

YOUTH IN FOOD SYSTEMS'S TRANSFORMATION

According to UNFPA (2014), young people make up 75 percent of the population in Somalia. More than half of the youth are illiterate, two out of three have no formal education, while the poverty rate among youth between 15 and 30 years of age is 43 percent.

The youth in Somalia is an important demographic in development, and their relationship with food systems is uniquely shaped by specific intersections with multiple factors including gender, class, wealth, health, location, intergenerational relationships, and many others.

Somalia is ranked first for climate-change vulnerability among 167 countries and youth are most vulnerable to current and future impacts of climate change; therefore, the engagement of youth in food systems transformation is crucial. In line with the new government's transformation program, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) has strategically engaged youth in the agriculture sector.

This is because young people can act as agents of change and natural innovators, as they are often more creative, imaginative, flexible and enterprising than older people.

The MoAI has recognized the importance of the youth in every dimension of food system transformation, engaged in a series of dialogues to identify the urgent transformative actions needed to strengthen resilient agri-food production that are vital for achieving the SDGs, including the targets of the NTP10.



The following are some key strategic options that MoAI could consider engaging youth in the agriculture sector:

- ★ **The MoAI to create an enabling environment** for youth by making agriculture sector attractive to the youth and increase financing of youth.
- ★ **Technical/Vocational training.** Technical schools, to identify available technical skills in agriculture sectors.
- ★ **Increase Youth Earnings through Self-employment:** Short courses in agribusiness, entrepreneurship and soft business skills should be provided for youth planning self-employment, as a supplement for their academic and technical skills to access to credit schemes.
- ★ **Policy advocacy:** The youth should be part in agriculture policy formulation and program design through dedicated youth platforms and leadership opportunities.

Monthly Irrigation and Early Warning

Bulletin: May 2024

Week in Review: 7th - 31st May

The second week of May showcased a mix of weather patterns across Somalia.

Light to moderate rains were observed at forty stations, with notable heavy downpours reported at Mataban in Hiraan region and Doolow in Gedo region. Dry conditions persisted in various other areas. Among the stations, seventeen received over 20 mm of cumulative rainfall, including Mahas, Belet Weyne, and Mataban. Unfortunately, floods caused by breaches along the eastern side of the Shabelle River impacted three villages, necessitating evacuations.

Current River Levels and Temperature Forecast

Following moderate to heavy rains in early May, river levels along the Shebelle and Juba Rivers have fluctuated.

While some levels have dropped, others remain above flood risk thresholds.

Temperature forecasts indicate moderately high temperatures across various regions.

Impacts and Recommendations of Dpt of Irrigation and Early warning Predicted dry conditions over river catchments may lead to a reduction in flooding risks, but uncertainty remains due to the potential return of the MoAI index. Continued monitoring and adherence to flood response plans are essential. April's rains benefited agro pastoral livelihoods, but prolonged dry spells may pose challenges.

