
Ethiopian farmers and weavers growing hope, incomes through EDGET

Ethiopians Driving Growth, Entrepreneurship and Trade (EDGET) is MEDA's five year pro-poor value chain* development project. EDGET aims to increase incomes for 10,000 farmers and textile producers by enabling access to growing markets, enhanced production techniques, appropriate technologies, improved input supplies, and affordable support services, including finance.

Rice farmers

Through EDGET and local partners, rice farmers are accessing better seed and other "inputs," such as fertilizer, training in planting techniques, crop rotation and other aspects of cultivation, and improved skills in harvesting and storage. Through village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) – farmers can learn how to better manage their finances, save for the future and access credit to invest in assets.

Processors are updating their technology to reduce rice breakage, which means a lower quality product and lower prices. EDGET is helping processors access credit for new machinery to upgrade their operations. The project provides training at both the manager and operator level, ultimately ensuring a higher quality product and more sustainable businesses. Product standards are rising as processors learn how to sort and grade their rice.



Textiles

EDGET is improving links in the textile sector between spinners, weavers and high-end buyers and designers to create a stronger market for hand-made fabrics and garments. Spinners are learning about new technology to increase their productivity and supply of *tuba* (yarn or thread) to weavers. Weavers are learning how to create high-quality products in a timely fashion. High-end buyers and designers are helping weavers adapt to modern market demands, and providing opportunities for both training in new technical skills and practical experience.

As with the rice farmers, weavers are creating VSLA cluster groups to build up their savings and gain better access to financial services.

**Through an analysis of the value chain, MEDA identifies poverty reduction strategies by upgrading along the value chain. A value chain traces the system of processing, manufacturing, distribution, wholesale and retail that take goods from their raw state to the end customer. It is also a conduit for information both up and down the chain.*