsite (stop 1)	02:10 - 03:00	Organizers	
Drive to the seed multiplication site and discussion (stop 2)	03:00 - 03:30	Organizers	
Drive to the smallholder's Avocado production site and discussion (stop 3)	03:30 - 04:40	Organizers	
Drive to the private investor's Avocado production site and discussion (stop 4)	04:40 - 05:30	Organizers	
Drive back to Bahir Dar	05:30	Organizers	

DAY 3 (27-03-2022)

Time	Item		Responsible	
08:30-09:00	Group formation and discussion		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • GIZ-RCIL • MIRAS-IP 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives and agenda of the session • Group formation • Group discussion 	Participants		
	Orientation and group formation	08:30 - 09:00		
	Group discussion	09:00 - 10:00		
	Coffee break	10:30 - 11:00		
	Group presentation and discussion			
	Group one	11:00 - 11:20		
	Group two	11:20 - 11:40		
	Group three	11:40 - 12:00		
	Group four	12:00 - 12:20		
	Lunch	12:20 - 01:30		
	Final Plenary session	01:30 - 03:30		Ato Sileshi Genetum, Advisor to the state minister Dr Sofia Keese, State Minister for Agriculture Investment and Input
	Closing with a closing remark	03:00 - 04:00		



Annex II

Group 01: Land administration & use policies, legal frameworks, and international principles of RGIL

Group 02: Spatial data generation and information management

Group 03: Human and institutional capacity issues

Group 04: Actors' harmonization for agricultural investment effectiveness

No.	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	group 4
1	Dereje Demeke	Mengesha Degu	Endeshaw Demelew	Getnet Fekade
2	Ashete Demelew	Nigus Berhane	Alamerew Nigusse	Tazebew Abebe
3	Gashaw Fete Halew	Ager Ademu	Desalegn Awana	Yibeltal Mulat
4	Mulualem Milmile	Muhammed Umer	Amare Challe	Amare Eriy
5	Tadesse Desta	Teju Abebe	Takele Sewyehuin	Endalew Bazezew
6	Yeshemeget Shigute	Teshome Yete	Berhanu Beweket	Eneyew Abuhaye
7	Destaw Molla	Mara Mulugeta	Ayelegn Habte	Getachew Tilahun
8	Atezegeb Asnakew	Geore Aschalew	Mesfin Tadesse	Ermias Yifred
9	Asnakew Teklemariam	Meheretu Fekade	Desta Aneley	Alamerew Sneta
10	Kindehin Agezew	Adamu Abiye	Abera Bazezew	Feleke Genetu
11	Tafere Aschagre	Yigermal Worku	Banlie Tadese	Belachew Alamneh
12	Melesew Dagne	Getnet Mekuriaw	Animaw Mekonnen	Temesgen Zewede
13	Yibeltal Adamu	Tefera Zewdie	Kuimlachew Aytenfisu	Fshet Demelew
14	Wondimeneh Zewdie	Necho Worku	Abiyot Biru	Mengist Endalew
15	Mesfin Kiflu	Belayneh Yenesew	Tefera Ayalew	Miraf Habtewold
16	Metalem Fentahun	Mengistu Beyessa	Kassahun Abdeta	Birhanu Negash
17	Tibebu Amare	Kasahun Abate	Beza Dejene	Prof. Yihenew
18	Sheferaw Gobez	Habtem Leweyu	Samuel Asefa	G. Selassie
19	Girma Tadesse	Samson Asefa	Mitiku Bekele	Mulugeta Alemayehu
20	Yodit Endalew	Berhanu Nigusse	Mitiku Bekele	Jemberie Workneh
21	Gedion Negash	Dr. Achamyeloh Gashu	Belachew Yrsaw	Muluken Ayinesnet
22	Habtamu Mengesha	Agazie Getahun	Birhanu Fenta	Wondie Tassew
23	Daniel Dawero	Sisay Damte	Endris Abdu	Getachew Alamrew
24	Kenenia Deksiso	Sisay Damte	Gizalew Anbachew	Abebe Molla
25	Melkamu Abernam	Fekadu Abay Akele	Yamerot Tilahun	Belste Fetene
26	Dr. Alemayehu Kehede	Gebeyaw Aemro	Aynalem Nigusse	Horiegn Birku
27	Fikru Takele	Getahun Tamnie	Fskalem Nigusse	Chalachew Asmamaw
28	Tigabu Belay	Yelayal Demes	Melkamu Tefera	Yordanos Zelalem
29	Abay Simachew	Kindachew Sitarg	Gedamu Mersha	Temesgen Yimer
30	Yitayew Wassie	Mikreselassie Advane	Tilahun Tesfa	Getnet Taye
31	Arcuaalem Alemayehu	Desalegn Merberu	Demewoz Abebaw	Wedaje Tekeba
		Teferi Engeda	Temesgen Achenif	Workie Ab'tew





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