

Geodata for agriculture and water: CommonSense

🔍 Background

The CommonSense project targets smallholder farmers growing sesame and sorghum in four regions of Ethiopia, working with them directly or through others, including unions, cooperatives and microfinance institutions (MFIs). CommonSense provides farmers with actionable information to help them make more informed decisions on their farming activities based on earth observations and geographic data such as planting and other agricultural recommendations based on weather forecasts.


🎯 Approach

Access to agricultural insights allows farmers to improve their farm management by improving planning, maximizing yields and avoiding losses. The project aims to strengthen value chains and eventually improve livelihoods and food security. Based on a licensing model, farmers unions and other users will pay annual fees for a license to access the services.

✅ Results

- Against an initial goal of 200,000, 366,000 food producers, including 75,700 women, were reached by services provided within the project, upon its conclusion.
- In addition, over 300 have received training or education within the project, including over 200 women and 90 young people. Currently the service extends across 516,000 hectares of agricultural land and fishing area.
- Of those reached, 96% reported achieving improved food production as a result of the services provided within the project.

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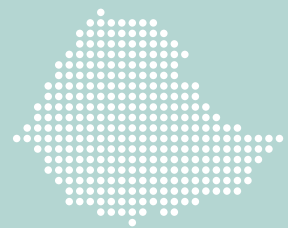
Organisations

Wageningen University & Research, MoA



Region

Ethiopia (Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, SNPP)



Further reading

- GODAN Network (2018), "Synthesis Report: Impact evaluation of Open Data Initiatives", https://www.godan.info/sites/default/files/documents/Synthesis%20report_impact%20evaluation%20of%20open%20data%20initiatives.pdf
- F1000research (2019), "Open Data Impact Narratives – Stories of Impact of Open Data in Agriculture", <https://f1000research.com/documents/8-1838>