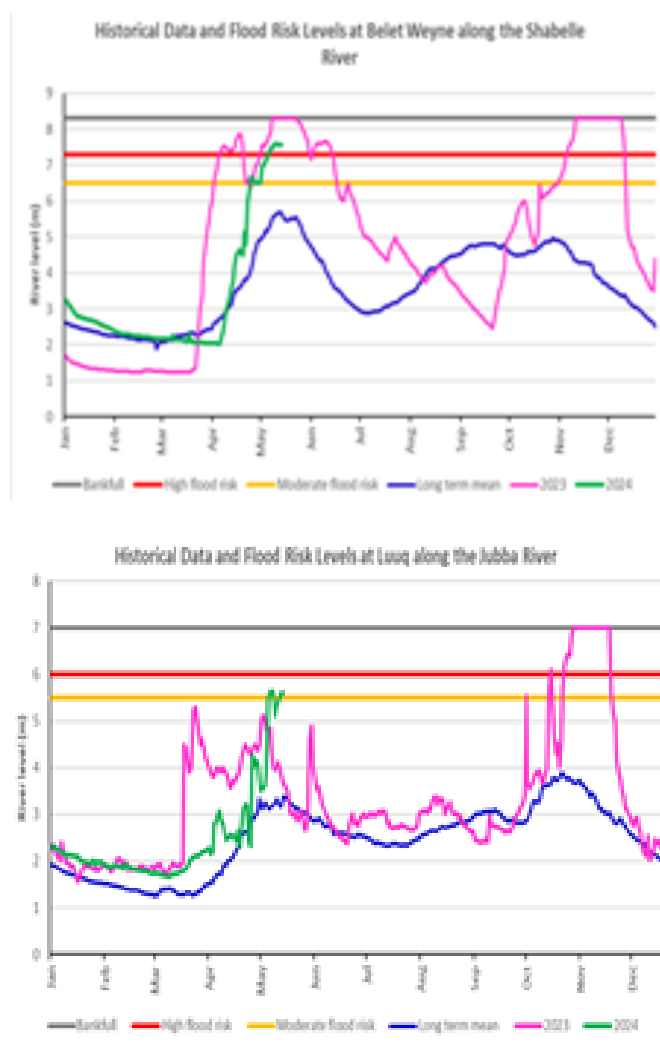
Efforts to harvest rainwater and sustain crops and fodder are vital, particularly in regions where rains may be short-lived.

As May progresses, vigilance and adaptive measures will be crucial to manage dynamic weather patterns and support agricultural sustainability across Somalia.

Conclusion

May's weather fluctuations underscore the importance of timely monitoring and proactive measures in mitigating risks and optimizing opportunities for agricultural activities.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation remains committed to providing accurate early warnings and guidance to support farmers and communities in navigating these challenges effectively.





Redefined Collaborative Methods with FMS and the Partners Soon

For many years now, some people rightly perceived that the Agricultural sector trapped in a dungeon as there is a little hope to unstuck it any time soon.

Spreading negative aspiration is something while addressing the challenge meticulously is quite another thing different which is only way to address the structural deficit of the governance in general.

Suffice to say that a radical, inconvenient and sometime painful transformation desperately needed to set out the sector back on track as it is the case for every sector under a real transformation.

Many Agricultural sector's stakeholders see that time has come to make some notable actions especially under **Hon. Hayir Mareeye** leadership who came up with some actionable strategies right after he has been appointed to the Ministry 3 months ago.

Forging a solid collaborative relation with all federal member state's Ministries of Agriculture became a priority as a series of high level meetings brought them together which took place in Mogadishu on March and May.

this year, under a different theme and topics but generated sideline meetings that mainly focused on how best to build rigid collaborations between the two governance layers might be fostered further.

By the way, there are teams from the Ministry - as a time of writing this short note - on duty in some federal member states for a consultation but also extract agricultural main priority needs from each and every state to eventually draft clear inclusive and integrated priority outline for the sector as a whole.

The main ideas and topics generated within a specific tool, shall definitely be analyzed, visualized and probably contextualized later on, according to overarching principles and policies of the Ministry.



Such this home interior arrangement paves the way for the Ministry to take its instinctive role to pull out all agricultural field stings to build better coordination with the partners.

For this particular objective, **Minister Hayir with senior officials including the DG.**

Prof. Mohamud took a time to meet FAO top officials on 12th May this year to discuss on how best to align government strategy with its Country Program Framework.

During the meeting, his excellency, the Minister viewed a positive tone on the bilateral

cooperation between the respective institutions on the ongoing projects and those in the pipelines.

This comes in a time that Prime Minister Hamza instructed to shift for digital government under broad transformation emulating Malaysian model which agricultural sector transformation largest portion of the agenda.

Enhancing Fertilizer and Pesticide Management for Sustainable Crop Production in Somalia

Introduction:

The government of Somalia has restricted the importation of fertilizers and pesticides in 27/8/2020, citing security concerns that the insurgent groups misuse the fertilizers for explosives. This misuse became a major security concern for the government leading to its restriction.

The restriction has significantly impacted the availability and affordability of these inputs for Somali farmers, resulting to declines in crop productivity and production.

This posed a major obstacle for our farmers. Finding a way to balance the security concerns with the farmers' need for affordable and accessible fertilizers to improve their crop yields was a crucial challenge.

