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Ethiopia secures over 576 mln USD exporting coffee, tea

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA-The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) said it has secured over 576 million USD in the past six months of the current fiscal year exporting coffee, tea and spice to the global market.

ECTA Public Relations and Communication Executive Sahlemariam Gebremedihm told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that they have achieved 67 percent of the plan sets to the reported period. The authority planned to earn 866 million USD from the export of the three products in the half-year.

However, this year's revenue shows a 31 percent decline when compared with the past year same period's performance.

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Adwa Museum everlasting symbol of African victory over colonialism

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The Adwa Victory Memorial Museum makes Ethiopians and other blacks history of anti-colonial struggle unforgettable and transferable to the future generation, the Global Blacks' History and

Heritage Center said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the Center's Global Chairperson Tsegaye Chemma lauded the museum's role of comprising the history of anti-colonial struggle shared by all Africans. "Everybody

who is concerned of Africans should visit the museum."

Ethiopia has noble place in preserving and restituting blacks' historical artifacts and the

See Adwa Museum everlasting ... page 3



Ethiopia, China build up strong momentum of cooperation

BY EYUEL KIFLU

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethio-China diplomatic relation has seen a remarkable progress in 2023, so said Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Zhao Zhiyuan.

The Ambassador made the above remark while celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year on February 3rd in Addis Ababa.

Addressing the attendees, Ambassador Zhao emphasized the remarkable progress made in Ethio-China relations throughout 2023.

The Ambassador highlighted key meetings between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and President Xi Jinping, which he mentioned as an evidence of the growing ties between

See Ethiopia, China ... page 3

Wolaita Sodo attracts three bln Birr Diaspora investments

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

WOLAITA SODO- Wolaita Sodo City observed an increasing diaspora investment registering 31 projects worth over three billion Birr during the past one and half years.

Wolaita Sodo City Investment Development Unit Coordinator, Frehiwot Woldemeskel told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the city has seen a rising Diaspora investment since 2021.

According to him, the city has attracted 25 Diaspora investments last budget year and six new investment projects during the past six months.

Frehiwot stated that the total investment capital of these Diaspora projects worth over three billion Birr.

"The 2022/23 budget year's Diaspora participation in the investment sector of the city was the highest compared to the



previous years and the past six months investment flow also shows a good momentum," Frehiwot stated.

According to him, manufacturing industry, service sector mainly hotels, resorts and lodge construction and agriculture sectors are the investment areas the Diaspora are engaging.

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News



Mohyeldeen Eltohami Taha

IGAD launches food system resilience program

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has launched phase one of the Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The program is projected to alleviate the impact of climate change, locust infestation, and Covid-19, IGAD announced.

Speaking on the launching event, the IGAD Agriculture and Food Security Head Mohyeldeen Eltohami Taha stressed the need of innovative implementations of addressing the climatic change happening in the regions.

The program is aimed to build resilient agricultural production, to develop agricultural landscape and natural resources, promoting policymaking and market system, he stated.

On the occasion, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Josefa Sacko, said that the program would help to respond threats of chronic food insecurity caused by the growing climate change and socio-economic challenges.

Both Eastern and Southern regions of Africa are experiencing natural and socio-economic shocks. Poverty reduction and food insecurity mitigation programs like the IGAD launched food system resilience are means to the solution, she said.

Higher officials from southern and eastern African countries attended the launching of the program and discussed existing challenges and opportunities in making food systems resilient.

The World Bank promised 25 million USD supports to be injected with seven years of the project implementation period, IGAD reported.

Having over 230 million people, the IGAD region is suffering from food insecurity, it was stated.

East African Pastoralists beefing up ties

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – East African Pastoralists praised the recent pastoral expo for bolstering relationships, integration and peace amongst themselves.

The East African Pastoralist Expo that held in Addis Ababa between January 26 and February 5, was a good opportunity for pastoralists to know one another and bolster relationship, participants said.

They told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the expo builds cooperation, peace and integration amongst them.

The expo is a big platform to help pastoralists know each other, said Ugandan Pastoralist Tebanyang Emmanuel who came to Addis Ababa to showcase his culture manifested by pastoral tools like plates, milk serving gourd bottle, fishing tools, and traditional clothes.

He expressed that the pastoralists came to Addis responding policy makers' advice about the necessity of creating an enabling environment and governing policy to connect with Ethiopian counterparts.



Ugandan Pastoralist Tebanyang Emmanuel

Pastoralists want to develop infrastructure to access foreign market since they have only small market at local level, he said.

Ethiopian Pastoralist Blusha Guyo said, "We are happy for displaying our product here. This expo is a big opportunity that meet together pastoralists in one place and helps us to learn a lot of lessons and experience and also share



Ethiopian Pastoralist Blusha Guyo

our challenges." She said that the government in collaboration with IGAD is supporting pastoralists through creating them market access for their animal products.

However, she expressed that the pastoralists yet need basic facilities such as road, school, hospitals and water.



Bureau plans to export 1,000 tons of Avocado

• Prepares 10 mln Avocado seedling for plantation

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Oromia State Agriculture Bureau announced that it has planned to export 1,000 tons of Avocado this fiscal year.

Bureau Deputy Head Mohammed Sani told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the state is trying hard to export 1,000 tons of Avocado products to various countries.

He recalled that the state had secured three million USD exporting 180 tons of Avocado products last budget year.

According to the Deputy Head, his Bureau has been expanding avocado cultivation as it has prepared 16 hectares of land since last crop year.

Besides, 10 million Avocado seedlings have been prepared to cover 25 hectares of land this fiscal year, he added.

It means that the total coverage of Avocado's plantation reaches over 40 hectares of land across the Oromia state, he noted.

Mohammed further stated that avocado products are being exported to Spain, Dubai, and Saudi Arabia whilst various European countries are requesting to import the product from Ethiopia.

However, he expressed that lack of adequate production and infrastructure gaps are among the serious challenges to supply the required volume of avocado products to the international market.

However, efforts are being exerted to increase exportation through encouraging exporters that has been concentrated in East Shoa to expand to Jima zone and other avocado growing areas, according to the Deputy Head.

Institute underlines need to transform livestock sector

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The livestock sector has required transformation and development to improve the livelihoods and increase production and productivity, said Policy Studies Institute (PSI).

The PSI held a livestock validation workshop on the research findings on the way to improve production and productivity of the sector.

Speaking at the validation workshop help yesterday, PSI Director General Prof. Beyene Petros noted that the research finding revealed that demand and supply of livestock products showed a wide gap. It also showed that the price of meat demand would increase by 200% in the coming five years. The situation urgently requires policy interventions and designing a mechanism to further increase sector production and productivity.

"If we continue livestock production and productivity in this way, we would be forced to import sector products widely since the demand has been increasing from time to time."

The sector further needs to have its own stable policy and experienced leadership, wide engagement of the private sector, utilizing the latest technologies and coordination of all stakeholders, he said.

The contribution of sector to the total GDP is still small. It is important to change the current livestock sector to support the overall economic development, he added.

PSI Livestock Program Coordinator Dessalegn Begna (PhD) on his part said that although there is government and partners' support, the sector is still in an infant stage since it has policy gaps (it hasn't its own policy), lack of its own structure and others. As a result, the production and productivity of the livestock sector has not been growing in accordance with the growing population.

There are different initiatives and projects to improve the sector. However, these efforts didn't transform the sector. It demands its own policy and strategy, stakeholders' partnership, suitable structure, technology usage, skilled manpower and others based on research, underlined.

News

IDC says working on promoting institutional integration

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

ADDIS ABABA—The International Dean's Course Africa 2003/24, Part III (IDC) is vital in creating more rooms for cooperation among institutions and nations, so said Addis Ababa University (AAU) President.

Delivering a key note speech at a five day deliberation of the third part of the IDC, from February 5th – 9th 2024 in Addis Ababa, AAU President Samuel Kifle (PhD) said, "Despite the challenges of higher education, Ethiopia has not only successfully expanded the sector, but also embarked on major reform initiatives such as university system differentiation, governance of creating autonomous universities, introducing exit exam thereby becoming autonomous one.

IDC training will provide AAU with additional opportunities to learn from African brothers and fundamental practices in Universities in Germany, Samuel noted.

