



Press Release:

The ATI, in partnership with COSS and Protean eGov Launch Ethiopia OpenAgriNet

A National Digital Backbone to Power the Future of Ethiopian Agriculture

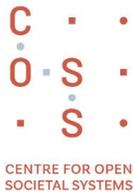
ADDIS ABABA, February 03, 2026: In a decisive step toward reimagining the future of agriculture in Africa, **Protean eGov Technologies Limited** and the **Center for Open Societal Systems (COSS)**, in partnership with the **Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)**, today announced the launch of **Ethiopia OpenAgriNet (Ethiopia OAN)** a population-scale, AI-powered **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** designed to serve as the national digital backbone for Ethiopian agriculture.

Ethiopia OpenAgriNet brings together farmers, extension services, markets, climate intelligence, financial services, and government programs onto a **single, open, interoperable, and trusted digital network**. Built on open standards and consent-based data governance, the platform is designed to reach **millions of Ethiopian farmers by 2032**, supporting the country's long-term agricultural transformation and food security goals.

Across Ethiopia, agricultural data, advisory services, and delivery mechanisms remain fragmented across institutions and platforms limiting scale, trust, and impact. Ethiopia OpenAgriNet addresses this challenge not through another application, but by establishing **shared digital rails** that allow public and private actors to collaborate seamlessly.

Ethiopia OpenAgriNet has been designed ground-up for the realities of Ethiopian agriculture:

- **Voice-first access**, eliminating dependence on smartphones or broadband
- **Local-language advisory**, lowering literacy and digital barriers
- **Location-specific AI recommendations**, tailored to crop, soil, and climate conditions
- **Consent-driven data governance**, ensuring farmer control, trust, and data sovereignty



The **Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)**, a strategy and delivery-oriented government institute created to help accelerate the growth and transformation of Ethiopia's agriculture sector, will serve as the **first implementing partner** for Ethiopia OpenAgriNet.

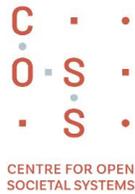
The platform will integrate with national digital systems and directly support Ethiopia's agricultural transformation agenda, strengthening supply chains, enabling inclusion of women and youth, and advancing evidence-based policymaking.

Dr. Girum Ketema, Director for Technology and Digital Innovations at ATI, said: *"OpenAgriNet is about making technology especially AI and digital infrastructure work for smallholder farmers, rather than expecting farmers to adapt to complex systems. By combining farmer-controlled data rights with a simple voice-based interface, the platform can deliver AI-enabled advisory, financial services, and market linkages to communities that have historically been excluded from the digital economy."*

Commenting on the platform's design philosophy, **Ms. Niharika Vasumitra, Country Engagement Partner, COSS** said: *"Across Africa, most smallholder farmers still rely on basic mobile phones and operate in environments where connectivity is unreliable or unaffordable. OpenAgriNet is built for this reality. By making voice the primary interface and interoperability the foundation, governments and partners can reach scale faster, reduce delivery costs, and extend trusted agricultural services to communities long excluded from digital systems."*

Adding to this, **Mr. Gopa Kumar T.N., Chief Executive Officer of Protean International DMCC** said: *"Protean brings over thirty years of experience in architecting and operating India's groundbreaking Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), in the area of Tax, Foundation Identity, eKYC, eSign, Open Digital Ecosystem, eCommerce combined with deep expertise in deploying AAI at population scale. As we move into global markets our association with our DPG partners, OpenAgriNet demonstrates our unique ability to apply this synergistic DPI-AI expertise internationally. This initiative aligns with India's objective of empowering partner countries with integrated digital ecosystems that drive development, starting with agriculture."*

Agriculture remains the backbone of Ethiopia's economy with 35% contribution to GDP, over 60% of the workforce employed in agriculture and more than 15 million smallholder households



sensitive farming. Yet across Sub-Saharan Africa, **fewer than 15% of smallholder farmers** have access to reliable digital agricultural advisory services even as climate shocks, market volatility, and food security pressures intensify.

In Ethiopia, OpenAgriNet will integrate with national systems such as **Fayda**, the country's digital ID, and align closely with the government's **Digital Agriculture Roadmap (2025–2032)**. The initiative also aligns with **India's AgriStack approach** and broader South–South cooperation on DPI-led development. During his recent visit to Ethiopia, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** highlighted the role of digital public infrastructure in improving farmer outcomes and strengthening food security through international collaboration.

Together, **Gates Foundation, Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute, Center for Open Societal Systems, EkStep** and **Protean eGov Technologies Ltd** are advancing Ethiopia OpenAgriNet with the objective of creating an AgriDPG scalable, modular model that can be adapted by other countries.

With its open architecture, open standards, local customization, voice first AAI integration, Ethiopia OpenAgriNet is positioned not just as a national platform but as a template for the future of digital agriculture across the Global South.
