

Land and Ethiopia's Journey to Self-Reliance

KEY LAND ISSUES IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia's economy depends on the productivity of its natural resources, principally land and water. Through their use, **agriculture contributes 42% of Ethiopia's GDP and 90% of exports**. Most people live in densely populated rural areas, where farmers depend on small plots of land (average of 0.5 hectares). Land markets remain tightly constrained: conditions are imposed on land rentals, and the sale and use of land as collateral is generally prohibited. Until recently, pastoral and agro-pastoral groups had no legally recognized rights to their wet and dry-season lands. In 2018, the first ever pastoral land certificates were issued with support from USAID.



1975 - 1990s | Marxist Derg regime **nationalizes all land**, promotes collective agriculture, villagization, and settlement in new areas. This era is marked by frequent land seizures, declining productivity, food insecurity and famine.

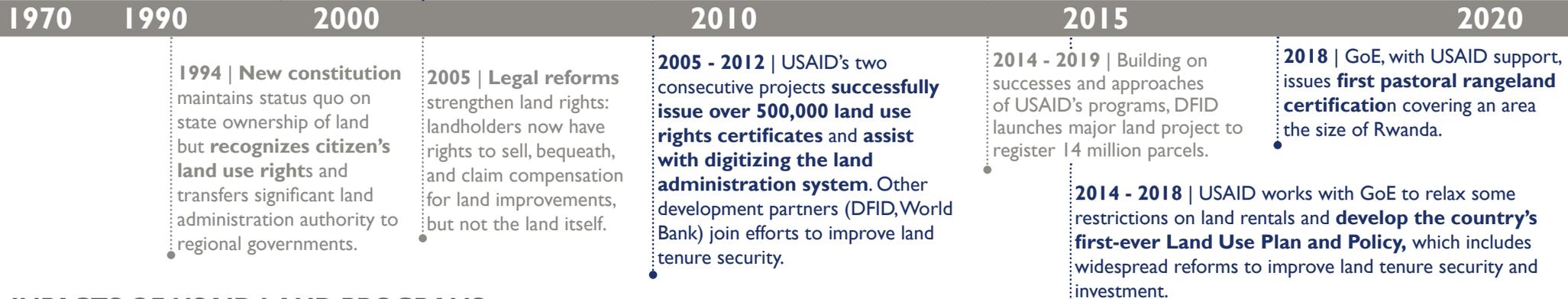
1997 | Government of Ethiopia (GoE) begins process of improving land tenure security and provides **legal basis for land certification** activities.

2005 | GoE and USAID launch **first ever land tenure and administration strengthening program**, mapping and certifying rural parcels.

2004 - 2013 | Ethiopia experiences **11% average annual GDP growth**, mainly from expansion in services and agricultural sectors. Percentage of population living in extreme poverty falls from 39% to 30%.

2014 | Building on the success of certifying farmers' land rights, GoE and USAID launch **first-ever pastoral certification program**.

2016 - 2020 | GoE's Growth and Transformation Plan II prioritizes agricultural investment and pastoral development.



Note: Gray indicates GoE context, dark blue indicates USAID activities

IMPACTS OF USAID LAND PROGRAMS (Since 2005)



Likelihood of household's access to [informal] credit increased by **10%**



Likelihood of a woman possessing land in her own name increased by **10%**



Wife's decision role on the type of crops to grow on land under her control increased by **44%**



Household's belief in their right to bequeath land increased by **11%**



Land held jointly by husband and wife or by female-headed households increased by **0.32 hectares**