Kingdom of the Netherlands

TRANSFORM
TRANSFORMING SOILS, EMPOWERING FARMERS

Transform Soil Fertility Management in Ethiopia (TRANSFORM)

Annual Report 2025



IFDC · WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH · ISRIC World Soil Information · SOS SAHEL ETHIOPIA · EOFF Environment and Coffee Forest Forum

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACSO	Agency for Civil Society Organization
ATVET	Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CASCAPE	Capacity Building for Scaling Up of Evidence-Based Best Practices in Agricultural Production in Ethiopia
CROPP	Central Repository on Project and Programs
DA	Development Agent
DST	Decision Support Tool
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
ISFM	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
MELS	Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Sharing
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NSIS	National Soil Information System
PIP	Participatory Integrated Planning
RARIs	Regional Agricultural Research Institutes
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TRANSFORM	Transform Soil Fertility Management in Ethiopia
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association

Executive Summary

The 2025 Annual Report for the Transform Soil Fertility Management in Ethiopia (TRANSFORM) program marks the successful completion of its inception phase and the transition into full-scale implementation. The program established its core governance and operational frameworks, including the recruitment and training of national and regional experts. A major milestone was the official national launch on April 3, 2025, followed by regional launches.

The program achieved significant output-level results across its four strategic components. Under Component 1, the Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) approach was customized for the Ethiopian context and rolled out to 12 woredas, reaching over 10,000 community participants. This phase included the selection of 48 Kebele Vision Committees, the design of vision maps and action plans, and the selection of 1,440 PIP Innovators, with notable social inclusion as women and youth represented 55% and 81% of committee leadership, respectively.

Strategic advancements were also made in developing a vibrant soil input sector and strengthening research-extension linkages. The program mapped the private sector value chain, identifying 17 diverse enterprises for future business development, and established 16 soil health-focused Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to address financial barriers. For research, TRANSFORM capacitated over 130 experts in digital soil mapping and fertilizer formulation, while operationalizing the National Soil Information System (NSIS) to support evidence-based agricultural planning.

Despite these successes, the program faced challenges such as restrictive cultural norms affecting women's participation and logistical hurdles due to national import bans on fuel-engine vehicles. In response, the program utilized adaptive management strategies, including the development of a gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) handbook and a shift to locally assembled vehicles. Moving into 2026, the program aims to build on this foundation by formalizing multi-stakeholder platforms and scaling sustainable integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) practices.

1 Introduction

The Transform Soil Fertility Management in Ethiopia (TRANSFORM) program is a collaborative initiative funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the European Union. In 2025, the program completed the inception phase, including the establishment of management structures, recruiting and training of staff, and development of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Sharing (MELS) framework. Organizational tasks included finalizing partnership agreements with consortium members, signing operational agreements with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), registering the program with the Agency for Civil Society Organization (ACSO), and carrying out the program launch and promotion at all levels. In addition, TRANSFORM managed to get field work organized in 12 woredas (four kebeles each) in the regions of Amhara, Central Ethiopia, and Oromia (Figure 1).

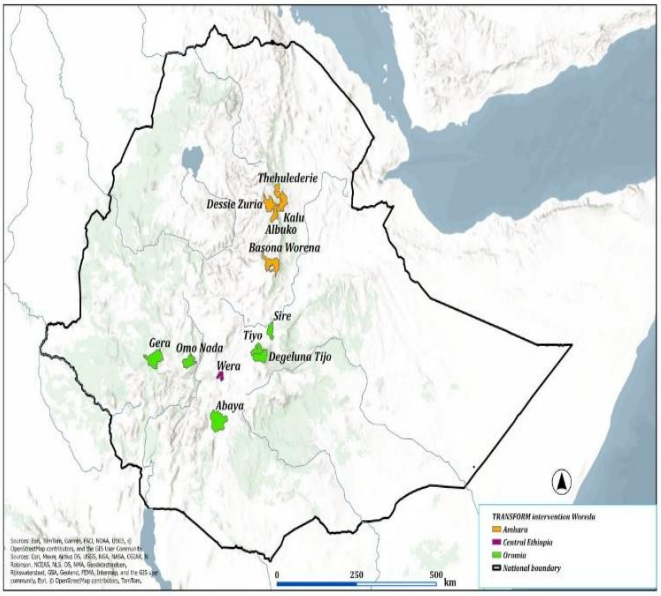


Figure 1. TRANSFORM Implementation

Program targets were originally designed for a seven-year implementation period. Given the current four-year time frame, the program anticipates achieving around 50% of the planned outputs. Ambition levels for outcomes, and particularly impact, will needs to be revised later in the program.

2 Results Achieved

The TRANSFORM program was in its inception phase for most of the first three quarters of 2025. A key objective in 2025 was to conduct a comprehensive baseline and thematic assessments to inform subsequent activities. These included a baseline study for the program targets, gap assessment of current extension practices, mapping of private sector involvement in the soil health and fertility management supply chain, and an evaluation of existing research-extension linkages and the enabling environment for soil health and fertility. Furthermore, specialized analyses on gender, youth inclusion, conflict sensitivity, and climate change adaptation and mitigation to ensure the program's interventions were done.

This section is organized by program components. Although there were no specific targets set for 2025 against which results and deliverables could be evaluated, the Results Framework (output level) is presented for each component to allow a comparison of targets with early-stage achievements.

2.1 Customizing Extension Services and Empowering Farmer Households (Component 1)

2.1.1 Participatory, Bottom-Up, and Gender Inclusive Extension Services

TRANSFORM aimed at capacitating 1,000 Development Agents, 120 Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) teachers, and 80 ATVET students and extension staff on participatory extension approaches and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) techniques. Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP) is a strategic approach designed to incorporate the local context and the specific needs of small-scale producers. To prepare for a participatory rollout, the program customized PIP modules to the Ethiopian context and conducted comprehensive training to strengthen the team's behavioral and facilitation competencies. These sessions built the capacity of 71 TRANSFORM team members across the implementing consortium, creating a unified institutional foundation for customized extension services.



Figure 2. TRANSFORM team participating in capacity building training on the PIP approach

The **PIP approach** is implemented through four distinct phases:

1. **Preparation Phase:** TRANSFORM staff are capacitated on the PIP approach.
2. **Introduction Phase:** The PIP approach is introduced to key stakeholders.
3. **Institutionalization Phase:** Communities create PIP visions and action plans at household, group, and community levels, focusing on application of ISFM practices.
4. **Embedment Phase:** Finally, the PIP approach and ISFM practices are institutionalized.

The program trained 138 Development Agents and 89 agricultural experts (25% women and 67% youth) on participatory extension and ISFM, reaching 23% of the overall target. This rollout successfully established the institutional foundation for scaling the PIP approach across the program's target areas.

