

Resilient Agriculture for Inclusive and Sustainable Ethiopian food systems - RAISE-FS

Resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems in Ethiopia

Annual report 2023

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

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Summary Sheet

Programme title	Resilient Agriculture for Inclusive and Sustainable Ethiopian food systems (RAISE-FS).
Vision	The vision of RAISE-FS is more resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems in Ethiopia.
Impact	The overall impact of RAISE-FS is increased productivity, enhanced value chain performance and improved human nutrition for improved food security while minimizing the impact on the environment and ensuring social inclusion.
Goal	Creating evidence for practices that contribute to transformation of the food system by addressing leverage points in relation to productivity, enhanced value chain performance and improved human nutrition for improved food security while minimizing the impact on the environment and ensuring social inclusion.
Country	Ethiopia
Programme duration	4 years (September 2021–December 2025)
Contract holder	Stichting Wageningen Research, Wageningen University & Research P.O. Box 88, 6700 AB Wageningen, The Netherlands
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Budget	Total budget: € 12,000,000

Executive summary

a. Key achievements

The key achievements during 2023 were related to generation of evidence of innovations that contribute to addressing key systemic challenges, demonstration of production technologies for scaling, and capacity building for mainstreaming of evidence for sustainability across the five outcome areas of RAISE-FS project. The key achievements related to systemic issues are (i) contribution to the drafting for the proclamation on pluralistic extension, the national livestock and fisheries extension strategy and roadmap, the Food Systems Transformation Training Manual, and M&E framework and indicators for the Ethiopian Food Systems Transformation Pathway (ii) *woreda* profile development and Innovation Recommendation Mapping (IRM) to ensure evidence-based and integrated bottom-up planning at the *woreda* level; (iii) identification of production potentials for high value crops like ginger through development of national suitability maps, (iv) documentation of situation analysis and feasibility of business cases for the oilseed sector, black soldier fly, soya bean, and post-harvest technologies, (v) modelling alternative approaches for access to finance for youth, women and smallholder farmers, and (vi) facilitated the establishment of national food safety taskforce and the development of quality and safety guidelines on priority commodities (poultry, sesame and red pepper).

With regard to demonstration of production technologies for scaling, the key achievements are (i) evidence for enhancing *belg* production through new crop and variety introduction, (ii) youth and women empowerment through diverse poultry and sheep-fattening business models, (iii) demonstration of scaling readiness of potato innovations through decentralized mini-tuber production, clean seed multiplication, and production, and (iv) enhancing access to nutrient dense foods through home gardening of vegetables and fruits, production of pulse crops (common bean, mung bean and faba bean) and inclusion of poultry in the food system.

In the area of capacity building for mainstreaming of evidence for sustainability, the key achievements are (i) provision of training to staff of implementing partners including gender and social inclusion, gender transformative approach and social analysis and action, (ii) establishment of different stakeholder platforms to ensure their proactive engagement in addressing emerging challenges and opportunities for the poultry, pulses and spice sector, (iii) facilitation of innovation through the innovation fund approach, (iv) proactive engagement in the already established stakeholder platforms for sharing of evidence including the Rural Economic Development and Food Security committees, diverse gender platforms (national women economic empowerment forum, Ethiopian national gender equality in agriculture platform, Ethiopian gender learning platforms), national nutrition sensitive agriculture forum, and Ethiopian fertilizer decision support tool platform.

b. Lessons learned

The key lessons learned during 2023 are issues related with (i) those that improve the internal efficiency of the RAISE-FS project implementation, and (ii) those that enhance the achievement of the set project targets.

The lessons that are learnt for improved project implementation are (a) the timely backstopping by the national team for implementing partners ensures successful and timely implementation of monitoring and evaluation and tracking of project activities, and (b) engagement of implementing partners to designing harmonized data collection tools including research questions is crucial for a successful implementation of activities and evidence generation.

Similarly, there was a lesson that ensuring the engagement of relevant stakeholders from public, private sector, and knowledge institutes at all administrative levels starting from the beginning from planning for the demonstration of evidence of innovations and subsequent mainstreaming and scaling plays critical role. In addition, provision of technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture at federal level and regional bureaus of agriculture at regional level and other organizations present a valuable opportunity to institutionalize the evidence generated by the project. Working closely with these organizations helped to ensure effective integration of research findings and demonstrated evidence into their policies, programs, and practices.

Continuous capacity building, proper documentation of demonstrated evidence of innovation in the form of working papers, policy papers, and issue papers, and ensuring ease access to these evidence through diverse communication means played crucial role for due consideration for policy discussions and subsequent mainstreaming and scaling.

The implemented adaptive planning and follow up on situations in fragile working environment and also changing policy environments at national and also all target implementation sites in the regions helped to implement the planned project activities with necessary precautions for safety of staff.

The demonstrated evidence of innovation especially in the areas of sustainable production, promotion of nutrition, and youth and women empowerment through diverse approaches including sustainable business

models is expected to allow the project to work with scaling *woredas* in the target regions for improved mainstreaming and scaling.

Overall, the reach for each of the project outcome indicates satisfactory achievements given the different restrictive socio-political conditions in the target areas, where there are reaches above the target for some and under the target for other indicators. However, it should be noted that there is increasing trend in the level of performance given the project's attention for scaling in the coming years along with evidence demonstration. This has been mainly associated with the nature of the project, where we target demonstration of evidence of innovations for subsequent mainstreaming and scaling.

c. Main steering implications for the next reporting period

An external mid-term review (MTR), focussing on: i) Relevance: are we doing the right things? ii) Effectiveness: are we doing the things right? and iii) Sustainability was conducted in 2023. The main steering points are summarized below and have been incorporated in the 2024 annual plan and have been further elaborated on in the management response to the final MTR report (submitted 14 December 2023):

1. Increase chances of institutionalisation and mainstreaming by focusing and intensifying support for uptake of the piloted innovations;
2. Operationalise the ToC at regional level to enhance PMEL incl. communication;
3. Adjust action areas to improve project effectiveness in reaching outcomes and sustaining results;
4. To manage expectations with stakeholders and to be able to communicate project value, extend the timeline, adjust targets, and plan exit;
5. Pay attention to motivation and sustaining efforts of project research partner staff.

Furthermore, the key achievements and lessons learned in 2023 helped to focus in the coming project implementation years on issues related to (i) strengthening the close collaboration with implementing and scaling partners to ensure further demonstration of evidence of innovations covering all the outcome areas of the project, (ii) emphasis backstopping and capacity building on scaling readiness and strategy for scaling by engaging also additional scaling target sites; (iii) enhanced documentation of demonstrated evidence and due consideration for their timely communications using diverse approaches, and (iv) ensuring a proactive adaptive planning and management for proper consideration of the unpredictable instability situations in some project implementation areas.