In a bid to address the challenges faced by Somalia's agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, held a two-day technical workshop on the country's

fertilizer and pesticide regulatory strategy and situation analysis.

The Technical Workshop on Somalia Fertilizer and Pesticides Regulatory Strategy and Situation Analysis, held in Mogadishu on 5-6 June 2023, brought together key stakeholders from the government, agricultural industry, academia, and international organizations.

The workshop aimed to address the challenges and opportunities related to fertilizer and pesticide use in Somalia, with the goal of promoting increased crop productivity and contributing to improved food security in the country.

Fertilizer Challenges:

During the workshop, the challenges facing fertilizer importation, marketing, handling, control, and use in Somalia were extensively discussed.

The illegal importation of fertilizers led to price hikes and uncertainty regarding the quality of the products in the market.

The workshop acknowledged that Somalia heavily relies on imported fertilizers, mainly from countries such as UAE, Ethiopia, Jordan, China, and India.

Recommendations and Action Points:

The workshop also covered the potential, technical nature and chemical affinity of various kinds of fertilizers.

The experts from FAO have drawn distinction between the combustible and non-combustible fertilizers. The specific recommendation made by the FAO experts are:

- *Some nitrogen-based fertilizers have potential dual use as explosives or explosive feedstock, although nitrogen remains the most crucial of all plant nutrients and is indispensable for food production and security.
- *Ammonium nitrates, Ammonium sulphates, Potassium nitrates have potential in preparing explosives.
- *Fertilizers such as organic fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, mix fertilizers (organic mineral fertilizers) are good alternative substitutes.

Conclusion:

The Technical Workshop on Somalia Fertilizer and Pesticides Regulatory Strategy and Situation Analysis served as a platform for stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities related to fertilizer and pesticide management in Somalia.

By implementing the recommendations and action points generated during the workshop,

Somalia can enhance its agricultural productivity, improve food security, and contribute to sustainable development in the country.

Continued collaboration and engagement among stakeholders will be crucial in achieving these goals and ensuring the long-term success of fertilizer and pesticide management in Somalia.

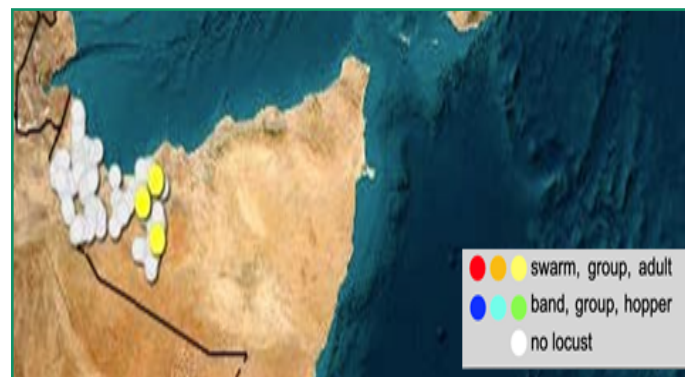
Desert Locust Situation

The Desert Locust situation remained calm during May 2024.

A few scattered adults were seen near the escarpment and plateau in the Northwest.

No locusts were observed in Northeast, particularly DL breeding area.

The ecological situation of surveyed areas was wet, high soil moisture and green vegetation cover, due to rainy season like: Bari, Nugal, Mudug and Sanaag regions.



DL situation in Somalia during May 2024

Forecasting:

There is a possibility for a generation of limited breeding during the spring along the northwest plateau, where scattered laying, hatching, and hoppers could occur in June.

Public Private Partnership in Somalia

For more than 20 years, Somalia has been primarily unstable and insecure following the fall of the central government.

The nation has been ripped apart by the situation in practically every sphere of existence.

Even after significant international investment targeted at improving stability, Somalia continues to face difficulties with security, governance, and the rule of law.

In order to support the ongoing discussion on the viability of the PPP approach in improving governance and service delivery in public

institutions and sustaining them towards economic development in Somalia, some background information on Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Somalia will be provided in this section.