Table 1: Component 1 output level indicators and 2025 results

Result Chain	Indicator	End-of-Program Target (7 years)	2025 Result
Output 1.1 Participatory, bottom-up, and (gender) inclusive extension services	Number of Development Agents and extension staff capacitated in participatory extension approaches and ISFM techniques (directly reached)	1,000 (30% women and 30% youth)	227 – 90% of the 2025 target (25% women and 67% youth)
	Number of ATVET teachers capacitated in inclusive, bottom-up, participatory extension approaches, soil health and fertility practices, and data use, collection, and management	120	In 2025, curriculum review was planned and has progressed well during the reporting year;

Result Chain	Indicator	End-of-Program Target (7 years)	2025 Result
	Number of ATVET students capacitated in inclusive, bottom-up, participatory extension approaches, soil health and fertility practices, and data use, collection, and management	80 (30% women and 30% youth)	however, no capacity building training was planned.
Output 1.2 Collective action of small-scale producers and communities to restore and conserve soil health and fertility	Number of small-scale food producers capacitated through producer-to-producer training (gender and age disaggregated)	100,000 (30% women and 30% youth)	1,440 (27.9% women) The 2025 target was to capacitate 30 PIP Innovators in each of 48 kebeles.
	Number of woredas implement collective soil health and fertility extension practices	32	12
	Number of kebeles with a kebele vision for land management improvement	128	48

At the preliminary stage, the program engaged influential community, cultural, and religious leaders to introduce the TRANSFORM initiative and the PIP approach. These leaders expressed strong enthusiasm and commitment, confirming that the program's objectives directly address critical local concerns regarding soil health and fertility management. This participatory process mobilized over 10,000 participants, resulting in the creation of 48 vision maps and joint action plans, supported by a newly established leadership core of 15 Kebele Vision Committee members and 30 endorsed PIP Innovators per kebele. Notably, the initiative achieved high social inclusion with women and youth (age <35), representing 55% and 81% of committee leadership, respectively, laying a solid foundation for market-driven and community-led soil health interventions. Overall, implementation of PIP Module 1 was completed in all 48 target kebeles. Using watershed selection criteria, and driven by the PIP approach, communities identified 48 priority restoration areas and launched collective action plans, demonstrating strong local ownership and solidarity in rehabilitating degraded land.

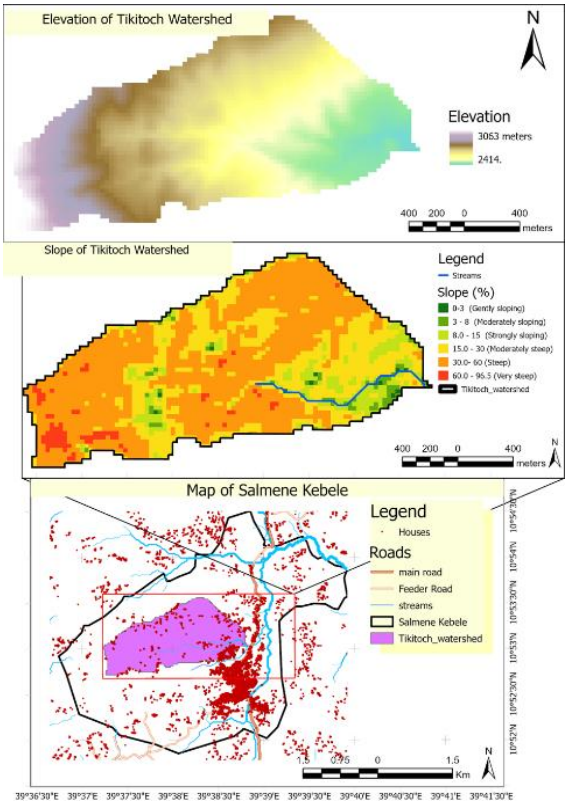


Figure 3. Sample watersheds and restoration sites selected in Albuko woreda

2.1.2 Preparation of Supporting Materials and Guidelines

Supporting materials for capacity building training for TRANSFORM staff, stakeholders, and farmers on the PIP approach, ISFM, soil health, and natural resource stewardship were carefully prepared and made available at multiple levels. This included PIP documents adapted to the Ethiopian context and administrative structure. Modules originally developed for other East African settings, such as those aligned with provincial or county systems, were reviewed and fully contextualized to fit Ethiopia's national, regional, zonal, woreda, and kebele administrative frameworks.

Once revised, these materials were shared with consortium partners to ensure effective implementation of training programs at the grassroots level. Training modules and accompanying illustrative images were further contextualized and translated into local languages, including Amharic and Afaan Oromo, to enhance accessibility and understanding. In addition, guidelines for the selection of intervention kebeles, watersheds, and degradation hotspots were developed, validated, and subsequently shared with consortium partners.

2.1.3 Mapping of Existing Producer Groups

To support and promote the efficient implementation of the TRANSFORM program, collaboration with existing local structures, such as development committees and associations, clusters, farmer field schools, and cooperatives, was essential, as these entities provide a crucial entry point for community engagement and program rollout.

In line with this, exploration and mapping of existing producer groups were conducted across the 12 intervention woredas. Active unions, primary cooperatives, seed multiplication associations, water user associations, government nurseries, community nurseries, private nurseries, farmers field schools, clusters, and watershed user associations were identified.

2.1.4 Adapting Soil Health and Fertility Management Practices to Women and Youth

The TRANSFORM program works to scale soil health and fertility management practices, particularly ISFM, through participatory, farmer-centered approaches. To ensure these practices meet the needs of women and youth, the program organized a series of consultative workshops aimed at adapting soil health and fertility management and ISFM options to diverse farming systems, resource levels, and agroecological conditions.

These workshops brought together experts from woreda and zonal offices, research institutes, universities, and ATVET Coordination Offices. Across multiple sessions held in Adama and Kombolcha, stakeholders jointly identified and documented soil health and fertility management practices suitable for women and youth.

The discussions highlighted both opportunities and challenges. Barriers included limited knowledge of organic fertilizer preparation (e.g., vermicompost, biochar), high labor demands on women, low youth interest in labor-intensive practices, and restricted access to tools and inputs. To address these constraints, participants recommended tailored capacity building programs, improved access to inputs and credit, youth- and women-responsive extension services, and cooperative work structures to ease labor burdens and support participation in the organic fertilizer value chain.

2.2 Building a Vibrant Sector for Soil Inputs (Component 2)

2.2.1 Supporting the Production of a Wider Variety of Soil Inputs by the Private Sector and Small-Scale Entrepreneurs

The program aims to increase the accessibility and availability of 10 different soil inputs by 2028 through private sector involvement. To expand domestic soil input production, TRANSFORM mapped the entire value chain to identify key players – from manufacturers to end users. This analysis revealed that private sector growth is currently hindered by regulatory hurdles, financing gaps, and weak market infrastructure. The program conducted preliminary feasibility studies on various organic inputs and soil amendments to evaluate their production capacity, commercial viability, and agronomic benefits. These findings informed the development of structured business cases that minimize investment risk and provide a roadmap for entrepreneurs to scale within the market. Table 2 illustrates the output-level indicators with the corresponding target and progress made in 2025.

