



FACT SHEET

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Ethiopia Maize Public-Private Partnership Advances Hybrid Seed Adoption and Increase Farmer Incomes



Photo: USAID AGP-AMDe

Maize is one of Ethiopia's most important cereals in terms of production, with four million tons produced in 2011 by eight million farmers across two million hectares, making it a significant contributor to Ethiopia's economic and social development. There is significant market potential for maize in Ethiopia and Eastern Africa. However, once harvested, maize production is extremely vulnerable to significant post-harvest losses due to mold, vermin and theft. Moreover, only a small fraction of the eight million farmers use hybrid maize seed.

As part of the [New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition](#), in January 2013, the [Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture](#) and Ethiopia's [Agricultural Transformation Agency \(ATA\)](#) joined with USAID and [DuPont Pioneer](#) in a three-year partnership. The purpose is to increase maize productivity by transitioning farmers from open-pollinated to improved hybrid seed varieties, reduce post-harvest losses, expand access to credit and inputs, and build the capacity of extension services to disseminate skills and best

practices to Ethiopian maize farmers. These objectives will be met through the Advanced Maize Seed Adoption Program (AMSAP). DuPont Pioneer is investing more than USD \$2.3 million to provide improved varieties of maize seed and technical assistance. USAID, under the [U.S. Feed the Future Initiative](#), is investing an additional USD \$1 million in AMSAP to support training, field demonstrations, commercial credit schemes, post-harvest storage development, soil sampling at demonstration sites, logistics, and market access and development.

IMPLEMENTATION

The AMSAP partnership is increasing productivity and reducing post-harvest losses through increased use of hybrid seed and fertilizer, improved seed distribution, and better post-harvest storage and agronomic practices. AMSAP established smallholder demonstration plots using Pioneer hybrid maize seeds in 16 *woredas* (districts) located in the Amhara, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's regions of Ethiopia. AMSAP operations created a network of entrepreneurs and strengthened cooperatives to improve inputs for farmers and their production techniques. DuPont Pioneer facilitates credit for the construction of seed and post-harvest storage facilities. Through these facilities, entrepreneurs are able to store small amounts of seed, increasing seed availability while selling for optimal prices.

EXPECTED RESULTS 2013-2015

- **Increase productivity of 35,000 maize farmers by 50 percent**
- **Reduce post-harvest loss of maize by as much as 20 percent**
- **Raise income of smallholder farmers by an average of 20 percent**
- **Expand availability of improved maize seed and other inputs**
- **Expand access to finance and markets**
- **Improve practices and extension services through community-based lead farmers, government extension services, and cooperatives**