



Twinning Fiche

Project title: Support to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Quality, Monitoring and Control Compliance Systems of Plant-based Primary and semi- processed Agricultural Products in Ethiopia.

Beneficiary administration: Ethiopian Agricultural Authority, Ministry of Agriculture

Twinning Reference: ET 24 NDICI AG 01 24

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EU funded project

TWINNING TOOL

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 Programme: ACT-62739 of 2024 – this Programme is directly managed by the EU Delegation to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- 1.2 Twinning Sector: Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) areas of the Agricultural Sector.
- 1.3 EU funded budget: EUR 3,000,000
- 1.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, SDG 16 “Peace, justice and strong institutions”.

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective(s):

The Overall Objective is to secure EU market access for Ethiopian primary and semi-processed agricultural produce while contributing to food security and nutrition in Ethiopia.

2.2 Specific objective:

- **Specific Objective 1:** The official import/export control and management systems for phytosanitary, food safety and quality services are enhanced;
- **Specific Objective 2:** The performance of the target public staff in delivering phytosanitary services and overseeing quality and food safety of primary and semi-processed products of plant origin is enhanced.

2.3 The elements targeted in strategic documents i.e. National Development Plan/Cooperation agreement/Association Agreement/Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans

Food safety is an important public health issue in Ethiopia, as foodborne diseases disrupt the lives of consumers due to high rates of adulteration and unhygienic food handling practices across the food value chain. Malnutrition is exacerbated by the burden of Food Born Diseases (FBD) and hazards including foodborne pathogens. The incidence of FBD measured by diarrhoea cases stands at 12%.

Conscious of this, the Government of Ethiopia has adopted a number of strategies aiming at modernising the National Food Safety System in line with international practices. This Twinning Grant will therefore contribute to the implementation of the National Food Systems and Nutrition Strategy (2021-2030/31), the Food Safety and Quality Strategy for Primary Agricultural Produce (2024-2030), the Post-Harvest Management Strategy of Ethiopia (2024-2030) and the Nutrition Sensitive Agri-Food Systems Nutrition Strategy (2024-2030).

Particularly relevant to this Twinning Fiche are the Food Safety and Quality Strategy for Primary Agricultural Produce (2024-2030) and the National Food Systems and Nutrition Strategy (2021-2030/31). The objective is to develop, strengthen, promote, and enforce legal and institutional frameworks for food safety and quality assurance systems and plant health control mechanisms. The strategy covers the entire food value chain, from primary agricultural production to consumption, and addresses non-tariff barriers related to sanitary and phytosanitary measures that hinder achieving food and nutrition security goals. It advocates for adopting and promoting effective measures, enhancing food control functions, strengthening the capacity of business operators that produce healthy plants, safe and quality food and encouraging consumers to demand healthy plants, quality produces and safe food.

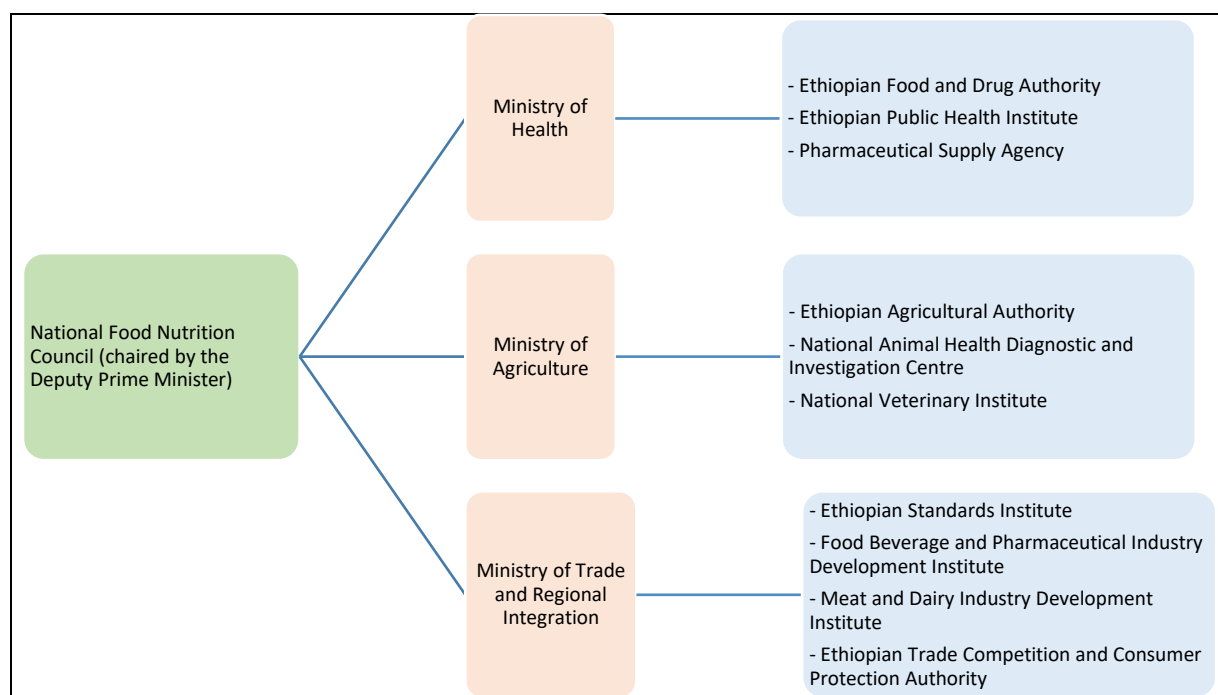
3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

3.1.1 Institutional setting

The most relevant entities for the Ethiopian Food Safety Framework are: the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA) of the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration (EFDA) of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MoH). The Ministers of Agriculture and

of Health together with the Minister of Trade and Regional Integration form the National Food and Nutrition Council, which is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister as shown in the figure below.



Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA-ETH)

The Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA-ETH) is responsible for formulating and implementing agricultural policies, strategies, and programmes related matters and for overseeing and coordinating their implementation upon approval. It regulates sectoral activities by issuing standards or licenses as appropriate and provides services by building capacity as well as translating development programmes into projects in a concrete manner. It furthermore exercises control activities emanating from food safety regulations.

The MoA is also mandated to oversee the implementation of specific primary agricultural products food safety and quality management projects as well as to rapidly disseminate primary agricultural produce food safety incidents information among the relevant stakeholders, and to ensure the timely action taken in protecting the public against food borne illnesses.

The main objective of the MoA is to boost agricultural productivity, improve quality of produce, enhance food security, and promote sustainable development within the country's rural areas.

Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA)

The EAA was established in early 2022 as an autonomous federal government organ having its own legal personality. It is accountable to the Ministry of Agriculture and is responsible for the implementation of quality issues, phytosanitary (trade) matters, and food safety of primary products including semi processed produces among other tasks. Both the Plant Regulatory Deputy Directorate General or the Ethiopian National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and the Livestock Regulatory Deputy Directorate General fall under the responsibility of the EAA. However animal health issues will not be subject of this Twinning Grant Project.

The EAA is the key stakeholder for the development in the phytosanitary, veterinary, and e-certification fields. The Plant Regulatory Deputy Director General is responsible for quality regulation of primary (unprocessed and semi-processed) agricultural and horticultural produce.

In the course of implementing its duties, the EAA faces very significant challenges including:

- Absence or inadequate legal frameworks,
- Lack of systems including traceability mechanisms, standards and guidelines,
- Lack of inspection and certification skills and facilities,
- Limited diagnostic and testing infrastructures,
- Limited SPS trained human resources,
- Inadequate logistical supplies including vehicles, office equipment and communication infrastructures.

Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration (EFDA)

The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) is an autonomous federal government organ having its own legal personality accountable to the Ministry of Health, and is responsible for ensuring the food safety, quality, and efficacy of drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics in Ethiopia. EFDA's primary role is to protect public health by regulating and monitoring these products to ensure they meet appropriate standards and guidelines. The EFDA is responsible for the quality and food safety of mainly processed food products in Ethiopia.

3.1.2 Legal Framework

Since the responsibility of food safety control of primary products including semi-processed produce was assigned to the EEA with its establishment, no new standalone legal framework has been approved yet. However, there is an organic agriculture Proclamation No.488/2006. The drafting of a new food safety proclamation is underway. Regarding Quality Assurances, Proclamations to provide for coffee quality and marketing, sesame, white pea beans have been issued and are under implementation.

Phytosanitary laws currently under enforcement include the following:

- Plant Protection decree No 56/71
- Plant Quarantine Regulation No. 4/92
- Draft Plant quarantine Proclamation is under review expected to be approved soon.

General laws establishing the EAA and determining the Powers and duties include:

- Proclamation No 1263/2021
- Regulation No. 509/2022

Based on the latest food safety regulatory assessment in the MoA, the food safety plant and animal health proclamations are out of date. This weakens the implementation of the food safety frameworks throughout the food system and new modern proclamations are needed.

There is a broad spectrum of governmental organizations involved in safeguarding the quality and safety of food, but they lack a harmonized working modality and coordination mechanism. The overall capacities for the management and control of food systems range between weak to inexistent in the different sectors.

A comprehensive food control system that is multi-sectoral and inclusive to all relevant actors including private sector needs to be developed. Issues like food safety throughout the food chain, plant-disease outbreak containment and eradication, export certification and import border control need to be coordinated. In addition, the high number of governmental organizations involved in inspection of the food value-chain poses a risk of arbitrary inspection and non-compliant outcomes.

In addition, there are no strong consumer associations through which Ethiopian consumers can get empowered and better informed about the food safety concerns or to raise their concerns and demands for safe foods.

3.1.3 Phytosanitary services

Ethiopia exports coffee, spices, pulses (including white pea beans, red kidney beans), soy, oil crops (including sesame) and horticultural products, including strawberries and flowers.

According to Ethiopian Horticulture Producers Exporters Association (EHPEA) the production of fruit and vegetables is expected to boom in the next decade. This will come with several challenges related to sustainability, plant health and food safety. The ambition is to increase export to the EU, which is already starting with avocados and may soon follow with bananas.

The rapid growth of the agro-food market in the country makes the development of a well-functioning and science-based SPS system essential. However, an increased number of non-compliances in exports of agro-products and continued border rejections prove that the follow-up and enforcement of effective standards systems in Ethiopia is lacking. The country received over 45 notification of EU- Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (ARSFF) Border Rejections and Alerts between 2018 and 2023 for non-compliance of EU plant health standard requirement for food crops (oil seed, spices, and herbs). A substantial increase in the number of interceptions was observed in 2022-2023.

EAA has a broad mandate in regulatory areas of plant health, animal health, technology generation, input, services, research and extension and mechanization.

The Council of minister's recently approved the Agriculture and Rural Development Policy which captures the SPS systems. Food inspections and disease surveillance focus on imported/exported food, crops and products, but provide little inspection of the domestic food supply. A traceability system to a certain extent exists for coffee, sesame, white pea beans and flowers but does not exist for majority of the crop plants and inspection facilities are poor.

Currently there is little laboratory capacity at EAA for pest and disease diagnosis, for pesticide formulation or for testing residue levels in vegetable produce. For this, EAA now relies on the Ambo and Holleta Research Institutes, Ethiopian Conformity Enterprise and Bless PLC. There is a plan to establish a laboratory for the Ministry of Agriculture and EAA (together) with World Bank financing.