Table 2. Component 2 output-level indicators and 2025 results

Result Chain	Indicator	End-of-Program Target (7 years)	2025 Result
Output 2.1 A wider variety of soil inputs produced by the private sector and by small-scale entrepreneurs	Number of business cases (private sector partnerships) developed for production of soil inputs	10	The plan for 2025 was to conduct preliminary studies, which were performed well.
	Private sector investments in soil health products	€1 million	Reporting will begin after development of the business cases in 2026.
	Number of soil input types produced and made available to small-scale producers in selected woredas	10	2 soil inputs (compost and vermicompost) are being produced and used by farmers with program support.
Output 2.2 Small-scale producers access and use soil inputs and services to contribute to restoration and conservation of soil health	Number of agro-dealers and primary cooperatives capacitated in knowledge on sustainable and appropriate soil input use	24	In 2025, the program identified 20 agro-dealers, 77primary cooperatives, 3 farmers unions and 2 one stop shops, and conducted a preliminary needs assessment. Capacity building is planned for 2026.
	Number of small-scale producers using at least two soil inputs on their farms (gender disaggregated)	100,000 (30% women and 30% youth)	The program built the capacity of 240 farmers that has potential to be registered microentrepreneurs with the program support, leading to the launch of local organic fertilizer production and utilization. Scaling and counting farmers are planned for 2026.
	Development of an online directory of soil input manufacturers and existing agro dealers and one-stop shops in the focus zones	1	Mapping of existing manufacturers and distributors, such as cooperatives, agro-dealers, and one-stop shops, was conducted as preparation for development of directory in 2026.

To operationalize private sector engagement, TRANSFORM implemented a competitive selection framework that evaluated companies based on criteria such as soil health impact,

innovation, and social inclusion. This rigorous process filtered 57 applicants down to a final cohort of 17 diverse enterprises, ranging from large-scale firms to women-owned startups, which will now form the pipeline for future business development. By integrating farmer-prioritized needs from the PIP approach with feasibility and financial data, the program will ensure that future business cases are geographically targeted and strictly responsive to real-world market demand.

The program hosted a national consultative workshop with 52 diverse stakeholders to align policy, promote emerging soil input products, and secure institutional endorsement for organic and biofertilizer solutions. This strategic forum elevated these inputs as national priorities, establishing a shared consensus on implementation pathways and signaling distribution channels, such as cooperatives, to prioritize their use. By addressing systemic bottlenecks and clarifying regulatory requirements, the workshop successfully facilitated business-to-business linkages and synchronized product development with local market demand.

In parallel, the program supported the introduction of organo-mineral fertilizer to promote its production and research for commercialization through establishment of a multi-institutional Technical Working Group. This collaborative platform is advancing fertilizer innovation by integrating improved formulation methods and modern granulation technologies while strengthening private sector production capacity. As part of this effort, 11 technical staff from private fertilizer companies received hands-on training in standardized organo-mineral fertilizer production processes and quality control procedures. These efforts culminated in the identification of nine priority soil inputs for commercialization, including lime, biofertilizers, and nutrient-enhanced formulations such as biochar and bone meal.



The program has a target of capacitating 24 small-scale entrepreneurs involved in the production of soil inputs at kebele/woreda level. A baseline mapping revealed that, while some production exists nationally, there is a total absence of formal soil input manufacturers in the target woredas, with local activity limited to informal groups producing for subsistence. By utilizing the PIP approach to identify local soil input needs, the program developed small and medium enterprise (SME) development guidelines to formalize and scale production systems that bridge the gap between farmer demand and local supply. By collaborating with local authorities and Development Agents, the program identified experienced entrepreneurs and mapped resources to ensure production models align with both available raw materials and farmer demand. The program delivered foundational and advanced technical training to 350 participants, including potential SMEs and agricultural experts, focusing on the production of organic fertilizers and business formalization. To ensure long-term sustainability, standardized training manuals and promotional materials were developed alongside strategic partnerships with research centers for scientific validation and technical advisory. These efforts resulted in 98% of trained participants initiating local production, with a significant majority meeting established quality standards through hands-on exposure and support from local government offices. More than

13,000 metric tons of compost and more than 500 metric tons of vermicompost were produced in 2025 by small-scale food producers across intervention woredas.

2.2.2 Improving Small-Scale Producers' Access to and Use of Soil Inputs and Services

TRANSFORM aims to build the capacity of small-scale food producers, agro-dealers, and primary cooperatives in sustainable and appropriate application of soil inputs. Through the PIP approach, small-scale producers identified high fertilizer prices and limited credit access as primary barriers, prompting a financial ecosystem mapping that revealed a lack of community-level structures tailored for soil health investments. In response, the program established 16 soil health-focused VSLAs and trained 422 PIP Innovators and 26 local officers in financial literacy, governance, and technical oversight to bridge this credit gap. Active VSLAs are now generating local capital for soil input purchases while using their weekly meetings as a platform for peer learning, with plans to link these groups to formal microfinance institutions for bulk procurement.

2.3 Strengthening the Linkage Between Research and Extension (Component 3)

2.3.1 Promoting and Supporting Participatory Farmer-Led Action Research

Participatory farmer-led action research is a central pillar of TRANSFORM's strategy to promote inclusive, locally relevant, and sustainable innovation in soil health and fertility management in Ethiopia. In 2025, the program focused on identifying farmer-led action research priorities through a participatory process involving farmers, PIP Kebele Vision Committees, PIP Innovators, community development facilitators, extension workers, and researchers. Guided by the pillars of soil health, climate resilience, and integrated crop-livestock systems, the assessment identified four major challenges: declining soil fertility and increasing soil acidity caused by continuous cultivation, nutrient depletion, and low soil organic matter; climate variability and moisture stress resulting from erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells; seasonal shortages of biomass and livestock feed that weaken crop-livestock integration and reduce manure availability; and persistent crop pests and diseases, particularly Orobanche (broomrape), faba bean gall, and wheat rust, which reduce yields, threaten food security, and limit farm income. These challenges are further compounded by poor crop response to conventional fertilizer recommendations, inadequate water management, and limited adoption of climate-smart agricultural technologies.

To address these constraints, six priority action research agendas have been identified: Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) for major crops through combined use of organic and inorganic nutrient sources; Soil Acidity Management using lime and integrated nutrient management practices; Forage Development through Intercropping to improve fodder supply and land productivity; Relay Cropping and Green Manure Introduction to enhance biomass production, soil restoration, and land-use efficiency; Integrated Pest and Disease Management, including scaling of the resistant faba bean variety Ashengie and associated management packages; and Climate-Smart Water Management through in-situ water harvesting and moisture conservation technologies. Through participatory validation, demonstration, and scaling of these innovations, the agenda aims to improve soil fertility, increase crop and livestock productivity, enhance forage availability, strengthen pest and disease control, improve

soil moisture retention, and build farmers' capacity in climate-smart and sustainable agricultural practices, ultimately increasing the resilience, food security, and sustainability of smallholder farming households.