1 Introduction

a. Description of programme and intervention strategy

The vision of the Resilient Agriculture for Inclusive and Sustainable Ethiopian food systems (RAISE-FS) project is 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

The overall impact of RAISE-FS is increased productivity, enhanced value chain performance and improved human nutrition for improved food security while minimizing the impact on the environment and ensuring social inclusion. An additional impact and a spin-off of the implementation modality is that the research capacity in food system transformation at Universities and ARIs will be strengthened.

The goal of RAISE-FS is creating evidence for practices that contribute to transformation of the food system by addressing leverage points in relation to productivity, enhanced value chain performance and improved human nutrition for improved food security while minimizing the impact on the environment and ensuring social inclusion.

Five outcomes contribute to the above:

i. Social and economic empowerment of women and youth in food systems

ii. Efficient and environmentally sustainable production

iii. Sector performance and value chains

iv. Availability of safe and nutritious foods

v. Enabling environment for systems change

It will do this by generating evidence for scaling up through research for food system transformation (R4FST).

b. Review of follow-up measures taken since last reporting period

In this reporting year, the measures taken for improvement of the report are related with indicating how each of the intermediary outcome performance indicators were measures and how the short fall in the achievement of target are addressed. In terms of measuring the different indicators for the intermediary outcomes, a standard template was designed with clear indicator definitions that allowed the measure clearly each of the set indicators (see Annex 1). With regards to enhancing the achievement of set targets, the project, as initially planned, shifts from its focus on demonstration of evidence for innovation to mainstreaming and scaling of the evidence together with expanding target *woredas* and *kebeles* (scaling *woredas* and scaling *kebeles*) in each of the target regions.

c. Relevant contextual changes and their potential impact

As indicated in the annual plan 2024, there are major contextual changes affecting the project:

- The peace process in Tigray has allowed the region to join the project in the last quarter of 2023 (TARI and Mekelle University). Even though the implementation period for Tigray will be short the project activities will focus on generation of evidence in strengthening resilience and building on experiences from the other regions;
- The escalating problems in Amhara mean that activities there cannot be fully completed. However, staff from the implementing partners are following up as much as possible even though communication remains challenging;
- Challenges that affect the implementation including political unrest in various areas, apart from Amhara as indicated above, also in Oromia - this limits mobility and inflation, which resulted in constant increasing of costs. Poor quality of the proposals for competition affected utilization of innovation fund while problems in accessing finance affected utilization of guarantee fund.
- The revised financial directives from the government of Ethiopia that affected the liquidity of the banks brings along challenges for transfer of funds to partners as well as hampering support to businesses.

2 Progress towards outcomes

a. Progress towards our outcomes

There are five outcome areas being addressed: (i) social and economic empowerment of women and youth, (ii) efficient and sustainable agricultural production, (iii) sector performance and value chains, (iv) safe and nutritious food and (v) enabling environment for system change. Activities for each of the outcome take place both at national level as well as by the partners in the regions.

Below a summarized progress of the outcomes is presented, a detailed narrative report, as an annex to this report, is uploaded in IATI.

Social and economic empowerment of women and youth in food systems

This outcome consists of two intermediate outcomes: i) Increased women's and youth's decision-making in agriculture and ii) increased income for women and youth in the food system. The overall progress is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Progress Social and economic empowerment of women and youth

Outcome 1	Social and economic empowerment of women and youth increased
Intermediary outcome 1.1	Increased women's and youth's decision-making in agriculture
Results	• A baseline survey was conducted to capture the knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) of implementing staff on gender equality and social inclusion issues. The result will enable the project track changes in KAP. • At a regional level, the project is progressively working towards integrating gender and social inclusion in RAISE-FS implementations including participatory technology evaluation, which resulted in increased participation of females (33.2% adult and young females) and youth (47.5% male and female youth of the total participants). • A learning trajectory was organized with project staff to three selected gender transformative best practices in the South and Sidama regions. Project implementing staff were able to share experiences on integrating gender transformative approaches in agricultural interventions. On the basis of this an experience brief was published on gender transformative approaches in R4FST. • In collaboration with CARE Ethiopia, 22 implementing staff (4 females and 18 males) were trained on social analysis and action approach. Partners were able to recognize their gender-related biases, stereotypes, and discriminatory practices that may influence their work outputs and interaction with the community. • A situation analysis was conducted in the regions to identify the enabling and deterring factors for piloting gender transformative approaches, possible entry points, and potential stakeholders to collaborate with. • Two learning and action platforms have been set up in two regions and will be done for the remaining two regions. • Family approach is being employed in all project training and field days. Couples participated in all training and capacity-building events which contributed to the change in knowledge, skills, and involvement of women in production activities and decisions.
Intermediary outcome 1.2	Increased income for women and youth in the food system
Results	• Women and youth participated in poultry and sheep-fattening business models in Amhara region that created income opportunities. Lessons learned will be used for business incubation in the remaining regions. • Sales of surplus home gardening vegetables is generating extra income for women. • Engagement in the national women's economic empowerment forum. • A special study for setting a benchmark for living income was conducted in the three implementation woredas of south region. The data was collected through focus group discussions and key informant interviews using a validated method to calculate the different components of benchmark. • A real income measurement survey was also conducted using a standard survey tool. Households from the baseline sample and about 30% of the households hosting pilots in south region have responding to the survey. The data collected for the living income benchmark was triangulated with some variables of household survey on real income collected at the same time.