At the moment the inspection capacity of the NPPO is too low to perform all the required tasks. Currently an average of 70 exports per day takes place. The number of phytosanitary inspectors at Bole International Airport has been reduced to three (from ten previously) doing all the import and export inspections. There are plans to deploy additional inspectors and install equipment there. In addition, the NPPO has a total of 33-35 inspectors working at 9 inspection locations throughout the country. Export inspection of consignments needs strengthening. The consignments are inspected on the farms by quality managers and inspectors.

3.1.3 Food safety

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development flags the need for sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices that provide healthy and affordable diets as well as tackle poverty, protect human rights and restore ecosystems. Food safety is a central part of such a system. In this regard, very recently Ethiopia approved the Food Safety and Quality Strategy for Primary Agricultural Produce. It is now essential to work towards its implementation. Most food safety issues in Ethiopia are caused by residue of pesticides and heavy metals and biological hazards including salmonella, e-coli and others. Addressing these problems requires strengthening the legal frameworks and implementing proper regulatory activities including enforcing and stakeholders participating across the value chain (e.g., Good Agricultural Practices, Good Hygienic Practices, and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point best practices).

The use of illegal pesticides/chemicals is a problem in Ethiopia. Counterfeit pesticides are on the market, posing significant safety risks, both to the worker applying it as to the consumer of the treated produce. A major problem is also the use of chemicals that have not been registered yet. Paradoxically the use of several new chemicals, which are often better than the old ones, is illegal because they are not registered in the country. Registration of new chemicals has until recently been a time consuming and bureaucratic process but a new electronic system has just been implemented.

In Ethiopian law there is only one "proclamation" for pesticides not followed by regulations or directives for its implementation.

Regulation and registration of biological control agents is difficult in Ethiopia. A new fast track registration system is under development.

3.1.4 Other

Although not directly related to SPS, Ethiopia is not a member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plant (UPOV). There is however a plant variety protection law from 2006.

3.2 On-going reforms:

The Competent Authorities in charge of sanitary issues relating to agricultural products of animal and plant origin are regulated by the EFDA and EAA. The EAA is responsible for food safety of unprocessed and semi-processed produce while EFDA mainly deals with packed and processed ones. EAA has prepared Phytosanitary Strategic Plan for plant health. A self-assessment using the "Phytosanitary Capacity Assessment (PCA)" tool developed by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is underway to be implemented with the support of the Standards and Trade development Facility (STDF) and FAO as an implementer. Specific on-going activities include:

- Development of a National Food Safety And Quality Strategies – now adopted,
- The declaration of a *Xylella fastidiosa* free area for the EU market,
- Development of a protocol for the Management of False Codling Moth in roses farms and conducting auditing on rose production farm,
- Training on the identification and diagnoses of False Codling Moth (egg, larvae, pupa and adult) in partnership with EHPEA and the embassy of the kingdom of Netherlands,
- Development of an action plan for the avocado value chain using the R-sat Tool (there is a national focus on the production and future export of avocados),
- Conducting of a survey to detect and confirm absence of *Anoplophora chinensis* in Ethiopia and to declare the country freedom of this pest,
- Development of pest risk analysis for market access on specific crops depending on demand,
- Developing of an action plan and ToR on Salmonella and Aflatoxin for sesame and spices respectively,
- Development of a concept note for local and global GAP certification/HACCP/GHP for horticultural crops and development of project proposal documents,
- Commenced work on the legal framework for plant products food safety issues,
- Organized a working visit to the EU DG Sante plant health Unit and COLEAD in Brussels and discussed areas of cooperation,
- Entered into agreement with Trade Mark Africa for the establishment of ePhyto certification,
- Organized a platform with horticulture producers exporters to communicate and/or discuss developments in the sector including EU new legislations.

For further improvement of the SPS system in Ethiopia EAA/NPPO has performed a gap analysis and has identified the following areas where support from this Twinning Grant is needed:

- Policy review comparing to global principles;
- Undertake an assessment of current status of plant health, safety and quality of plant and plant products safety and quality in Ethiopia;
- Prepare required legal frameworks, standards, guidelines and working procedures that enable the EAA to implement food safety and quality activities;
- Development the "Systems Approach" as stipulated in the appropriate ISPMs (No.4, 10, 14 of the IPPC);
- Develop capacity of EAA staff through training on SPS issues;
- Support inspection skills and testing activities of import and export plant products safety and quality issues;
- Develop a traceability system and support establishment of GAP, GHP mechanisms for primary and semi-processed plant products;

- Establish stakeholders training and experience sharing platform on plant products safety and quality issues;
- Report non-compliances;
- Respond to notifications;
- Carry out study tours for experience sharing in areas where there is food safety, quality and FCM management practices;
- Assistance in access of requisite, inspection and sampling materials, laboratory reagents for testing food safety hazards in primary agricultural produce of plant origin;
- Carry out surveillance to know the presence of False Codling Moth on horticultural host plants other than the rose plants to know the pest status;
- Undertake Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on the importation of avocado and banana planting materials for planting;
- Support digitization efforts by the EEA.

