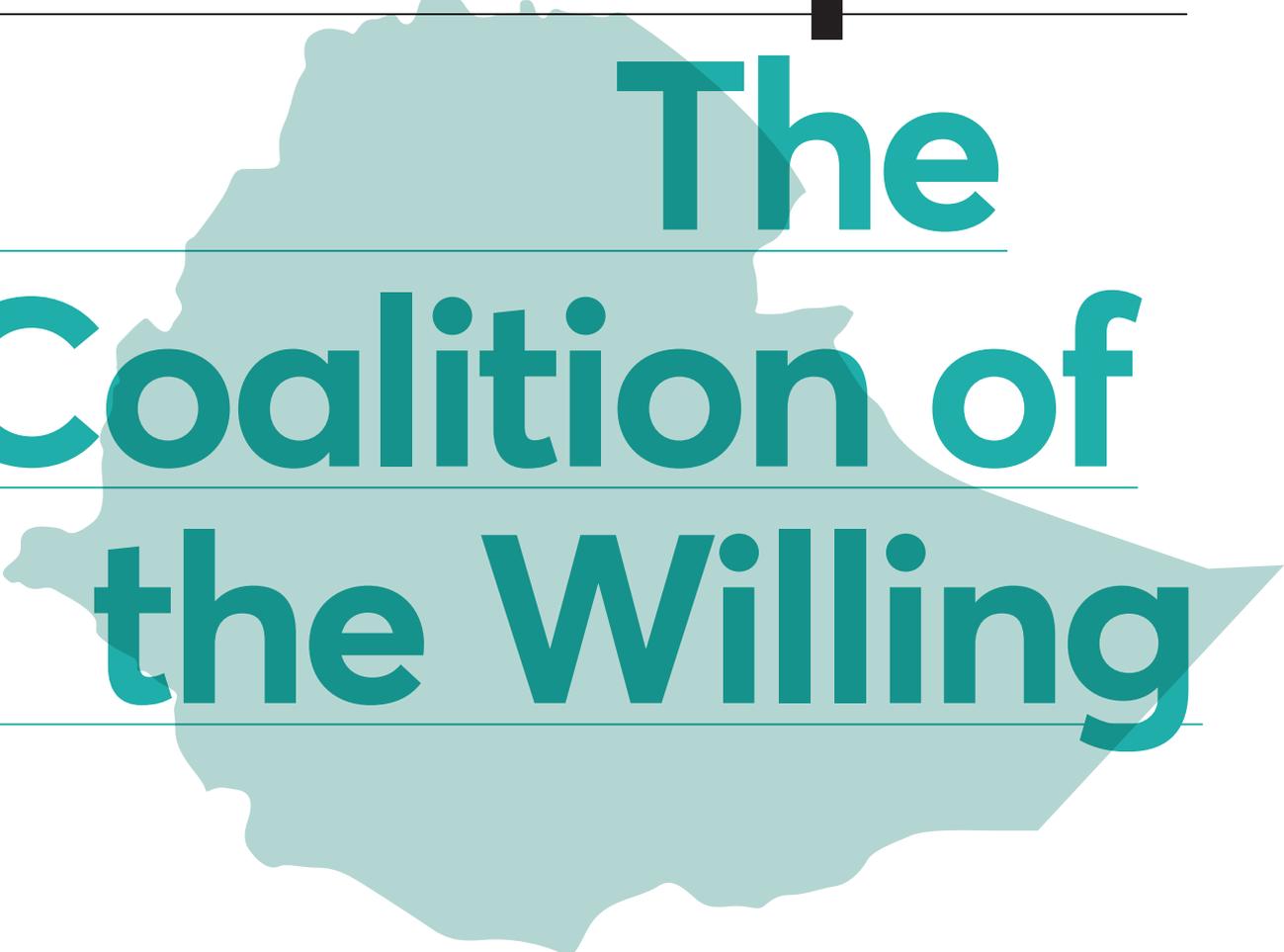

Data Driven Agriculture for Ethiopia:



The Coalition of the Willing

This leaflet introduces the Coalition of the Willing (CoW), its establishment membership, mission, and achievements, including its role in transforming the soil and agronomy data sharing landscape of Ethiopia.

