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About this newsletter

The RAISE-FS LOGIC newsletter serves as an informative platform, continuing the legacy of the RAISE-FS project by focusing on developments in agrologistics to foster resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems. This edition aims to provide stakeholders with insights into the latest developments and pressing issues within the Ethiopian food system, as well as an overview of the project's support activities. Highlighted within this publication are major developments happened from April to June 2026.

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Re-shaping the future of agrologistics: Paving the way for food system transformation in Ethiopia

Ethiopia, a country endowed with vast agricultural potential, finds itself at a pivotal moment in its efforts to transform its food systems. Despite its fertile lands and a substantial agricultural workforce, the nation faces persistent challenges in agrologistics; challenges that hinder its ability to fully capitalize on its agricultural resources. Resolving these inefficiencies is critical not only for bolstering food security but also for fostering economic growth, reducing post-harvest losses, and ensuring equitable access to nutritious food for all citizens.

Recognizing the urgency of these issues, Ethiopia has taken a bold step forward with the launch of

the "Advancing Agrologistics for Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Food Systems (RAISE-FS LOGIC)" project. Officially inaugurated on June 16, 2026, this initiative marks the beginning of a transformative era for Ethiopia's agricultural sector.

RAISE-FS LOGIC launch

The launch event of the RAISE-FS LOGIC project brought together a distinguished group of stakeholders, including high-ranking government officials, development partners, and industry experts. Among those in attendance were His

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RAISE-FS LOGIC Launching workshop participants

Re-shaping the future of agrologistics: Paving the way ...

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Excellency Wondale Habtamu Teferi (PhD), Deputy Director of the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA); Mercedes Marin Nortes, Programme Officer for Agribusiness from the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia; and Paula Schindeler, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Development Cooperation at the

Despite its importance, Ethiopia's agrologistics sector has long been plagued by infrastructure deficits, limited technology adoption, and weak coordination among stakeholders. These bottlenecks have significantly hampered the nation's ability to optimize its agricultural output.



Mercedes Marin Nortes, Programme Officer for Agribusiness from the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia



Paula Schindeler, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ethiopia

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ethiopia.

In their opening remarks, the speakers underscored the timeliness and critical importance of this initiative. They highlighted how the project is uniquely positioned to address systemic inefficiencies in Ethiopia's agrologistics sector while promoting resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability across agricultural value chains.

The RAISE-FS LOGIC : A strategic vision

Agrologistics refers to the planning, implementation, and management of the flow of agricultural products from farms to consumers. It encompasses transportation, storage, processing, packaging, and distribution; functions that are essential for ensuring food reaches markets efficiently while minimizing waste and maintaining quality and safety.

The RAISE-FS LOGIC project aims to address these challenges head-on. Jointly funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the European Union, the initiative focuses on transforming agrologistics systems for three high-potential value chains in Southern Ethiopia: potato, banana, and avocado. By implementing innovative, scalable, and sustainable solutions, the project seeks to improve product quality and safety, enhance value chain performance, increase supply chain efficiency and transparency, and reduce environmental impacts across Ethiopia's food systems.

Prioritizing food safety and value chain transformation

A key moment during the launch event was the formal handover of three newly developed food safety guidelines. These comprehensive guidelines; created by the National Food Safety Working Group under the leadership of the RAISE-FS project; focus on good agricultural and handling practices for sesame, hot pepper, and poultry.

The guidelines were officially received by Dr. Wondale Habtamu Teferi and Negash Sime, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA). Both officials emphasized the critical role these guidelines will play in enhancing food safety standards across Ethiopia's agricultural sector.

"These guidelines are a significant step forward in aligning our agricultural practices with global food safety standards," Dr. Wondale stated during the ceremony. "They will not only ensure safer food systems but also strengthen Ethiopia's position in international markets."



Edwin van der Maden, RAISE-FS LOGIC project coordinator



Teferi and Negash Sime, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) and Wondale Habtamu Teferi (PhD), Deputy Director of the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority (EAA)

Looking ahead

The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, experts, and development partners to discuss opportunities, challenges, and priorities for building a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrologistics ecosystem in Ethiopia. Through collaborative dialogue and knowledge sharing, participants contributed valuable insights that will help shape the project's future interventions and impact.

Transforming Ethiopia's food system requires a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of inefficiencies in agrologistics. Addressing the systemic inefficiencies within Ethiopia's agrologistics sector requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, and the RAISE-FS LOGIC project stands as a pivotal step in this transformative journey. With support from local and international partners, this initiative is expected to contribute for the country's effort in food system transformation, enhance food security, and open new opportunities for export growth.

