Call for sharing experiences and good practices in the use and application of the CFS-RAI

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Experiences and good practices in the use and application of the CFS-RAI

Please document the experience and good practices in applying the CFS [Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems](http://www.fao.org/3/au866e/au866e.pdf) (CFS-RAI) in the template below. Please note that if you wish to share more than one of this type of direct experience, you are invited to fill in multiple forms.

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| Title of the experience | **Integration of the CFS-RAI principles in Ethiopia’s legal framework for agricultural investment** |
| Geographical coverage | National |
| Country(ies)/ Region(s) covered by the experience | Ethiopia |
| **Contact person** | Name: Nyaguthii Maina Email address: Nyaguthii.maina@iisd.net |
| **Affiliation** | □ Government  □ UN organization  □ Civil Society / NGO  □ Private Sector  □ Academia  □ Donor  □ **Other (specify) Think Tank** |

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| 1. How have the CFS-RAI Principles been used in your context? | IISD provided advice and training to the Ethiopian Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency to support the revision of Ethiopia’s model lease agreement for commercial land investments (‘Horticulture and Agriculture Investment Land Lease Agreement’). The revised model land lease agreement integrates the CFS-RAI principles to promote more responsible investment in the country. It integrates specific provisions on environmental and social responsibility and economic benefits to the country thus balancing the rights and obligations between various stakeholders - including in relation to community participation and development.  Subsequently, the Ethiopian Horticulture and Agricultural Investment Authority developed a ‘Social and Environmental Code of Practice for Responsible Commercial Agriculture in Ethiopia’ (SECoP) to promote responsible commercial agriculture in Ethiopia in September 2017. This Code of Practice seeks to ensure that investments are inclusive, sustainable, transparent, and respect human rights. The SECoP derives from the commitment made by the Ethiopian Government to develop such guidelines for implementing agricultural investment in a responsible manner, in line with the CFS-RAI Principles. |
| 1. Which specific Principle(s) of the CFS-RAI was/were most relevant to the experience? *(choose all that apply)* | Principle 1: Contribute to food security and nutrition  Principle 2: Contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic development and the eradication of poverty  Principle 3: Foster gender equality and women’s empowerment  Principle 4: Engage and empower youth  Principle 5: Respect tenure of land, fisheries, and forests, and access to water  Principle 6: Conserve and sustainably manage natural resources, increase resilience, and reduce disaster risks  Principle 7: Respect cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, and support diversity and innovation  Principle 8: Promote safe and healthy agriculture and food systems  Principle 9: Incorporate inclusive and transparent governance structures, processes, and grievance mechanisms  Principle 10: Assess and address impacts and promote accountability |
| 1. Brief description of the experience | IISD provided advice and training to the Ethiopian Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency to support the revision of Ethiopia’s model lease agreement for commercial land investments and make the lease agreement a more effective tool for promoting responsible investment in agriculture in Ethiopia.  Building on this support, the Ethiopian government, in collaboration with various stakeholders, developed the ‘Social and Environmental Code of Practice for Responsible Commercial Agriculture in Ethiopia’ (SECoP) in September 2017. |
| Who has been involved in the experience? | **X** **Government – Ethiopian Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency & Ministry of Agriculture**  □ UN organization  □ Civil Society / NGO  □ Private Sector  □ Academia  □ Donor  **X Other (specify) Think Tank - IISD** |
| How were those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition involved? | (e.g. participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) representing food insecure and malnourished segments of the population in all training) |
| Main activities | * IISD provided training to the Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency on the CFS-RAI principles and other international principles for responsible agricultural investment, and on the drafting of a model lease agreement for commercial land investments * With advice and support from IISD, the Ethiopian Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency reviewed Ethiopia’s model land lease agreement to assess which provisions needed to be deleted or amended and which new provisions needed to be added to better promote responsible investment. * The Ethiopian government developed the ‘Social and Environmental Code of Practice for Responsible Commercial Agriculture in Ethiopia’ (SECoP) |
| Timeframe | 2013-2017 |
| 1. Results obtained/ expected 2. *(for each, specify whether these outcomes are actual (as of when), or expected (and by when)* | * Results in the short term (qualitative and quantitative) * The revised land lease agreement integrates specific provisions on environment and social responsibility and economic benefits to the country, attempting to balance the rights and obligations between various stakeholders - including through promoting community participation. * IISD’s training for 31 staff members from the Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency provided the trainees with a better understanding of principles of responsible agricultural investment and how to develop and use a model land lease agreement to promote these principles. It also led to the development of individual ‘road maps’ to enable officials to identify key issues of concern to them and to plan for how to address those concerns. |
|  | * Results in the medium to long term (qualitative and quantitative) * Building on IISD’s work with the Agricultural Investment Land Administration Agency, the Ethiopian government established a team under the Prime Minister to develop a new commercial farming policy document, while the Agency undertook to draft operational manuals on how to transfer land fairly. * The Ethiopian government also developed an investment code of practice called the ‘Social and Environmental Code of Practice for Responsible Commercial Agriculture in Ethiopia’ (SECoP) in September 2017. The SECoP derives from the commitment made by the Ethiopian Government to develop such guidelines for implementing agricultural investment in a responsible manner - and builds upon the ‘Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI)’ as noted in the code. |
|  | * Most significant changes * Changes in Ethiopia’s legal framework governing agricultural investment, including (i) revision of Ethiopia’s model land lease agreement to better balance the risks to and obligations on the relevant parties, and (ii) the development of the SECoP to ensure investments are inclusive, sustainable, and transparent. * According to a former Ethiopian government official, these changes in the legal framework are reflected in changes in the Ethiopian government’s approach to agricultural investment. The government is said to be putting greater emphasis on the feasibility of proposed investments, on defining land involved and on ensuring the involvement of local communities. On the latter point the revised model land lease agreement mandates social agreements between investors and local communities as a necessary step before any investment can go forward. * The Ethiopian government cancelling investment projects due to environmental and land rights concerns. |
| 1. What were key catalysts that influenced the use of CFS-RAI? | * The Ethiopian government decided to reform its legal frameworks to promote more responsible investment due to challenges arising out of poorly drafted and negotiated agricultural contracts. These investment contracts sometimes cost the government extensively when disputes arose between the investor, government and sometimes communities. |
| 1. What were the major constraints and challenges in the use of the CFS-RAI? | The ongoing conflict in Tigray poses a major challenge to all economic and social development. Furthermore, political willingness to undertake reform has been a barrier to integrating the CFS-RAI and reforming certain legal frameworks. |
| 1. How have these constraints and challenges been addressed? |  |
| 1. What mechanisms have been developed to monitor the use of the CFS-RAI? | (Please indicate whether these mechanisms were developed by government or in the context of a project) |
| 1. Based on the experience presented, what good practices would you recommend for successful use or implementation of the CFS-RAI ? | Combining practical advice on legal instruments to promote responsible investment with training on the development and use of these legal instruments can be effective in promoting positive change by government authorities (and other stakeholders). |
| 1. Are there any concrete plans to further use the CFS-RAI? |  |
| Link(s) to additional information |  |