

Project summary

RAISE-FS: Resilient Agriculture for Inclusive and Sustainable Ethiopian Food Systems



What is RAISE-FS

Resilient Agriculture for Inclusive and Sustainable Ethiopian Food Systems (RAISE-FS) is a four-year program funded by the Dutch Embassy in Addis Ababa and hosted by Stichting Wageningen Research Ethiopia based in Addis Ababa, to bring about transformation in the Ethiopian food system. RAISE-FS will develop and implement a demand-driven and interdisciplinary approach to Research for Food System Transformation (R4FST) and as such contribute to the Government of Ethiopia's transformational agenda.

Vision

RAISE-FS envisions more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems in Ethiopia.

- **Resilient** to biophysical and economic shocks
- **Inclusive** of women, youth, smallholders, low-income communities and marginalized groups
- **Sustainable** environmentally, socially and economically

Theory of Change

The RAISE-FS Theory of Change (ToC) adopts the food system approach analysing the drivers and food system activities that contribute to the transformation of the food system by addressing leverage points, resulting in increased productivity, enhanced value chain performance and improved human nutrition for improved food security while minimizing environmental impact and ensuring social inclusion.

Three food systems

Three food systems with relevance to Ethiopia are considered:

- Low potential, food-insecure (non-commercial)
- High potential, moderately food-secure (semi-commercial)
- Commercial orientated food systems

RAISE-FS will work on understanding the mechanisms and creating evidence of how rural households can increase their livelihoods or step-up the food system.

Five primary outcomes

The programme specifically works to achieve five specific interrelated outcomes that can ensure demonstrated evidence to promote, resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems in Ethiopia.

The outcomes are:

- i) Social and economic empowerment of women and youth in food systems increased
- ii) Efficient and environmentally sustainable production increased
- iii) Sector performance and value chains enhanced
- iv) Availability of safe and nutritious foods increased
- v) Enabling environment for system change enhanced



Approach

The programme is in alignment with the Dutch government's development assistance strategy- aid and trade policy.

The pathways of influence of RAISE-FS are linked to the role of Wageningen University Research (WUR) and its implementing partners as knowledge institutes that foster technological innovations and contribute to the knowledge agenda, targeting on Research for Food System Transformation (R4FST) and oriented to:

- i) identifying testable innovations in policy, practices, and institutions from both national and international experiences
- ii) testing and validation of relevant innovations together with local implementing partners
- iii) demonstration of evidence of innovation,
- iv) engage with collaborating and scaling partners for institutionalization and mainstreaming, and
- v) scientific documentation lessons to contribute to science.

Building on the success of Bilateral Ethiopian-Netherlands, Efforts for Food, Income and Trade (BENEFIT), RAISE-FS will follow a commodity approach. Accordingly, spices and herbs, oilseeds, potato, pulses, poultry and food security crops have all been identified through a robust process and with inclusion of a variety of stakeholders.