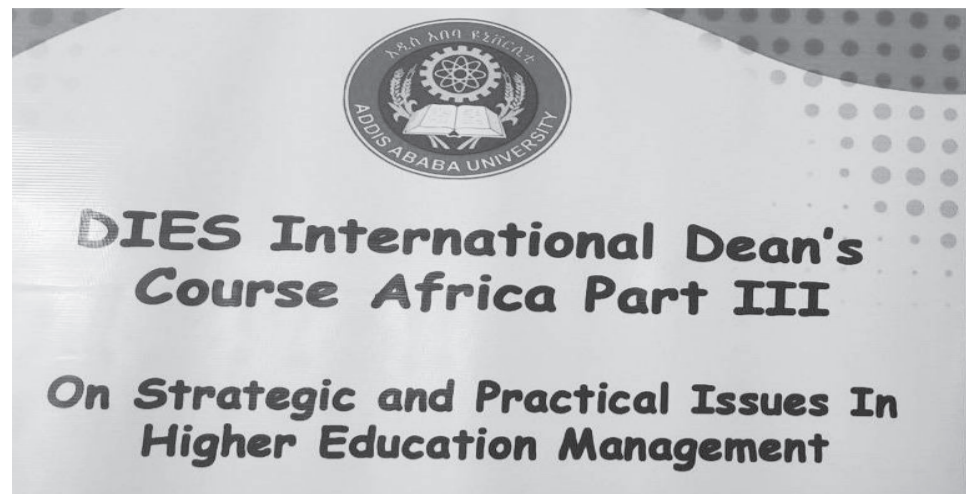
Ethiopia and Germany, as to the president, have enjoyed a 120 years of diplomatic

relationship, but history informs as the people to people connections have accounted for over 500 years. The contribution of Germany to Ethiopian higher education is fundamental as many Ethiopians study in various German universities.

"Germany and its development agencies have been instrumental in Ethiopia's engineering capacity building programs, strengthening higher education system, and many more over the years," Samuel added.

In a similar vein, AAU Regional Expert for IDC Prof. Abebe Dinku, mentioned that the IDC training attracts participants from Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and experts from Germany, South Africa, Kenya and Ethiopia. The course is organized by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), DIES program.

"The training is the ninth one in Africa and is a continuation of every two years. It has three parts. The first part took place in Germany in July 2023. The second was an online in Nov. 2023."



Abebe further explained that the first part of the training covered issues like strategic faculty management, financial management, leadership and governance. It also opened doors for exchanging experiences with German university leaders. Participants have also developed a Project Action Plan (PAP).

The current (Part III) of the course is a five days of deliberation focuses in an

implementation of PAPs and other higher education management topics like research and human resource management, said the Professor.

"Some 270 African deans, heads of departments, and associate deans are taking part in the training. Of which, 30 of them are Ethiopians from different universities," said the professor.

Wolaita Sodo attracts...

Meanwhile, Frehiwot noted that Wolaita Sodo city has registered 2.5 billion investment capitals from local, foreign companies and Diaspora projects during the

last budget year.

In addition, he expressed that, the city has registered investment projects worth over 1.8 billion Birr during the past six months.

In addition to the suitable climate with adequate resources, being the seat of South West Ethiopia state enabled the city to attract more investments especially in the

service industry, he mentioned.

He calls local and foreign investors to exploit the investment potentials of Wolaita Sodo and surrounding areas.

Adwa Museum...

Adwa Museum is a showcase of this commitment to make all Africans' history unforgettable and transferable to posterity. The museum also is a testimony to Ethiopia's desire to maintain its leadership status in mobilizing Africans for struggle against injustice.

Praising the museum's collection of Adwa war artifacts, Tsegayecalled on fellow Africans to follow Ethiopia's feet in restituting artifacts. "A piece of artifact costs immense amount of money. We may have the potential to buy and retribute some of them, but, most of them are very expensive or not for sale; so it needs mobilization like what the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum does."

He also called on Ethiopian diplomats to invite incoming African Union

guests to visit the museum.

There may be several side events or protocols which could make the AU guests busy. But, the Adwa Museum is a must-visit place because important relics of blacks' struggle are professionally preserved. The center also teaches how forefathers and mothers were committed to protect their national and diplomatic interests. The then Ethiopians fought and defeated a major colonialist power and then mobilized other African brothers and sisters to fight for their independence."

According to the chairperson, the center is also working on heritage restitution in the one hand and promoting existing ones in the other. "Themuseum's engagement to collect artifacts is also a historical coincident to us."

Ethiopia, China build up...

the two nations.

He stated that Prime Minister Abiy had a successful participation in the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and official visit to China, which further solidified the partnership.

Ambassador Zhao underscored the collaborative efforts of Ethiopia and China in implementing initiatives such as the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative.

Both countries are working towards enhancing practical cooperation within the framework of the "Belt and Road" and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, he said.

Indicating the elevation of bilateral relations to an All-Weather Strategic Partnership and Ethiopia's inclusion in the BRICS, Ambassador Zhao expressed optimism anticipating an increased collaboration between the two in various sectors, including trade, investment, infrastructure, agriculture, communications,

finance, culture, and education.

Such opportunities, he emphasized, would benefit both Ethiopian and Chinese citizens, making this partnership an exemplary model for fostering a shared future.

In his closing remarks, Ambassador Zhao acknowledged the challenges that lie ahead but affirmed the unwavering determination of the Chinese nation to overcome obstacles and continue working closely with Ethiopia.

He also expressed gratitude for the support of Ethiopian friends in safeguarding the rights and interests of Chinese citizens and businesses in Ethiopia.

The event which accentuated by captivating Chinese kung-Fu, cultural dances, and various activities that showcased China's rich heritage was attended by Ambassador Gebeyehu Ganga (PhD), Director-General of Middle East, Asia and Pacific Affairs, alongside invited guests and members of the Chinese community residing in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia secures...

Sahlemariam also stated that the stated sum was secured from 122, 893 tons export and in terms of volume, the ECTA has achieved 72 percent of the 171 tons plan that was set for the half-year. Also, this year's performance surpassed that of the past year same period by 1,067 tons.

In the reported period, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and the United States are the major destinations for Ethiopia's coffee exports.

About the performance of each item, the expert indicated some 571.4 million USD

was obtained from exporting 117, 955 tons of coffee export to different countries. Similarly, 1.44 million USD was earned from 697,000 tons of tea exports in the same period. Also, 3.82 million USD was secured from 4, 240 tons of spices export.

According to him, the amount of revenue Ethiopia has been expecting to earn from exports of coffee has declined during this year because of the price decline in the global market. The limited productivity of winter coffee production and buyers'

cancellation of contracts have remained the challenges of the sector.

To address the stated setbacks, efforts are underway to encourage suppliers to supply the market with enough coffee, increase the quality and modernize the control of coffee marketing.

ECTA will work diligently to exploit meaningful benefits from the sector by strengthening the coordination and control of illegal activities in a problem-solving way, Sahlemariam remarked.



Sahlemariam Gebremedhin

Opinion

Challenges to economic development, some remedial measures

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Ethiopia has faced a number of economic challenges that affected its economic development visions. One of these challenges is the widespread poverty that affected both the rural and urban people. Moreover, its effort to grow and develop has been negatively influenced by war, social scuffles, turmoil, chaos and disorder. These events discouraged the endeavors of governments to reduce and eliminate poverty. Ethiopia, therefore, faced immense challenges to its economic development. It could not use inputs that guarantee growth in output, employment and foreign exchange earnings.

In particular, it has faced challenges related to foreign exchange shortages. This has constrained its ability to import productive inputs that enhance its ability to produce for domestic and external markets. This contributed to trade imbalances and economic difficulties that induced a vicious circle of poverty, unemployment and economic crises. Similar economic issues have remained unresolved due to external factors. One of these factors is related to debt sustainability.

Debt levels of Ethiopia raised concerns about economic sustainability. The country had borrowed money to implement major infrastructure projects, including roads, dams and other sector projects. All these economic engagements have led to questions about the ability to service debts. Each and every project is designed, approved and implemented by concerned agencies with the objective of contributing to economic growth, employment and income generation. The implementation of every project is monitored and evaluated if it is performed in line with stated development objectives.