Transforming challenges into opportunities with integrated farming

In the heart of Amhara region Bahir Dar, a small family business has transformed into a thriving, sustainable agribusiness through the power of innovation, hard work, and strategic support. Tiruwork and Hailemariam Poultry Business Enterprise, which started as a modest poultry and egg production operation in 2020/21, has grown into a diversified enterprise that integrates poultry, pig, and fish farming.

Their journey to success, however, was not without obstacles. As the business expanded, it encountered significant hurdles. Marketing proved difficult during periods of security instability, which led to reduced customer demand and forced the family to sell their products below production costs. Rising feed prices and the challenge of transporting products to other areas further strained their operations.

One of the most pressing issues was the cost of keeping mature chickens on the farm longer than planned. *"Every day a mature chicken stayed on the farm, it continued to consume feed worth 5-6 ETB per day. Across thousands of chickens, daily feeding expenses could exceed 17,000 ETB"* explained Tadele, the farm manager and a member of the Tiruwork and Hailemariam enterprise. Additionally, managing poultry waste became increasingly difficult and costly.

Rather than seeing these challenges as setbacks, Tadele and the family were looking for a more sustainable solution. Tadele envisioned an integrated farming system that would connect poultry, pig, and fish production, allowing waste from one activity to become an

input for another, which would reduce costs while creating an additional source of income. To bring this vision to life, Tiruwork and Hailemariam Enterprise applied for support through the SWR Ethiopia RAISE-FS Project innovation fund. Their proposal was successful, securing a grant of 1.5 million ETB to invest in their farm's future.

The funding marked a turning point for the enterprise. They expanded their poultry production, storage, and processing facilities, constructing fishponds and dedicated spaces for pig farming. The investments also included five large deep freezers, modern weighing equipment, chicken transportation crates, egg trays, and egg collection bags. In addition to improving infrastructure, the family acquired a fishbone crushing and mixing machine to convert fish waste into poultry feed, stocked their fishpond with 2,000

fingerlings, and established a pig farming unit with newly purchased piglets. These steps not only boosted productivity but also optimized resource use by turning waste into valuable inputs.

For Tadele, one of the most impactful changes was the expanded cold storage capacity. Previously reliant on a single freezer with a 1,500-kilogram capacity, the farm can now store up to 4,000 kilograms of chicken meat. This allows them to slaughter chickens at optimal times and store them until market demand improves. *"This simple but strategic improvement has dramatically reduced feed costs, improved cash flow, and increased overall profitability,"* Tadele shared. The expansion has also had a positive ripple effect on the local community. The number of employees at the

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Stakeholders take steps to strengthen agricultural messaging in mainstream media in Amhara region

Regional authorities and key stakeholders in the Amhara region have established a coordination council to strengthen agricultural messaging in mainstream media, marking an important shift from discussion to coordinated action. The council is expected to help bridge gaps between agricultural research, extension services, and the media by creating an institutional platform to sustain collaboration and maintain momentum beyond a single event.

The council was formed on May 23, 2026, during a meeting organised by Stichting Wageningen Research (SWR) Ethiopia's RAISE-FS project in collaboration with Amhara Regional Bureau of Agriculture (BoA). The productive discussion session on agricultural messaging in mainstream media brought together a diverse group of authorities and stakeholders from the region, including researchers, media managers and practitioners, among others. The discussion session drew on the findings of a recent study by SWR Ethiopia and Farm Radio International that assessed the current mainstream media messaging of agricultural issues. Following the study high level policy dialogue was organized by Wageningen Research (SWR) Ethiopia in collaboration with the Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI), the dialogue concluded with actionable recommendations for improving agricultural messaging in Ethiopia through mainstream media. Including output from the policy dialogue, the findings provided shared evidence bases for discussions on existing gaps and practical ways forward.

Among the points emphasised were the untapped potential across agricultural research institutes, universities, extension services, and media outlets, and a growing recognition that connecting them more effectively could make a significant difference not only for farmers across the region but also for the growth of the agricultural sector and the food system at large.

Speaking at the meeting, Dereje Mandefro, head of the Amhara Region BoA, said, *"We are not yet fully utilising the region's potential. Agricultural research institutions, universities, the Extension under the Bureau of Agriculture, and mainstream media have all strong capacities. However, coordination is lacking, and there is a clear opportunity to bring these actors together."*

Key discussion points and recommendations

Ethiopia has 28 universities offering journalism education, but none of the universities currently offer specialised agricultural or beat journalism courses. It was reflected that universities/ departments have the mandate to shape 20% of their curricula, a condition that could give a chance to introduce agricultural journalism relatively quickly.

