



## News Insight Agriculture

### *Middle East and Africa*

July 2016

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The "News Insight Agriculture" newsletter aims at collecting news and developing insights on the agricultural sector in the Middle East and Africa.

[Infomineo](#) gathers information and data covering agricultural firms' strategic plans, state regulations, publications and events across countries of the region.

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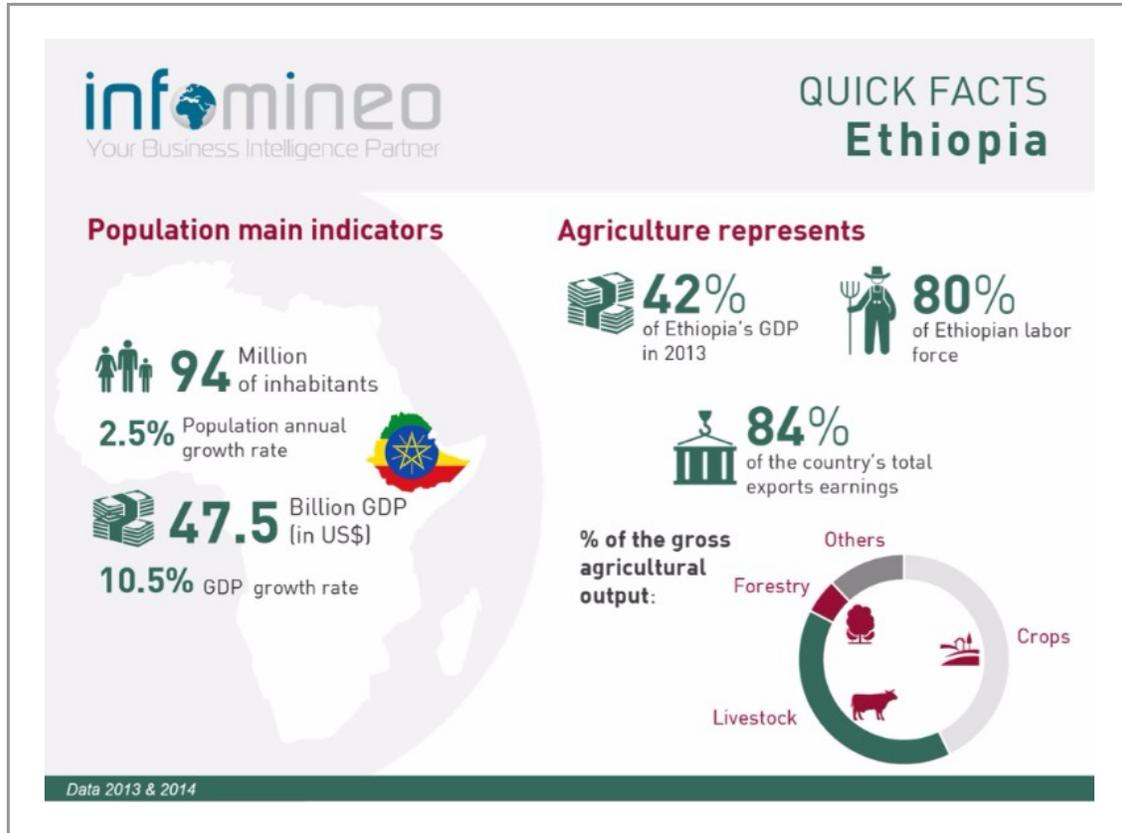


## Agenda

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- [Zoom on Ethiopia](#)
- [News insights](#)

## Zoom on Ethiopia



### Introduction

Ethiopia is a landlocked country split by the Great Rift Valley. It is located in the Horn of Africa, bordering six (6) countries: Djibouti and Somalia to the East, Eritrea to the North and Northeast, Kenya to the South and Sudan and South Sudan to the West. With a population of 94 million (2013) growing at annual rate of 2.5% in 2014, Ethiopia is the second-most populous country in Africa (Moller, 2016). The country is the place of origin for the coffee (Arabica) bean and sometimes referred to as the land of natural contrasts, home to vast fertile West, jungles, and numerous rivers, and also the world's hottest settlement of Dallol in its North. The real gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaged at 10.9% between 2004 and 2014, which has leapfrogged and positioned the country to become a middle-income country by 2025, after being the second poorest country in the world in 2000 (Moller, 2016). Powered by considerable public infrastructure investment, Ethiopia has witnessed a rapid and stable economic growth, in addition to a decrease in poverty to 30% from 44% in the past decade.