Periodic monitoring and evaluation report is crucial for making decisions on the continuity of the project. Ignoring this report would entail abuse of resources committed for the implementation of the project. It also entails misuse of money borrowed for the proper execution of the project. At the end of the project life, planned output may not be achieved. This leads to termination of the project, with all inputs wasted, and workers terminated, leading to shortage of output and unemployment.

Shortage of outputs leads to less supply in the face of high demand by the people, whose size is on the rise. This leads to high rise in price or inflation. Inflation has been a persistent challenge that has resulted in high cost of living for Ethiopians. High inflation rates can erode the purchasing power of the people. Both Inflation and unemployment

negatively affect the overall stability of the economy.

Consequently, it leads to political tensions in the country. These tensions, including ethnic and regional conflicts, had implications for economic stability. They lead to instances of violence that cause further destabilization. The rise in the cost of living tends to exacerbate social unrest which may disrupt economic activities. Such an environment is bound to deter investment that may flow into Ethiopia. Unrest and conflict in different parts of the country posed significant challenges. It has led to humanitarian crises and displacement of people from their place of origin.

The crises including, hunger, internal displacement, out-migration to the unknown destinations become a common phenomenon. Social conflicts have led to disruptions in economic activities in the affected region. These conflicts suspended production, closed enterprises, and left people unemployed and starved. All these disruptions have been accompanied by diseases that had repercussions on the health infrastructure and on the Ethiopian economy. These local disruptions had negative impacts on global trade. They entailed travel restrictions and movement of people within and between regions. Such an overall economic slowdown has led to additional challenges. They have led to infrastructure gaps despite significant investments incurred in it. There have been gaps in transport that hampered movement of people and goods between production areas and the markets. There has also been gap in energy that negatively affected the productive sector and the service sector.

It is proven that economic gaps hamper, deter and obstruct activities in all sectors. All these negative economic situations may constrain the competitiveness of the country in international trade. Its traditional agricultural exports may be affected due to low productivity. Though agriculture played a crucial role in the economy of the country, it faces challenges that are negative to its development. One of these challenges is land degradation. It has been caused by improper crop rotation, inappropriate irrigation, land clearance, over grazing and other factors. When soil degrades, the process that takes place within it is damaged. This causes a decline in soil health, biodiversity and productivity leading to environmental consequences such as flooding and mass migration of people. This is a major challenge to the economic development of the country. It is, therefore, a prerequisite to assign soil scientists to investigate the real cause of land degradation to arrive at the right solution. Agricultural output is negatively affected by lack of access to

modern farming practices, and climate change impacts.

Low performance in agriculture and other sectors of the economy is an indicator of the challenges to the Ethiopian economy. This is reflected by the level of unemployment in the country. Unemployment, particularly among the youth, is a major concern. It shows the burden of creating sufficient job opportunities for a growing population which is crucial for inclusive economic development.

All economic sectors have to be invigorated with new investment opportunities. These investments have to be productive enough for contributing outputs to domestic and external markets. Producing for exports in a competitive manner helps to reduce trade imbalances faced by Ethiopia. In fact, it improves the foreign exchange earnings of the country. The banks have to ensure that only essential goods and services are imported into the country. This measure saves foreign exchange that improves the balance of payment in Ethiopia.

The informal economy is also a major contributor to the supply of goods and services to the local market. However, this sector is negatively affected by shortage of raw materials and power supply. The sector is also repeatedly challenged by lack of access to finance and space for its productive performance. Addressing these challenges necessitates a synchronized and an all-inclusive approach. This involves economic reforms and infrastructure development to address problems of small scale business enterprises.

A business which functions on a low level involves less capital investment, less number of workers and fewer machines to operate. Economic reforms should encourage these operators as they create employment and income for the unemployed people. Social programs should also address the needs of the poor and low income groups in the country. Economic policy, program, strategy and progress should, therefore, not be hampered by social conflict, disagreement, clash and divergence at every level of the Ethiopian society. It is, therefore, a prerequisite to resolve conflicts that hamper the goal of economic growth and development in Ethiopia.

The goal of economic growth and development is to enhance the well-being of Ethiopians. The quality of life of the people is improved by fostering sustained economic growth and addressing key aspects of human development. Economic development is not only an increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It covers an extensive and wide-ranging set of objectives. The particular

goals of economic development may differ across regions. But, generally speaking they include poverty reduction, employment generation, improving income distribution and human development. Economic development aims to alleviate poverty through improving income levels, creating job opportunities, and improving standard of living. The objective is to guarantee the benefits of economic growth that are distributed more equitably through time.

A key objective is the creation of productive employment opportunities. Job creation reduces unemployment thereby contributing to the overall economic well-being of the Ethiopian citizens and communities. Economic development may reduce income inequality through time by creating equal opportunities for wealth creation. This ensures that the benefits of economic growth are distributed widely across society.

Beyond economic pointers, the focus is on improving human development, including education, training, healthcare, and access to basic services. Investment in human capital encourages an increase in the number of skilled, trained and healthy labor-force. Productive workforce enhances the well-being of the Ethiopians by providing goods and services that are needed in the domestic market. They also produce exportable items the generate foreign exchange needed for the import of basic necessities.

Economic development, as indicated earlier, aims for sustainability by analyzing the long-term environmental and social effects of economic actions. Balancing economic activities with sustainable development contributes to environmental conservation. However, imbalance between excessive exploitation of resources causes the depletion of natural resources of countries, including Ethiopia.

Environmental degradation negatively affects economic progress leading to lesser output that is insufficient to meet the needs of the people whose size is constantly on the rise. This leads to outmigration of people from their place of origin to other areas to avoid death from hunger. As a result, the social well-being of people is distorted.

A remedial action may be to engage in the diversification of the economy for reducing reliance on traditional rural agriculture. Diversification encourages resilience to long-term shocks such as environmental degradation. This demands a strategy that encourages a more vigorous, dynamic and coordinated approach to minimize the challenges to economic development in Ethiopia.

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald

Editorial

Effort geared towards food sovereignty

Needless to state, Ethiopia is gifted with abundant natural resources of adequate landmass, fertile soil, favorable climate, water, among others. As a result, many of its resources should be properly identified, well managed and fully exploited to help the nation emancipate itself from the state of underdevelopment.

Of the many ways to do so, expanding effective utilization of resources and making the agriculture sector modern have, but not limited to, come to the forefront. In so doing, it would be quite possible to well exploit the knowledge about the status of land, water, natural resources and so on.

Cognizant of the fact that natural resources are under the influence of various interconnected factors like population pressure, agricultural expansion, rapid urbanization, climate change in the country, the government is committed more than ever before to device possible solutions to all those problems to bring about real change. It is, of course, working hard towards ensuring food sovereignty through modernizing agricultural activities and exploiting available natural resources and reasonably employing the available human power at hand. Basically, ensuring food security in Ethiopia would be simple if the country utilizes ample natural resources, favorable weather condition and adequate human power that would support its relentless endeavor in investing agricultural sector.

As agricultural development and economic growth are two sides of a coin, the government has prettily embarked on modernizing the sector and scrupulously combating degradation of land, water and other relevant resources.

True, several steps have been taken to address troubles revolving around the agriculture sector and the country has witnessed spectacular increase in farming output and meaningful progress in economic stride.

Here, the spread of new farm technology needs to be expanded and accompanied with modern agricultural technology, streamlined infrastructure, and committed as well as productive labor. The strategy of modernizing agriculture is likely to succeed only to the extent to which the individual farmers actually use modern agricultural inputs. The government, therefore, has adopted the policy of providing a wide range of incentives to the farmers in the form of specific subvention on modern agricultural effort. Besides, as agriculture modernization can be calculated in terms of acknowledged inputs like improved seeds, fertilizers, etc., the determination of the government along this line has been bearing fruits.

Obviously, Ethiopia's agriculture sector has to be made productive and dynamic economic source as it has become a successful structural change and inclusive development path for economic progress. As institutional and policy changes including the recent reform have facilitated transformation, the government has been working on such a lucrative trajectory. Basically, modernization can be interpreted as a process of changing the traditional social of community life into a modern one, especially those related to technology and social organization. Agricultural modernization in turn is a major change in agricultural patterns from traditional ways to more advanced or modern ways covering various aspects together with agricultural institutions, agricultural technology and natural resource development.