It is important to note that improved public-private sector collaboration in Somalia will have a gradual positive impact on development, which can subsequently be

reinforced by a stable and reliable political system.

The operational thesis states that while PPP is determined to fortify these structures for future generations, it can rely on current structures and resources—both internal and external—to ameliorate the worsening circumstances in Somalia.

Post-conflict states' recently formed government institutions are ill-equipped to supervise the efficient execution of PPP and appropriate regulation.

Even though Somalia has established the institutions and frameworks necessary to serve as the cornerstone of good governance, the country and the political class in the region continue to face challenges in their ability to conceptualize and implement new ideas in governance, PPP among them, with clarity.

This implies that, in spite of the general goodwill, capacity-related issues continue to be a barrier to the full implementation of PPP.



IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STRATEGIES FOR SOMALIA

On May 15th 2024, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation convened a one-day consultation meeting to initiate the development of three pivotal strategies aimed at augmenting the nation's production sectors, with a particular focus on the agricultural sector.

Agriculture plays a crucial role in Somalia, underpinning the livelihoods of the majority of its population and serving as a vital pillar for the nation's economy.

Despite its significance, Somalia's agricultural sector faces numerous challenges including climate change, inadequate infrastructure, and political instability.

To navigate these challenges and harness the sector's potential, robust national agricultural strategies seemed imperative to the ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the federal republic of Somalia under the leadership of **His Excellency Mohamed Abdi Hayir-Mar-eye**, the incumbent

minister of the ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the federal republic of Somalia.

These strategies provide a comprehensive framework for addressing the myriad challenges facing the agricultural sector, including climate change, water scarcity, soil degradation, and market access and providing sustainable and durable solutions in the following modes:

01 A comprehensive agricultural strategy is essential for enhancing food security in Somalia.

The country often grapples with food shortages due to droughts and other climate-related events. By adopting strategies that promote drought-resistant crops, efficient water management, and sustainable farming practices, Somalia can improve its food production capacity.

These measures are critical to reducing hunger and ensuring that all citizens have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.

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02 BOOSTING ECONOMIC GROWTHY

Agriculture is a major driver of Somalia's economy. National strategies that focus on improving agricultural productivity can significantly boost economic growth. Investments in modern farming techniques, irrigation systems, and infrastructure can increase crop yields and reduce post-harvest losses. Additionally, supporting smallholder farmers through access to credit, training, and markets can enhance their productivity and income, leading to overall economic development.

03 CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Somalia is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which poses a severe threat to agricultural productivity. National agricultural strategies that incorporate climate resilience measures are vital for ensuring the sustainability of the sector. This includes promoting climate-smart agriculture practices, such as agroforestry, conservation agriculture, and integrated pest management.

These practices not only help in adapting to changing climatic conditions but also contribute to the long-term sustainability of natural resources.

IN CONCLUSION

National agricultural strategies are vital for Somalia's development. They provide a roadmap for enhancing food security, boosting economic growth, building climate resilience, promoting social stability, strengthening institutional capacity, and fostering innovation. By prioritizing agriculture and implementing comprehensive strategies, Somalia can transform its agricultural sector into a powerhouse of sustainable development and prosperity.

04 SOCIAL STABILITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural development is closely linked to social stability and rural development.

Effective agricultural strategies can create employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and improve living standards in rural areas.

By addressing issues such as land tenure security, access to resources, and rural infrastructure, these strategies can help mitigate rural-urban migration and reduce the risk of social unrest.

05 STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

A key component of successful agricultural strategies is the strengthening of institutional capacity. This involves enhancing the capabilities of government bodies, research institutions, and extension services to effectively support and implement agricultural policies. By building a robust institutional framework, Somalia can ensure better coordination, resource allocation, and monitoring of agricultural initiatives.

06 FOSTERING INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

Innovation and research are critical to overcoming the challenges faced by the agricultural sector.

National agricultural strategies should prioritize research and development to discover new technologies and practices that can improve productivity and resilience.

Collaborations with international research organizations and the private sector can bring in new insights and innovations tailored to Somalia's specific needs.

