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PRESS RELEASE

The Government of Ethiopia, with support from the World Bank Group launches open data on agriculture and socioeconomic wellbeing

Addis Ababa, March 25, 2015: In a continuing effort to improve data quality and accessibility, the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) today publicly released data from the Ethiopia Socioeconomic Survey (ESS). The ESS is a nationally representative, household survey with information on agricultural practices and socioeconomic wellbeing of households. The launch event is a culmination of several years of collaboration between CSA and the Living Standards Measurement Study—Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) team of the World Bank Group. As part of a global move by WBG to further support open-data initiatives, the data will be available online immediately after the launch.

“These data can be used both directly by the Government to help inform policy makers, and by local researchers and analysts to better inform policy dialogue,” said **Ato Biratu Yigezu, Director General of the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia.**

On his part, **Guang Zhe Chen, World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia,** said *“The public release of the information will allow for greater use and analysis of the data and ultimately help to strengthen the foundation for the development of evidence-based policies.”*

The Ethiopia Socioeconomic Survey (ESS) collects detailed information on agricultural practices and labor activities; multiple dimensions of wellbeing, including health, wealth, and education; as well as data on food consumption and food security. The first wave of data was collected in 2011/12 from about 4,000 households in rural and small town. These same households were re-interviewed in 2013/14, along with an additional 1,500 households in urban areas. *“Because the survey is designed to follow the same households over time, we are better able to learn what factors, policies, and programs help people to improve their productivity and wellbeing,”* said **Ato Amare Legesse, Deputy Director General of the Central Statistical Agency.** The next wave of data collection is scheduled for 2015/16.

The objective of the LSMS-ISA project is to improve the quality of data and of data collection methods, while also increasing the supply of multi-topic, panel household survey data that is publicly available to researchers and policy makers. The project is partially financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In addition to Ethiopia, the World Bank Group implements similar programs in Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda.

For more information about the launch event, please contact Habekirstos Beyene, Tel. + 251-11-156-0992 email: habekirstos@yahoo.com or Gelila Woodeneh, Tel. + 251-11-517-6010 email: gwoodeneh@worldbank.org. For more information on the ESS data, please visit: <http://www.worldbank.org/lsms>