3.3 Linked activities:

This Twinning Grant:

- Contributes to the implementation of the National Food Systems and Nutrition Strategy of the country developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank.
- Complements the EU-funded project implemented by FAO “Strengthening Agri-Food Systems for Safe and Healthy Diets”, which addresses the fragmentation of the Ethiopian Food Safety Management System.
- Complements the EU-funded project implemented by AFD “Promoting Regional Economic Integration in the Horn of Africa Through Development of the Djibouti Corridor” (TradeMark Africa Programme) which, among other activities will:
 - Develop an Integrated Export and Import Certification System (IEICS), also known as the e-Phyto system to replace archaic manual and paper-based certification processes,
 - Install the e-learning platform on regional and EU/US trade regulations.
- Contributes to the implementation of the AU supported “Regional Food safety project”, Where the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration (EFDA) and the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA) are the major beneficiaries.
- Contributes to the implementation of the Ethiopia Seed Partnership plus -jointly funded by the EU and NL).
- Complements other bilateral Phytosanitary Technical Assistance cooperation, such as the project “Operationalization and Sustainability of Integrated Agro Industrial Parks in Ethiopia” funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), which aims at improving food quality, safety and traceability regulatory framework and food quality, safety and traceability compliance by businesses in the agro-industry sector and operates in the Agro-Industrial Parks.

3.4 List of applicable *Union acquis*/standards/norms:

Generally the Ethiopian NPPO endeavours to implement the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) specifically it is working fulfilling the pest free area requirement for *Xylella fastidiosa* on certain host plants and avocado, *Thaumatococcus leucocretus* management protocol on capsicum and cut rose flowers. Regulation (EU)2019/1793 as amended needs to be enforced and consequently, Ethiopia would furthermore be required to comply with any new requirements.

3.5 Components and results per component

Component	Result/Output	Outcome
Development of legal frameworks, requisite proclamations, directives in food value chains and food safety policies in line with international standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy formulated • Drafted legal frameworks • Drafted requisite proclamations and regulations, directives, standards 	The official import/export control and management systems for phytosanitary, food safety and quality services are enhanced
Strengthening of capacities of technical staff on inspection and certification system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • established ePhytos and single window system, • required regulatory logistics in place • trained technical personnel • developed inspection and certification system 	
Strengthening capacities of competent authorities in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and product quality monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthened SPS monitoring and evaluation capacity • Regular monitoring mechanisms developed 	The performance of the target public staff in delivering phytosanitary services and overseeing quality and food safety of primary and semi-processed products of plant origin is enhanced.
Data management systems improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented and operationalized centralized data management system 	
Setting of a communication and coordination mechanism platform between regional states and federal government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonized implementation of coordination and communication system developed 	

3.6 Means/input from the EU Member State Partner Administration(s)*:

The project will be implemented in the form of a Twinning contract between the EU Delegation and EU Member State(s). Implementation of the project requires a Twinning Project Leader (PL), a Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA), Component Leaders and Short-Term Experts (STE). The PL, RTA and Component Leaders must meet the minimum criteria as specified in the Twinning Fiche. Any interested Member State(s) must include the following in their proposal: CVs of the designated Project Leader (PL) and Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA), as well as the CVs of any designated Component Leaders.

The Twinning Project will be implemented by means of a close cooperation between partners with the objective of attaining the required results in a sustainable manner. The proposed set of activities and indicators will be developed in conjunction with the Twinning Partners during the drafting of the initial work plan and the successive rolling work plan to be drafted every three months; the fact that the final list of activities will be decided in cooperation with the Twinning Partner shall also be considered.

Proposals shall be detailed enough to adequately respond to the Twinning Fiche, but are not expected to contain a fully developed project. Proposals submitted by a Member State should be concise and focus on the strategy and methodology, and indicate the sequencing and key activities during the implementation of the project to ensure the achievement of overall and specific objectives and mandatory results/outputs. Furthermore, proposals need add the indicative timetable, the proposed administrative model, the quality of the expertise to be mobilised and the administrative structure and capacity of the Member State entities.

3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the PL:

According to the Twinning Manual (section 4.1.3), the Member State Project Leader (PL) must be an official or assimilated agent with a sufficient rank to ensure an operational dialogue at political level. This should guarantee the capacity to lead the implementation of the project and the ability to mobilise the necessary expertise to support of its efficient implementation.

Involvement of the Member State PL is expected during the preparation of the Member State proposal and the PL's attendance (in person or via video-conferencing) at the selection meeting is obligatory, as well as their participation in the quarterly meetings of the Project Steering Committee. The Member State PL is supported by the RTA, who works on-site with the Beneficiary administration.

Profile

- He/she must hold a master's degree in the field of public health, plant pathology, agricultural sciences or any other field relevant to this Twinning Project or a bachelor's degree in a field relevant to this Twinning Project and an additional two years of relevant professional experience in a public administration (in addition to the specific experience required below) or, in the absence of a bachelor's degree or a degree in a field that is relevant to this Twinning Project, an additional eight years of relevant professional experience in a public administration (in addition to the specific experience required below) **(required)**;
- He/she must have a minimum of three years professional experience in the food safety/sanitary and/or phytosanitary sector **(required)**. Having at least six years of experience is desirable;
- Have proof of a contractual relationship with a public administration or a mandated body (see Twinning Manual, section 4.1.4.2) **(required)**;
- Experience in an EU-funded Twinning Project **(desirable)**;
- Have a good knowledge of European SPS legislation **(desirable)**;
- Have a good command of English (spoken and written) with a minimum level of B2 **(required)**;
- Proficiency in standard computer tools/software (Word®, Excel®, PowerPoint®, Outlook®, video-conferencing, etc.) that are necessary to implement the project **(required)**.

