



AGRI-FOOD SECTOR: BRIDGE+ (Building Rural Income through Inclusive Dairy Business Growth in Ethiopia) Project 'Making the Dairy Sector Attractive!'

At a Glance

Building Rural Income through inclusive Dairy Business Growth in Ethiopia (BRIDGE+) project: Building on the experiences and achievements of the first phase of the project (BRIDGE), BRIDGE+ works toward 'Making the Dairy Sector Attractive' through creating a dairy Value Chain with inclusive and sustainable benefits for all its participants, including wider society, with particular focus on smallholder farmers within the mixed farming system.

BRIDGE+ mainly focuses on specific targets to support smallholder farmers who keep crossbred cows to increase productivity, through improving and creating access to the required dairy farm inputs, extension and professional services, and efficient output market linkages. For a broader sector level impact, BRIDGE+ works toward intensification of production, professionalisation, improved efficiency, and establishment of effective governance mechanisms at commercial dairy farm, dairy cooperative leadership, nutrition, food safety control and regulation levels.

SNV-BRIDGE+ Solutions

To improve the performance of the Ethiopian dairy sector, the BRIDGE+ project follows different operational strategies based on proven practices in Ethiopia. The project with its national character aims to contribute to dairy sector transformation and follows a market-based approach (driven by opportunities). The adaptive management of BRIDGE's intervention framed in response to the demand and supply arena of the milk market.

WHY BRIDGE+

In response to the growing consumer concern and population and economic growth, the demand for quality food products including animal source foods is increasing in Ethiopia. Nevertheless, the 66 liters per capita milk consumption remains below the 200 liters recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for countries with high rates of chronic undernutrition, with a low proportion of children meeting the requirements for minimum acceptable diets including milk and milk products. The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) has been supportive of the Ethiopian dairy sector development for the past 15 years through several dairy value chain development projects namely Business Organizations and Access to Market (BOAM), DairyBiss, Enhancing Dairy Growth for Ethiopian smallholder farmers (EDGET), Building Rural Income through inclusive Dairy Growth in Ethiopia (BRIDGE), and now BRIDGE+, the continuation of the BRIDGE project with a national scope of contributing toward sector transformation. This transformation focuses on the domains of making the sector attractive, leading the sector by professionals, and establishing a formal market.



BRIDGE+ Project components

1. EXTENSION: Structured Learning for Farmers

A pluriform extension using Dairy Farm Schools (DFS), focused on the Lactation Cycle Approach (LCA), silage-making, and existing platforms (coops, MCPS, AIDs).

Targets:

- 1,000 Service Providers (5% female)
- 100,000 Farmers with >25% productivity gain
- 250,000 Farmers with >10% gain through outreach

2. INPUT MARKET: Strengthening Agro-Input Dealers

Support input and service delivery like AI, cold chains, and forage seeds, plus biogas and water access solutions. via a pluriform approach

Targets:

- 150 AIDs (10% female)
- Reach 150,000 farmers
- Deliver 15+ products/services per AID

3. MARKET LINKAGE: Empowering Cooperatives

Support cooperatives in bulking, build dairy hubs, and enhance their integration in formal value chains.

Targets:

- 150 Cooperatives
- 100,000 Members
- 600,000 Litres/day to formal market

4. FOOD SAFETY: Support Quality Standards

Enforcement

Work with EFDA and processors to enforce safety standards and introduce QBMPS, HACCP, GMP, and GHP.

Targets:

- Zero Adulteration
- 20 HACCP-Certified Factories
- 100 Small Producers Apply GMP & GHP
- 3 Million Consumers Reached

5. NUTRITION: School Milk & BoP Dairy Products

Deliver dairy-based nutrition through school programs and affordable snacks like probiotic yoghurt.

Targets:

- 1,000,000 Children benefit from school milk
- Innovative BoP dairy product pilots

6. PROFESSIONALISATION: Growing Commercial Dairy

Farms

Expand the Commercial Dairy Farm program, localize knowledge, and create Practical Dairy Training Farms (PDTFs).

Targets:

- 60 Dairy Advisers
- 400 Farmers (10% female) producing 1,000 L/day
- 20 PDTFs for practical learning

7. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT:

Innovation Through Research

Support MEAL systems and applied research on project bottlenecks and policy-relevant themes.

Targets:

- 10 Policy Briefs
- 40 MSc + 3 PhD Students Supported
- 15 Locally Led Research Projects

8. POLICY: Facilitate policy reform by linking lessons to action and supporting sector platforms and associations.

Targets:

- Vibrant associations leading regular sector dialogue
- Improved access to finance and investment

9. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING: Track

impact through longitudinal surveys, system indicator monitoring, and facilitate internal learning processes.

Targets: Project accountability, learning and sector monitoring.

Geographic Coverage	National Scope, 10 regions (Addis Ababa, Amhara, Central Eth, Dire Dawa, Harari, Oromia, Sidama, South Eth, South-west Eth & Tigray)
Duration	Nov 2023 - Dec 2028
Donor	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Addis Ababa
Project Targets	350,000 dairy farmers (direct and indirect) supported through 1000 service providers and increased productivity; supported by 60 commercial dairy farm advisors, 400 commercial dairy farms increased productivity to supply 400,000 litres/day, 4 million consumers reached out, 150 Agro-input Dealers (AIDs) supported to provide 15 inputs and services, 150 dairy cooperatives with 100,000 members supported to supply 600,000 liters of milk/day, and 1 million school children reached out through our school milk program.
Consortium Partners	SNV, WUR and Agritteria
Implementing Partners	Over 20 regulatory, development, research, educational, business, and professional association partners will be involved in the BRIDGE+ project implementation. These include the Ministry and Bureaus of Agriculture, EFDA, research centers, universities, dairy cooperatives, Cooperative Promotion Agencies, milk processors, Agro-Input Dealers, the forage seed and feeding industry.

BRIDGE+ cross-cutting components

1. GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI):

Proactively integrating GESI into the dairy value chain analysis and project components.

2. ALIGNMENT: Alignment with other initiatives in the sector is a core approach towards up-scaling and sustainability. Specific examples are AGP, LFSDP, GAIN (BDFA), various SNV projects and the government led 'Yelemat Terufat' initiative.

3. LOCALISATION: BRIDGE+ focuses on building the capacity of local actors at different levels.

4. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT: This is integrated within the various Components and collaboration with the SNV project.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE: Adaptation is integrated in the extension component, while additional attention for manure management is included in the input component.