Since modernization in farming requires the presence of agricultural machinery such as tractors, transplants, combiners, or hydroponic planting systems, among others, the Ethiopian government is eyeing on fulfilling the necessary inputs. In fact, if agricultural modernization is successfully implemented, the positive impact that will be obtained is economic sovereignty and power to effectively defeat poverty.

In sum, Ethiopia always closely works with the private sector, development partners, research institutions with a view to devising viable and sustainable solutions which are anchored in the local systems to boost economic growth. Yes, inclusive and sustainable agricultural systems can thrive via making the sector modern. Thus, the government offers support to improve agricultural and management practices, facilitate the introduction of improved climate-smart products and technologies to make resources of the country compatible with its aspiration for dependable economic sovereignty.

Opinion

Honoring Ethiopia's defense against colonization, subjugation and coercion

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

There is no question that the victory of Adwa played a significant role in changing the well-established principles and approaches of the former colonizers towards dark-skinned population. Besides that, the victory of Adwa has given rise to making a contribution to the world in acknowledgment of the fact that Ethiopians have subjugated the colonial troops and abolished them from the face of Ethiopia at the earliest possible juncture.

In a manner similar, the victory of Adwa played a significant role in breaking the chains of coercion and the yoke of inferiority. As Ethiopians made the unattainable achievable and the impracticable practicable, the victory of Adwa turned out to be the talk of the entire world in the shortest possible time and ended up winning the hearts and minds of every Tom, Dick, and Harry worldwide. It is important to highlight that Ethiopians from all segments of society mark the anniversary of the victory of Adwa, which functions as an indicator of resistance and freedom among black communities throughout the world.

It is common knowledge that Ethiopia had been with a wide spectrum of unjustified external pressure that has been exposing the survival of the people of Ethiopia to danger over and over again. However, the country has proven to be triumphant over quite a lot of encounters and jumpstarted achieving the desired outcome. As a matter of fact, the victory of Adwa has made a notable difference in the battle for independence and liberation and served as an emblem of African independence.

Apart from setting a lesson that a united people can conquer colonial dominance, the victory of Adwa is a living proof of what the oppressed black people can do. At that specific point in time, the Italian colonial hegemony had no earthly idea that Ethiopia's time honored heroism and resilience would bring an embracing defeat which heartened the former to attack the latter.

It is quite clear that the victory of Adwa served as hallmark in the liberation movement of black people from the yoke of colonialism and coercion. In actual fact, it has been found that the victory of Adwa brought a new historical moment to the entire continent of Africa and all black people residing in the left, right and center of the entire world. When the news of the victory of Adwa spread like a wildfire throughout the world, citizens of the whole world failed to believe their eyes and ears. The news kept going viral in the length and breadth of the world.

Needless to say, the victory of Adwa was a big blow to Italian army which was significantly qualified and armed to the teeth. In addition to paying the ultimate price to defend Ethiopia's independence, Ethiopians played a most important role in unshackling Africa from conquerors.

There is no question that the victory of Adwa played a significant role in changing the well-established principles and approaches of the former colonizers towards dark-skinned population

By their very nature, whenever something comes to pass, Ethiopians cast their differences aside and become united to counterattack internal and external foes.

There can be no doubt that Ethiopia is a symbol of African independence and freedom that helped unchains black people from the yoke of coercion and imperialism. The victory has also shown the entire world that Africans can do everything if they stand together and nothing shall be impossible. The other implication is that the global community can learn the fact that harmony can play a paramount role in fighting internal and external aggression and pressure with success.

In a similar manner, the victory of Adwa has reinstated Africa's self-worth and nobleness upon expansionism. It as well has transformed the entrenched approaches of the former colonizers that gave little weight to the continent of Africa and the black community in general.

In a previous interview with The Ethiopian Herald, Lij Ermiyas Tesema Ergete, a former historical documents pundit at Ethiopian Patriot Association said as it is an abstract one, the victory of Adwa cannot be expressed in a few words. As colonizers thought that the whites were superior to black people, they were utilizing the black people as slaves. With time, they embarked on invading Africa and turning the lives of black people into a living hell every once in a while.

"Despondently, the former colonizers jumpstarted taking anyone they sought after to various parts of Europe and America. When the time was ripe, they came to Ethiopia in furtherance of making their dream become a reality. However, Ethiopians got rid of the invaders and ended up becoming victorious over Italy, the civilized and well-equipped one," he added. He stressed that the victory of Adwa has witnessed the fact that all human races are one and the same. Ethiopians have shown the fact all races are equal. Aside from becoming the pride of all black people, the victory of Adwa has contributed to African history on the grounds that it witnesses the fact that Italians had been defeated by blacks.

Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald



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Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Capitalizing on poultry sub sector for baking economical move

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Of the various sectors on which Ethiopia has been embarking, chicken production, poultry, is showing progress as it has been widely run in different parts of the nation.

The Ethiopian Herald approached Zinabu Zewudu, an agro economist graduated from Dilla University, to garner professional comment on the agriculture sector in general and the poultry subsector in particular centering Ethiopian poultry farming methods, their contributions, and challenges such as feed shortages, disease, veterinary service, health management, genetic quality etc.

He said, “Obviously, Ethiopian chicken breeds have been using for meat and egg production. In the country, both types of chicken egg-laying and meat producing varieties are known as dual-purpose breeds. The generations are then utilized to produce eggs, while the parent stock is employed in the hatchery. It is well recognized that poultry plays a significant socioeconomic importance in terms of bolstering food security, supplementary financial flow, and job creation. Of course, rural chicken generates the vast majority of national egg and chicken meat output, and is a substantial part of the national economy in general and the rural economy in particular. Village chicken-raising is the practice of maintaining chickens in rural households employing family effort, too.”

Village chicken has a considerable impact on the national economy of the nation as well as its role in improving the nutritional status, income, food security, and livelihood of many smallholders due to its low cost of production he said adding that poultry remains an important part of farming systems and household economies in rural communities, while large and small-scale commercial poultry industries in cities and towns play a critical role in providing safe, high-quality products for urban consumers.

As to him, poultry production is used to provide employment and income-generating opportunities and priorities animal for holy days and religious celebrations.

Zinabu further elucidated that the government is now working on poultry production options include training and extension services, veterinary services, market access, financial services, preparing forage, and the requirement for limited space and inputs. As a result, certain actions are being taken immediately to alleviate these limits and boost the poultry’s production potential.

Scientifically speaking, he said all domestic birds, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, ostriches, guinea fowls, and pigeons, are considered poultry. Because other forms of poultry are essentially unknown as sources of egg and meat, the term poultry is identical to domestic chicken. Ethiopian chickens are the most common, with chickens being owned by almost every rural family. They provide a crucial source of protein and revenue for the family.

“Chicken production is vital for developing countries, like ours, socioeconomic development. Poultry, particularly chickens, is the most extensively kept subsector and the Ethiopian poultry population (chicken) is



Poultry production is being well underway in Addis Ababa and other parts of the nation

composed of indigenous, hybrid, and foreign breeds.”

As to Zinabu, chicken farming is a significant and fundamental element of most households in Ethiopia, as it is in other poor nations, in rural, urban, and vicinity settings, allowing farmers to reap the advantages of high-quality protein in the form of eggs and meat while simply scavenging feed resources. Chickens are raised in free-range systems in most villages, with the majority of their diet coming from scavenging insects, maggots, plant materials with very tiny amounts of grain crop and table waste supplements from the home.

Fertile eggs, table eggs, day-old chicks, broiler meat, and adult breeding stocks are provided by large-scale commercial poultry to small-scale modern poultry farms. It is distinguished by a higher degree of productivity, as chicken production is fully market-driven to meet the strong demand for chicken in major cities, and it employs a diverse workforce ranging from chicken attendants to professional managers.

According to Zinabu, Egg and poultry meat are the ones that provide critically important nutrients, including protein, minerals and vitamins. In addition to being used as an income source, small-scale poultry production contributes to ensuring food and nutrition security of the poor people. Chickens, in many households, are kept by women and the youths, providing employment and means of increasing family economic gains.

He also said that chicken production is an important economic venture which considers both genders male and female. Chicken keeping is also mostly done by individuals with primary education, who rely on them as sources of income and protein and the variations of the same between/among districts.

