

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 2/23/2018

GAIN Report Number: ET1808

Ethiopia

Post: Addis Ababa

USDA Inspects Niger and Geranium Export Facilities in Ethiopia

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

In December 2017, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducted its annual inspection of Ethiopian facilities that export an estimated \$6.4 million of geraniums and heat-treated Niger seed to the United States. The inspected operations were found to be in compliance with USDA requirements and are eligible to export to the United States in 2018.

Annual Inspection Keeps Door Open to Ethiopian Geraniums and Niger Seeds

In December 2017, USDA conducted its annual inspections of Ethiopian facilities exporting geranium cuttings (pelargonium) and heat-treated Niger seeds. The purpose of the inspection was to ensure these operations meet USDA phytosanitary requirements.

USDA inspected four geranium facilities - Red Fox, Florensis, Desa, and Ethiopian Cuttings. Of these, one was being inspected for the first time. The inspection looked at various steps of the production process, such as weed and pest control, equipment sterilization, handling practices, and packaging.



Inspecting a Geranium Facility

In addition, USDA inspected IMCO Agro Industries that uses heat treatment to sterilize Niger seeds. The inspection looked at various steps of the sterilization process, such as the heat control system, sanitation, and packaging. Sterilization is required since Niger seed is considered as a weed. (Note: Imports of non-sterilized Niger seed are required to undergo heat treatment on arrival in the United States.)

All inspected facilities were found to be in compliance with USDA requirements and are eligible to export to the United States in 2018. Refer to USDA authorized exporters for [geraniums](#) and [Niger seed](#). Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture certifies individual shipments meet U.S. requirements.

In 2017, the United States imported \$3.0 million of geraniums and an estimated \$3.4 million of heat-treated Niger seed from Ethiopia. As an aside, the United States also imported about \$13.5 million of untreated Niger seed that was treated upon arrival.



Inspecting a Niger Seed Facility