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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## ETHIOPIA COUNTRY DIAGNOSTIC CASE STUDY

Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in Africa, with a population of approximately 118 million (2021), and it boasts the fastest-growing economy on the continent. Nevertheless, grapples with challenges, among which is climate change, which is hindering the advancement of efficient food systems for the growing population. The Ethiopia country diagnostic document highlights the country's priorities, gaps, and opportunities to accelerate support toward climate-resilient, equitable, and inclusive food systems.

The Climate Resilient Food System (CRFS) Alliance launched country diagnostics in 2022, with the first batch of countries comprising Ethiopia, Fiji, Belize, and The Gambia. These reports aim to facilitate resource mobilization and the exchange of best practices amongst countries. These case studies consider the country's Nationally Determined Contributions,

These case studies consider the country's National Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, Food System Pathways, and other relevant national strategies relating to food and climate change.

The Ethiopia Country Diagnostic Report sheds light on the country's food system in its entirety from the point of production, consumption, and distribution, considering the status, challenges and opportunities that exist.

It scrutinizes current climate risk and variability and other stressors highlighting a highly vulnerable food system as the farming system is mostly reliant on rainfed agriculture. The report emphasizes the interconnected challenges of Ethiopia's food system, clearance of natural forests, overgrazing by livestock, water pollution, and increased use of agrochemicals.

The economic and livelihood repercussions of climate change on the food system are profound. The diverse agro-ecological zones in Ethiopia pose different levels of to climate change impacts. Drought is one of the major climate hazards in Ethiopia, with significant impacts on agricultural productivity and related impacts on incomes, food security, and nutrition. Most of the recent drought and food crisis events have been geographically concentrated in two broad zones of the country, with the eastern and northern parts of the country being the most vulnerable.

Ethiopia aims to achieve middle-income status by 2025 while developing a climate-resilient economy. Agriculture is an integral factor in achieving this, through the implementation of the Agricultural Development-led Industrialisation (ADLI) since 1991. These initiatives include improving agricultural extension services, land, and water resources management, enhancing accessibility to financial services, market access, and rural infrastructure.

At different governance levels, policies and plans are incorporating agriculture designed to help Ethiopia mitigate and adapt to climate change for resilience and improve food security. Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) integrates climate change adaptation into long-term development focusing on enhancing food security and agricultural productivity.

The NAP's primary objective focuses on enhancing crop and livestock productivity, improving water availability, and implementing organic farming practices.

Improvement of agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resource management are some of the key 18 adaptation options identified by the NAP. Ethiopia submitted its nationally determined contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2016, and formally submitted an updated NDC in 2021. Sustainable agricultural practices have been emphasized and prioritized in the NDC with an overall objective of enhancing food security through climate-smart agricultural practices.

Ethiopia is guided by other critical documents such as the 10-year development plan, Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy, Growth and Transformation Plan II Focus, National Policy on Disaster Risk Management, and the Green Legacy Initiative which scrutinize different facets of ensuring effective food production and consumption in the country. The Government of Ethiopia launched the Ethiopian Food Systems process in 2020 to define Ethiopia's vision and pathway for national food systems transformation. Ethiopia's food system pathway aligns with existing policies and programs for comprehensive food system reform. It focuses on the holistic transformation of food systems for improved nutrition and resilience.

Building and strengthening the capabilities of agricultural institutions is essential in bolstering food security in the country. The government has laid out elaborate institutional support for the agricultural sector. Two primary distinct institutions are shaping the overall agricultural development at the national level – the Ministry of Agriculture and the Natural Resources (MoANR) and Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA). The MoANR is responsible for overall policy development and implementation, and ATA is mandated to take a strategic and holistic perspective on how to transform the agricultural sector. Additionally, with the existence of a large research network, a few CGIAR institutes, and NGOs working on climate resilience and agriculture projects, this presents a good opportunity for enhancing Ethiopia's efforts in climate-resilient food systems.

Nonetheless, gaps exist in the implementation of climate-resilient food systems in the country. A comprehensive assessment by this Country Diagnostic Report highlights limited data collection, reliance on rainfed agriculture, weak stakeholder engagement, issues in accessing climate finance, limited access to information and technology on agriculture, and a lack of systemic approaches to food challenges. The proposed entry points for the CRFS Alliance include building and maintaining a database on the impacts of climate change for agro-climatic zones vulnerable groups and ecosystems.

Incorporating climate models, providing predictions and scenarios, including validation with on-the-ground historical data, and the level of certainty. Finally, fortifying engagement and involvement of non-state actors, including professional societies, development partners, and donors, to strengthen the coordination among national stakeholders and regional counterparts.