



Sesame Business Network

Production-push and market-pull dynamics for sesame sector performance improvement

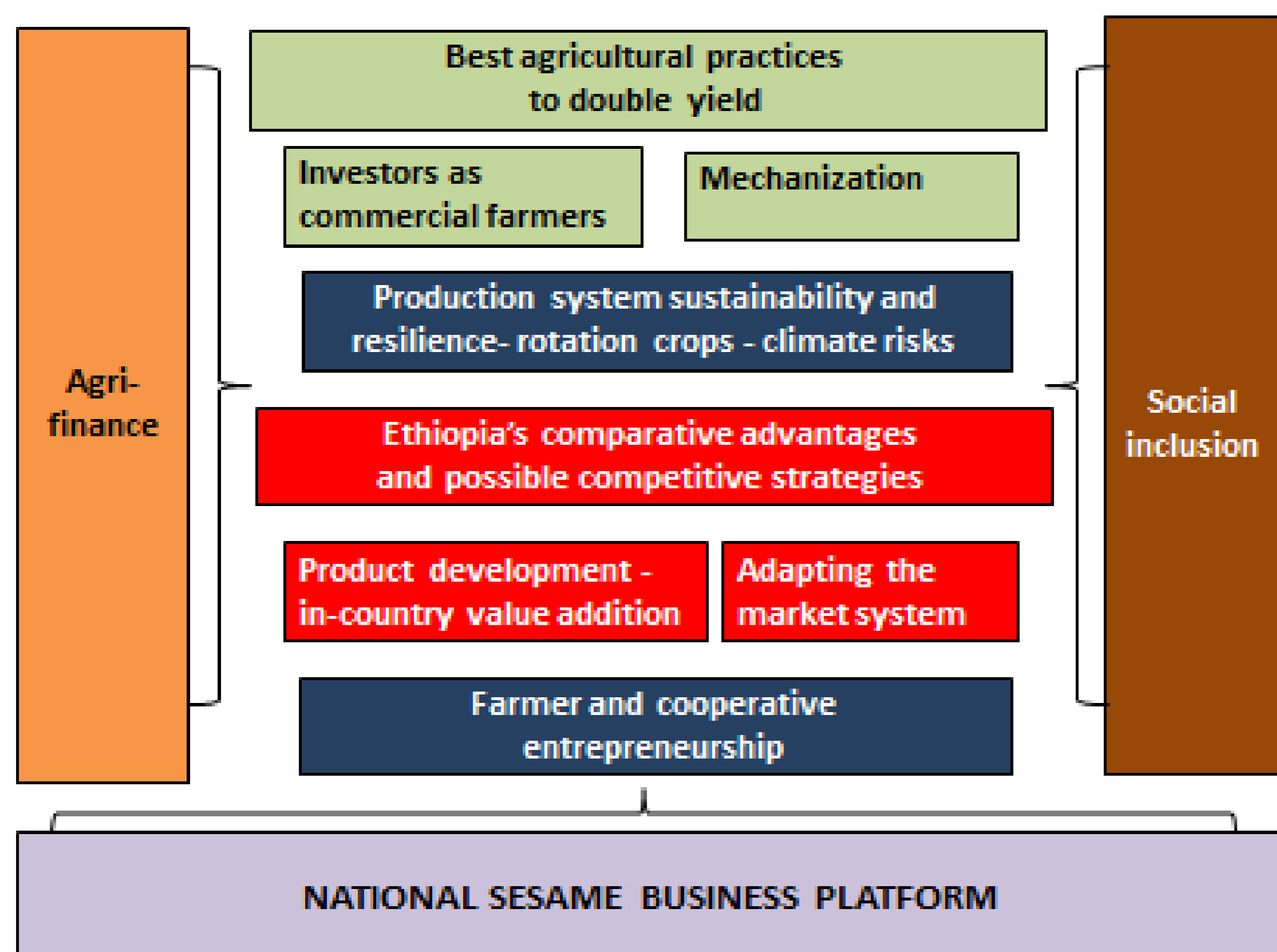
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Sesame Business Network (SBN)

The SBN support program addresses the challenge of improving the performance of the Ethiopian sesame sector by contributing to: (i) Yield improvement (+50%); (ii) Quality improvement; (iii) Post-harvest loss reduction (-30%); (iii) Improved access to formal credit to farmers and reduced credit costs (-50%); (iv) product development, diversification and in-country value addition; (v) market access improvement.

Context

After coffee, sesame is the second agricultural export earner for Ethiopia. There are 10 strategic challenges that are important for fundamental sesame sector transformation.