Efficient and environmentally sustainable production

There are three intermediate outcomes under this outcome: i) efficient and sustainable production system enhanced, ii) improved input supply chain systems, and iii) strategic planning for agricultural development improved. 2023 Progress is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2 Progress Efficient and environmentally sustainable production

Outcome 2	Efficient and environmentally sustainable production increased
Intermediary outcome 2.1	Efficient and sustainable production system enhanced
Results	• Across food system typologies, using sustainable agricultural best bet practices such as integrated soil fertility management (ISFM, integrated pest management (IPM), using adaptable varieties, multiple cropping resulted in increased productivity of various crops including sesame in Mierab Armachiho, lentil in Ada'a, potato in Gumer and at Yilmana Densa, barley in Angot and pearl millet in Ziquala, as compared to local management. A guide for measuring sustainability and resilience of interventions has been prepared so the practices can be assessed accordingly. • The potential to produce short cycling and diversified nutrient dense crops including food oats and vetch was validated in Gumer *woreda* within the *belg* season that normally is not utilized by the majority of farmers. The productivity, 4.94 and 3.75 t ha^{-1} for Enate and Tena varieties respectively, was obtained in *belg* season when no other crop except potato is produced. This provides opportunity for: (i) additional annual crop production from unutilized land to narrow food gap months, (ii) diversification of nutrient dense crops, (iii) land use efficiency, (iv) improvement of soil properties particularly from nitrogen fixing legume, vetch, and (v) improve access to biomass (from vetch) that can be used as source of feed for vermicompost that is being demonstrated as vermicompost production business model. • Year-round production of home garden vegetables was conducted in all high potential as well as in food insecure food systems of RAISE-FS validation *woredas*. Production training enabled producers use ISFM and IPM practices instead of chemicals. This has contribution to safe food and sustainable environment. Successful demonstration of intercropping of pearl millet with common bean at Ziquala, sorghum-common bean at Babile, maize- common bean in Haramaya, Sire and Silti *woredas* improved land productivity and contributed to increased resilience. The cost benefit analysis shows that intercropping is profitable.
Intermediary outcome 2.2	Improved input supply chain systems
Results	• Fertilizer is both in short supply as well as costly due to the inflation, hence an alert was published that identified current challenges and outlined urgent action needed in the fertilizer sector in Ethiopia. • A stakeholder workshop was organized to assess the issue affecting the supply of seed potato: "Potato seed system in Ethiopia: challenges, opportunities, and leverage points". The stakeholders identified transformation pathways for the seed potato sector. • The possibility of farmers managed mini screen house to produce disease free early generation potato seed production was demonstrated at Yilmana Densa, Kersa and Wolmera *woredas*. The experience will be used to strengthening the challenged potato seed system. • Demonstration of early generation lentil seed production was undertaken to revitalize lentil seed system. • Demonstrations were conducted aiming at enhancement of seed system of food security crops and vegetables such as pearl millet Zeqala), shallot, carrot (Haramaya), onion (Sire) in food insecure areas.
Intermediary outcome 2.3	Strategic planning for agricultural development improved
	• Innovation Recommendation Mapping (IRM) was improved from the previous version representing farmers' priority in IRM for Welmera, Kersa, Silti, and Hawassa Zuria *woredas* focusing on faba bean, sweet potato, maize-haricot bean intercropping and soybean crops, respectively, for which potential for scaling using IRM map will be prepared. • The maps will be used to support *woreda* planning in 2024, and national workshop will be organized to demonstrate the IRM use case. • Field level validation trials of maize haricot bean intercropping in five *kebeles* in Silte *woreda,* validated IRM based production recommendations. The IRM maps are validated to be used to facilitate *woreda* level stakeholders planning, and to guide selection of maize haricot bean growing *kebeles* for 2023 season. Yield response data from five validation *kebeles* shows good agreement with spatial trend in the suitability map i.e. highest yield is observed at *kebele* described in the map as suitable for maize-haricot been intercropping. • Training and analytical hierarchy process calibration was conducted at Wolmera, Silte, Kersa and Hawassa Zuria. In each *woreda*, 20 farmers each representing their *kebeles* as well as six *woreda* and *kebele* level experts participated. • To support the potential expansion of ginger production a suitability map was produced. This inspired the preparation of suitability maps for eight more spices (fenugreek, coriander, black cumin, white cumin, korerima, cocoa and black paper)which are in preparation.

Sector performance and value chains

Sector performance and value chains outcome consists of four intermediate outcomes: i) improved sector competitiveness; ii) market linkages created; access to market information improved; iii) innovation and

technology transfer in subsectors enhanced; and iv) access to finance enhanced (inclusive to youth and women). The progress made in 2023 is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3 Progress Sector performance and value chains

Outcome 3	Sector performance and value chains enhanced
Intermediary outcome 3.1	Improved sector competitiveness
Results	• An assessment, and subsequent report was done on post-harvest technologies available in the priority commodities along with recommendations on viable business cases to provide services for selected commodities. • An assessment was done of the financial product profiles to describe what type of financial alternatives are available for agribusinesses in Ethiopia. • The market challenges of soya bean and the drivers for sesame producers that shifted to soya bean production were determined and published. • A contribution was made in the assessment and development of investment cases in oilseeds value chain for Amhara region where 3 investment cases on mechanization, irrigation and research were recommended as possible mega projects to explore. This assignment was done in collaboration with Resilience BV and was submitted to the Presidential Delivery Unit of Amhara region. • Two multi-stakeholder platforms were organized on pulses and poultry sectors while RAISE-FS contributed as a member of the core team for the organization of a spices multi-stakeholder platforms. The challenges faced by farmers on access to market for soya was raised for pulses while the challenges in feed were discussed in the poultry multi-stakeholder platforms. The spices multi-stakeholder platform covered the need for stakeholders to come together more often and discuss how to better address sector issues. • An assessment was conducted on the commercial food system actors of Oromia, South West, Sidama and Central Ethiopia regions to identify specific leverage points as well as check the need and modality to set up multi-stakeholder platforms • A feasibility study was conducted on black soldier fly larvae production as a business case in collaboration with EIAR and Hawassa University. Following the study the two institutes have initiated pilot farms on their compound to be used as a demonstration site for black soldier fly farming as well as to run pilots on using larvae of the black soldier fly as poultry feed and the compost from the farm as organic fertilizer. The study was conducted by WUR experts of Wageningen Livestock Research in collaboration with TRAIDE Foundation.
Intermediary outcome 3.2	Market linkages created; access to market information improved
Results	• Discussions were conducted with farmers' unions and oil processing factories to link soya producers to the processors in Amhara region. However, the initiative failed due to drop in the market of soya bean prices. This led to fewer buyers and hence, the low need of oil processors to engage into contractual agreements. • Another discussion is also in progress to link soybean producers with an oil processor in Sidama. This is at its initial stage as farmers are just entering into soya production practice in the area.
Intermediary outcome 3.3	Innovation and technology transfer in subsectors enhanced
Results	• While multiple applications, over 150, were received for the first call of the innovation fund, only one was granted funding. This was mainly due to the lack of business feasibility and limited innovation for the respective sectors. A second call for concept note has also been floated and screening is underway on a monthly basis.
Intermediary outcome 3.4	Access to finance enhanced
Results	• 30 youth and women were financed via MFIs in Amhara Region end of 2022 and hence, technical support on their sheep fattening businesses were provided to them resulting in a good payoff on their sales. The result however was affected on the second round of their business operation due to the security issues in the area which limited access to market and therefore, the businesses were forced to sell for low price for local buyers. Another 20 youth and women were also linked with microfinance institutions in Amhara in 2023 that are preparing to engage in poultry businesses. A total of 3 financial institutions (1 in Sidama, 2 in Amhara) have entered an agreement to facilitate the pilots on access to finance for marginalized groups. Pilots in Sidama will start operation in 2024. • A six days training of trainers has been conducted to 25 representatives of all partners on the topics of entrepreneurship, business plan development, marketing management and financial management. The partners are expected to cascade the later 4 topics to the youth and women they organize for business incubation using the approach they took from the adult learning session.