Cosmopolites SORDIDUS

BANANA WEEVIL

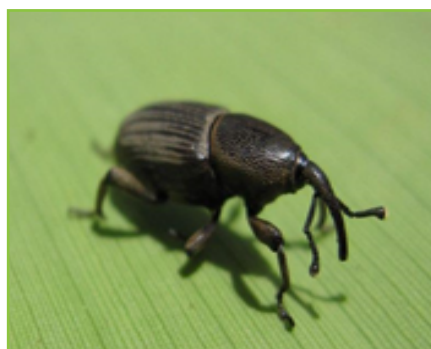


Identification

The banana weevil (*Cosmopolites sordidus*) is also known as the banana borer or banana root borer.

The insect is spread between plantations districts and countries by the transport of infested parts of banana plants, especially the corms. Adults can easily move from one banana plant to the next. Adult weevils are about 10-16 mm long and are black or dark brown in colour.

Adults have a long life (about two years) and can survive for long periods of time without food. The adults are most active at night and have the ability to fly, although they rarely do.



Cosmopolites sordidus
(Banana weevil)

The larvae (or grubs) are creamy-white with a reddish-brown head, legless and about 12 mm long. The grubs cause the most damage to the plant by boring into the base of the pseudostem, rhizome (or corm), suckers and roots. Tunneling into the corm causes the most severe damage including fungal infection and reduced nutrient uptake, stem growth and stability.



Symptoms

Symptoms include tunnels, weak or dying suckers, yellow floppy leaves and smaller bunches.

Plants that are heavily infested will show extensive damage to the pseudostem and a severe infestation can cause plants to fall over.

Infested corms will be full of tunnels up to 1.5 cm in diameter. To identify the pest, cut open the corms with tunnels to see if larvae are present.

Stunted plants and plants displaying early withering of leaves should also be inspected for larvae and adult weevils.

Cut them with a knife at or just above ground level and search for larvae or larval tunnels,



Management

Cultural Control

Wherever possible, new production areas should be established in uninfested fields using clean planting material. Tissue cultured plantlets are widely used in commercial banana plantations for pest and disease control.

Where tissue culture is not available, farmers should pare suckers to remove weevil larvae and eggs.

Badly damaged suckers should not be used for planting. Hot-water treatment has also been widely promoted for weevil and nematode control. Recommendations suggest immersing pared suckers in hot-water baths of 52-55°C for 15-27 minutes. These baths are very effective in eliminating nematodes, but kill only a third of the weevil larvae.

Thus, clean planting material is likely to provide protection against weevil for several crop cycles only.

Destroy all infected materials and crop residues after harvest to reduce populations. Do not replant previously infested areas while old corms remain in the ground.

Remove all the corms after the final harvest, cut them into 4-8 pieces and allow them to dry to prevent larval development in harvested plants. Allow three months for the weevil population to die out, before replanting a field.

Prevent

The weevils particularly spread newly establish plantations through use of infest planting materials the weevil damage shorten the period of which banana plantation remains productive therefore it's important to use clean material such as tissue culture and treated suckers. This method is particularly useful for suckers that might have originated infested plantation