Mainstream media coverage of agricultural issues tends to be event-driven rather than process-oriented and story-oriented. Participants called for more in-depth, farmer-centred storytelling, based on oral traditions, case studies, and local voices, which would give farming communities more relevant and actionable information.

Most farmers listen to the radio in the evening, and it was suggested that aligning broadcasting schedules with farmers' preferred time could significantly increase the reach of existing content.

Producing documentaries and content for digital platforms such as YouTube videos was also suggested to reach some farmers.

Participants recommended that the study findings can be used to inform planning and decision-making across media, agricultural extension, and research systems to improve agricultural messaging. The newly established council, which will be chaired by the Regional BoA, comprises key institutions in the region, including Agricultural Research Institute (ARARI), Government Communication Bureau, Amhara Media Corporation (AMC), Bahir Dar University (BDU), Livestock and Fisheries Resources Development Bureau, and SWR Ethiopia.

The council will focus on translating recommendations into action to address structural and editorial challenges raised and discussed in the meeting, affecting media messaging of agricultural issues. The council will report to the regional Agriculture and Rural Development Partners Linkage Advisory Council (ADPLAC), which will help ensure alignment with broader agricultural development and food system priorities.

This regional initiative follows a similar national-level policy discussion organised last month by SWR Ethiopia in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI).

From training to action: How RAISE-FS alumni are transforming food safety practices in Ethiopia

In today's interconnected world, food safety is not just a public health priority; it is a cornerstone of economic growth, community well-being, and sustainable development. Recognizing this, SWR Ethiopia RAISE-FS project has facilitated "Governance from Farm to Fork" food safety course which significantly contributed in empowering professionals to reimagine food safety systems through innovation, collaboration, and governance-driven solutions.

Launched in 2022, the RAISE-FS food safety course is a comprehensive three-month blended learning course. It has equipped a new generation of food safety leaders in Ethiopia with the requisite tools and knowledge to address some of the most pressing challenges in the field. With over 50 professionals from government, academia, the private sector, and research institutions trained, the program is already reshaping the landscape of food safety in Ethiopia.

The training program offers a three-month blended learning course that emphasizes food safety as a governance-driven system. It covers farm-to-fork food safety principles, international standards, private certification schemes, integrated pest management, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), HACCP systems, food safety risk analysis, and food control systems. This comprehensive approach equips participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills for real-world application.

A defining feature of the training program was its action plan trajectory. Participants are guided through structured

frameworks to identify key challenges in their respective sectors, map stakeholders, address governance bottlenecks, and develop measurable solutions. This approach has enabled graduates to implement initiatives that are already making tangible differences across diverse fields.

Alumni success stories: Turning knowledge into action

The success stories emerging from RAISE-FS alumni reflect the program's significant impact. Each story highlights how

His efforts have fostered collaboration between media outlets, government agencies, and development organizations, resulting in a shared roadmap for sustained food safety advocacy.

Faunel Fikremariam of the Ethiopian Agriculture Authority used his training to address critical gaps in laboratory systems and food inspection services. By designing targeted training programs for laboratory personnel and inspectors, Faunel has enhanced risk-based governance practices. His initiative has improved hazard



targeted training can empower individuals to drive meaningful change in their communities and industries.

Degnet Teferi from Bahir Dar University recognized the critical role of media in shaping public awareness about food safety. Leveraging his RAISE-FS training, Degnet launched an initiative to train media professionals as advocates for food safety. Through comprehensive workshops, journalists were equipped with skills in risk communication, message development, and multi-platform dissemination.

identification, testing protocols, documentation, traceability, and risk prioritization; laying the foundation for more robust food safety governance in Ethiopia.

