

Ethiopia emerges as Africa's top wheat, coffee producer

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Ethiopia has emerged as Africa's leading wheat producer and the largest coffee producer and exporter, reflecting the impact of sustained agricultural reforms and targeted investments, according to senior government officials.

Speaking at the 20th anniversary event of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Agriculture State Minister Eyasu Elias said the country's progress is the result of a deliberate transformation agenda anchored in policy coordination, political commitment and long-term investment in farmers.

The expansion of climate-resilient irrigated wheat production systems has played a central role in boosting output, enabling Ethiopia to achieve self-sufficiency and strengthen its position in regional markets. At the same time, the country has consolidated its leadership in coffee production and exports, a key contributor to foreign exchange earnings.

Officials highlighted that the transformation aligns closely with AGRA's broader focus on improving seed systems, enhancing farm productivity, strengthening market access and building resilient agricultural ecosystems across Africa. The organisation's support has been instrumental in advancing value chains across key crops including wheat, oilseeds, rice and sorghum, while also strengthening policy frameworks and institutional capacity.

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Ethiopia's economy, contributing over 30 per cent to GDP, employing a majority of the population and driving export revenues. Industry leaders noted that consistent policy focus across successive administrations has been critical in sustaining growth in the sector.

AGRA leadership underscored the importance of continued collaboration among governments, private sector players and development partners to scale proven agricultural solutions and improve livelihoods for smallholder farmers. The emphasis, they said, must remain on strengthening systems across research, innovation, policy and markets to ensure long-term food security and economic resilience.

The development positions Ethiopia as a key agricultural growth engine on the continent, highlighting the role of coordinated reforms and institutional support in driving large-scale sector transformation.