Availability of safe and nutritious foods

Availability of safe and nutritious foods outcome consisted of three intermediate outcomes: i) increased availability of nutrient-dense food, ii) increased utilization of safe and nutrient-dense foods, and iii) the national food safety system is strengthened. The summary of progress made in 2023 is given in the Table 4.

Table 4 Progress Availability of safe and nutritious foods

Outcome 4	Availability of safe and nutritious foods increased
Intermediary outcome 4.1	Increased availability of nutrient-dense food
Results	• Piloting different mechanism that contributes for availability of nutrient dense foods such as Year-round Home gardening (nutrient dense vegetables), home garden manual, diversified production (intercropping of nutrient dense crop with cereals), promotion of biofortified crops such as orange fleshed sweet potato, production of legumes, demonstration of nutrient-dense fruits (banana and papaya), animal source food business model (poultry and small ruminant fattening), also explored to support access of seed system. • A practitioner's guide on home gardening was developed incorporating gender and social inclusion and women empowerment in home gardening.
Intermediary outcome 4.2	Increased utilization of safe and nutrient-dense foods
Results	• Formative research was conducted on the determinants of the current behaviour and the constraints towards a healthy diet. • An implementation plan for the Ethiopian food based dietary guidelines was developed, this will be rolled out in 2024. • Year-round home garden product consumption promoted by organizing community mobilization sessions during cooking demonstration, training on nutrition and proper handling of food
Intermediary outcome 4.3	The national food safety system is strengthened
Results	• Establishment of National food safety task force, national food control system challenge, status and recommendation as working pepper, Spice safety issue pepper, mycotoxin assessment on sesame, soybean and red pepper. Quality and safety guideline development throughout the value chain on sesame, poultry and hot pepper is underway.

Enabling environment for systems change

There are three intermediate outcomes under the enabling environment for systems change outcome. These are: i) Bottlenecks in policy and its implementation addressed, ii) Organizational and institutional capacities strengthened, and iii) Collaboration and alignment among stakeholders enhanced. The progress made in 2023 is summarized in Table 5.

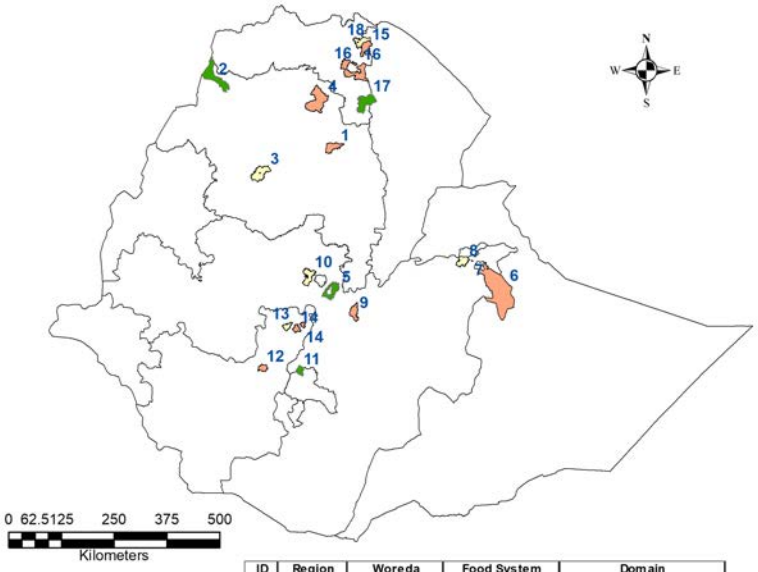
Table 5 Progress Enabling environment for system change

Outcome 5	Enabling environment for system change enhanced
Intermediary outcome 5.1	Bottlenecks in policy and its implementation addressed
Results	• The supply chain of fertilizer has been thoroughly assessed, and as a result, a fertilizer alert was published. • The pesticide lifecycle in Ethiopia has been assessed, leading to the publication of a comprehensive working paper. Follow-up actions will be taken in 2024. • The development and management of agricultural messages disseminated through mass media in Ethiopia have been assessed together with Farm Radio International, leading to the preparation of a draft report. • Provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in the preparation of the Pluralistic Extension Proclamation, and a draft has been prepared as a result. • Provided support to the MoA in the preparation of the National Livestock and Fisheries Extension Strategy and Roadmap, which has been approved. • Supported the design of Ethio-Seed digital platform (Ethio-Seed - Dashboard-Home | EthSeeds (moa.gov.et)
Intermediary outcome 5.2	Organizational and institutional capacities strengthened
Results	• Provided support to the MoA in the preparation of food systems transformation training manual and facilitator guideline, and draft manual and guideline are prepared as a result. • Provided support to the MoA in development of M&E framework and indicators for the Ethiopian Food Systems Transformation Pathway. • Orientation given about the concept and approaches of Food System approach to EIAR staff • Provided support to the MoA in the preparation of scaling guideline. • Contributed to the evaluation of the three-year performance of the agriculture sector and the preparation of the mid-term plan of MoA. • Supported the MoA in preparation of ADPLAC guideline. • Provided support to the MoA in the preparation of Research-Extension and Higher learning institute linkage guideline. • Served as a core team member of multi-sector taskforce of food system transformation • Technically supported the nutrition sensitive agriculture forum.
Intermediary outcome 5.3	Collaboration and alignment among stakeholders enhanced

Results	• Food systems profiles have been prepared for nine woredas – A'da, Angot, Babile, Boloso Bombe, Gumer, Hawassa, Mirab Armachiho, Welmera and Yilmana Densa. These profiles contribute to bottom-up planning and will be used by the woreda official for future plans. • Establishment of a Food Safety Technical Working Group comprising of Ethiopia Food and Drug Authority, MoA Food and nutrition office, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Ethiopia Agriculture Authority, Ethiopian conformity assessment Enterprise, Addis Ababa University, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research and representatives of the private sector. RAISE-FS is secretary to the platform.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Communication

2023 is a year with three regions (Amhara, Oromia, and South) implementing planned activities with full capacity while the Tigray region started planning few activities (See figure 1 for an overview of the intervention woredas). The ME&L activities mainly focused on refining and harmonizing the projects' ME&L system; designing and implementing data collection tools and protocols for monitoring the implementation of pilot innovations; and capacity development on the implementation of the framework to monitor progress towards reaching our RAISE-FS intended outcomes.