Table 3. Component 3 output-level indicators and 2025 results

Result Chain	Indicator	End-of-Program Target (7 years)	2025 Result
Output 3.1 Participatory farmer-led action research based on the needs of small-scale food producers	Number of trials conducted by farmers, the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), selected regional agricultural research institutes (RARIs), and MoA	100	In 2025, farmers' problems were identified and the action research agendas were validated for implementation in 2026.
	Number of pilot kebeles where experiments are implemented with a diversity of soil inputs	30	No plan for 2025; however, kebeles have been selected and action research agendas developed based on farmers' needs.
	Number of researchers and government staff capacitated on inclusive, bottom-up, participatory scientific-led research in soil health and fertility (disaggregated by gender)	250	104 (19 women)
	Number of M.Sc. students and Ph.D. students who conduct evidence-based learning for different project-related subjects	8 M.Sc. and 4 Ph.D. students	4 Ph.D. and 3 M.Sc. students
	Development Agents trained on using the Decision Support Tool (DST) for ISFM and fertilizers (as part of the pilot)	1,000 (30% women and 30% youth)	No plans for training in 2025; however, DST calibration and preparatory work has been conducted.
Output 3.2 Strengthened data use and evidence base by project beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders	Number of small-scale producers using the DST for ISFM and fertilizers (as part of the pilot)	50,000 (30% women and 30% youth)	This is planned for 2026 after finalizing DST calibration and training.
	Number of researchers capacitated in standardizing soil and fertilizer analysis, soil data collection and management	150	53 (5 women and 48 youth)

In 2025, the program prioritized strengthening the capacity of 250 researchers and academic and government extension units at national and regional levels to design and implement farmer-led action research aligned with farmers' priorities. A total of 104 researchers and government staff (18% women) were trained. The training focused on the PIP approach, participatory action research, and the Capacity Building for Scaling Up of Evidence-Based Best Practices in Agricultural Production in Ethiopia (CASCAPE) project's three-plot validation protocol. These methodologies offer structured approaches to participatory planning, farmer-centered experimentation, and scientific validation of agricultural technologies under local conditions. In addition, a total of 53 researchers were capacitated on soil data collection and management. This training focused on soil profile descriptions using the World Reference Base and ODK data collection tools.

The program invested in strengthening national human capital by providing competitive postgraduate scholarship opportunities to four Ph.D. and three M.Sc. students and plans to create further opportunities for five M.Sc. students in 2026. This initiative aims to develop a new generation of soil health and fertility management professionals and researchers capable of addressing Ethiopia's long-term agricultural sustainability challenges.

2.3.2 Strengthening Data Use and the Evidence Base of Program Beneficiaries, Partners, and Stakeholders

Supporting National Soil Mapping and Soil Information Systems

To strengthen soil data use and evidence generation, the program aimed to capacitate 150 researchers and government staff. Strengthening national capacity in soil data management, fertilizer innovation, and soil fertility assessment is a priority of the TRANSFORM program. Reliable soil data and evidence-based integrated soil health and fertility management recommendations are essential for improving agricultural productivity, enhancing soil health, and supporting sustainable land management. In 2025, with the objective of strengthening institutional capacities, the program delivered targeted technical trainings on soil data collection, digital soil mapping, fertilizer formulation, and standards harmonization to 131 researchers and government soil experts (49 youth and 14 women). Participants developed practical skills in collecting, analyzing, managing, and sharing high-quality soil data. This strengthened the national expertise in soil data management and provided a critical foundation for evidence-based agricultural decision-making and improved soil resource management.

TRANSFORM also made a significant contribution to strengthening Ethiopia's soil data infrastructure and supporting the national soil mapping mission. In 2025, a national soil mapping strategy was established, identifying priority soil information products, including soil erosion risk, soil acidity, and soil fertility status. Initial harmonized soil maps were developed covering all program intervention woredas. These spatially explicit maps provide critical information to support site-specific soil fertility management, land use planning, and agricultural decision-making.

With considerable support from and involvement of the TRANSFORM program, the National Soil Information System (NSIS) technical platform was operationalized, including database infrastructure, data integration systems, and visualization dashboards. Technical support and training strengthened national capacity in soil data management, digital soil mapping, and data integration workflows. These advancements provide a strong foundation for sustainable soil information management and support evidence-based agricultural planning at national and regional levels.

Strengthening National Capacity in Organo-Mineral Fertilizer Development and Standards

With the objective of strengthening the national capacity in organo-mineral fertilizer development, fertilizer quality assurance, and regulatory systems, TRANSFORM delivered comprehensive training for 81 researchers (33 youth and nine women) including soil scientists and agronomists, subject matter experts, and program staff. The training focused on integrating organic and inorganic nutrient sources to develop locally adapted nutrient-dense fertilizers. Participants enhanced their technical skills in fertilizer formulation, nutrient optimization, granulation, and agronomic efficiency evaluation. These capacities will support the

development of sustainable fertilizer solutions that improve soil fertility, increase crop productivity, and enhance climate resilience.



Figure 4. TRANSFORM training week on enabling soil data management, use and sharing

Similarly, to strengthen national coordination and scaling of fertilizer innovation, the program facilitated the establishment of a national Technical Working Group on organo-mineral fertilizer development. The first consultative workshop was held in collaboration with Jimma University College of Agriculture to bring together research institutions, universities, and regulatory bodies to align research priorities, strengthen quality standards, and support fertilizer commercialization pathways. Additionally, national coordination was initiated in 2025 to strengthen public sector capacity in fertilizer testing, quality control, and regulatory compliance. This institutional framework will strengthen Ethiopia's ability to develop and scale locally adapted fertilizer solutions and enhance long-term sustainability of soil fertility management interventions.

2.4 Promoting an Enabling Environment for Soil Health and Fertility (Component 4)

2.4.1 Mapping Existing Platforms for Soil Health and Fertility

Under Component 4, TRANSFORM facilitates sector coordination and provides policy and regulatory support. The program aimed to map existing soil health platforms and establish or adapt one national and three regional multi-stakeholder platforms. In this regard, in 2025 the program conducted a comprehensive regional and national mapping exercise to assess existing multi-stakeholder platforms addressing challenges related to the enabling environment for soil health and fertility management.

The study revealed that, although a few fragmented soil health platforms exist at the national level, they are not fully functional in addressing the observed challenges in the enabling environment for soil health and fertility management. At the regional level, where the TRANSFORM program operates, such platforms are entirely absent. Consequently, it was necessary to establish one national and three regional multi-stakeholder platforms to address sector challenges in a coordinated and systematic manner.