Establishment, composition and partners

The Coalition of the Willing, launched in 2018, is a volunteer network of individuals and organizations looking to share and facilitate the wider sharing of soil and agronomic data in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian agricultural research and development community has identified the need to change the way soil and agronomy data is made available within the country in order to maximise potential of new developments and technological advances. CoW members are drawn from national research and development institutions, international organizations, professional societies and other non-governmental

organizations, currently hosted by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) has played a vital role in bringing the CoW members together and coordinating their activities, together with financial and logistical support from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), as well as partners like the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) and the Open Data Institute (ODI).

Mission

New developments and technological advances in data management, governance, sharing and use are happening all the time. These new technologies, tools and techniques should be applied in places where they are most needed, namely in developing regions. However, compared to other sectors, the Ethiopian agricultural sector is currently benefiting the least.

The CoW's mission, therefore, is to enable the Ethiopian agricultural sector to benefit from recognizable global advances in data management and handling. New data mining and sharing techniques could facilitate exploring patterns in a way that was not possible a few decades ago.

Approach

The CoW's approach supports government efforts by facilitating data organization, management, access and sharing mechanisms so that time and resources are used effectively and efficiently, avoiding duplication of efforts.

The coalition has established various task forces and working groups to facilitate the adoption of new developments and technological advances. Among the projects under way are:

- The development of data management, access, and sharing guidelines
- Identification, catalogue and mapping of a soils and agronomy data ecosystem
- Support for the development of a national Soil and Agronomy Data Sharing (SADS) Policy
- Providing geospatial data analysis support and engaging on issues as they emerge
- Developing the skills and experience of members by working together on tasks that contribute to the national goals and priorities

Achievements

Since its establishment in 2018, the Coalition's achievements include:

- Development of CoW data sharing guideline
- Map and catalogue of the National Soil and Agronomy Data Ecosystem
- Collation of soil and agronomy data from different sources
- Creation of initial soil and agronomy database
- Support the development of the Soil and Agronomy Data Sharing Policy and national data sharing guidelines to inform policy and practice
- Development of soil and agronomy data standardization guidelines for six thematic areas
- Creation of data scientist and geospatial analysis community of practice
- Development of web-based database and management system to facilitate data access, sharing, analytics and visualization
- Development of the CoW knowledge management system (<http://geoscow.org.et/>).

The data sharing guidelines

The CoW has developed soil and agronomy data guidelines that are aligned with the FAIR data principles, which recommend that data should be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable for the people and organizations that need it. The guidelines work towards the following objectives:

- Increase the usability of data while protecting security, privacy and data rights
- Reduce costs associated with duplication of efforts by increasing efficiency and facilitating information-based decision making
- Demonstrate how national data access and sharing can be implemented maintaining equity, security and privacy
- Facilitate the creation, population and maintenance of a Soil and Agronomy Database
- Enable research data to be more easily transformed into actionable knowledge
- Increase engagement and participation in the data sharing ecosystem
- Support the government to make informed decisions and tackle complex problems guided by tangible evidence.

How to become a member

- If you are interested in the Ethiopian Research and Development community and would like to play a part in the Digital Transformation of the Agriculture Sector, complete and sign the membership form to become a member of the CoW.

The CoW continues to work towards better soil and agronomy data sharing in Ethiopia and supports the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant government bodies to make informed decisions. The CoW also engages in emerging research and developmental issues that are relevant to national, regional and global agenda. You are invited to this growing movement to encourage and facilitate data sharing to benefit your department, organization and the country.



Join the coalition and contribute to unlock the potential benefit of data sharing to the nation"

Who is involved?



The Ethiopian agriculture research and development community, led by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), recognised the need to improve the soil and agronomy data sharing environment in Ethiopia, and in 2018, the Coalition of the Willing (CoW) was formed with the mission to facilitate wider scale soil and agronomic data access and sharing in Ethiopia.



CIAT is playing a significant role in bringing the CoW members together and coordinating their activities. Currently, CoW is hosted by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and receives financial and logistical support from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).



Over the past two years, additional international partners the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) and the Open Data Institute (ODI) have joined to help the Ministry and the Coalition fulfil their mission.