ID	Region	Woreda	Food System	Domain
1	Amhara	Angot	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
2	Amhara	Mirab Armacho	Commercial FS	Testing, validation & scaling
3	Amhara	Yilmana Densa	High potential FS	Testing, validation & scaling
4	Amhara	Zequala	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
5	Oromia	Ada'a	Commercial FS	Testing, validation & scaling
6	Oromia	Babile	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
7	Oromia	Haramaya	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
8	Oromia	Kersa	High potential FS	Testing, Validation & scaling
9	Oromia	Sire	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
10	Oromia	Welmera	High potential FS	Testing, validation & scaling
11	South	Haw assa Zuria	Commercial FS	Testing, validation & scaling
12	South	Boloso Bombe	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
13	South	Gumer	High potential FS	Testing, validation & scaling
14	South	Silti	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
15	Tigray	Atsbi	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
16	Tigray	Enderta	Food insecure FS	Testing, validation & scaling
17	Tigray	Raya Azebo	Commercial FS	Testing, validation & scaling
18	Tigray	Tsaeda Emba	High potential FS	Testing, validation & scaling

A mid-term review was commissioned and conducted to assess the relevance (doing the right things), effectiveness (doing the things right) and sustainability of the RAISE-FS strategy and contribution of project interventions and institutional modalities. The MTR commissioned was geared towards learning. The MTR result shows connecting various components of the Theory of Change (ToC) at the operational level presents challenges that could be overcome by developing a comprehensive conceptual ToC that shows connections between the overarching project goals and the specific actions and results of project partners. This conceptual framework can serve as a roadmap, outlining the logical connections between inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes. Operationalise ToC at the regional level also used to enhance PMEL including communication in each regional team.

Recommendation of MTR shows:

- Key targeted actors with whom research partners work directly and policies and practices changes that are pivotal for the project progress.
- Use early signs indicating progress towards desired changes in policy and practice of these actors.
- Complete actor-specific pathways.
- Specify which changes are related to which outcomes and which key actors at the federal level.
- On a six-monthly basis, use these pathways to generate further signs of progress, reflect on progress and adjust project activities, communicate how actions in different outcome areas come together as changes in terms of adoption of practices, institutional changes, and others.

The main findings of the review were shared with donor, all partners and key stakeholders after a reflection and validation workshop was held. The recommendations have been incorporated in the 2024 annual plan.

The project started implementation of its activities lately this year in Tigray. The baseline data collection methodology was elaborated with resilience assessment tools to also be relevant for Tigray. We collected baseline data in Tigray using a rapid food systems appraisal and a baseline survey. The data collected is a basis for tracing RAISE-FS progress, provides a benchmark for future activities and generates additional information about the challenges in the Tigray region. The survey collected data for key indicators of social and economic empowerment of women and youth, efficient and environmentally sustainable production, sector performance and value chains, availability and use of safe and nutritious foods, and associated enabling environment. The participatory rapid food system appraisals draw on local expert knowledge: stakeholders reflect on the food system features and elements and identify key challenges and opportunities.

The result of baseline data collection of nine *woredas* of other regions with rapid food systems appraisal results was used for woreda profiling. *Woreda* profile provides an overview into the current food system dynamics, key challenges and priorities in the *woreda*. It has been published and sha key challenges red with local stockholders. In this the insights and findings included the *woreda* profile can be used for *woreda* planning.

Outcome pathways per activity/pilot, including trade-offs and learning questions were developed following the formulation of learning questions for outcomes, synergies across food systems outcomes, possible trade-offs of the activity and prioritizing pilot specific data needs for monitoring. Harmonized data collection tools were developed for mobile data collection and used for bringing disparate data/information from various sources together into a single location. For all implementing partners' workshops were organized on elaborating the outcome pathways and identifying the data needs. Training was provided on collecting the data using the designed mobile data collection tools. The project purchased two tablets per implementing partner to facilitate timely data collection for each pilot.

The reach for 2023 compared to the plan for FNS indicators (Table 6, Annex 1) was limited due to many of the interventions were validation or testing activities that involve by its nature fewer number of food producers. The state of emergency in Amhara and security problem in Oromia also hinders the project not to reach the number of farmers as planned. Larger number of beneficiaries/ small scale food producers will be reached with further promotion through the scaling partners started in next year (2024).

As per our communication (see mail 29 April 2024) and based on the advice of the MTR as well as our own learnings we have adjusted the expected reach for some indicators and included/revised a few of the indicators to better reflect the expected achievements of the project.

Table 6 Cumulative reach of key performance indicators as per December 2023

Impact	Increased productivity; enhanced value chain performance; and improved human nutrition for improved food security While minimizing the impact on the environment and ensuring social inclusion and Research capacity in food systems at universities and ARIs strengthened				
Outcome	Outcome.1.1: Social and economic empowerment of women and youth	Outcome.1.2: Efficient and environmentally sustainable production increased		Outcome.1.3: Sector performance and value chains enhanced	
Outcome indicators	# of female and young (<36) small scale food entrepreneurs directly reached with activities to increase income 5,020	# of small-scale food producers directly reached with activities to increase productivity/ income 8,351	# of sustainable agricultural practice/ innovations validated 28	# innovation proposals approved and implemented 1	# of mechanisms improving access to finance 2
	# and type of learning and action platforms aimed at increasing women's and youth's decision making established 2	# of input supply systems strengthened 11	# of *woredas* which are supported in scenario planning through recommendation mapping 5	# of people trained on business development 50	# of direct beneficiaries with improved access to finance 48
Outcome	Outcome.1.4: Availability of safe and nutritious foods increased		Outcome 1.5: Enabling environment for system change enhanced		
Outcome indicators	# of mechanisms adapted for increased availability of nutrient dense foods 7	# of government officers, university staff and researchers trained in food safety 31	# of policy and policy implementation bottlenecks addressed in relation to outcome areas 10	# of mechanisms adapted for increased collaboration in food systems 4	
	# farmers/food handlers trained on food safety and nutrition 612	# of food safety mechanisms developed and/or strengthened 2	# of sustainable mechanism for collaboration and alignment among stakeholders established 8	# Publication (policy brief, issue brief, working paper, *woreda* profile, experience brief) 26	

RAISE-FS communication

RAISE-FS utilized various communication channels to disseminate information to its stakeholders, partners, and the general public. These channels included a website, a quarterly newsletter, social media platforms, and other written communication outputs. Both printed and electronic copies of information and communication materials were distributed to ensure accessibility for all readers. Our communication strategy is an essential component of our project's success. It ensures that stakeholders are well-informed and engaged throughout the project lifecycle.