Trap

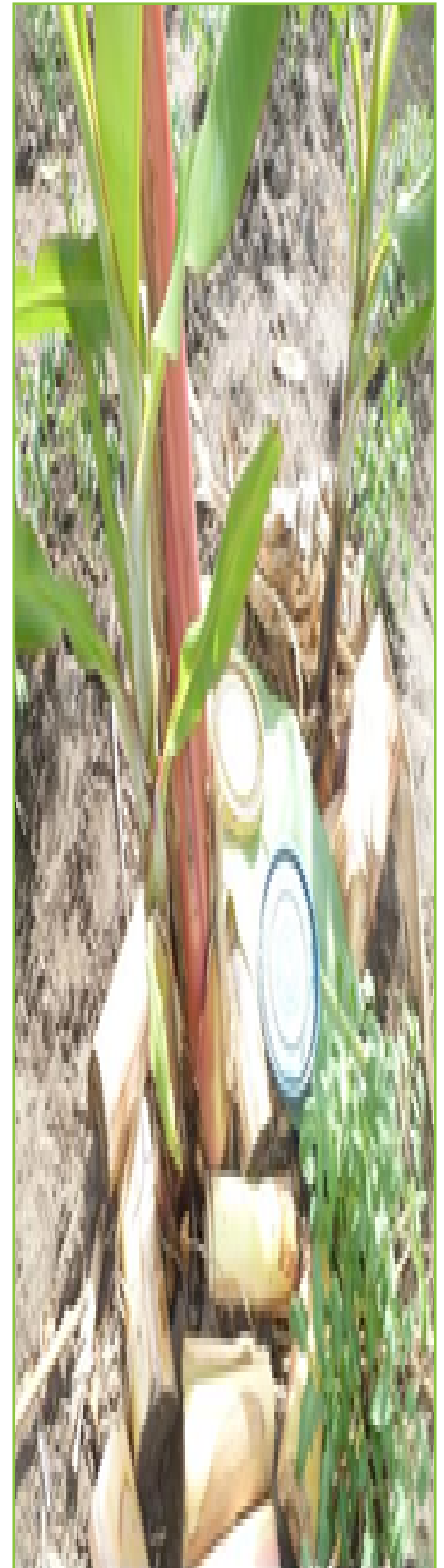
Adults are attracted to freshly cut corms and pseudostems which can be used as traps for monitoring.

To make a pseudostem trap, cut small pieces of pseudostem in half lengthwise (about 25 cm long) and place the cut pieces on the ground near the base of the plant, with the cut surface facing down.

After 5 days, check the traps and count the weevils on each trap (and kill the weevils). If more than 2-5 weevils per trap are found, control is necessary.

These traps are best used when the weather is warm and wet.

About 50 traps/hectare are needed to provide good coverage, and the traps should be set once per month.



Urban Farming

Takes Root: MoAI Hosts Urban Farming Business Development Event

Mogadishu, Somalia
(April 27, 2024):

The Department of Agribusiness, Cooperative Development and Food Reserve (ACF) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), Somalia recently hosted a pivotal event focusing on the **Modernization and Development of Urban Farming Businesses in the Benadir Region**.

Held at the MoAI headquarters, the event brought together key stakeholders to explore the immense potential of urban agriculture and chart a path for its advancement.



Building the Knowledge Base:

The event kicked off with a presentation ACF Department. This presentation unveiled a comprehensive study and mapping initiative focused on greenhouses and open fields within the Benadir Region.

This crucial data provided a clear picture of the current state of urban farming, including existing challenges and promising opportunities.

Collaboration for Success:

Leading companies dealing in seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural equipment, and essential inputs showcased their expertise and presented valuable insights. Their presentations covered topics like urban farming technology, cost-benefit analysis for greenhouse-based operations, and maximizing yields through the effective use of Agri-inputs.

Sharing Innovative Solutions:

SOS Children’s Villages added a unique perspective by sharing the triumphs of their hydroponics agriculture project implemented in Mogadishu and Baidoa. This successful project serves as a model for leveraging cutting-edge technology to enhance urban farming practices.

Creating Synergy:

The event fostered synergy by uniting over 90 participants including Urban farmers, Agribusiness companies and agri-dealers, Universities, Banks and financial institutions, Other government agencies, and Development partners.

A Vision for the Future:

Director General Prof. Mohamud Mohamed and Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareye) both delivered inspiring addresses, highlighting the national significance of modernizing and developing urban farming. Their vision underscores the importance of urban agriculture and Agri-tech solutions in the face of climate challenges.



A Catalyst for Growth:

This successful event showcased the potential for increased food security, improved resilience, and the creation of new income-generating opportunities.

Furthermore, the event announced a skills development program for the selected urban farmers.

This program will provide crucial training in good agricultural practices, value addition, financial literacy, marketing, pest and disease control, and value chains.

Additionally, partnering Agri-dealers (Beerkaab and Aaran) pledged to offer discounted products and support awareness campaigns promoting good agricultural practices.



This initiative demonstrates the MoAI's unwavering commitment to empowering urban farmers and fostering a thriving urban agriculture sector in Somalia.