Tasks

- Design, supervision and coordination of overall project preparation;
- In collaboration with the PL of the Beneficiary country, ensure the overall management and coordination of the Twinning Project;
- Monitoring the overall implementation of the project;
- Coordinate the work of the RTA;
- Ensure effective use of project resources and inputs to achieve the expected results;
- Liaise with the Project Leader of the Beneficiary institution, particularly in respect of making any changes to the project work plan that are necessary during the life of the project;
- Together with the Beneficiary country's Project Leader (and relevant EU delegations), co-chair the regular meetings of the Project Steering Committee;
- Carry out administrative tasks within his/her area of responsibility (e.g. signing cover letters, etc.);
- Take responsibility for interim and final reports together with the PL of the Beneficiary country;
- Ensure a robust steering policy;
- Participate in communication and visibility activities (see Twinning Manual, section 5.7).

3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA:

According to the Twinning Manual (section 4.1.6), the Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Twinning Project throughout its duration. The RTA is the backbone of the Twinning Project. The RTA must provide advice and technical assistance to the representatives of the Beneficiary administration. He/she keeps the Beneficiary PL informed of the implementation and reports regularly to the Member State PL. During the project implementation, the RTA regularly updates the work plan to be transmitted to the Project Steering Committee. The RTA will play a key role in coordinating contributions to the project. The RTA will be supported by short-term experts.

The RTA is the only Member State Expert to work full time in Ethiopia. He/she will be based at the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority in Addis Ababa. He/she will work on an on-going and daily basis in the Beneficiary country for the duration of the project. If deemed necessary and justifiable in order to implement the project, he/she may be required to carry out some short-term missions in the country (in accordance with the provisions of the Twinning Manual).

Profile

- He/she must hold master's degree in the field of phytosanitary (public health, agricultural sciences or equivalent) for this Twinning Project or hold a bachelor's degree and have an additional eight years of relevant professional experience (in addition to the specific experience required below) **(required)**;
- He/she must have a minimum of three years professional experience in the food safety/sanitary and/or phytosanitary sector **(required)**. Having at least six years of experience is desirable;
- Have experience in supporting the transposition or approximation of the Union acquis **(desirable)**;
- Have experience in managing a project in a similar field, preferably an international project **(desirable)**;
- Have good knowledge of SPS-related European legislation and regulations **(desirable)**;
- Have good negotiation/administration skills **(desirable)**;
- Fluency in spoken and written English (minimum level C1) **(required)**;
- Proficiency in standard computer tools/software (Word®, Excel®, PowerPoint®, Outlook®, video-conferencing, etc.) that are necessary to implement the project **(required)**.

Tasks of the RTA

The RTA must support the implementation of the different components of the project. He/she provides assistance to the different Beneficiary structures with regard to the management and implementation of the project. The RTA's role specifically includes:

- Ensuring the daily implementation of the Twinning Project in the Beneficiary country with contact points for the Beneficiary structures;
- Drafting the work plan in close cooperation with all actors and based on the expected results of the project;
- Working together with the MS Project Leader and the Project Leader of the Beneficiary administration to mobilize and supervise short-term experts;
- Coordinating the interventions of other experts;
- Providing technical advice and support to representatives of the Beneficiary administration of the Twinning Project;
- Ensuring the proper implementation of the various activities that are carried out;
- Organizing all project activities, such as workshops, study visits, training and short-term expertise, etc.;
- Preparing regular project monitoring meetings/briefings;

- Preparing quarterly and monthly reports (to be signed off by the Project Leaders);
- Making recommendations to ensure optimum project results;
- Regularly updating the work plan and transmitting project updates to the Project Steering Committee under the authority of the Member State and the Project Leaders.

3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders:

For each component, a Key Expert or Leader will be appointed, as well as a national counterpart. Each Key Expert will monitor all activities of his/her component in relation to the defined Results from the first through to the last month of the Twinning Project. By getting involved through a series of short-term missions, and by working closely with the RTA, the Component Leaders will be responsible for the essential programming, organisation, monitoring of activities, management of teams and experts, and reporting for the duration of the project and for each component. It is recommended that they attend (in person or via video-conferencing) the quarterly Steering Committee meetings.

The Key Experts also act as technical experts, as well as their responsibilities as Component Leaders.

The candidate profiles for Component Leaders/Key Experts are described below. All the component leaders are **required to have a good command of spoken and written English (level C1)**. Previous experience in EU funded Twinning or Technical Assistance projects is desirable.

Component	Profile
Policy review and preparation of the legislative and regulatory framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He/she must hold a higher education degree (minimum bachelor's degree) in legal sciences or an additional eight years of relevant professional experience (in addition to the specific experience required below) (required). Having a master's degree in public law is desirable. • He/she must have a minimum of three years of general professional experience in the legal sector (required). • Have a minimum of three years of specific professional experience in a phytosanitary administration (required). Having at least six years of relevant professional experience is desirable. • Good knowledge of the European SPS legislative and regulatory framework (required).
Improvement of service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He/she must hold a higher education degree in plant protection, Plant pathology, entomology weed science, phytosanitary related fields (public health, agricultural science, agronomy or equivalent) or an additional eight years of relevant professional experience (in addition to the specific experience required below) (required). • He/she must have a minimum of three years of general professional experience (required). • A minimum 3 years of specific professional experience in implementing Improvement of Service Delivery Management Systems in a public administration as per international standards (required). Having at least six years of professional experience in implementing Service Management Systems is desirable.
Strengthening operational capacity for SPS monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He/she must hold a higher education degree (minimum bachelor's degree) in agronomy (specialization in plant health) or plant biology or applied entomology or any other relevant discipline, or an additional eight years of relevant professional experience (in addition to the specific experience required below) (required). Having a master's degree or higher is desirable. • He/she must have a minimum of three years of general professional experience (required).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum three years of specific professional experience in sanitary and/or phytosanitary risk monitoring and management (required). Having at least six years of professional experience in this field is desirable. • Good knowledge of communications and sanitary and/or phytosanitary risk assessment (required).
Establishment and/or strengthening of information systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He/she must hold a higher education degree (minimum bachelor's degree) in IT or an additional eight years of relevant professional experience (in addition to the specific experience required below) (required). Having a master's degree or higher is desirable. • He/she must have a minimum of three years of general professional experience (required). • Minimum three years of specific professional experience in establishing and/or managing an information system for a phytosanitary administration (required). Having at least six years of professional experience in this field is desirable.
Communication and regional integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He/she must hold a higher education degree (minimum bachelor's degree) in a relevant field (either related to sanitary and phytosanitary issues or related to communication and/or international cooperation) or an additional eight years of relevant professional experience (in addition to the specific experience required below) (required). • He/she must have a minimum of three years of general professional experience (required). • He/she must have a minimum of three years of specific professional experience in organising activities to build capacity (workshops, seminars, training), communications or cooperation for a phytosanitary administration (required). Having at least six years of professional experience in this field is desirable. • Experience in regional or international cooperation activities (desirable).