RAISE-FS regional teams played a crucial role in providing content for the project communication channels. They shared stories, pictures, and footages that highlighted key RAISE-FS and stakeholder activities. The organization ensured that all communication outputs were informative and relevant, with inputs from regional liaison offices.

A number of news items and reports have been published. The reports are highlighted in this report and can also be accessed through the website https://raise-fs.org.

Website and social media analysis

The RAISE-FS website has been experiencing a significant increase in traffic. According to analytics, the website has received 5,217 visitors and 10,774 visits over 29 posts. The visitors come from various parts of the world, including Ethiopia, Netherlands, USA, Germany, France, and others. The website caters to a broad international audience. Users have downloaded different documents, such as the Fertilizer alert #002, RAISE-FS brief, RAISE-FS newsletter issue 2, and RAISE-FS postharvest publication.

The RAISE-FS LinkedIn page has been garnering significant attention, with over 3,000 followers to date. In 2023 alone, the page has posted more than 70 pieces of content, including publications, newsletters, images, videos, and updates about RAISE-FS and its partner activities. These posts have

b. Unintended positive and negative effects of the intervention

Unintended Positive Effects

- As a result of the learning trajectory and training on gender transformative approaches, project-implementing staff have exhibited positive gender roles in their personal lives. Sharing household chores and having family reflection sessions were some of the positive things mentioned by the project staff.
- The IRM training for the experts in MoA and EIAR triggered new interest by the experts in terms of use of parts of the script for data process in their other routines.
- One unintended positive effect of the access to finance initiative for youth and women in Sidama was that the job creation office which was communicated to select the youth to engage in the pilot actually committed to financing 40% of the funding needed to incubate the businesses. Accordingly, a new mechanism for availing finance for the businesses was initiated.
- Partners, both the universities but especially the research institutes, appreciate the way of planning and working on research for food system transformation in multi-disciplinary teams and indicate that they will continue this also after the project has been completed.
- ARARI, listening to the RAISE-FS scaling readiness approach, requested that all its researchers will be trained on the approach.
- As a result of the availability of our working paper on the pesticide lifecycle, we received an invitation to present our findings at the Scientific Forum in South Africa on December 8, 2023. This unexpected invitation was a positive development from our work. It provided us with a platform to contribute to the broader understanding and knowledge of pesticide lifecycle management.

Unintended Negative Effects

- With the increased participation of female participants in the project, the increased workload on women is mentioned in some interventions.
- During participant selection, implementing partners faced challenges to find women in male-headed households to be registered as host farmers. As the social norm mostly recognizes the male as head of a household, this posed a challenge in finding an adequate number of married women as host farmers.

- One potential unintended effect of nutrition interventions is the risk of creating disparities or inequalities in access to nutritious food production skills or nutrition education. The nutrition intervention primarily targets host farmers, there may be a risk of exclusion of other communities from project support.

c. Programme visibility

- Collaboration with government offices, NGOs, CGIAR centers and donor supported flagship programs like EFSRP and PSNP II increased project visibility.
- A number of newsletters, issue briefs, policy briefs, working papers, suitability mapping attracted organizations to communicate with the SWRE/RAISE-Fs
- The pro-active participation in different stakeholder platforms considerably contributed to the mainstreaming of evidence of innovation and associated enhancements of the project visibility

3 What have we learned

During the 2023 project implementation, there were general and very specific lessons learned that are considering the planning process for 2024 implementation. These lessons are listed below:

- Adaptive planning and follow up on situations in fragile working environment help to implement the project with necessary precautions ensuring safety of staff.
- Elaborating Theories of Change and connected pathways at regional level would increase the usability of the Theory of Change for monitoring purposes (MTR recommendation)
- Investing in the capacities of implementing staff on gender equality and social inclusion issues is highly beneficial to strengthen efforts towards gender integration and empowerment of women and youth.
- Following a family approach in training and field days is highly beneficial in enhancing the mobility, participation, skills, and decision-making power of rural women.
- The working modality through involvement of implementing partners and team of experts was challenging in the beginning, but continuous capacity building on food system approach, bottom-up planning, as well as various validation and data collection protocols strengthen the collaboration and efficiency of implementation.
- Multiple production practices are successfully demonstrated and can be promoted to scaling stage in the coming season. There are some demonstrations that may not be promoted in to scaling because the utilization aspect is not done despite it was part of the plan.
- The reach promised in the proposal is a bit large. The current trend could lead to under performance, hence there is a need to do adaptive planning to be able to meet the target.
- The private sector is keen to engage in problem solving dialogues and see progress in terms of solution being delivered in short time hence, multi-stakeholder platforms organized seasonally should not only focus on the discussion of challenges but also report the progress of previous agendas discussed.
- Given the current situation in the country financial institutions are struggling to get into agreements to avail 50% or even in some cases 75% of the capital needed by the small and micro businesses being incubated by the project. A total of over 8 MFIs and banks have been approached for such a collaboration and have expressed their inability to commit.
- The economic stress in the country and the state of many regions, their community and environment has made the call for innovation fund more restrictive where the need is more towards rehabilitation, restart and filling the gap where the financial institutions are currently failing.
- Collaborating with local organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders strengthened the effectiveness and reach of our nutrition activities. But managing the interest of each actor had need to critical thinking.
- Food system approach enabled project and partners' staff to think differently in a holistic approach.
- Providing technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and other organizations presents a valuable opportunity to institutionalize the evidence generated by SWRE. By working closely with these

organizations, research findings can be effectively integrated into their policies, programs, and practices.

