

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 7th PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT TO ITS PORTFOLIO COUNTERPART
COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

9 TO 13 DECEMBER 2024

REPORT NO. 03/2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	3
2. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE	3
3. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	3
4. METHODOLOGY	3
5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY VISIT	3
6. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	4
7. MEETINGS HELD	4
7.1 Courtesy call on the High Commission to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, H.E Mr Mbapeua Muvangua	4
7.2 Meeting with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture Affairs	4
7.3 Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources	7
7.3 Visit at the Livestock Development & Excellence Center: Addis Ababa City Administration	8
8. FINDINGS	9
9. CONCLUSION	9
10. RECOMMENDATIONS	9
11. SIGNATURES	10

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Standing Committee undertook a study visit to benchmark with its counterpart Committee(s) of the House of Peoples' Representatives of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. To learn, share information and experiences on the best practices in Parliament oversight function related to the Agricultural sector, especially in farming methods practiced, government incentives offered to farmers, assistance and support in securing stable markets and capacity building provided to farmers in particular small scale farmers, resettlement programmes on agricultural land (if any) among others. Additionally, the Committee intended to understand strategies and legal framework guiding Ethiopian in achieving food security.

2. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

In terms of Article 59 of the Namibian Constitution and the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources has a mandate amongst others to deal with matters pertaining to Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Environment. The Committee also has the duty to monitor, enquire into, and make recommendations to the Assembly on matters that may directly or indirectly affect the natural resources of the Republic of Namibia and its people.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Standing Committee on Natural Resource has membership composition of 26 Members of Parliament drawn from various political parties represented in the National Assembly. In its quest to improve its oversight function, the Standing Committee resolved to set up four (4) Sub-Committee that focuses on programs and operations of the Ministries. The Sub-Committee on Agriculture embarked on a study visit to its counterpart Committee(s) of the House of Peoples' Representative of Ethiopia. The delegation comprised of Hon Vincent Joseph Mareka (Head of the delegation); Hon. Herlinde Lucia Tjiveze; and Hon. Ephraim Tuhadeleni Nekongo. They were accompanied by Mrs. Linea N. Shikongo.

4. METHODOLOGY

The delegation held a Courtesy Call on H.E Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia; meetings with the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture Affairs; the Ministry of Agriculture. The delegation was taken through a guided tour of the Livestock Development & Excellence Center, under the Farmers and City Administration of Addis Ababa.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY VISIT

The Main objectives of the study visit were to learn and exchange best practices on:

- a) Ethiopia's farming methods, including traditional, modern, and sustainable practices.
- b) how these methods are integrated into policies and programs to enhance food production.
- c) incentives provided by the Ethiopian government to support both small-scale and large-scale farmers.
- d) measures taken to ensure farmers have access to stable markets for their produce.

- e) training and capacity-building initiatives targeting farmers, particularly small-scale farmers, to improve productivity and resilience.
- f) any existing programs for resettlement or reallocation of land aimed at improving agricultural productivity.
- g) Ethiopia's strategies and policies for achieving food security, including how the legislative framework contributes to these efforts.
- h) produce a report with recommendations for adoption by the House.

6. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the National Assembly of the Committee's findings and recommendations.

7. MEETINGS HELD

7.1 Courtesy call on the High Commission to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, H.E Mr Mbapeua Muvangua

His Excellency Mr Mbapeua Muvangua welcomed the delegation with gratitude and expressed his appreciation for the visit. He informed the delegation that Ethiopia is a peaceful country, known for its strict security measures despite its complex administrative bureaucracy. H.E. commended the delegation's interest in benchmarking with Ethiopia for best practices to improve agriculture and food security in Namibia. During his speech, he highlighted Namibia's vast potential for agricultural development, despite persistent drought challenges, and emphasized the importance of boosting food supply and job creation. Drawing inspiration from Liberia's agricultural transformation, he encouraged Namibia to learn from Ethiopia's strategies, particularly the engagement of the diaspora in investing in their birth country. Moreover, he emphasized the need for government and parastatals to invest in providing technical support to resettlement farmers. Additionally, he highlighted the need to invest in agriculture as a crucial step to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation. Hence, he advised the committee to consider a joint study visit with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to Brazil as it is well-known for its high-tech agricultural investment and products.