3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts:

For each activity that is linked to a Component Result, MS Experts shall be mobilised in the form of short-term missions, with each Expert acting within his/her own field of speciality. These missions will be scheduled and initiated by the RTA, in consultation with the Key Expert, and defined on a quarterly basis according to the work programme. In operationally justified cases, and in agreement with the Contracting Authority, there may be activities implemented by short-term experts from the Member State via videoconferencing tools.

The general tasks of short-term experts are specified below:

- Provide technical input in specific areas of project implementation including technical and institutional support, organization of training workshops, drafting of training materials, drafting of required documents and other activities mentioned in their respective references.
- Provide support to Beneficiary Departments in implementing activities and provide specific recommendations in their role as specialists.
- Provide the RTA with an activity report and the deliverables planned for the end of each mission.
- Advise on the type of crops to be regulated for quality.
- Provide advice on quality management of unprocessed and semi processed plant products.

The qualifications and experience required for short-term experts are as follows:

- He/she must hold a bachelor's degree in a field relevant to the mission or an additional eight years of relevant professional experience (in addition to the specific experience required below) **(required)**. Having a master's degree in a relevant field is desirable.

- Minimum three years of specific professional experience in the mission field (**required**).
- A good command of spoken and written English (C1) (**required**).
- Proficiency in standard computer tools/software (Word®, Excel®, PowerPoint®, Outlook®, videoconferencing, etc.) that are necessary to implement the project (**required**).

4. Budget

EUR 3 000 000

5. Implementation Arrangements

- 5.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting:** The Delegation of the European Union to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

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5.2 Institutional framework

The Ethiopian Agricultural Authority will be the main beneficiary institution of the Twinning Grant contract, in particular the plant Quarantine and Regulatory Lead Executive Office and Desks (Plant Quarantine Inspection and Certification Desk, Pest Risk Analysis and Assessment Desk and Plant Products Safety and Quality Desk).

5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary administration:

5.3.1 Contact person:

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5.3.2 PL counterpart

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5.3.3 RTA counterpart

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6. Duration of the project

The implementation period for this Twinning Action from the date of the taking up of duties by the RTA will be 36 months.

7. Management and reporting¹

7.1 Language

The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the instrument (English). All formal communications regarding the project, including interim and final reports, shall be produced in the language of the contract.

7.2 Project Steering Committee

A project steering committee (PSC) shall oversee the implementation of the project. The main duties of the PSC include verification of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact), ensuring good coordination among the actors, finalising the interim reports and discuss the updated work plan. Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the PSC are described in the Twinning Manual.

7.3 Reporting

All reports shall have a narrative section and a financial section. They shall include as a minimum the information detailed in section 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and inputs. Two types of reports are foreseen in the framework of Twinning: interim quarterly reports and final report. An interim quarterly report shall be presented for discussion at each meeting of the PSC. The narrative part shall primarily take stock of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by in order to ensure the further progress.

8. Sustainability

The Twinning Project will make a substantial contribution to strengthening the institutional and technical capacity of the beneficiary departments. It will make it possible to (i) strengthen current efforts to upgrade the national legislative and regulatory framework for SPS, and (ii) introduce a quality approach in accordance with the requirements of the ISO 17020 standard. This should make it possible to conduct official monitoring and control missions for all phytosanitary and sanitary activities in the country in a sustainable and irreversible manner, and ultimately to obtain reliable information. The Twinning Project will also contribute to the development of staff skills and, most significantly, will result in the entire national system working in a consistent manner and in accordance with international SPS standards. At the end of the Twinning, the expectation is for acquired knowledge and skill, developed SPS system for the organization, methods and procedures for the monitoring, control of diseases and/or harmful organisms and official checks. Legal frameworks will be developed and implemented.

9. Crosscutting issues

9.1 Gender parity

Ethiopia is fully committed to gender issues as defined in the Millennium Development Goals. Ensuring access to public services without any differentiation or discrimination between men and women is a fundamental policy principle that is mainstreamed in any project. This SPS Twinning project is neutral in terms of gender equality. No gender differentiation or discrimination is included in the results and activities of the project. Both male and female managers working at central and regional levels will benefit from the capacity building activities that are planned under the project. The terms in this document are to be understood regardless of gender.

9.2 Environment:

The environmental impact of those SPS measures recommended as part of the implementation of the SPS Twinning project are presumed to have no or less impact on the environment, however, it shall be considered in advance.

¹ Sections 7.1-7.3 are to be kept without changes in all Twinning fiches.

10. Conditionality and sequencing

The EU funded programme implemented by AFD “Promoting Regional Economic Integration in the Horn of Africa through Development of the Djibouti Corridor” (TradeMark Africa Programme) is developing an Integrated Export and Import Certification System (IEICS), (e-phyto-system). This is currently ongoing and the system is already being developed. Some of the outputs of this Twinning Contract will build on this system, which is expected to be in place before the Twinning Contract starts.