- Involving stakeholders from the beginning of the evidence generation process can enhance the uptake of findings. When stakeholders are engaged and participate in the process, they develop a sense of ownership.
- Co-creation of survey tools and other research instruments is crucial for facilitating the successful implementation of activities. When stakeholders are involved in the development of these tools, it ensures that the data collected is meaningful, relevant, and aligned with their needs and perspectives. This collaborative approach enhances the quality of the data collected and increases the likelihood of obtaining accurate and actionable insights.
- Bottom-up planning promotes capacity building, facilitates ownership and participation, and leads to more effective and sustainable development outcomes.
- *Woreda* Food Systems Profiles are a valuable tool for understanding the specific context and challenges of each *woreda*, and they facilitate the tailoring of development interventions to address the unique needs and opportunities of each *woreda*. This contextualized approach increases the relevance and effectiveness of interventions, ensuring that they are aligned with local priorities and resources.
- Early backstopping supported implementing partner for the successful and timely implementation of monitoring and evaluation and tracking of project activities.

4 Sustainability

a. Measures to enhance programme sustainability

Ensuring sustainability of the project outcomes targets general and project outcome specific measures. The main strategy for the project level sustainability is high associated with the approach followed where the project activities are implemented through implementing partners with due focus on their capacity building and provision of due focus to systemic issues mainly policies and strategies. The outcome specific measures for sustainability are related with ensuring mainstreaming and scaling considering their specificities including design of business models (seed, fattening, innovation fund), capacity building, ensuring functionality of different stakeholder platforms like commodity specific ones (poultry, spices, potato) and promotion of interorganizational work modalities like the facilitation of the establishment and operationalization of the national food safety taskforce.

b. Description of exit strategy (if applicable)

The exit strategy for the project is highly associated with capacitating the implementation and scaling partners as clearly indicated in the pathways of influence of the project along with documentation of demonstrated evidence of innovation covering policy, practices and institutions. Both strategies are under preparation and will be further validated together with the relevant stakeholders. However, it should be noted that evidence documentation is given due attention, and a dedicated expert is hired for the follow up.

5 Institutional/Organizational development and human resources

The project is implemented through an organizational structure that covers national team, regional liaison office teams and implementing partner (Universities and Agricultural Research Institutes) teams. This followed with legalization of the SWR Ethiopia as an iNGO and signing of collaboration agreements between SWR Ethiopia, the relevant ARI and University in each region as implementing partners. At the end of 2023 the partners in Tigray, Tigray agricultural research institute and Mekelle university came on board and signed a collaboration agreement with SWRE Ethiopia.

Annex 1 Indicators and targets

#	Indicator description	Reach 2021/22	Reach 2022/23	Cumulative Reach-2023	End of project target
	FNS indicators				
1	# of small-scale food producers directly reached with activities to increase productivity/income	1162	7,189	8,351	60,000
	of which women	338	2,487	2,825	18,000
	of which youth (<35 years of age)	422	3,521	3,943	24,000
2	# of small-scale food producers that adopted new knowledge and/or technologies	872	5,695	6,567	45,000
	of which women	254	1,927	2,181	13,500
	of which youth (<35 years of age)	317	2,700	3,017	18,000
3	# of FNS- relevant knowledge institutions that perform better	6	14	16	16
	Social and economic empowerment of women and youth in food systems				
4	# and type of learning and action platforms aimed at increasing women's and youth's decision making established	1	2	2	28
5	# of female and youth (<36) small scale food entrepreneurs directly reached with activities to increase income	477	4,543	5020	15,000
	of which women	281	2,389	2,670	9,000
	of which youth (<35 years of age)	287	3,412	3,699	10,800
	Efficient and environmentally sustainable production				
6	Types of sustainable agricultural practices/ innovations validated	1	7	7	7
6a	# of sustainable agricultural practices/innovations validated		28	28	29
7	# of input supply systems strengthened	2	6	6	8
8	# MoUs between research, extension and knowledge institutes (national, regional, zonal level)	6	2	8	8
9	# of woreda's which are supported in scenario planning through recommendation mapping		5	5	29
	Sector performance and value chains				
10	# of platform meeting dialogues	3	1		3 per sector/year
11	# key issues sector identified and discussed, acted on	2	4		2 per sector
12	# of market linkages materialized		6		40
13	# market opportunity report updates developed	2			8
14	# of innovations for improved productivity & quality supported by the innovation fund	3	1		3 per sector
15	# innovation proposals approved and implemented		1		15
16	# of mechanisms improving access to finance		1		8
17	# of direct beneficiaries with improved access to finance		48		500
	of which women		32		250
	of which youth (<35 years of age)		34		250
25	# of people trained on business development		50	50	175
	of which women		12	12	52
	of which youth (<35 years of age)		23	23	70
	Availability of safe and nutritious foods				
18	# of mechanisms adapted for increased availability of nutrient dense foods	2	7	7	7
19	# of trainings for food handlers piloted		6	6	29
20	# of government officers, university staff and researchers trained in food safety and nutrition	20	11	31	150
	# farmers/food handlers trained on food safety and nutrition		612		2500

#	Indicator description	Reach 2021/22	Reach 2022/23	Cumulative Reach-2023	End of project target
20a	of which women		318		750
	of which youth (<35 years of age)		247		1000
21	# of food safety mechanisms developed and/or strengthened		2	2	5
	Enabling environment for systems change				
22	# of policy and policy implementation bottlenecks addressed in relation to women's and youth empowerment, sustainable production, sector and value chain performance and safe and nutritious food	2	10	10	13
23	# of sustainable mechanism for collaboration and alignment among stakeholders established	1	6	6	8
24	# of mechanisms adapted for increased collaboration in food systems	1	4	4	4
26	# scaling partners				35
27	# Publication(policy brief, issue brief, working paper, Woreda profile, Experience brief)		26	26	50