True, he added poultry keeping remains an important economic option for improving the livelihoods poorer smallholders across the nation. Increasingly stringent quality and food-safety standards demanded by importing countries will favor the intensification process.

“The poultry farming is of paramount importance in reducing poverty, achieving food and nutritional security, contributing to economic growth (GDP) and agro-industry development, making a significant contribution to exports and foreign exchange earnings and supports to climate resilience.”

Zinabu further elucidated that success in modernizing the poultry sub-sector will also require policy interventions that help ensure sufficient land that needs to be allocated and put into poultry feed production, especially maize and soybean, and the private sector is encouraged to invest in poultry agribusinesses—especially day-old chick production and meat and egg processing.

As to him, special incentives are needed, like review of the business climate, tax facilities, training, to promote more value adding through processing and product

transformation combined with clearer roles of the public and private sectors.

As stated earlier and witnessed so far, poultry plays a significant socioeconomic importance in terms of food security, supplementary financial flow, and religious/cultural reasons as it is a substantial part of the national economy in general and the rural economy in particular. Due to its low cost of production, village chicken has a considerable impact on the national economy of Ethiopia and other developing nations, as well as its role in improving the nutritional status, income, food security, and livelihood of many smallholders.

He said, “Yes, poultry remains an important part of farming systems and household economies in rural communities, indeed. As proved scientifically, poultry meat and eggs benefit the human population by providing meals with high-quality protein and low-fat levels with optimal fatty acid profiles.”

It is well recognized that he added the poultry industry sector has a large number of firms competing over low prices with low profit margins, leading to immense pressure by firms to cut costs. At the same time, to remain competitive and meet production and consumption targets, firms are expected to build capacity with a view to dramatically increasing production—raising more and more birds in confined spaces.

Population growth, rising income and urbanization are commonly seen as the main drivers of poultry demand, in fact, he said adding that, however, government policy choices, growth and marketing of quick service restaurants and super markets, food safety concerns, costs of production such as labor, land and feed, and environmental limitations including feed, land and water constraints have and will continue to shape demand in the livestock sector and poultry is no exception.

As to him, food safety concerns, in turn, are driving the government and consumers to demand greater control of the supply chain, slowly shifting consumer habits towards more processed poultry bought in supermarkets.

He further added that improved processing technologies and ready-to-eat poultry products are expected to be provided to customers and users for the purpose of quenching consumer interest in poultry products in the country. Poultry operators, various companies, associations working on the area, have to focus on expending food processing facilities and investing in advanced technologies to produce the, three RS: ready-to-use, ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat foods.

According to Zinabu, poultry production in Ethiopia continues to slowly grow, as a lot remains to be done to promote it, and production of poultry meat is set to rise.

From an industry standpoint, he said all operators can always do a better job of communicating the positive aspects of the industry, and the poultry economic impact.

“The poultry industry has provided citizens, especially the farming community, with job opportunities, national revenue and other related entities. The poultry industry supports a number of rural communities thereby contributing a lot to economic growth.”

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Celebrating Ethiopia's diplomatic achievements

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

There has been in the past weeks in Addis the Diplomacy Week Exhibition shown at the Science Museum where Ethiopia's diplomatic history has been revealed in detail. No wonder Ethiopia's more than one hundred years of intense diplomacy has been exhibited and has gained the admiration and surprise of many visitors who did not know a lot about how much Ethiopia's diplomatic journey was full of shining successes and memorable achievements. It is well known that Ethiopia has always been a free country having resisted multiple times foreign invasions to colonize it thanks to the prowess of its patriots and the good diplomatic relations it has maintained along the long past years.

Ethiopia's diplomatic history has not been limited by ideological divergences as it has enjoyed excellent relations with both the so called West and East and the role it played in the formation of the Non Aligned Countries Movement is well known by the relevant countries. Its active participation in the world of diplomacy beginning with the formation of the League of Nations in the early nineteen twenties to the foundation of its successor the United Nations Organisation is a witness to its diplomatic successes and its acceptance as a sovereign nation when there were practically all African states under colonial domination.

Ethiopia's contribution for the struggle for the liberation of Africa and its relentless campaign of opposition to the apartheid regime of South Africa by trying to isolate it from every international forum where Africans participated is well documented in history books because Ethiopia has gone to the extent of training freedom fighters such as the South African first democratically elected President Nelson Mandela and others such as Samora Machel, Robert Mugabe and others who fought for the liberation of their peoples. Ethiopia's role in peacekeeping and peacemaking, its contribution of troops to the efforts of the UN to avert escalations of wars and conflicts beginning with the Korean War in the early 1950s and the crisis in Congo with the Katanga War in 1960 have been repeatedly acknowledged and deserved awards and recognitions in the international sphere. Ethiopia has also deserved the reputation as a peace loving country not being involved in any transgressions of international law.

Later on in the foundation of the Organization of African Unity now African Union the role of the then Ethiopian monarch Haile Selassie and his foreign minister Ketema Yifru is unforgettable because it has been recorded in history books and the new generation of Africans can find those stories at the current diplomacy exhibition and the books written on these stories by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The more recent participation of Ethiopian troops in multiple peace keeping missions in countries such as Liberia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and other places under the auspices of

both the UN and the AU has been awarded accolades of recognition and admiration given their impeccable performance of their duties with no allegations of scandals as certain peace keeping missions were riddled with. Hence, Ethiopia's diplomatic clouts are strong and its voice is often heard especially at the African level and this has also resulted in the placing of the seat of the AU and several other international bodies in Addis where presidents, heads of state as well as other conference participants come very comfortably given the reputation Ethiopia has built up across the years with impeccable preparations and successful completion of the summits. The same will be true of the upcoming 37th African Leaders Summit to be held from February 17-18, 2024 preceded by the 44th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union on February 14 and 15.

Ethiopians know that every year around the end of January and beginning of February the AU summit is held in their capital and are ready to host its guests warmly, giving them maximum comfort in their movements in the city by freeing them from the intense traffic congestion and preparing the necessary hospitality in all the five star and four star hotels.

Addis Ababa these days is full of wonderful hotels thanks to the recent constructions that are complete and to a hospitality work force that is well trained and experienced. Its security is at its maximum and the tourist attractions that have been recently inaugurated will give more options for not only diplomats but also journalists and other delegation members to indulge in some leisure by visiting these new wonderful nature friendly resorts not very distant from the capital. Even in Addis itself there are several tourist attractions suitable to be visited in a short period of time.

The relevant Ethiopian authorities have given statements to the media that all preparations are finished from every point of view arranged by specialized committees who have been working day and night on this imminent AU summit where Ethiopia will once again be on the limelight of the international media. It will also be a wonderful occasion for the country to dismiss certain allegations that Ethiopia is not stable or that it should not be allowed to prepare such huge international events. The exhibition on Ethiopian diplomatic history and its successes is another demonstration of the position Ethiopia has not only in African history but also in the world at large. The number of days in which the exhibition was to stay open has been extended for more days and it will coincide as well with the upcoming continental conferences.

The history and legacy of Ethiopian diplomacy will have another opportunity to be well publicized among a wide African audience and international journalists as well. Spokesperson of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Meles Alem has said that the Diplomacy Week Exhibition, which was scheduled to be held from January 11 to February

journey along the decades spanning more than a century. The exhibition was also made to last more days after requests by the diplomatic community and by producing it has been made to coincide with the upcoming AU summit.

Meanwhile, the 37th African Heads of State will present another opportunity for Ethiopian diplomats to engage with various African and other diplomats and explain its stance on many policy issues of Ethiopia such as the recently signed MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland and explain how Ethiopia does not have any intention of encroaching on the sovereignty of Somalia. Ethiopia will also have the opportunity to elaborate on its stance regarding the GERD negotiations with Egypt and Sudan.

It is known that there are still unresolved details regarding the way the water should be released from the GERD. Ethiopia has repeatedly argued that it won't sign any pact that would reduce or damage its full rights on the legitimate and reasonable use of the Nile water and not be pushed by Egypt or Sudan or any other force for that matter, to sign an agreement that would affect its sovereign rights on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, GERD. It has always sustained that it is ready to negotiate based on international law and practice and the Declaration of Principles signed by the three states some years ago. It is also ready to negotiate based on the practice and regime of transboundary rivers and anything more cannot be acceptable.