11. Indicators for performance measurement

See Logical Framework – Annex I.

12. Facilities available

EAA as the relevant competent Authority or the beneficiary department will ensure that any European civil servant who is designated to work in Ethiopia under the framework of the SPS Twinning project shall be provided with all necessary infrastructure required to carry out its duties in the country. In particular, an equipped office would be made available to the RTA from the day upon which he/she arrives. The Beneficiary would provide meeting and training rooms to carry out project activities, as well as providing conference facilities. Small office equipment for the use of the MS Experts can be funded by the project budget as described per the Twinning Manual (Annex A7). It is however highly advisable to purchase and bring this equipment from Europe as it might be expensive and not readily available in Ethiopia.

Annexes

Annex 1: Simplified Logical Framework of the SPS Twinning Project in Ethiopia

Annex 2: Information about the Beneficiary structures of the SPS Twinning Project

Annex 3: List of legislation and regulations (in force and being passed) linked to SPS and the level of compliance of regulations with EU regulations

ANNEX I Logical Framework

	<i>Results chain</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Target (value & reference year)</i>	<i>Current value* (reference year)</i> <i>(* to be included in interim and final reports in due time)</i>	<i>Source and mean of verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
Impact level (Overall objective)	O.O: To secure EU market access for Ethiopian primary and semi-processed agricultural produce while contributing to food security and nutrition in Ethiopia.	OO1.1: Export of primary and semi-processed agricultural produce as percentage of Gross domestic product (GDP), disaggregated by type (SDG 1.15) (OPSYS core indicator, proxy).	To be determined (TBD) Primary agricultural produce: x Semi-processed agricultural produce: X	To be determined (TBD) Primary agricultural produce: x Semi-processed agricultural produce: X		National Food Systems and quality strategy for primary agricultural produce (January 2024) Reports from the Ministry of Finance and the national bank	NOT APPLICABLE
Outcome level (Specific Objective(s))	SO1: The official import/export control and management systems for phytosanitary, food safety and quality services are enhanced.	SO1.1: Percentage of agricultural products passing sanitary and phytosanitary services (SPS) inspections, disaggregated by service.	TBD Phytosanitary services: 80% Food safety (sanitary) services: 75%	TBD Phytosanitary services: 95% Food safety (sanitary) services: 90%		Annual report from the Ministry of Agriculture	
		SO1.2: National food safety performance index	59.3 (2022)	TBD		https://impact.economist.com/sustainability/project	

		(quality and safety).				t/food-security-index/	<p>*Political commitment and stability to support implementation of national SPS strategy documents.</p> <p>*Ongoing support from national and international regulatory bodies for the updated phytosanitary and food safety measures.</p> <p>*Export markets recognize and reward compliance with SPS measures.</p>
		SO1.3: Number of incidences of foodborne illnesses and plant health issues reported.	TBD	TBD		Annual report from the Ministry of Health, Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) and Regional Bureaus of Health)	
		SO1.4: Percentage of agricultural products meeting EU market entry requirements.	TBD	TBD		Annual report from the Ministry Agriculture) TRACES Notification report from the EU	
	SO2: The performance of the target public staff in delivering phytosanitary services and overseeing quality and food safety of primary and semi-processed products of plant origin is	SO2.1: Number of inspections conducted by the authority's enforcing compliance with labour legislation, disaggregated by government level and type of inspection	<p>TBD</p> <p>Local government: x</p> <p>National government: X</p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>Local government: x</p> <p>National government: X</p>		Annual report from the Ministry of Labour and Skills	

	enhanced.	(core OPSYS indicator).	On primary and semi-processed plant products: X On plant products: X	On primary and semi-processed plant products: X On plant products: X			
		SO2.2: Number of laboratory tests conducted for food safety.	TBD	TBD		Annual and quarterly reports from the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority	
		SO2.3: Number of food safety certificates issued.	TBD	TBD		Annual report from the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority	
Output level Outputs (for each Outcome)	OP1.1: Legal frameworks, requisite proclamations, regulations, directives in food value chain and food safety policies established.	OP1.1.1: Number of directives and regulations drafted/revised/updated with the support of the EU.	0	TBD		Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention	*e-Phyto service implementing contractor delivers assignment on time. *Federal and Regional governments are committed to harmonize coordination communication.
		OP1.1.2: Number of federal safety standards related to plant products	0	TBD		Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention	

		drafted/revised with the support of the EU.					<p>*Reliable and accurate data collection and management systems are established and maintained.</p> <p>*Information flow between stakeholders is effective and timely.</p> <p>*There is reliable access to technology and internet services required for data management and monitoring.</p>
	OP1.2: The capacities of technical staff on inspection and certification system strengthened.	OP1.2.1: Number of trained staff by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on inspections and certifications systems, disaggregated by sex (<i>core OPSYS indicator, proxy</i>).	0	TBD M: X F: X		<p>Participants lists</p> <p>Pre and post-test regarding the inspection and certification system</p>	
	OP2.1: The capacities of competent authorities in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and product quality monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are strengthened.	OP2.1.1: Number of authorities staff trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on SPS and product quality monitoring and evaluation,	0	TBD M: X F: X		<p>Participants list</p> <p>Pre and post-test regarding the inspection and certification system</p>	

		disaggregated by sex (<i>OPSYS core indicator, proxy</i>).					
		OP2.1.2: Number of storage and associated distribution systems improved with the support of the EU.	0	TBD		Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention	
	OP2.2: Data management system is improved.	OP 2.2.21: Status of data management system (e-phyto services).	Data Management system (e-phyto services) is not in place	A centralized data Management system (e-phyto services included) is implemented and operationalized with the support of the EU		Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention	
		OP 2.2.2: Number of new SPS data management security policies in harmony with the national policy of the country developed with the support of the EU.	0	TBD		Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention	