### Role of Agriculture in Ethiopian economy

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Ethiopian economy, contributing 41.4% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), 83.9% of the total exports, and 80% of all employment in the country (Matousa, Todob, & Mojoc, 2013). (Matousa, Todob, & Mojoc, 2013). Put in perspective, Ethiopia's key agricultural sector has grown at an annual rate of about 10% over the past decade; much faster than population growth. Other important sectors are service and industrial sectors contributing 43% and 15.6% respectively (The World Factbook, 2016). On agriculture expenditure related metric, Ethiopia has dedicated an annual investment of about 14.7% of all government spending to the agriculture sector since 2003

[>>Read the full report<<](#)

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## News Insights

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### **Saudi Arabia plans agricultural investments in Africa**

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture to establish five agricultural companies in Sudan that specialize in grain and fodder trade, animal farming, aquaculture, and agricultural production. Sudan has allocated 1 million acres for this investment next to the Atbara Agricultural River.

15% of the production will be allocated to Sudan in exchange for use of their land, water, energy and other resources while 88% of the total production will be sent to Saudi Arabia. The products will be exempt from taxes and custom's fees.

[Read more - Arab News](#)

### **South Africa's leading farmers head to Zambia agricultural opportunities**

Twenty-four of South Africa's leading farmers who each have an annual turnover of more US\$6.5 million per year and have been organized under the auspices of Agri All Africa (AaA) will open discussions with the Zambian Government on how they can move their investment into the country's agricultural sector.

Some of the investment focus areas include fresh produce (sugar cane, wheat, maize, soya beans), livestock products ranging from cattle to sheep to goats and chickens.

[Read more - Lusaka Times](#)

### **Africa's agriculture investments rises to US\$2.3bn**

Africa's agriculture sector is at an inflection point and could grow significantly in the coming years with the right investments and policy actions. In 2015, over US\$500 million in new private-sector investments were implemented out of over US\$10 billion

committed by more than 200 African and global companies. Plus almost \$500 million in additional investment commitments were made in the first quarter of 2016 bringing the total to US\$2.3 billion and also implying investor's sustainable strong interest. In the past year, these investments reached around 10 million smallholder farmers and created 30,000 jobs, bringing the total number of jobs created to 88,000 since 2012.

[Read more - This Day Live](#)

### **Nigerian State records US\$5m vegetable exports to Europe**

This year, Anambra became the first Nigerian State to export vegetables (Ugu and Onugbu) valued at US\$5 million to Europe. The locally produced brand of rice, Anambra Rice also emerged as the Best Rice in Africa at an African Products Forum in Lagos.

Furthermore, the State's agricultural sector has attracted investments from 7 companies valued at US\$1.011 billion while the large industrial farms have pushed the local rice production from 90,000 metric tons to 210,000 metric tons.

[Read More - Guardian News](#)

### **Angola and Portugal identify priority areas for agricultural cooperation**

Angola and Portugal are identifying priority areas for agricultural cooperation, with a view to signing a two-year cooperation agreement. The cooperation will be at two institutional levels, one of which between ministries and a second between governments.

The cooperation plans are expected to be fostered by providing scientific data, training and on a business level.

[Read more - Macau Daily Times](#)

### **Mechanized Agriculture: Italian firm to offer Cameroon technology and equipment**

An Italian firm has partnered with the Cameroonian government to offer state-of-the-art equipment and innovative technology for the development of agribusiness markets in Cameroon. The Italian firm, Defino & Giancaspro, specializes in the manufacturing of agricultural equipment used in innovative food processing.

The Memorandum of Understanding between Cameroonian government, through the Ministries of Agriculture & Rural Development and Higher Education, and the Defino & Giancaspro was signed on June 30, 2016.

[Read More - Cameroon Tribune](#)

### **Nigeria and South Africa to sign agreement on post bank and agriculture**

Nigeria and South Africa are planning to sign an agreement through a private consortium to link Post Bank of South Africa with NIPOST. The agreement is expected to enable Nigeria to harness the potentials inherent in its good arable land

to boost agricultural production.

Abia, Imo and Edo States have huge rubber plantations which the South African firm, Plastic SA, is planning to visit them for the possibility of importing rubber from Nigeria despite the company is currently importing rubber from Malaysia.

[Read More - Punch](#)

## **Zimbabwe's largest tea producer company invests in avocado and macadamia**

Zimbabwe's largest tea producer, Tanganda Tea Company, has invested US\$4.4 million in the development of new plantations of macadamia and avocado, and the new crops expected to push the company's exports to have an additional US\$12 million. Tanganda is now the biggest grower of macadamia by hectares and the biggest avocado grower in Zimbabwe.

In the full year to March 2015, Tanganda reported revenue of \$21.1 million. The company has set an ambition aim of more than doubling export revenue to US\$22 million by 2019, through increased sales of packed tea and new crops.

[Read More - Herald](#)

## **Small Investments yield big rewards for Cashew exports from Benin and the Gambia**

West Africa is home to some of the world's leading cashew producers. Yet, because of insufficient market knowledge and weak value addition, the region's cashew exporters often face difficulties in selling substantial volumes of their product at a relatively high price, both at home and internationally.

ITC has been working to increase value addition and exports in the cashew sector in several West African countries, most recently Benin and the Gambia which has seen significant improvement in boosting the region's Cashew exports.

[Read More - International Trade Centre](#)

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