

Ethiopian Horticulture & Agriculture Investment Authority (EHAIA): New horticulture development cluster in Ethiopia



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Overview of the industry

Ethiopia is one of the countries in Africa which has huge potential for the production of different varieties of horticultural crops. The country is endowed with extensive natural resources in different agro-ecological zones suitable for production of a number of flowers, vegetables, fruits and herbs.

Export horticulture is booming and the country is now the second largest supplier and exporter of highest quality flowers from Africa. Currently, close to 130 companies are engaged in horticultural crop production of which the largest percentage is owned by foreign investors.

The country initiated cluster based investment in horticulture export ventures and identified suitable corridors to offer attractive business and investment environments. This cluster based investment provides good infrastructure connectivity stimulating strategic investment opportunities across the sector and among domestic and international development partners. It further harmonizes regulatory and policy frameworks to maximize the socio-economic advantage of the sector. Based on this new initiation, EHAIA conducted land suitability analysis, developed master plan for two corridors: Alage and Shallo and confirmed that two clusters are found to be suitable for the production of flowers, vegetable crops, herbs and various fruits. We look forward to working with you on the development of these new horticulture clusters.

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Alage horticulture development cluster

- is located in Arsi Negele of Oromia and Alaba woreda of SNNPR
- 215 km away from Addis Ababa and is in the rift valley
- Borders both Abijata and Shalla lakes
- Altitudinal 1540 - 1670 masl
- 1200 ha. land is identified as a suitable site for horticulture

Climatic conditions

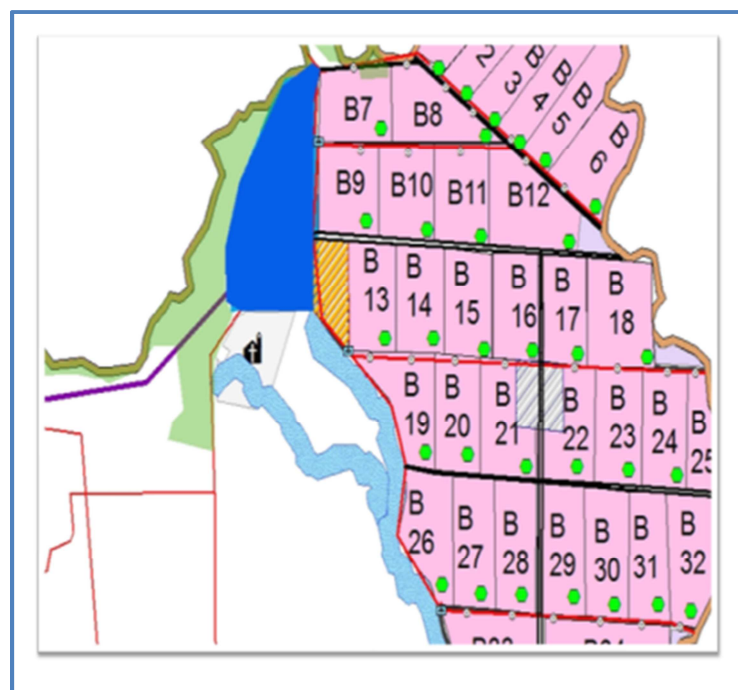
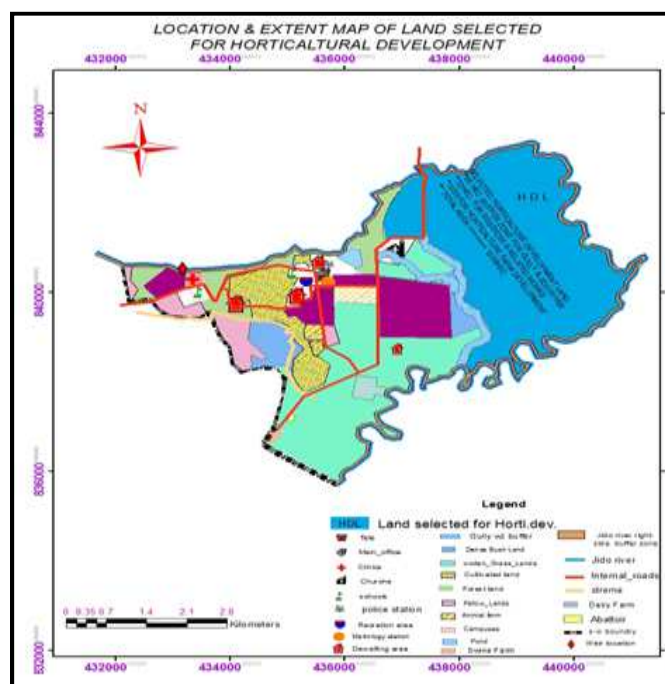
- Temperature = 6.8 to 36 °C
- Monthly RF = 5.1 to 140.2 mm
- Annual RF = 708 mm (bimodal)
- Relative humidity = 56 to 73 %
- Wind speed = 1.11 – 1.97 m/s
- ETo = 3.8 – 5.04 mm.

Soil quality

- Textural class sandy loam
- pH = 6.4 to 9.0
- OM (%) = 0.56 – 1.96
- CEC (meq/100g) = 41.6
- TN (%) = 0.07 – 0.14
- C:N ratio = 15.8

Water quality

- pH = 7.4 to 8.0
- EC (mS/cm) = 0.2 to 0.5
- Na (ppm) = 26
- Chloride = 12 – 16.5
- Fluoride = 0.17 – 2.72
- Potassium = 10.3 - 12
- Calcium = 3.9 – 7.9
- Magnesium = 0.4 – 1.3
- Iron = 0.0 – 0.5



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Shallo horticulture development cluster

- is located in Oromia regional state, Shashamene wereda
- 265 km away from Addis Ababa on the way to Hawasa
- Altitudinal 1682 - 1794 masl
- 1250 ha. land is identified as a suitable site for horticulture

Climatic conditions

- Temperature = 10.6 to 30 °C
- Monthly RF = 23.1 to 135.7 mm
- Annual RF = 900 - 1100 mm
- Relative humidity = 48 to 73 %
- Wind speed = 0.61 - 0.95 m/s
- ETo = 3.8 – 6.0 mm.

Soil quality

- Textural class sandy loam
- pH = 5.9 to 7.4
- OM (%) = 1.74 – 3.9
- CEC(meq/100g) = 41.6
- TN (%) = 0.12 – 0.31
- C:N ratio = 13
- rich in ground water

Water quality

- pH = 7.2 to 8.3
- EC (mS/cm) = 0.9 to 1.8
- Na (ppm) = 210
- Chloride = 80
- Fluoride = 2.45
- Potassium = 1.5
- Calcium = 3.3
- Magnesium = 1.6
- Iron = 0.0