Similarly, Ethiopia's agreement is not intended to harm the interests of any nation by the right of Ethiopia as a landlocked country to seek easy access to the sea in a give and take diplomatic move. At the AU summit Ethiopia will have the occasion to present its case to the international community and defend its policy because there is an international arrangement whereby landlocked countries can claim a right to seek and obtain access to sea so that it can develop its economy and help its people attain decent life. Allegations that Ethiopia is destabilizing the Horn of Africa are unacceptable. They are presumably pushed by Ethiopia's rivals who have their own strategic geopolitical interests. Ethiopia believes that its growth and development will be a stimulus to neighbouring countries as well as in the long run to Africa as a whole. The Agenda 2063 that projects the eventual union of Africa begins with similar diplomatic moves and the recent MoU signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland can be seen as one brick in that project.

Ethiopia's history and reputation do not show any record of infringement of the sovereign rights of other nations. Rather it has always been trying to resolve African disputes by presenting its good offices. The above stated exhibition shows clearly the various exploits in which Ethiopia engaged its good move to help resolve issues between neighbours and cases of civil wars in many African countries.

The exhibition on Ethiopian diplomatic history and its successes is another demonstration of the position Ethiopia has not only in African history but also in the world at large

2, 2024, has been rescheduled until the 37th African Union Summit also because of the expressed desire of the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa to extend its duration.

The Spokesperson said that the extension of the exhibition will give ample opportunity to our African brothers and sisters who will be participating at the upcoming 37th Summit of African Heads of States and Governments to visit the Exhibition, given that Ethiopia is the trailblazer of the Pan-African movement.

This decision aligns with the actual initiatives being taken to strengthen Addis Ababa's position as the diplomatic capital of Africa. During the Diplomacy Week Exhibition, Africans will have the opportunity to see with their own eyes, that Ethiopia is the pillar of Pan-African movement, not only in words, but also in the practical works it has carried out across a number of decades.

Ethiopian Diplomacy Week has been a success in that it was visited by thousands of people who had the opportunity to be well informed about Ethiopia's diplomatic

Law & Politics

Reversing the oxymoron on Africa

BY DESTA GEBREHIWOT

Mother Nature has abundantly gifted Africa precious natural resources. With some of the continent's parts called Eldorado of the world for their precious minerals, and some equated with paradise on earth for their rich flora and fauna, Africa is considered to be the richest continent. Its rich history and manmade wonder also earned the continent the nickname of cradle of humanity and civilization. Yet, the continent has also been a victim of oxymoron where it is also treated as a nadir of civilization and modernization.

Although recurrent conflicts and droughts surely cast shadows on the reputation of the continent, Africa has many good things as big as its body mass and, unlike the centuries-old negative rhetoric.

It was the lust for continent's rich natural resources that triggered colonialism in the first place. Shamefully, it was the colonial powers that tried to portray the continent as land of poverty and destitution. Of course natural and manmade menaces coupled with leadership failure and mismanagement have long been triggering dire humanitarian crisis in the continent. Despite the difference in scales and magnitudes, the problems are not unique to Africa. The paradox in the description of the continent has in fact far reaching implication and far-fetched intentions.

It sounds absurd to call the continent dark and poor, while its resources are enough to light and feed the whole world. The developments in the last years have laid bare on the oxymoron. In stark departure from the long held mythology, there have been enough harbingers that show good days are coming for the continent. And, the world has come to realize the power and potential of the biggest continent.

Africa is becoming increasingly decisive on the international stage with plenty of good thing happening in various corners of the continent. In particular, the need for robust bilateral interaction between the youthful continent and the rest of the world has grown over time. Unlike the previous tendency to treat the continent as a junior partner, the global community has embarked on taking Africa as equal partner although yet to be supported with practical measures.

Moreover, African nations are pushing for equality in the global sphere. Africa has the fastest-growing economies. Despite all the obstacles, nations like Ethiopia have been experiencing years of fast economic growth.

With a population that is about 70% younger than average and abundant in unexplored natural resources, the continent has established itself as a crucial player in world affairs. African nations are battling for increased representation of the continent's population in international bodies, such as the UN Security Council.

Powerful economies and wealthy

Being aware of this, we want to do our part, which is why we have decided to launch an ambitious programme of measures able to help the continent to grow and prosper, building on its immense resources

blocs have been unleashing various socioeconomic initiatives to strengthen cooperation with a continent that has so much to offer, as the African economy is predicted to continue on its upward trend. Only last year, the African Union received permanent membership from the G20, and the BRICS countries welcomed Ethiopia and Egypt as new members. These changes are reliable markers of the continent's growing involvement in bilateral and multilateral affairs.

In terms of redressing global woes, the continent remains a key partner. And, it is behooving the rest of the world to join forces with the continent to tackle global challenges like climate change. More nations and blocs are showing keenness to boost economic cooperation and political alliance with the continent. And, the boom in the number of global actors and the rapid transition to a more multipolar world are offering the continent with multitude of cooperation alternatives. The fact is Africa is no longer a junior partner and its

It has now become vivid that no international goals can be met or no predicament can be tackled by leaving the largest continent behind. From the U.S Africa Summit to Russia Africa forum, nations with different economic status and political view are exploring ways to bolster ties with the abundant continent. Despite the growing enthusiasm, Africa is asking for an equal treatment in its partnership with other sides. Over the years the calls have got lauder and clearer. Trade than aid is what Africa prioritizes.

The continent's young population, vast natural resource and rich history and culture place it in equal footing in world stage. Sure, Africa needs the proper technology and knowledge to unlock its potentials. With right policies and strategies, the continent can achieve miraculous economic growth and may significantly contribute to global causes. To do so, there should be savvy commitment from other sides. This is at the least what the African Union Commissioner Chairperson and Italian at the Italy Africa Summit.

Speaking at the summit where Leaders and representatives from 45 African nations have took part, Musa Faki said: "Africa does not want to reach out. We are not beggars."

Faki welcomed the pledged support, while noting that prior consultation with the African continent would have been desirable, particularly when the Mattei Plan was being drafted. He said the plan, nonetheless, aligns with Africa's priorities.

The chairperson said "we cannot be satisfied with mere promises that can't be kept. A paradigm shift is required to usher in a new model of partnership and pave the way towards a more just and coherent world."

Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni

said for her part that the project would be based on cooperation among equals" and "far from any predatory imposition or charitable stance towards Africa". "We want to write a new chapter in the history of our cooperation. There has been biased storytelling in the past, saying Africa is a poor continent. This is not true. It boasts natural resources and a young population," she added.

"We have made this choice because the medium and long-term goal we have set ourselves is to demonstrate our awareness of how interconnected the destinies of our two continents, Europe and Africa, are. And we believe it is possible to imagine and write a new page in the history of our relations."

Certain distorted narratives need to be dismantled first, like the one of Africa allegedly being a poor continent, because that is not the case. Africa is not a poor continent at all: it has 30% of the world's mineral resources and 60% of its arable land. 60% of its population is under the age of 25, making it the world's youngest continent, and this also means it has enormous potential in terms of human capital. However, it is also an immense continent encompassing thousands of different characteristics, which therefore also entail very different needs.

"Italy, Europe, and dare I say the whole world, cannot think about the future without taking Africa into due consideration. Our future inevitably also depends on the future of the African continent," she added.

Being aware of this, we want to do our part, which is why we have decided to launch an ambitious programme of measures able to help the continent to grow and prosper, building on its immense resources. This Plan, however, was not designed to be a 'closed box', to be imposed from above as, we have to say, has sometimes been done in the past, because a new method is also needed. The Plan is therefore designed to be a policy platform, open to sharing and cooperation with African nations, during both the definition and the implementation of the individual projects.

True to the words of both leaders, Africa should not have been seen as a continent of poverty. Of course like elsewhere, the continent has layers of challenges to overcome. From conflicts to poverty, Africa has to do more to tackle its pervasive problems. Yet, describing the rich continent with defaming words was a grave mistake that requires respite. The continent has immense potential that does not only bring continental development but also global change. To see the continent as land of poverty and junior partner is an outdated thinking. Africa has what it takes to be an equal partner and the world should take concrete steps to ensure where a just and equal global system works.