Table 4. Component 4 output-level indicators and 2025 results

Result Chain	Indicator	End-of-Program Target (7 years)	2025 Result
Output 4.1 Information, data, and experiences on soil health and fertility	Number of soil health platforms adapted or established at national and regional levels	1 national and 3 regional	1 national and 3 regional multi-stakeholder platform establishment workshops were organized.

shared among stakeholders			
Output 4.2 Evidence base for policy analysis and regulatory support provided	Number of discussion papers and policy analyses developed for the platform meetings	10	No plan for 2025; however, platform mapping and assessment were conducted to inform implementation.
	Number of meetings, conferences, and web-based knowledge dissemination sessions held	60	5 (2 at national level and 3 at regional level), fully meeting the plan for 2025.
	Subsidy program for agro-inputs and other policies and regulations assessed and recommendations for improvement formulated	5	This is planned to begin in 2026.
Output 4.3 Variety of soil inputs registered for import and distribution	Number of fertilizer products registered by the private sector	2	This will be done after operationalizing the soil input business cases.
	Number of fertilizer products available in the market	15	No plan for 2025.

2.4.2 Facilitating the Establishment of National and Regional Platforms

In response to the identified coordination gaps, TRANSFORM facilitated the establishment of national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms through high-level consultative workshops at all levels. These workshops enabled the program and its implementing partners to define the desired structure, membership, roles and responsibilities, and operational modalities of the platforms at both national and regional levels.

2.5 Contribution to Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

The achievements realized during 2025 have established the foundations for sustainable improvements in soil health and fertility management at community level. Through the customization and rollout of participatory, bottom-up, and gender-inclusive extension services, the program strengthened local capacities and ownership mechanisms that will continue beyond the project period. The establishment of Kebele Vision Committees, development of 48 community vision maps and action plans, identification and training of 1,440 PIP Innovators, and capacity building of Development Agents and agricultural experts have created a critical mass of local actors capable of promoting integrated soil fertility management practices and collective landscape restoration. The strong engagement of women and youth in leadership positions further enhances sustainability by broadening community ownership and ensuring the long-term transmission of knowledge, skills, and stewardship responsibilities across generations.

At the systems level, the program laid the groundwork for sustainable impact by strengthening soil input markets, research-extension linkages, evidence generation systems, and policy coordination mechanisms. The identification of private sector actors and potential small-scale soil input enterprises, promotion of organic fertilizer production, and establishment of soil health-focused Village Savings and Loan Associations are creating locally embedded supply, financing, and business systems that can continue serving farmers after project support ends. At the same time, investments in participatory farmer-led research, postgraduate scholarships, researcher capacity development, digital soil mapping, and the operationalization of the National Soil Information System have strengthened Ethiopia's long-term capacity to generate and use evidence for soil health management. The establishment of national and regional multi-

stakeholder platforms further contributes to sustainability by fostering institutional collaboration, policy dialogue, and coordinated action among government, research institutions, the private sector, and farming communities. Together, these achievements strengthen the capacities, institutions, market systems, and partnerships required to deliver lasting improvements in soil health, agricultural productivity, climate resilience, and livelihoods well beyond the lifetime of the TRANSFORM program.

3 Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Sharing

In 2025, the MELS function focused on operationalizing the Theory of Change, developing a comprehensive MELS framework, conducting inception period studies, strengthening staff capacity, and facilitating a Reflect and Adapt process. These efforts established a strong foundation for evidence-based implementation and adaptive management.

3.1 Development of a Practical MELS Framework

A comprehensive MELS framework was developed through participatory consultation. It includes a detailed results indicator matrix with clear definitions, data sources, reporting frequencies, and quality assurance measures, as well as defined roles and responsibilities. The framework integrates short-term outcome indicators and long-term impact measures, providing a rigorous, evidence-based system for tracking progress and supporting adaptive management. By linking data systems to the Theory of Change, it enables informed decision-making and demonstrates tangible results in soil restoration, farmer resilience, and institutional strengthening.

3.2 Support to Inception Period Studies

The MELS team led the completion and validation of several important studies, including the baseline study (with a Key Performance Indicator assessment), conflict sensitivity analysis, climate adaptation study, and program component gaps assessment. These studies generated a strong evidence base for the 2026 planning and prioritization process, enhancing the program's responsiveness to contextual risks, climate challenges, and strategic opportunities and strengthening adaptive management. Specifically, the baseline study highlighted some structural, institutional, and behavioral gaps affecting soil health management and agricultural productivity, as summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of key learnings from the baseline study

Thematic Area	Findings
Household and Farm Profile	Average landholding (1.2 hectares) is above national average but highly fragmented (2.8 plots, ~1.3 km apart), limiting efficiency.
Land Use and Irrigation	Only 3% of land is irrigated; the majority (73%) is allocated to crop production, indicating high reliance on rainfed agriculture.
Soil and Land Management	Only 25.8% of land in intervention areas is under sustainable land management practices; overall, adoption remains limited.
Extension Services	Low farmer participation in extension services (20.7%), limiting knowledge transfer and adoption of innovations.
Input Access and Finance	High cost of soil inputs and extremely limited access to credit constrain productivity improvements.
Private Sector Engagement	Weak private sector involvement restricts availability and diversity of soil inputs.

Thematic Area	Findings
Technology Adoption	Very low use of lime (1.5%) and limited uptake of improved soil fertility technologies.
Research and Learning	Weak linkages among research, extension, and education; minimal farmer-led research and participatory learning platforms.
Gender and Inclusion	Women actively participate but face unequal access to resources; 5% of surveyed households were persons with disabilities facing additional barriers.
Institutional and Policy	Fragmented policy frameworks and weak coordination highlight the need for stronger multi-stakeholder platforms.

3.3 Staff Capacity Building on MELS and CROPP

The lead implementing partner, IFDC, organized an internal training to prepare staff for the rollout of the Central Repository on Projects and Programs (CROPP), IFDC's cloud-based project management platform. CROPP centralizes program and operations management, integrates with Microsoft Office 365 and Power BI for real-time performance tracking, and supports log-frame-based planning, reporting, and data management. The training has strengthened staff capacity in the NGO and is expected to improve efficiency, data quality, transparency, and overall program management.

3.4 Annual Regional Reflect and Adapt Process

At the end of 2025, the MELS team facilitated a Reflect and Adapt process across all implementation regions, engaging partners, farmers, and SMEs. Participants reviewed progress along the results chain, validated monitoring data, and assessed performance, including gender-responsive interventions. The process generated important lessons and informed adjustments to implementation strategies, particularly regarding gender and youth inclusion. By institutionalizing collective learning and follow-up actions, the Reflect and Adapt process strengthens the program's responsiveness and alignment with its transformative objectives.

