

ETHIOPIA – ATTSSVE

In Ethiopia, ensuring agriculture remains an economic and policy priority is a major challenge given recent economic growth. Increasing pressure to own and acquire land means substantial improvements in

productivity are needed to increase or even maintain agricultural production. MEDA is assisting youth by creating stronger ties between agriculture training and meeting the demands of the job market.



Creating business solutions to poverty

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QUICKFACTS

- 1 in 4 youth 15-24 yrs unemployed
- 39% below the poverty line
- Agriculture employs 85% of workforce
- Crop production 60% of GDP growth
- 13% arable land
- 39% literacy

The ATTSVE project, with an \$18M budget from GAC, is led by Dalhousie University in partnership with McGill University, Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine and MEDA.

Background

Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) colleges are largely located in rural regions of Ethiopia, close to smallholder farming areas. Rural youth in these areas, both males and females, are often an overlooked and underemployed resource.

While the schools were established for training of agriculture extension agents, they are now also training youth for the private sector agriculture industry.

ATVETs are shifting focus to serve new market demands and opportunities in the rural agricultural sector, such as training of rural youth and creating linkages to private industry.

Instructors and administrative leaders need targeted, customized training and an updated curriculum to incorporate value chain development and entrepreneurship.



MEDA's Assessment

As part of a larger project led by Canada's Dalhousie University, MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) aims to strengthen ATVETs so they can provide training that better matches the skills and knowledge that youth require in commercial agriculture.

The Agricultural Transformation through Stronger Vocational

Education (ATTSVE) project will strengthen the capacities of four ATVETs in Ethiopia. MEDA will:

- Contribute to curriculum development by mainstreaming value chain development, entrepreneurship, and business management into curriculums;
- Lead ATVET business planning to promote sustainable and industry-

relevant income-generating activities for the targeted schools to generate their own revenue to supplement public allocations;

- Forge links between the schools and agriculture industry players, encouraging student skills development through practical learning opportunities, and to support value chain development through an innovation fund.

Outcome | 6-Year Project Budget

- Four selected ATVETS have new capacity to provide training to meet agricultural sector needs
- More employment opportunities in agri-business to keep youth in rural areas and in agriculture
- Other ATVETs in Ethiopia learn from the experiences of these four
- Students, ATVET facility and private sector businesses benefit from business-oriented curriculum and skill-building