7.2 Meeting with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture Affairs

The Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Ato Solomone Lale Kalo applauded the Namibian Parliament for its initiative to benchmark with Ethiopia on best practices and share experiences in agricultural and legislative matters; as well as its effort to strengthen bilateral friendship. There is a need for Africa to unite and address its challenges from the African perspectives, particularly on food security.

The Chairperson informed delegation that the committee had primary functions to review, evaluate proper implementation of plans, and was mandated to oversee the Ministry of Agriculture and nine institutions operating under it. Furthermore, the committee evaluate the quarterly and annual performance report of the Minister of Agriculture and provide feedback on areas that need special attention for better implementation and achievements.

In addition, The Chairperson shared that the main crops produced in Ethiopia was barley, corn, teff, wheat and rice and the following farming methods were practiced:

- a) **Subsistence Farming** (mainly crops and livestock);
- b) **Mixed Farming** were farmers has a combination of crop and Livestock Farming;
- c) **Agroforestry** which is a land management system that combines trees and crops to improve the health of the land. Farmer use them as per their own land needs for instance Tree-Crop Integration and Coffee Production.
- d) **Conservation Agriculture**, a farming system that promotes minimum soil disturbance, meaning farming without drilling the soil and it maintain a permanent soil cover, and diversification of plant species in the same area. E.g. Soil and Water Conservation.
- e) **Irrigation Farming** meaning the farmers irrigate during dry seasons.
- f) **Pastoralism**, a method where animal husbandry (livestock) are domesticated and are raised for grazing on large open lands. E.g. Herders move their animals from one place to another in search of pasture and water.
- g) **Small-Scale Commercial Farming** that are Market-Oriented Production
- h) **Large-Scale Commercial Farming** i.e. State-Owned and Private Investment.

In addition, government of Ethiopia implemented varieties of incentives and supports to boost agricultural productivity and improve the livelihoods of farmers. Incentives covered areas such as financing, input provision, infrastructure development, and access to markets. The government offered subsidized seeds, fertilizers and chemicals to assist farmers. To achieve this, the government of Ethiopia allocates more funds to the Ministry of Agriculture. In 2023/24 21 bill birr was sponsored only for fertilizer, compared to 15bill birr in 2021/22.

In the same vain, farmers were also provided with access to credits and saving; microfinance and loan programs to invest, training and extend their services. Tax incentives for agribusinesses and rural infrastructure development such as road maintenance and transportation were also made available. Moreover, the government invested heavily in irrigation development by providing pumps, trucks and other machineries free from taxation. Further assistance and support was also offered by securing stable market through cooperatives in wholesale and retail market, for instance the practice of Sunday market (open market). The Farmers were also permitted to directly export produces such as coffee, soya-bean and other commodities.

In addition, Green legacy was another method implemented by the government to enhance strong integration between Parliament and the people. It created awareness on how to promote natural resources, rehabilitation and women empowerment. More women were employed at seedling nursery to plant more trees. The results of the trees planted has brought a desired goal over the past six years. As notable as the effects of climate change in Ethiopia has improved.

According to the Chairperson, Ethiopia's economy dependent heavily on agriculture, however small-scale farmers often faced challenges such as limited access to resources, outdated farming practices, and vulnerability to climate change. Hence the government's commitment to invest more funds and to review relevant policies. The Chairperson further highlighted that as per the Proclamation Rural Land Administration, land was owned by State and citizens. Women had rights to own the land and farm on it however, no right to sell it. Ethiopia's large land is owned by Small-Scale Farmers. Therefore, they were offered with capacity-building programs to improve knowledge, skills, and tools increase productivity and sustainability.

The Chairperson stated that the resettlement programs were only offered when there is construction for community development. For instance, during road construction, irrigation

and hydropower project, or in the event of natural disaster for instance land slide or flooding. Such resettlement is done in collaboration with different stakeholders.