4 Cross-Cutting Themes

4.1 Gender and Youth Inclusion

The TRANSFORM program positioned gender and youth inclusion as a core strategic priority, targeting 30% participation by women and 30% by youth across 100,000 households. Rather than treating these groups as passive beneficiaries, the program empowered women and youth as active drivers of change by addressing systemic barriers, such as limited access to finance and restrictive social norms, while promoting leadership and technical skills across all program components. In 2025, the program completed four gender and youth deliverables, including a comprehensive gender assessment using a five-domain framework, a gender inception report reviewing baseline data through a gender lens, gender-focused workshops, and field documentation highlighting implementation stories and capacity building initiatives for the TRANSFORM team, consortium partners, Development Agents, Community Development Facilitators, and government stakeholders.

To strengthen field-level implementation, targeted capacity building sessions were conducted for regional, zonal, and woreda experts, as well as technical specialists, with 58 men and 26 women attending. These sessions emphasized gender-responsive extension, behavioral change, and inclusive facilitation techniques. Through consultative meetings with stakeholders, specialists, researchers, and women and youth farmers, the program identified suitable soil

health and fertility practices for women and youth, involving 112 farmers, including 23 women. Furthermore, 74 women farmers received training on soil input production for both business purposes and personal use, enhancing their technical skills and economic opportunities.

4.2 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Measures

TRANSFORM integrated climate change adaptation and mitigation as a core cross-cutting dimension to enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers and restore degraded land. The strategies focused on restoring soil health, managing resources sustainably, and utilizing data-driven tools to mitigate climate-induced shocks, such as drought and erosion.

The program's climate analysis across 12 implementation areas revealed significant warming trends and distinct regional risks, ranging from high flood vulnerability in humid highlands like Gera to prolonged dry spells in districts such as Sire. Environmental degradation is exacerbated by heavy rainfall that depletes topsoil and increases acidity in woredas like Tiyo, while a general lack of local expertise in soil technologies and greenhouse gas reduction persists. Climate adaptation will receive a stronger, dedicated profile in the program years ahead.

5 Update on Risks and Mitigation Measures

In the program proposal, several contextual, programmatic, and gender-related risks were anticipated that could potentially affect effective and efficient implementation. Specific contextual risks, such as increased climate change events, water shortages, or flooding in target areas, were not observed in 2025 but tend to stretch out over longer time periods. Foreign currency shortages relating to the fertilizer market were also not observed but will certainly play a role in 2026 given geopolitical developments. Farmers were trained in the local production of soil inputs that reduced dependence on mineral fertilizer. Land tenure issues and limited government support were not observed as posing problems, the latter even on the contrary. The risk of low community engagement in intervention action plans has been kept low by piloting in a limited number of districts.

The following challenges, however, pose their own inherent risks.

The current import ban on fuel-engine vehicles in the country resulted in significant transportation challenges, including a lack of vehicles and motorcycles, hindering the mobility of field staff and Community Development Facilitators for monitoring and facilitation. The program shifted to purchasing vehicles assembled locally. In addition, the program utilized shared resources across partners and used rented field vehicles.

Participation of women and youth initially fell below the 30% target due to restrictive cultural norms, women's time poverty from domestic workloads, and youth's limited access to land. The program introduced couple-based approaches, such as the Family Tree Tool, and developed a GESI Practitioners Handbook to help staff address participation gaps.

High turnover and reassignment of trained Development Agents created gaps in continuity and slowed down field-level implementation. Orientation and catch-up training were organized for newly transferred Development Agents, and some training modules were merged to maintain momentum.

6 Visibility, role of EU and EKN & Control measures

In 2025, the TRANSFORM program implemented a structured communication and outreach strategy to enhance visibility, acknowledge donors, strengthen stakeholder engagement, promote transparency, and advance evidence-based soil fertility management in Ethiopia. Through news articles, social media posts, video documentation, and a dedicated program communication platform, the program effectively communicated key milestones in program launch, regional mobilization, technical capacity strengthening, soil data management, and fertilizer innovation. Major communication and outreach activities are listed chronologically in Annex 1.

The Netherlands Embassy in 2025 remained actively promoting the TRANSFORM program. It used diplomatic channels and events to highlight awareness of the program. Through its strong relations with the Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture there was continuous information exchange between EKN, other implementing partners and the State Minister of Natural Resources. In August 2025, the EKN met with the new appointed Minister of Agriculture, Ato Addisu Arega and used the opportunity to bring TRANSFORM under his attention.

The Directorate General of International Affairs (DGIS) as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been positively pillar assessed by the EU. Embassies are organizationally and financially part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. This means that all controls in place for the Ministry are also in place at the embassy. The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ethiopia has a control unit in charge of the controls and checks and balances. Controls in place, next to financial management, include also controls regarding the monitoring of the Action from a policy perspective, including protocols, assessments of reports, visits, review from central departments etc. Important controls in place related to the monitoring of activities are first the regular meetings with the implementing partners, also we request IATI reporting, narrative reporting and financial (audit) reporting. We have strict procedures in place how reports must be assessed and who has to approve (relevant policy officer, financial officer/controller and head of cooperation). An audit is compulsory, for which we have a specific audit protocol for EU-DC activities.

For delegated cooperation with the EU, there is a specific Unit in place at the ministry: EU-Support Facility. They are monitoring and supporting budget holders with the execution of their Delegated Cooperation Actions. More specifically, at the start of the first year of Transform project we organized training in EU/EKN Financial management, General Conditions etc.to relevant staff of IFDC and consortium members. Different monitoring /progress meetings, including regular meetings with the finance team have taken place at IFDC country office, as well as with representatives of the regional office in Nairobi (Kenya) and Headquarters in Alabama (USA).

7 Annex 1: Summary of 2025 Communication and Outreach Activities

Date/Period	Activity/Event	Channel/Link	Key Message/Content
April 3, 2025	National Program Launch (Addis Ababa)	TV News, Video Fana BC; program launch video	Official launch highlighting institutional commitment to soil health and productivity
April 15 and April **24, 2025**	Regional Launch Events (Adama, Kombolcha, Halaba)	News, Photo Documentation Regional launch events	Promotion of ISFM and PIP approaches; strengthened stakeholder ownership and alignment
Oct 13-16, 2025	Organo-Mineral Fertilizer Training (Adama)	IFDC Article, YouTube Video Advanced training on organo-mineral fertilizer development; YouTube	Capacity building on sustainable fertilizer development and multi-stakeholder coordination
2025 (mid-**year)**	Soil Data Management Training Week	LinkedIn post	Strengthened capacity in soil data collection, digital mapping, and decision support
2025	Program Communication	News Article	Highlighted roles of implementing partners (Stichting Wageningen Research, ISRIC – World Soil Information) and program structure
2025	Organic Fertilizer Commercialization Training	LinkedIn announcement	Scaling sustainable agriculture through SME and technical expert training
2025	VSLA and Financial Literacy Training (16 Kebeles)	LinkedIn	Improved farmer resilience through financial inclusion and savings groups
2025	Program Visibility and Donor Acknowledgment	Branding and Materials	Consistent use of Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and European Union logos across outputs and assets for donor visibility