Society

Efforts to transform pastoralist communities' livelihoods

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia is home to numerous pastoralist communities, such as the Afar, Somali, and Borana. These communities are primarily engaged in livestock rearing, which serves as their main source of livelihood. The cultural practices and traditional knowledge they possess regarding animal husbandry, as well as in dealing with different weather patterns, are unparalleled, making them experts in sustainable land and resource management.

In Ethiopia, pastoralist communities have long faced numerous challenges in their quest for sustainable livelihoods. These communities, who rely heavily on livestock rearing, have struggled with challenges such as droughts or floods, land degradation and climate change as a result of increased resource exploitation, infrastructural development and other types of human activities, limited access to markets, and insufficient infrastructure.

However, there have been commendable efforts in recent years to address these challenges, transform the livelihoods of pastoralists, and ameliorate their well-being not counting in reinforcing Ethiopia's biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience.

Recently, the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MILLS) in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) organized the East Africa Pastoralist Expo with the target to bring a holistic change in the livelihoods of pastoralist communities.

The expo, which was held from 26 January to 1 February 2024 at the Millennium Hall under the theme "Pastoralism: The East African Mosaic", showcased the East African pastoralist community's culture, traditions, and economic activities. Pastoralists from different East African countries including Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti and Somalia took part in the expo and presented their cultural displays. At the expo, over 1,200 pastoralists took place, of which more than 950 were from Ethiopia and over 250 from neighboring countries.

In a press briefing held days before the actual day, MILLS State Minister Endrias Geta (PhD) stated that the Ministry employs the grand event to promote the tourism and investment potentials of pastoralist areas and to identify development opportunities there. The platform is also instrumental to showcase technological and business innovations, create market linkage; share experience, hold policy discussions and other measures that help to boost regional ties, Endrias elaborated.

By the same token, the expo is helpful to pastoralists from IGAD member states to connect with Ethiopian counterparts and to work together in border areas and sustain the relations.

Ethiopia has been marking 'Pastoralist's Day' at the national level since 1999 and this creates a direct link with the government and helps pastoralist communities to solve their



problem and get recognition.

"Pastoralism is a predominant lifestyle, reflecting the rich and abundant heritage of the nation; and the government has demonstrated its dedication to implementing strategic reforms, notably through the Ethiopian Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy."

The State Minister further noted that the expo is a crucial step towards regional integration and transcends national boundaries. "It connects the past, present, and future of pastoralism in one of the world's most culturally rich and ecologically diverse regions." What is more, it will create an opportunity to show the lifestyle of the pastoral communities and the social and economic contributions of the region, and help to establish a robust foundation for future collaborations, he remarked.

According to him, the development of pastoralist communities in Ethiopia is a multifaceted endeavor that requires addressing various challenges and building on their unique strengths. By investing in education, infrastructure, climate change adaptation, and market access, Ethiopia can empower these communities to thrive while preserving their invaluable contributions to the nation's heritage.

Currently, various strategies and initiatives have been implemented to uplift these communities through harnessing the

pastoralist communities' areas potential for further growth.

It is clear increasing access to education and skills development is crucial for pastoralist communities to break the cycle of poverty and improve their livelihoods. Recognizing this, various initiatives have been implemented to enhance educational opportunities for pastoralist children and adults. These efforts include the establishment of mobile and alternative schools, the provision of scholarships, and the development of vocational training centers. By acquiring knowledge and skills, pastoralists can engage in a wider range of economic activities and access better employment opportunities.

In addition to this, sustainable management of natural resources is vital for the long-term well-being of pastoralist communities. In this regard, efforts have been made to promote sustainable land and water management practices, including the construction of water catchments, irrigation schemes, and soil conservation structures. Additionally, community-based natural resource management approaches, such as the establishment of grazing reserves and protected areas, have been implemented to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. These efforts aim to enhance the productivity of pastoralists' land and safeguard the environment for future generations.

Accordingly, to ensure the sustainability of efforts to transform the livelihoods of pastoralists, supportive policies and institutions are crucial. In Ethiopia, there has been a growing recognition of the immense social and economic contributions of the pastoralist communities and their unique livelihood systems. As a result, policies and strategies have been developed to address the specific needs and challenges of pastoralists. Additionally, various pastoralist development institutions have been established to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of programs and projects tailored to pastoralist communities. These policy and institutional frameworks provide the necessary support for sustained improvement in pastoralist livelihoods.

The closing session of the expo organized by the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was attended by Minister of Culture Kejela Merdassa, the Minister of Irrigation and Lowlands Aysha Mohammed and other high ranking government officials.

In sum, efforts to transform pastoralist communities' livelihoods in Ethiopia have made significant strides in recent years. Through diversifying income sources, improved access to education and skills development, sustainable resource management, enhanced market access, and supportive policies and institutions, pastoralists are gaining more resilience and better opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. Even though there is still much work to be done, these efforts demonstrate a commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by pastoralist communities and ensuring their well-being and prosperity in the future.

One key approach towards improving pastoralist livelihoods has been the diversification of income sources. Instead of solely relying on livestock, efforts have been made to introduce alternative income-generating activities. This includes promoting small-scale enterprises such as beekeeping, handicraft production, and agroforestry.

Planet Earth

Ethiopia harnessing...

Integrated agro-industrial parks are equipped with modern infrastructure, including roads, utilities, warehouses, processing facilities, cold storage, and other amenities to support agricultural activities and agro-processing operations.

These parks are designed to accommodate multiple industries and businesses across the agricultural value chain, including crop production, livestock farming, food processing, packaging, logistics, and marketing. The clustering of diverse activities fosters collaboration, innovation, and economies of scale.

Integrated agro-industrial parks focus on adding value to agricultural products through processing, packaging, and value chain integration. This helps farmers capture more value from their produce, reduce post-harvest losses, and access higher-value markets.

These parks facilitate access to domestic and international markets by providing infrastructure and logistics support for transportation, distribution, and export. They also promote linkages with global value chains and facilitate trade and investment in agricultural products and processed goods.

Integrated agro-industrial parks leverage technology and innovation to enhance productivity, quality, and sustainability in agriculture and agro-processing. They support research and development initiatives, technology transfer, and skill development programs to improve agricultural practices and value chain efficiency.

These parks promote environmentally sustainable agriculture and agro-industry practices, including resource-efficient farming techniques, waste management, renewable energy adoption, and conservation of natural resources.

Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (IAIPs) are a tool for agricultural modernization and agribusiness development. IAIPs are

Special Economic Zones, with state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities to provide a conducive environment for companies engaged in agro-inputs, high-tech greenhouse cultivation, focus crop processing, other agro commodities processing, food processing, agri-engineering and associated areas.

Examples of integrated agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia include:

Jimma Agro-Industrial Park, currently under development, aims to integrate coffee production, processing, and marketing activities within a single location. It seeks to enhance the competitiveness of Ethiopia's coffee industry and promote value addition.

These integrated agro-industrial parks represent Ethiopia's commitment to promoting agricultural transformation, industrialization, and economic growth through innovative approaches to value chain development and agribusiness investment. They serve as hubs for collaboration, investment, and knowledge sharing to drive sustainable development in the agricultural sector and improve the livelihoods of rural communities.

Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (Yirgalem IAIP) is located about 40km south of Hwassa (315km south of Addis Ababa) in south-central Sidama Region. It is under the Sidama Industrial Parks Development Corporation.

Easily accessible from other places in southern Ethiopia and Lake Langano, Yirgalem IAIP sits on 294.5 Hectares. Yirgalem is gifted with lush, fertile and sub-tropical land and the IAIP specializes in agro-processing.

Yirgalem IAIP plays an important role in the country's economy, reducing poverty and creating a better environment for investors in agro-food and allied sectors.

It is Situated within 100-kilometer radius of the park at Bensa Daye, Aletawondo and Morocho. The RTCs are rural development

initiatives of the Government of Ethiopia that not only facilitate inclusive rural development, but also serve as a linkage to Yirgalem IAIP in terms of raw material supply. At the RTCs, agricultural produce is collected, sorted, stored and may undergo primary processing before onward transport. For most farmers, the RTCs are the main point of contact with commercial agricultural value chains.