7.3 Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The State Minister, Dr. Fikru Regassa appreciated the delegation and related on his recent visit to Namibia to benchmark on the best practices regarding livestock farming with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. He highlighted that the Ministry on Agriculture and Natural Resources focused to secure food in the country. Dr Regassa acknowledged that Ethiopia has a large number of livestock, plants species, and big rivers that were utilised for irrigation and that the country has qualified agroecologist. Therefore, it is not about the resources but whether there are good policies and regulations in place and political will.

Dr Regassa stated further that animal development was one of the main ways to ensure food and nutrition security in the society. Therefore, much work was done in animal development such as dairy, poultry, and beekeeping in the “Bounty of Basket” campaign. Fish and poultry were also highlighted to be improving. Especially poultry, the Ministry envisaged to distribute 150mil chicks per day by the end of 2024, compared to 26mil distributed in 2023 as part of small-scale farmer empowerment. According to the Dr Regassa, the Ministry put up realistic plan toward its programs and commit to it fully, for instance, the 10 years plans to invest in 10 commodities regardless of the seasons. It was reported that Deputy Ministers under the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources visits the farms on a monthly basis to monitor the implementation and progress made by farmers.

The delegation was further informed that the ministry promotes cluster farming method whereby smallholder farmers were grouped into clusters or cooperatives to enable them to benefit from economies of scale, share resources, and access better services. Another method was contract farming proclamation, meaning farmer in contract with multi-factories to manufacture equipment’s/ machineries for them and farmer sell their product to the factories.

It terms of land use administration, it was stated that there was no land re-allocation of land or farms however, individuals were allowed to produce/farm on the land provided that they maintain the land in its natural features. For instance, if the land was a forest, then one should use it as a forest and not destroy the forest. Also on condition that no one had ownership to sell it. Moreover, the resettlement programs were only done due community development constructions such road, irrigation and hydropower, or in the event of natural disaster for instance land slide or flooding.

Challenges such as expansion of cities into productive land was becoming a concern and a cost to the government because the community must be resettled. During resettlement, the government mobilised community by integrating them into some enterprises and avoid awarding with cash. Another challenge highlighted was the affordability of fertilizers, Dr. Regassa cited the impact of the dollar against the Ethiopian Birr affect the affordability of importing fertilizer. However, the government and the private sector had plans to develop their fertilizer manufacturer in the near future.

The State Minister indicated that in order to utilise the natural resources, governments and private sector should cohesively improve rural development in good time. Encourage political will in working toward amending laws, regulations/policies and acts, and conduct continuous community awareness and ownership in agricultural sector. Lastly, Dr Regassa mentioned the importance of the two government to consider a memorandum of understanding to exchange expertise in agricultural sector and recognising Namibia improvement in producing quality beef and exporting beef to EU.

7.3 Visit at the Livestock Development & Excellence Center: Addis Ababa City Administration

The Livestock Development & Excellence Center was established to serve as source of knowledge, research, resources and technology for those engaged in the sector, and to increase production and productivity for the country. It was inaugurated in July 2021, with the aim of rehabilitating, and for sustainable development of displaced farmers in Addis Ababa. Focused on developing research and technologies, modernizing and expanding access to animal supply and marketing as well as supporting and empowering development-oriented farmers.

The project started with plans with 20 dairy cattle breeding sheds, 20 cattle fattening sheds, 18 eggs laying chicken breeding sheds, 2 Morden feed processing sheds, 40 display and sales shops, 40 dry storage warehouses, 2 animal clinics and an administrative building.

The center was organised by more than 100 associations, and engaged in various fields of work. Around 500 farmers had begun to work at the center. By the time of the visit, more than 20,000 eggs were produced in a day. There was approximately 98 cattle head for milk production, and only manual (traditional) milking methods was used, the purpose was to create employment for the locals. The average milk production per day was 15 litres per cattle that makes up to 800 litres of milk per day. The milk was sold to the communities at a reduced price, ideally to reduce the cost of living. Similarly, the cattle fattening cluster fattened a total of 419 cattle in 3 rounds and supplied to the market during various festivals. At present, more than 100 cattle are being fattened. The center buy cattle from local farmers at a reduced price, quarantine them, monitor diseases and infections for six months.