8 Annex 2: Updated Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
Impact (overall objectives)	1. Farmland is converted to sustainable use.	1.1. Hectares of farmland converted to sustainable use	Hectare	0	65,000	0	An impact-level indicator, measurement is not expected during the first year, as changes at this level require a longer time frame to materialize.
	2. Small scale food producers and their agro-ecological farmlands become more resilient to shocks	2.1. Hectares of farmland that agro-ecologically became more resilient to shocks	Hectare	0	65,000	0	
		2.2. Small-scale food producers whose livelihood became more resilient to shocks	Number of smallholder farmers	0	100,000	0	
	3. Systemic uplift and transformation of local and multisectoral actors with strengthened knowledge and implementation capacity for soil fertility and health	3.1. Number of public sector actors with increased capacity to effectively implement soil health and fertility initiatives/policies.	Number of public sector actors and institutions	0	81	0	
		3.2. Number of actions/measures/activities implemented in line with the 15-year vision developed for soil health and fertility	Number of actions/measures/activities implemented	0	5	0	

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
Outcomes (specific objectives)	Outcome 1. More resilient and empowered small-scale producers and communities to be stewards of their soils.	1.1. Number of farm households that effectively integrate soil health and fertility practices on their farm (gender and age disaggregated)	Number of farm households	11,179	100,000	0	In 2025, farmers were enrolled in various capacity-building trainings and received advisory services. As a result, the implementation of integrated practices on farmers' plots is expected to be realized during the 2026 cropping season.
		1.2. Number of hectares of farmland with (at least two) integrated conservation practices mainstreamed in targeted kebeles (directly and indirectly reached)	Hectare	9,199	65,000	0	In 2025, the focus was on building farmers' capacity to design integrated plot plans. These plans will be implemented on farmers' plots during the 2026 cropping season. Therefore, reporting on the hectares of farmland under at least two integrated practices will commence in 2026.
		1.3. Number of watersheds supported with land management practices.	Number of watersheds	0	128	0	In 2025, program efforts focused on identifying and mapping watersheds and land degradation hotspots targeted for restoration. As a result, restoration and land management support activities will commence in 2026, ahead of the start of the rainy season.

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
	Outcome 2: Vibrant and functional soil input system through private sector engagement	2.1. Number of small-scale entrepreneurs involved in small scale production of soil inputs	Number of small-scale entrepreneurs	0	24	0	In 2025, the intervention focused on identifying potential small-scale entrepreneurs and providing capacity-building technical training on the production and application of organic soil inputs. Accordingly, the program identified 20 agro dealers, 77primary cooperatives, 3 farmers unions and 2 one stop shops, and conducted a preliminary needs assessment. Capacity building is planned for 2026.
		2.2. Quantity (MT) of lime supplied to small-scale producers in selected woredas.	Metric tons (MT)	0	130,000	0	In 2025, an assessment was conducted to identify gaps in the agricultural lime supply chain. Based on the findings of this assessment, a last mile distribution plan will be developed in 2026 to improve coordination and ensure an efficient and effective supply chain.

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
	Outcome 3: Knowledge and evidence of best action research on integrated soil health and fertility practices is available, acceptable, and accessible for small-scale producers, including women and youth	3.1. Number of small-scale producers conducting action research on their farms (disaggregated by gender)	Number of small-scale producers (disaggregated by gender/ age)	0	3,750	0	In 2025, program efforts focused on identifying farmer-driven action research priorities based on farmers' needs. Accordingly, in 2026, context-appropriate action research protocols will be developed for the implementation regions, and farmer-led action research will be facilitated during the cropping season of the reporting year.
		3.2. Number of TVET students with hands-on experience in action research on soil health and fertility practices (disaggregated by gender)	Number of TVET students (disaggregated by gender/ age)	0	80	0	In 2025, efforts focused on identifying context-specific, farmer-led action research agendas. Plans to engage students in action research are set for 2026, once research protocols are finalized and ready for implementation.

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
	Outcome 4: Integrated and holistic approach of stakeholders to coordinate soil health and fertility management initiatives at all levels.	4.1. 15-year vision developed for soil health and fertility.	One strategic document	0	1	0	In 2025, a comprehensive assessment was conducted to analyze the enabling environment for soil health and fertility management, alongside mapping existing soil health platforms to inform the development of a long-term vision. Findings from these studies, together with consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, indicated that leveraging the newly launched 10-year national fertilizer and soil health roadmap would be more effective than developing a separate vision document. Consequently, the program is currently collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture to identify areas where TRANSFORM can support implementation of the national 10-year roadmap.
		4.2. Functional biofertilizer registration and labelling system developed	One functional system	0	1	0	In 2025, only preparatory activities were implemented toward the development of a functional biofertilizer registration and labelling

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
							system. These efforts focused on collaboration with government authorities to establish biofertilizer standards and to strengthen the capacity of regulatory institutions for registration processes and guideline development.
Output 1	Output 1.1. Participatory, bottom-up and (gender) inclusive extension services	1.1.1. Number of DAs and extension staff capacitated in participatory extension approaches and ISFM techniques (directly reached)	Number of DAs and extension staff	0	1,000	227	The program trained 138 development agents and 89 agricultural experts (25% women and 67% youth) in participatory extension and Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM), reaching 23% of the overall target. This rollout has successfully established the institutional foundation for scaling the participatory integrated farm planning approach across the program's target areas.
		1.1.2. Number of TVET teachers capacitated in inclusive, bottom-up, participatory extension approaches, soil health and fertility practices, and data	Number of TVET teachers	0	120	0	In 2025, a curriculum review was planned and progressed well during the reporting year; however, no capacity-building training

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
		use, collection, and management.					activities were planned during this period.
		1.1.3. Number of TVET students capacitated in inclusive, bottom-up, participatory extension approaches, soil health and fertility practices, and data use, collection, and management.	Number of TVET students	0	80	0	
	Output 1.2. Collective action of small-scale producers and communities to restore and conserve soil health and fertility	1.2.1. Number of small-scale food producers capacitated through producer-to-producer training (gender and age disaggregated).	Number of small-scale food producers (disaggregated by gender and age)	0	100,000	1,440	In the second half of 2025, 30 innovative farmers were selected from each of the 48 intervention kebeles and received training on Participatory Integrated Planning. These farmers are expected to serve as lead farmers and support producer-to-producer training, which is planned to commence in 2026.
		1.2.2. Number of woredas implement collective soil health and fertility extension practices.	Number of woredas	0	32	12	Participatory Integrated Planning modules are currently being implemented in 12 woredas and 48 kebeles. In Ethiopia's

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
							administrative structure, a kebele represents the lowest level of administration.
		1.2.3. Number of kebeles with a kebele vision for land management improvement.	Number of kebeles	0	128	48	All 48 intervention kebeles have developed kebele-level visions for land management and restoration as a result of successive trainings on participatory integrated planning.
Output 2	Output 2.1. A wider variety of soil inputs produced by private sector and by small-scale entrepreneurs	2.1.1. Number of business cases (Private sector partnerships) developed for production of soil inputs	Number of business cases	0	10	0	In 2025, as preparation for business case development, the program conducted preliminary feasibility studies on selected organic inputs and soil amendments to assess production capacity, commercial viability, and agronomic benefits. The findings from these studies informed the development of structured business cases in 2026, aimed at reducing investment risk and providing a clear roadmap for entrepreneurs to scale within the market.

