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Date 10/8/2020

Program Manager, Multi-lateral Trusteeship and Innovative Financing
The World Bank Group (The GAFSP Secretariat Coordination Unit)
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Washington DC, 20433

USA

Subject : **Cover Letter for the Endorsement of Ethiopia's Proposal for Additional Funding for the AGP-II in Response to COVID-19 Impact**

This recall the decision made at the Extraordinary GAFSP SC meeting on May 28, 2020, regarding the additional funding available for existing GAFSP Public Sector Window projects to provide a rapid response for short-to-medium term COVID-19 impacts. Further, the GAFSP Steering Committee on July 9, 2020 decided the eligible countries, of which Ethiopia is considered as one of the 23 countries with GAFSP projects under implementation to apply for additional funding in response to COVID-19 impact aligned with the ongoing project activities.

In line with the GAFSP Steering Committee decision, the guidelines and the template issued (July 10, 2020), the Government of Ethiopia through the Ministry of Agriculture in close consultation and collaboration with the Supervising Entities, identified the COVID-19 impacts in the project areas, defined the activities that can effectively address these impacts and developed this additional funding proposal. The additional funding for the response to COVID-19 impacts amounting US\$10.0 million is endorsed by the higher management of the Ministry of Agriculture. The proposal included both investment and TA components. To this effect, we would like to confirm that the additional funding activities are well aligned to the ongoing AGP-II project activities and will contribute to realize the PDO. This is also in line with the government priority areas of the short- and medium term strategy to enhance the domestic production and food supply systems, which is an integral part of COVID-19 Response Plan of Ethiopia to comprehensively address COVID-19 impacts, particularly on health, agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Using this opportunity, the Ministry of Agriculture would like to avail its appreciation and acknowledgement to the GAFSP Secretariat /CU for the financing support being provided and recommitted itself to effectively align, coordinate and harmonize the process for

maximum impacts in close collaboration with the designated Supervising Entities, the World Bank (investment component) and FAO (TA component). I would like to confirm that all the required documents are enclosed herewith.

With Kind Regards,



Cc

- Ministry of Finance
Addis Ababa



Mandefro Nigussie (PhD)
State Minister
Agriculture Development Sector