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Evolution and Transformation of Ethiopian Agriculture: A Review of Historical Trends, Contemporary Challenges, and Future Opportunities

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Abstract

Ethiopia's agricultural sector is pivotal to its economy, employing approximately 85% of the population and contributing significantly to the national GDP. Despite its potential, the sector grapples with critical challenges such as food insecurity, climate change, land degradation, and limited market access. As a result, Ethiopia ranks 101st out of 125 countries on the 2023 Global Hunger Index, with 26.2% of its population undernourished. This review aims to explore the historical trends that have shaped Ethiopian agriculture, critically analyze contemporary challenges, and identify future opportunities for transformation. The findings highlight that policy shifts and technological advancements are essential for overcoming existing barriers. Key opportunities for enhancing agricultural productivity include the adoption of climate-smart practices, technological innovations, improved market access, sustainable land management, and necessary policy reforms. By addressing these challenges and leveraging opportunities, Ethiopia can achieve a more productive and sustainable agricultural system that supports food security and rural development. The commitment of all stakeholders is crucial for realizing these transformations in Ethiopian agriculture.

Keywords: *Ethiopian agriculture, food security, climate change, future opportunities, historical trends, sustainable development, agricultural transformation.*