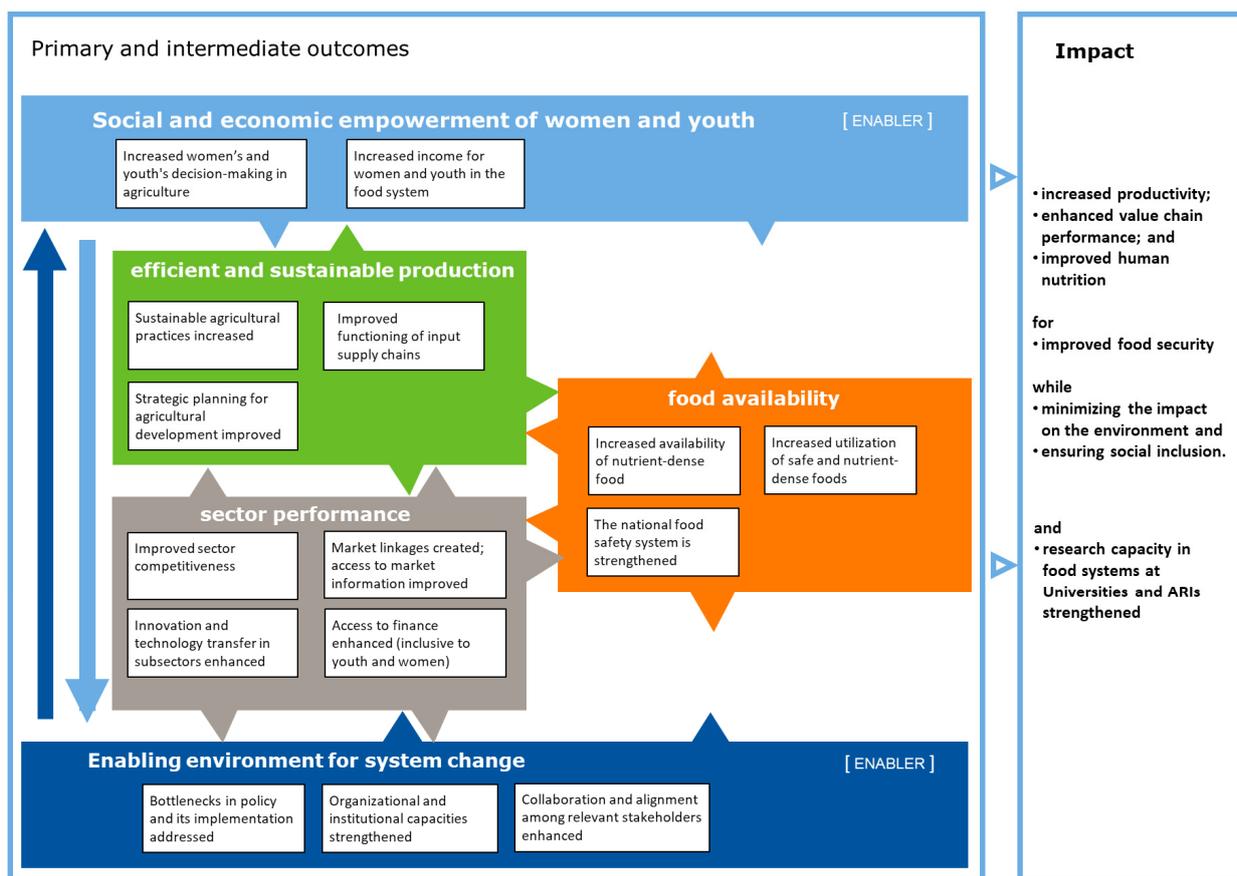


Figure 1: RAISE-FS outcomes and impact

Where is RAISE-FS present?

RAISE-FS works in four regions of the country: Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray. It targets about 35 woredas and addresses the key systemic bottlenecks in a demand driven manner. Each region will have its own focus:

Food system	Tigray	Amhara	Oromia	South
Commercial orientation	Pulses	Oilseeds	Spices & herbs	Poultry
High potential, moderately food secure	Potato, sorghum	Potato, teff	Potato, poultry	Potato, pulses
Low potential, food insecure	Food security crops	Food security crops	Food security crops	Food security crops

Implementing partners

- Four Universities: Bahir Dar University, Haramaya University and Hawassa University. Mekelle University will join in 2023.
- Five research partners: Amhara Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI), Oromia Agricultural Research Institute (OARI), South Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) and Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) at the Federal level. Tigray Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) will join in 2023.

Collaborating and scaling partners

In addition to the direct implementing partners RAISE-FS will collaborate with potential scaling partners. These are

- The flagship programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture
- Development partners such the World Bank;
- For the commercial section of the food system with both the public sector and the private sector, specifically with the private associations and the commodity platforms; and
- NGOs such as SNV, SHA, GIZ, IFDS

For more information, please **contact** either:

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