For academic professionals like Mikyas Kebede Ali from Haramaya University, RAISE-FS has been instrumental in reshaping food safety education. Mikyas has integrated contemporary food safety principles into university curricula, mentored students on best practices, and engaged with local communities to drive

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RAISE-FS working document on One Health shared with stakeholders

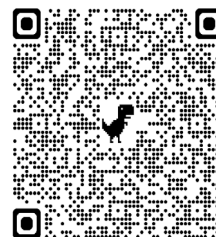
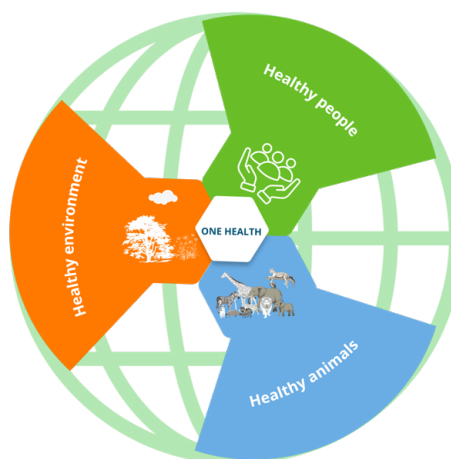
Ethiopia's One Health initiative, which acknowledges the interconnectedness of human, animal, plant, and environmental health, has encountered several challenges since its launch in 2015.

An evaluation conducted in the regions of Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, and Sidama highlighted significant gaps in policy enforcement, sectoral integration, and data sharing. The primary issues identified include weak legal frameworks, fragmented coordination between sectors, a lack of interdisciplinary training opportunities, and inadequate data systems.

Despite these challenges, there is optimism due to the strong commitment from the government and support from partners. To overcome these obstacles, experts suggest strengthening policy frameworks, enhancing collaboration across multiple

sectors, increasing investment in the initiative, and improving research, education, and communication systems to ensure its sustainable implementation.

During the launch of RAISE-FS LOGIC, one highlight was the presentation and handover of the One Health working paper. During the ceremony it was explained that Ethiopia is advancing the One Health approach



through the establishment of a National Steering Committee and technical working groups, yet continues to face challenges. The working paper is anticipated to make a substantial contribution to ongoing initiatives by providing a roadmap for overcoming these obstacles. With strong government commitment, expert engagement, and partner support, sustainable progress will hinge on reinforcing policy frameworks, fostering stakeholder collaboration, advancing research and education initiatives, and strengthening monitoring systems.

Transforming challenges into opportunities ...

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farm has grown from five to 17 (12 women and five men). Employee salaries have doubled, significantly improving their standard of living. Additionally, five young entrepreneurs now regularly purchase eggs for resale, while three others buy live chickens for retail distribution; a number that increases during holiday seasons.

Thanks to improved storage capacity and consistent product quality, Tiruwork and Hailemariam's farm has become a trusted supplier of eggs and chicken meat to major hotels and customers in Bahir Dar town. The integrated farming

system has also yielded environmental benefits by reducing waste disposal costs and repurposing poultry waste as pig feed. Though pig and fish production currently account for less than 10% of profits, they play an essential role in minimizing overall production costs while serving as a model for neighbouring farmers interested in integrated farming practices.

Currently, the working capital of the enterprise is around 4.5 million ETB, and the value of the total assets is estimated between 7.5 and 8 million ETB. What began as a small family poultry operation has evolved

into a diversified and sustainable agribusiness. Looking back on the journey, Tadele is grateful for the support that he gets from the RAISE-FS project, which helped him and the family make the change. "The support helped us to diversify our business, overcome key challenges, and significantly increase our income," he said. With plans to continue expanding, Tiruwork and Hailemariam's enterprise is an inspiring example of how innovation, determination, and strategic investment can help farmers overcome challenges and build stronger, sustainable and more resilient businesses for the future.

From training to action: How RAISE-FS alumni ...

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throughout the production cycle, Yiman has improved food safety and quality while boosting productivity and marketability for over 400 farmers in the region.

The ripple effects of RAISE-FS training extend into industry as well. Getachew Feyisa has worked closely with industry owners to implement Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles and comprehensive food

safety management systems. Meanwhile, Muchie Shiferaw from the Amhara Region Industry Bureau has shared his expertise with colleagues and agro-processing industries to foster improved food safety practices across the sector. Building a network of food safety leaders

The accomplishments of RAISE-FS alumni underscore an essential truth: effective food safety governance requires more

than just technical expertise. It demands systems thinking, cross-sector collaboration, behavioral insights, and strategic communication. By empowering professionals to act as change agents within their spheres of influence, RAISE-FS is building a network of leaders committed to transforming food safety systems. The success stories of its alumni testify to the power of targeted training programs in driving meaningful change.

New publications

- https://raise-fs.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/swre-raise-fs-26-052_the-status-of-one-health-policy-adoption-and-integration-in-ethiopia_working-paper_020-2-3.pdf
- https://raise-fs.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/swre-raise-fs-26-054_strengthening-agricultural-messaging-in-amhara-region_position_paper_02-1.pdf

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