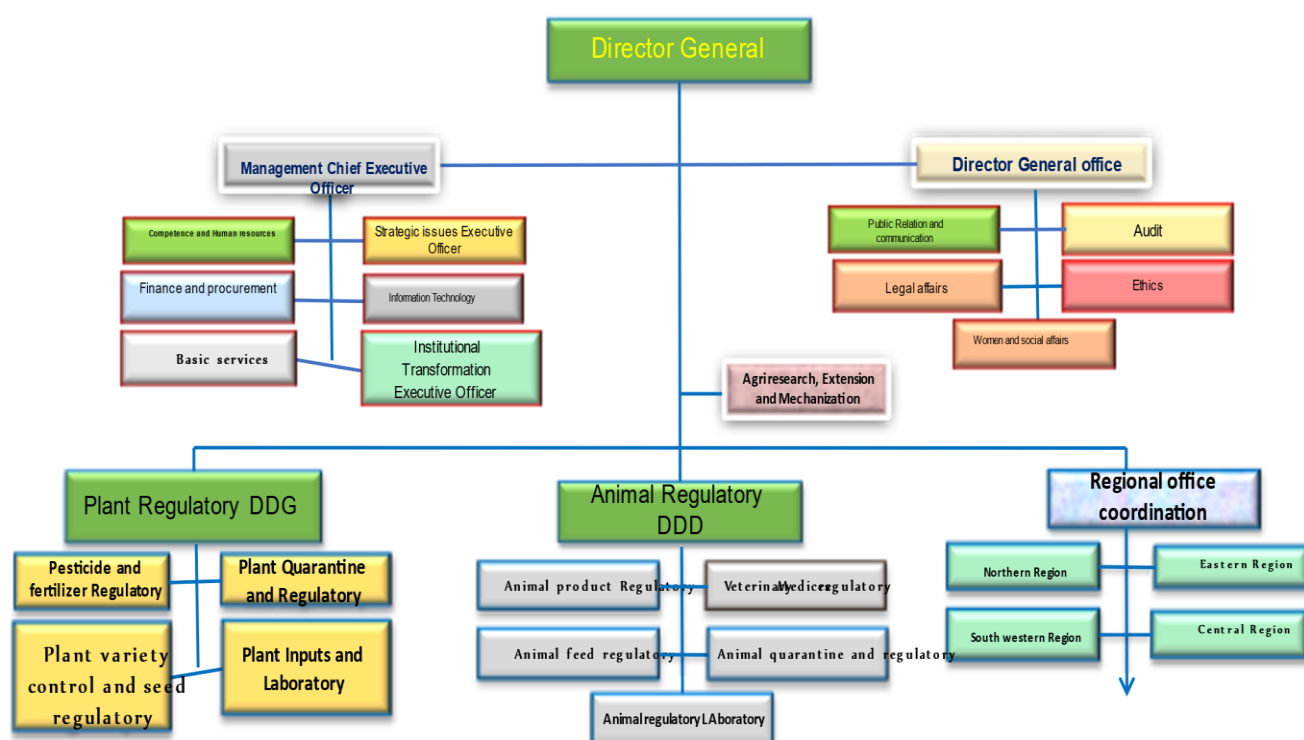
		OP2.2.3: Number of authorities' staff trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on the new data management system, disaggregated by sex (<i>OPSYS core indicator, proxy</i>).	0	TBD M: X F: X		Participants lists Pre and post knowledge survey on data management	
	OP2.3: A communication and coordination mechanism platform between regional states and federal government is set and harmonized.	OP2.3.1: Number of coordination meetings held between regional states and federal government with the support of the EU.	0	TBD		Procedures and regulations guidance tools manual Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention	
		OP2.3.2: Number of coordination meetings held between regional states and federal government with the support of the EU.	0	0		Regional and federal Participants lists Minutes meeting	

Activities Matrix (to be developed by the applicants)

Key activities	Means and Costs	Assumptions
<p>What are the key activities to be carried out to produce the intended outputs?</p> <p>(*activities should in principle be linked to corresponding output(s) through clear numbering)</p>	<p>Means</p> <p>What are the political, technical, financial, human and material resources required to implement these activities, e. g. staff, equipment, supplies, operational facilities, etc.</p> <p>Costs</p> <p>What are the action costs? How are they classified? (Breakdown in the Budget for the Action)</p>	<p>Assumptions</p> <p>Active participation and cooperation from all relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, local authorities, farmers, and agribusinesses.</p> <p>Stakeholders are willing to collaborate and comply with the project requirements and guidelines.</p> <p>Environmental conditions will remain stable enough not to hinder the implementation of project activities (e.g., no extreme weather events).</p>

Annex 2: Information about the Beneficiary structures of the SPS Twinning Project

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF EAA



Annex 3. List of legislation and regulations (in force and being passed) linked to SPS and the level of compliance of regulations with EU regulations

- 1. A proclamation to provide for the definition of the powers and duties of the executive organs of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia No.1263/2021*
- 2. A regulation to determine the powers and duties of the Ethiopian agricultural authority No.509/2022*
- 3. A proclamation to provide for organic agriculture No.488/2006*
- 4. Plant protection decree No, 56/71*
- 5. Plant quarantine regulation No. 4/92*
- 6. Pesticide registration and control proclamation No.674/2010*
- 7. Draft plant quarantine proclamation (under preparation)*