Annex 2 Risk & mitigation strategies

Assumption	Risk	Probability	Impact	Motivation	Mitigation (*)	Adjustment 2023/2024
A stable political and economic climate will prevail	Political and/or economic disturbances will affect the programme to be able to execute the activities according to plan	medium	high	The political as well as the economic climate in Ethiopia has been relatively unstable over the last decade. It is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future	Outside the scope of the project	The situation in the country is still quite volatile, however the peace process has Tigray opened up opportunities to start engagement there. ATI is also heavily engaged in activities in Tigray, alignment will be ensured. In Amhara the regional government is still in place, as long this is the case we will operate in a safe and secure manner through closely monitoring the situation on the ground. Safety of staff, both SWRE and partners is priority. In Oromia some woredas are not deemed secure enough to implement activities, several have ben dropped.
The agriculture sector is not affected by fraud and corruption	Corruption and fraud will reduce the willingness of stakeholders to collaborate	low	medium	Even though fraud and corruption is present in Ethiopia, it is not rampant. When it does occur it will affect the effectiveness of the programme	Strict procedures and checks on financial reports. (EKN to alert the programme on any suspicion and vice versa)	Close monitoring of financial reports by SWR Ethiopia controllers as well as annual audit procedures are in place.
RAISE-FS will be able to operate in a stable environment	Emerging shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupts execution of the programme	medium	medium	COVID-19 has made us all realise that as a global community we are not prepared for major shocks. Currently it is not possible to foresee what the next shock will be but experience shows that it can be a major disruptor	Agile planning and establishing strong partnerships so even as eg travel is restricted local activities can still proceed (EKN to provide timely and up to date information in case of emerging shocks)	The security environment is unstable, at times activities had to be abandoned or follow-ups could not be made. See first risk on the list.
The reputation and trust generated by BENEFIT and its predecessors as a neutral facilitator are maintained and will reinforce the role of RAISE-FS	Rebuilding the network will slow down project results	low	low	With the no-cost extension of BENEFIT bridging the period between end of one programme and the start of the next we are able to maintain good relations with the major partner at federal, however not at regional level	Continuous engagement with relevant stakeholders engaging them in workshops, learning and planning sessions	--

Assumption	Risk	Probability	Impact	Motivation	Mitigation (*)	Adjustment 2023/2024
					(EKN as an ambassador of the programme)	
Information & data will be made available by al project partners for monitoring evaluation and reporting	Incomplete overview of programme achievement and outputs	low	medium	Experience from the BENEFIT programme has shown that collection of information for MEL purposes can be arduous at times. While it occurs rarely, lack of relevant information ill affect the programme outcomes	Increase collaboration and contact moments with partners. Awareness creation about the importance of data collection, provide easy to use tools and templates (in case required EKN to provide official letter)	Due to the slow release of funds there is hesitation with the partners to share all detailed results. A harmonized data system is being introduced as of Q4 2023.
Stakeholders are willing to collaborate and share information	The innovation system will not function optimally	low	medium	Experience from the BENEFIT programme has shown that it is of utmost importance to have a good data management system. While most partners are willing to share data at times scientist keep back data to be able to publish – a requirement for promotions especially at universities	Joint planning and sharing sessions with relevant stakeholders both at federal as well as regional level (attendance of EKN at events)	This has been outstanding especially in the regions stakeholders have been very active in engaging with the project
The relevant ministries and ministerial departments engage with the programme and incorporate outcomes in their policies	Relevant departments and/or individuals do not engage with the programme and its outcomes	low	high	The experience in BENEFIT has shown that the ministries have trust in what BENEFIT has generated. However, a political change of personnel can potentially change this. If the various ministries do not take up the programme outcomes scaling will not be done	Regular engagement with high level public stakeholders. Engagement of the Steering cie. and regional advisors (EKN to support the efforts of the programme in its engagements with high level stakeholders)	At time this has been more difficult, partly because a new minister has recently been appointed. An example is the follow-up activities on the seed proclamation. When deemed appropriate EKN will be asked to moderate.
Strong team at implementing organizations and stability of officials at respective public organization ensure effective implementation of planned activities and their mainstreaming	Frequent turnover of staff and officials/policy makers reduce the efficient implementation and mainstreaming of evidence	medium	high	This has been a continuous issue during BENEFIT, staff get promoted or functions in other areas or organisations this requires new staff to become familiar with the programme	Build on our experiences in team building not only at partner level but also at region and national levels; diversifying engaged policy makers and officials at regional and national level	The team is a good combination of experienced and younger staff. All are extremely dedicated. In the regions the teams are supported by a good mix of expertise to reflect the food system outcomes and activities.
Information is available that can drive transformation	Transformation in the food systems will not take place	low	high	In Ethiopia, there is plenty information available, however the step from ‘knowledge on the shelf’ to ‘knowledge in action’ requires effort by all involved stakeholders	Promote innovative research as well as investments; make knowledge about innovations available to the stakeholders, use effective communication methods	By Q3 of 2023, RAISE-FS has 10 publications which have been widely shared in the network and follow-up discussions made.
A demand driven R4FST agenda will result in a	Generated evidence are not taken up by the sector	low	high	In Ethiopia there is plenty knowledge available, however the step from ‘knowledge on the shelf’ to ‘knowledge	Design a process for joint agenda setting, implementing agile and flexible approach, organisation of	Staff of RAISE-FS participate in the technical working group of the Food system Roadmap.

Assumption	Risk	Probability	Impact	Motivation	Mitigation (*)	Adjustment 2023/2024
competitive and innovative sector				in action' requires effort by all involved stakeholders	learning events, seconded staff to MoA for timely capturing of emerging opportunities	
Access to the innovation fund will enhance and expand investments in the sector	Business opportunity funds will be underutilized	medium	medium	The current uncertain climate (political stability, the pandemic etc.) might be a hurdle for companies to invest in businesses related to agro-food systems	Awareness creation about the fund; coaching of potential grantees during the development of a proposal; development of a scaling strategy	As the quality of the proposal, especially the economic viability is poor, additional support will be provide on developing viable business plans.
The activities will be able to involve both women and youth in a sustainable way	Women and youth do not benefit from the programme	low	high	Truly involving women and youth is beyond counting their attendance. It will need concerted effort to engage them	Go beyond counting numbers; setting of concrete outcome targets for women and youth; involve women and youth in design of activities, target systemic issues and mainstreaming	The issue of youth employment is at such a scale that it is beyond the scope of RAISE-FS. If possible, the focus will be on supporting ATVETs in the region on the development of incubation hubs.
Increase production, marketing and income will lead to an improved and diversified diet	The project activities do not lead to a diversified diet	low	medium	There is ample evidence that diversification at farm level does not result in a more diverse diet. This needs to be accompanied by nutrition education and campaigns	Awareness raising amongst the programme partners on the importance of nutrition. Engagement with the appropriate stakeholders in the field of nutrition sensitive agriculture, focus on systemic issues and mainstreaming	There is a close collaboration with the nutrition departments of both the MoA as well as the MoH. Even so collaboration is not easy.
Both the public and private sector are willing to invest in safe food and environmentally sound production systems	Unsafe food enters the market and the environment is negatively affected by the (intensified) production methods	medium	high	Food security receives more attention than food safety as most governments deem this to be a top-priority, and without a functional food safety control system the private sector will find it difficult to comply	Provide support to project partners; awareness on the issues of sustainable production; Support GAP programmes; strengthen both public and private institutes	The formation of the food safety technical working group facilitated by RAISE-FS is a step in the right direction. This however needs to be echoed by high-level policy makers.

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