

Jemal Hassen

Personal Profile



Profession: Development Banking (Agricultural, Industrial & Service Sector Financing)

Background & Motivation for Joining Agricultural College

Growing up in Addis Ababa, the capital city, my early experiences were predominantly urban. I had little exposure to rural life or agricultural activities, and initially, my perception of the agriculture sector was limited. My choice to join the agricultural college was not driven by a lifelong passion for farming, but rather by curiosity and the reputation of the college for providing quality education in Agricultural Economics. Then I had studied at MSc level in Agri. Economics at St. Mary's College in Addis Ababa. Over time, the college's curriculum, practical field exercises, and the depth of knowledge provided gradually transformed my understanding of agriculture. By engaging in classroom discussions, research exercises, and exposure to rural development programs, I began to appreciate the critical role of agriculture in national development and food security. This experience ignited my interest in the sector and inspired me to contribute meaningfully to its growth.

Positive Influences & Skills Gained During College

The college provided an environment that helped me transition from an urban perspective to a comprehensive understanding of agricultural systems. Key influences included: Knowledge acquisition: Studying Agricultural Economics allowed me to understand farming systems, market dynamics, and the financial aspects of agricultural development. Hands-on experience: Field visits, farm management projects, and interaction with rural communities built practical understanding and empathy for the challenges faced by farmers. Mentorship and guidance: Lecturers and senior students encouraged analytical thinking, research participation, and problem-solving.

Leadership and teamwork:

Opportunities to engage in student projects and committees enhanced my organizational and collaborative skills. Through these experiences, my initial unfamiliarity with the sector turned into a strong interest and a commitment to support agricultural development professionally.

Professional Career & Contributions

After graduation, I applied the knowledge and skills gained from the college to a career in Development Banking, specializing in financing for: Agricultural enterprises, Service sector projects. Small, medium, and large-scale industrial ventures

My contributions include:

Conducting research on agricultural credit potential and constraints, Improving access to financial services for private farmers, Providing training in credit management and financial literacy, which empowered farmers and small business owners, Advising on policies for sustainable agricultural financing. These efforts have enhanced productivity, strengthened rural livelihoods, and supported national development objectives.

Key Achievements

I have contributed to studies on agricultural financing systems and rural credit access and streamlined loan procedures for efficient support to farmers and agribusinesses, also, played a role in the growth of private commercial farming through advisory and capacity-building initiatives. Plus I have served as a resource person for workshops on financial literacy and agricultural credit

Personal Values & Alumni Engagement

My urban upbringing initially shaped a limited perception of agriculture, but the college experience instilled values of service, curiosity, and practical problem-solving. I remain committed to contributing to agricultural and rural development while actively engaging with the alumni community to share knowledge, mentor younger graduates, and support initiatives that strengthen agricultural education in Ethiopia.