Stakeholder-owned 'project'

The SBN program supports sesame sector stakeholders to achieve their objectives. The project succeeds if farmers succeed to double yields per hectare and/or better access agricultural loans, if research and extension are innovative and achieve high adoption of innovations, if there is more in-country value addition and if the country export reaches higher value markets. Because of this stakeholder ownership, SBN program partners observe: "we do not see SBN as an external project – it is ours"



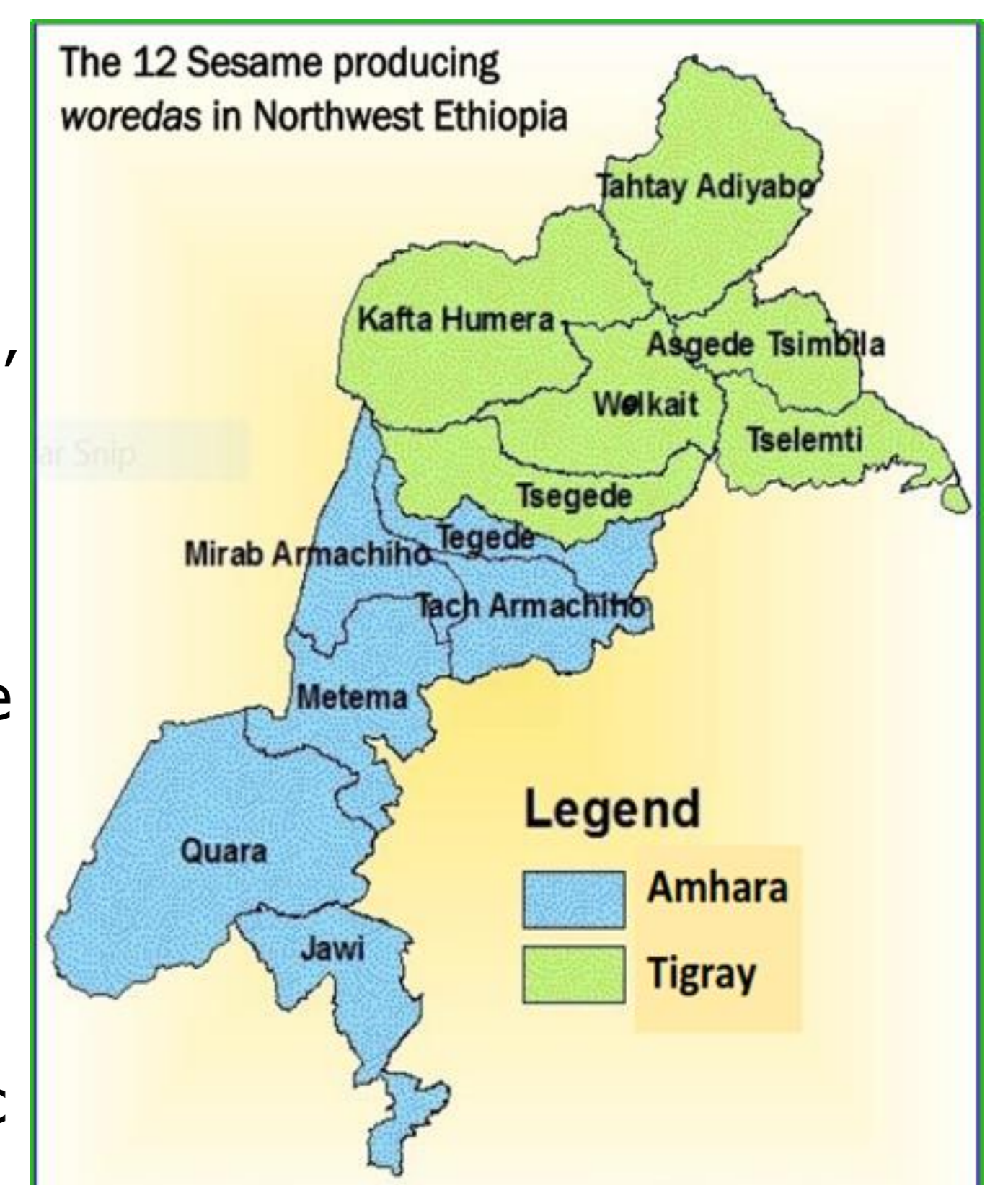
Figure 1 Diversity of support activities for a range of related objectives



Figure 2. The SBN support program operates at production and market side

Results

The successful translation of research findings in farmer-oriented extension messages (20 steps), the proof that yields can double, more attention for farmers' access to credit and financial literacy are among the main results of the SBN program. The SBN approach is aligned to the ATA Agricultural Commercialization Clusters (ACC) and is inspiring MoANR and regional and local authorities for commodity-oriented development in specific geographic zones.



Follow-up

It is essential to address the key strategic challenges, which are directly or indirectly of great importance for all stakeholders of the Ethiopian sesame sector, at the highest level. Preferably a national sesame business platform is established, with strong public-private sector leadership and interaction. This is urgent for maintaining/ regaining Ethiopia's leading role in the sesame sector. At local (kebele and woreda) level practical change is possible if local public administration and agencies work together with farmers' cooperatives and financial institutions.

Films on SBN

SBN Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4S2gE2kyQ0>
20 steps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-lgvaRGKkGk>
Loss reduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iXBOTLj0A>

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More information

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