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
		2.1.2. Private Sector investments in soil health products	Monetary value (Euro)	0	1,000,000	0	Reporting on private sector investment in soil input production will commence in 2026, once the business cases are finalized and begin to materialize.
		2.1.3. Number of soil input types produced and made available to small scale producers in selected woredas.	Number of soil input types	0	10	2	With program support, farmers are currently producing and applying two types of soil inputs—compost and vermicompost. Through capacity-building trainings, technical guidance, and practical demonstrations, farmers have adopted these organic inputs to improve soil fertility and enhance sustainable land management practices.
	Output 2.2 Small-scale producers access and use soil inputs and services to contribute to restoration and	2.2.1. Number of agro-dealers and primary cooperatives capacitated in knowledge on sustainable and appropriate soil input use.	Number of agro-dealers and cooperatives	0	24	0	In 2025, existing agro-dealers and primary cooperatives were identified, and a preliminary needs assessment was conducted. Based on these findings, targeted capacity-building activities are planned for implementation in 2026.

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
	conservation of soil health	2.2.2. Number of small-scale producers using at least two soil inputs on their farms (gender disaggregated)	Number of small-scale producers (disaggregated by gender)	11,179	100,000	240	Capacity-building activities reached 240 farmers that has a potential to be registered microentrepreneurs, focusing on organic fertilizer production technologies, business modelling, and the regulatory framework for enterprise development. As a result, participants gained foundational knowledge of soil input production methods, enterprise options, and business formalization requirements. High-performing small-scale entrepreneurs received advanced hands-on training and participated in exposure visits to research centres specializing in compost and vermicompost production. These efforts have led to the initiation of local organic fertilizer production and utilization. Scaling up production and systematically reporting on farmers adopting soil inputs will begin in 2026.

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
		2.2.3. Online directory developed of soil input manufacturers and existing agro dealers and one-stop shops in the focus zones.	One online directory	0	1	0	As preparation for the development of the planned online directory in 2026, existing manufacturers and distributors—including cooperatives, agro-dealers, and one-stop shops—were mapped.
Output 3	Output 3.1. Participatory farmer-led action research based on the needs of small-scale food producers	3.1.1. Number of trials conducted by farmers, EIAR, selected RAIRIs and MoA.	Number of trials	0	100	0	In 2025, farmers' challenges were identified, and the corresponding action research agendas were validated for implementation in 2026.
		3.1.2. Number of pilot kebeles where experiments are implemented with a diversity of soil inputs	Number of pilot kebeles	0	30	0	No experiments in pilot kebeles were planned under this indicator for 2025; however, preparatory steps were undertaken, including the selection of pilot kebeles and the development of farmer-led action research agendas based on identified needs.
		3.1.3. Number of researchers and government staff capacitated on inclusive, bottom-up, participatory scientific-led research in soil	Number of researchers and government staff (disaggregated by gender)	0	250	104	During the reporting period, 104 researchers and government staff were trained, of whom 18% were women. The training focused on the Participatory

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
		health and fertility (Disaggregated by Gender)					Integrated Planning (PIP) approach, Participatory Action Research, and the CASCAPE three-plots validation protocol, aimed at strengthening technical and facilitation capacities for field implementation.
		3.1.4. MSc students and PhD students conducting evidence-based learning for different project related subjects.	Number of MSc and PhD students	0	12	7	The program supported four PhD and three MSc students to undertake research aligned with the program's learning priorities and action research agenda.
		3.1.5. DAs trained on using the Decision Support Tool for ISFM and fertilizers (as part of the pilot)	Number of DAs	0	1,000	0	No training on the Decision Support Tool (DST) was planned for 2025. However, DST calibration and other preparatory work were conducted during the reporting period. Training is planned for 2026, following the completion and finalization of the DST calibration.

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
	Output 3.2. Strengthened data use and evidence base by project beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders	3.2.1. Number of small-scale producers using the Decision Support Tool for ISFM and fertilizers (as part of the pilot)	Number of small-scale producers	0	50,000	0	Farmers' utilization of the Decision Support Tool (DST) was not planned for 2025. Utilization is planned for 2026, once DST calibration is finalized and farmers receive the required training.
		3.2.2. Number of researchers capacitated in standardizing soil and fertilizer analysis, soil data collection and management.	Number of researchers	0	150	53	A total of 53 researchers were capacitated in soil data collection and management. The training focused on soil profile description using the World Reference Base (WRB) classification system and digital data collection using Open Data Kit (ODK) tools.
Output 4	Output 4.1. Information, data, and experiences on soil health and fertility shared among stakeholders	4.1.1. Number of soil health platforms adapted or established at national and regional levels.	Number of platforms	0	4	4	One national and three regional multi-stakeholder platform establishment workshops were conducted. These platforms are dedicated to addressing key challenges in the enabling environment for soil health and fertility management through coordinated

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
							dialogue, collaboration, and policy engagement among relevant stakeholders.
	Output 4.2. Evidence base for policy analysis and regulatory support provided	4.2.1. Number of discussion papers and policy analysis developed for the Platform meetings	Number of discussion papers and policy analysis documents	0	10	0	No discussion paper development was planned for 2025; however, platform mapping and assessments were conducted to inform the design and implementation of future discussion papers and engagement activities.
		4.2.2. Number of meetings, conferences and web-based knowledge dissemination sessions held.	Number of events	0	60	5	During the reporting period, five conferences and meetings—two at the national level and three at the regional level—were facilitated, fully meeting the planned target for 2025.
		4.2.3. Subsidy program for agro-inputs and other policies and regulations assessed and recommendations for improvement formulated	Number of assessments with recommendations	0	5	0	The assessment of agro-input subsidy programs, along with relevant policies and regulatory frameworks, is planned to commence in 2026.

Results	Results Chain	Indicator	Unit	Baseline Values - Reference year 2024	End Target Values (7 years)	2025 - results	Remarks on 2025 Results
	Output 4.3. Variety of soil inputs registered for import and distribution	4.3.1 Number of fertilizer products registered by the private sector.	Number of fertilizer products	0	2	0	Registration of soil inputs will commence in 2026, following the operationalization of soil input business cases.
		4.3.2. Number of fertilizer products available in the market	Number of fertilizer products	5	15	0	Reporting on the number of fertilizer products available in the market is expected to begin in 2026, following the operationalization of soil input business cases.