



INTRODUCTION

This volume has two parts. Part I is about food security/insecurity trends and challenges. Based on secondary data, it shows how the country has been moving from famine relief response dominated paradigm to long term more predictable response to food insecurity. Two dimensions of food security are discussed. These are core dimensions (availability, access, utilization) and crosscutting dimensions (Governance and institutions, infrastructure, environment, gender and other vulnerable groups). The paper wraps up by introducing some challenges Ethiopia has been facing in an effort to ensure food

security. The second paper draws lessons from the first five years of food security programme and discusses some generic issues in microfinance. The lessons are drawn from the perspectives of clients, finance providers and other stakeholders including government and donors. The issues covered are wide ranging and encompass macro and micro level issues. While the paper acknowledges the tremendous improvements in the regulatory environment, it also highlights remaining challenges such as the regulation and strengthening of rural finance cooperatives. The final paper in this part is an overall assessment of the credit component of the food security programme. It gives a snapshot of the situation in the four regions—Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR and Tigray. Part II is regional case studies presented by microfinance experts from the respective regions.