The surrounding communities (farmers) whom were relocated due to constructions, utilised the center for a period of ten years, when they are able to buy their own farms. During these time, the farmers were trained with the necessary expertise. Majority of the employees were qualified Ethiopian youth.

8. FINDINGS

1. The government of Ethiopia allocated a more budget toward Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
2. The government of Ethiopia invested significantly in irrigation development by providing pumps, trucks and other machineries free from taxation
3. Resettlement programs in Ethiopia were only done due community development construction such as road, irrigation and hydropower or in the event of natural disaster for instance land slide or flooding.
4. Farmers were organized into clusters or cooperatives to leverage economies of scale, share resources, and access improved services.
5. In Ethiopia, a significant portion of the land is owned by small-scale farmers.
6. The government of Ethiopia offers varieties of incentives such as tax exemptions, Financial provisions and subsidised inputs that helped small-scaled farmers to boost their productivity and improve their livelihoods.
7. The Standing on Committee on Agriculture Affairs evaluate the quarterly and annual performance report of the Minister of Agriculture and provide feedback on areas that need special attention for better implementation and achievements.

9. CONCLUSION

The Ethiopian Parliament has proven to be a valuable platform for fostering mutual learning and the exchange of best practices in Parliamentary oversight within the agricultural sector. Through its dialogue engagements, both the committee and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources highlighted their focus on promoting different farming methods to improve agricultural productivity. The delegation was taken on a guided tour around the Livestock Development & Excellence Center in Addis Ababa City Administration that showcased effective youth empowerment. The comprehensive agricultural hub has made significant strides toward achieving its objectives of rehabilitating displaced farmers and promoting sustainable development. The provision of affordable milk and eggs, and the engagement of farmers in productive activities have had a positive socio-economic impact on the community.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Standing Committee on Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform should organize a joint study visit to Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and relevant institutions in Brazil to exchange best practices, policies, and regulations, as well as to enhance agricultural expertise.
2. The two governments should explore a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering cooperation and sharing expertise in the agricultural sector.

3. The Ministry of Finance should consider allocating adequate budget for the Ministry of Agriculture to give full support to Small-Scale farmers, particularly in the development and expansion of irrigation systems.
4. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform should enhance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ensure the effective management and success of government agricultural projects.
5. The government and relevant stakeholders should introduce other farming practices for instance cluster farming and provide technical and financial support to farmer cooperatives to enhance their efficiency, improve market access, and maximize the benefits of economies of scale.
6. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform should promote programs that focus on improving agricultural productivity for small-scale farmers through access to modern farming techniques, improved seeds, irrigation systems, and financial resources.
7. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform should review legal frameworks to promote fresh produce markets.

11. SIGNATURES

Hon. Tweya Tjekero (Chairperson)

Hon. Kafula Agnes Mpingana (Deputy Chairperson)

Hon. Auchab Apius

Hon. Dr. Kashikola Daniel

Hon. Elago Maria

Hon. Hamata Nghidipohamba

Hon. Hengari Koviao

Hon. Ithete Natangue

Hon. Kambayi Rebekka

Hon. Kamutali Maria

Hon. Kandjimi Johanna

Hon. Karondo Kletus

Hon. Karupu Sebastiaan

Hon. Kasuto Gotthard

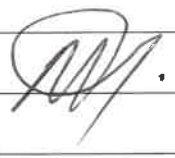
Hon. Kooper Paula

Hon. Mareka Vincent Joseph

















Hon. Masua Patience

Hon. Mootu Utaara

Hon. Mukapuli Hilaria

Hon. Nanyeni Fenni

Hon. Nekongo Ephraim

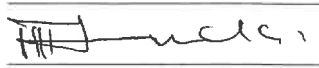
Hon. Shekupakela Kennedy

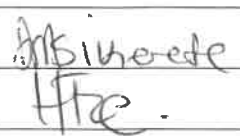
Hon. Sikerete Annakletha

Hon. Tjiveze Herlinde L.

Hon. Venaani Mike

Hon. Vries Diederik





-End-