Bure Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (Bure IAIP) is located 411 kms north of the capital Addis Ababa and 156 kms south-west of Bahir Dar, in Bure town in the West Gojjam Zone of the Amhara Region found in the Western Ethiopia. It is under the Amhara Industrial Parks Development Corporation.

Bure enjoys a flourishing business environment and serves as a connection point for businesses between Wolega, Gondar and Shewa. The main modern industrial opportunities in the town is an agricultural training college. Bure IAIP, located on 260.5 hectares of land in the first phase, is complete with water, electricity and telecom connectivity, roads and other infrastructure, including offices, factory sheds and staff accommodation.

There are 7 Rural Transformation Centers (RTCs) situated within a 100-kilometer radius of the park at Merawi, Finote Selam, Dangila, Enjibara, Chagni, Amanuel and Motta. The RTCs are rural development initiatives of the Government of Ethiopia that not only facilitate inclusive rural development, but also serve as a linkage to Bure IAIP in terms of raw material supply. At the RTCs, agricultural produce is collected, sorted, stored, checked for quality and may undergo primary processing before onward transport. For most farmers, the RTCs are the main point of contact with commercial agricultural value chains.

The Bulbula Integrated Agro Industrial Park, built on 271 hectares of land in Western Oromia, has been fully equipped with the

necessary infrastructures and facilities to accommodate 135 investors in the space of processing of agro-value chains that include fruits and vegetables, dairy, honey, and poultry.

The companies in the agreement are involved in tomato processing, avocado oil production, animal fodder, and dairy products and will supply the products to domestic and foreign markets.

The companies are also believed will play a significant role in import substitution, particularly in food-related product items, and improve the nation's foreign currency earnings.

The author of this contribution believes that integrating agro industrial sector with the current national campaigns of Lemat Trufat, Ethiopia Tamirt will help not only to boost the development of value added agricultural products but will also increase inputs for the growing textile and food processing industries in the country.

However, the nation still needs to create a conducive and peaceful environment for integrated agro industrial parks and other similar industries outside the park areas.

On the other hand, the small scale farms and clustered farmlands that are enjoying integrated support from the government need to do their part in making the parks hubs for export oriented industries.

Strengthening logistics networks in and around the parks and ensuring smooth linkup with the major land, air and sea transport systems is of crucial importance for the development of the sector. International standards of packing and cold storage system need to be in place for shipping and transiting agro industrial commodities

Promotion of export standard quality agro processed commodities for the international markets need to be considered. As Ethiopia is closing up on securing ports and access to the sea, the future of agro industry in the country is bright but the major challenges in the sector including technology, managerial skills and access to raw material should be carefully considered.

De-risking investments in Africa to unlock the continent's full potential of public private partnerships

Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has called for a shift in perspective and a more "intentional and targeted use of foreign direct investments and official development assistance, if Africa's partnership with Europe is to deliver on the promises of shared prosperity."

Speaking at the 5th European Corporate Council on Africa and the Middle East (ECAM Council) Summit on the margins of the Italy - Africa Conference in Rome, Italy, Mr. Gatete said this shift should include de-risking investments in key sectors that can unlock the full potential of public private partnerships. The Summit was held on the theme: "Creating a better present to build a greater future for Africa: the role of healthcare and investments."

"Up to 80 per cent of the initiated infrastructure projects across Africa fail at the feasibility and planning

stages. African countries are also faced with unfair risk perceptions that deter investors. We need to reverse this trend," he noted, adding that to address the current severe fiscal pressures that countries are confronted with, new and innovative financing sources that target investments better to get the most of each dollar or Euro invested are necessary.

"This means that the public sector must step in to finance de-risking measures that will attract the private sector. We should be more intentional about leveraging FDI and ODA to de-risk private investments," he said.

A 2023 Report by UNCTAD shows that between 2011 and 2022, combined public-private partnerships resulted in lowering interest rates spread by up to 40 per cent in renewable energy projects in developing countries. However, Africa still only attracts 2 per cent of global renewable energy

investments today because the business environment remains unfavorable.

"De-risking investments in Africa will make the region a globally competitive investment destination with mutual benefits to Europe, Africa, and the rest of the world," said Mr Gatete.

According to Mr Gatete, although the Europe's relationship with Africa has been driven by the priorities of official development assistance, foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA), FDI constitutes only around 5 per cent each of Africa's financial resources.

"FDI inflows into Africa have been static, hovering around the US\$40 to US\$50 billion annually, a trend that began well before the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Preliminary data from the OECD Development Assistance Committee, in 2022 shows that only five countries

met or surpassed the UN's target of allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national income to development aid.

Mr Gatete noted that numerous initiatives have been launched to leverage FDI and ODA, yet Africa has not fully realized the desired impact. Furthermore, initiatives like the G20's Compact with Africa, which was designed to increase private sector-led development and develop domestic markets, is yet to attain its full potential.

ECA is conducting growth diagnostic studies, market and product space analysis, GIS-enabled hotspot analysis to clarify where to invest. These actions will increase the pipeline of bankable projects and ensure that countries make informed investments decisions whilst also generating multiple dividends, in line with the sustainable development goals.

Source: UNECA

Planet Earth

Ethiopia harnessing agro-processing resources to ensure economic leap forward

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Ethiopia's diverse agro-climatic conditions and abundant natural resources make it well-suited for agriculture and agroindustry development. To date agro industry in Ethiopia plays an important role in the country's economic development, contributing to employment, income generation, food security, and export earnings.

The history of the development of agro industry in Ethiopia dates back to the early 1960s and 1970s in which a number of foreign companies from Europe established sugar, cotton farms and textile industries in the country. Here are some key aspects of agroindustry in Ethiopia:

Ethiopia produces a wide range of agricultural products, including cereals (such as teff, wheat, maize, and barley) pulses (such as chickpeas, lentils, and beans), oilseeds (such as sesame), coffee, tea, spices, fruits, and vegetables. Livestock farming, including cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry, is also an integral part of the agricultural sector.

Smallholder farmers play a crucial role in Ethiopia's agriculture, accounting for

the majority of agricultural production. The government implements various programs and initiatives through various institutions like the Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Industry, Agricultural Transformation Agency, Agricultural Marketing Corporation, and Agricultural Mechanization Agency to support smallholder farmers, including access to credit, extension services, inputs, and market linkages.

Over the last several decades, there has been increasing interest and investment in commercial farming and agroindustry ventures in Ethiopia. Large-scale commercial farms, including foreign-owned and domestic enterprises, operate in various parts of the country, focusing on cash crops, horticulture, floriculture, and livestock production.

Ethiopia's agroindustry sector is increasingly focused on producing crops and products for export markets. Coffee is one of Ethiopia's primary export commodities, renowned for its high quality and unique flavor profiles. Other export-oriented products include oilseeds, pulses, flowers, fruits, vegetables, and spices.

There is growing emphasis on value

addition and agro-processing in Ethiopia to increase the value and competitiveness of agricultural products. The government encourages investment in agro-industrial parks, food processing facilities, agro-processing technologies, and value chain development initiatives.

Agro industry activities, including farming, processing, packaging, and marketing, provide employment and income opportunities for millions of Ethiopians, particularly in rural areas where agriculture is the primary livelihood source.

Despite its potential, the Ethiopian agroindustry sector faces various challenges, including limited access to finance, inadequate infrastructure, post-harvest losses, low productivity, climate variability, and market access constraints. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts from government, private sector stakeholders, development partners, and civil society organizations.

The Ethiopian government has developed various policies, strategies, and programs to promote agricultural development, agroindustry investment, value chain development, market access, and agribusiness competitiveness. These

initiatives aim to transform the agricultural sector into a modern, resilient, and sustainable engine of economic growth and development.

Overall, agroindustry in Ethiopia has significant potential to contribute to poverty reduction, rural development, food security, export earnings, and economic transformation. Continued investment, innovation, and policy support are essential to unlock the full potential of Ethiopia's agricultural sector and realize its socio-economic benefits for the country and its people.

Integrated agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia represent a strategic approach to boosting agricultural production, value addition, and industrialization in the country. These parks aim to create synergies between agricultural production, agro-processing, manufacturing, and related services within a single location. By integrating various components of the agricultural value chain, these parks seek to enhance efficiency, competitiveness, and sustainability in the agricultural sector. Here are some key features and examples of integrated agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia:

See Ethiopia harnessing ... page 19