

# MoAI Monthly Report



## A Country Report on Agriculture in Somalia

Issue: Thursday October- 2024 ●



**TO IMPROVING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR H.E. MOHAMED ABDI HAYIR MAAREEYE, THE MINISTER OF MOAI OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA, CONDUCTED AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROME, ITALY.**

On October 14th, H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for the Federal Government, conducted an official visit to Rome, Italy.

His Excellency was accompanied by senior advisors from the ministry.

During his visit, he met with the Deputy President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at their headquarters, where they discussed several key issues regarding the development of the agriculture sector.

Throughout the visit, His Excellency and his delegation held multiple meetings aimed at improving the agricultural sector to enhance production and support farmers' productivity.



Figure 1

## PRESS RELEASE

### OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE JOWHAR OFF-STREAM STORAGE PROJECT (JOSP) IN HIRSHABELLE STATE, SOMALIA

On October 30, 2024, the Somali Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation officially launched the Jowhar Offstream Storage Project (JOSP) in a ceremony held at the RA Hotel, Mogadishu, Somalia.

This launch event, organized in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), was led by H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

H.E Minister Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye) provided a keynote address and official remarks at the opening of this grand launch ceremony as he appreciated all stakeholders in this JOSP programme and explained the expected outcomes from the project.

The Minister said, "We are expecting the JOSP project to rehabilitate and develop irrigation systems including Sabuun barrage and Hawadley reservoir, and help smallholder farmers, mitigate floods and improve capacity and livelihoods of Somalia farmers in Hirshabeele State of Somalia"

Distinguished guests included Somalia's Second Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Abdisalan Dayow; the President of Hirshabelle State, H.E. Ali Gudlawe; U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, Mr. Richard

H. Riley; U.K. Ambassador, Mr. Mike Nithavrianakis; and Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations in Somalia, Mr. George Conway.

Representatives from other ministries including Water, Environment, Sports, Commerce and Industry, Planning, and the Somali Disaster Management Authority (SoDMA) also attended the event, alongside business leaders, youth, women, and other stakeholders.

The launching event, which was organized and executed with high-level standards, showcased the project's significance in developing irrigation infrastructure systems in Somalia, with an estimated budget of **USD 165 million**, this initiative aims to enhance the irrigation sector and bolster food security in Somalia.

In his closing remarks, Minister of Agriculture H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, together with Second Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Abdisalan Dayow, emphasized the importance of this project for the country's agricultural future.

For more inquiries, please contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.



## SOMALIA FARMERS' DAY AND WORLD FOOD DAY EVENTS AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

On October 15th and 16th, Somalia celebrated two significant events for its agricultural sector. October 15th marked Somalia Farmers' Day, during which farmers from across the country gathered at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's headquarters to showcase their agricultural products.

The following day, October 16th, World Food Day was celebrated in an event led by Acting Ministry also serving state minister Hon. Asad Abdirasaq Mohamed, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for the Somali Federal Government.

The event included prominent guests such as the Deputy Minister, the Director General, and participants from key partner organizations, including FAO, WFP, SomRep, and World Vision.

The celebration saw enthusiastic participation from farmers, stakeholders, business people, youth, and women's groups, as well as ministry staff, reflecting a strong collaborative spirit.

FAO, WFP, and other partners demonstrated active support for the Ministry of Agriculture's initiatives, particularly the ministry's three greenhouses at headquarters, which provide valuable training and resources for students with an agricultural background.

In his address, Hon. Asad emphasized his commitment to fostering a productive agricultural sector, which he views as essential to Somalia's integration into the East African Community (EAC). He highlighted the ministry's efforts to strengthen crop production departments and build direct connections with farmers at the state level. Minister Maareeye encouraged farmers to increase their productivity to meet both domestic and regional demands.

During the World Food Day celebrations, Director general Mohamed Prof. Mohamud Mohamed, expressed gratitude for the commitment shown by civil servants in organizing the event.

The occasion underscored the government's support for agriculture and its efforts to create a self-sustaining and food-secure Somalia.

## THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTERS IN SOMALIA



### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the cornerstone of Somalia's economy, contributing approximately 65% to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), providing employment for 80% of the population, and accounting for nearly 50% of its exports.

Somalia has around 8.9 million hectares of potentially cultivable land, mainly located in the fertile inter-riverine lowlands between the Shabelle and Juba rivers. Food crops are predominantly grown by smallholder farmers, who typically manage plots of 2–3 hectares.

However, these farmers face significant challenges, including limited access to modern technologies, inadequate infrastructure, and persistent political instability, all of which limit productivity.

Before the onset of civil wars and political unrest, Somalia's agricultural research sector was vital in enhancing farm productivity, improving rural livelihoods, and addressing food security needs for a rapidly growing population.

These research centers provided tailored knowledge and technical solutions that empowered smallholder farmers, enhancing their productivity and resilience.

### Historical Context and Early Research Initiatives

The first formal agricultural research institution in Somalia, the Centro Agrario di Genale, was established in 1951 by the Italian colonial administration.

Operating as both an agricultural school and experimental station, the Genale center was instrumental in advancing agricultural practices until its closure by the Somali government in 1964. Following Genale's closure, the Somali government established two new research centers in 1964 with technical assistance from the University of Wyoming and funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

These centers were designed to enhance agricultural productivity and address the specific needs of Somali farmers. By the peak of its research activities, Somalia had developed a network of 11 public research centers, with four primary institutions leading the way:

1

#### CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION (CARS), AFGOYE

Located approximately 30 kilometers from Mogadishu, CARS spans 400 hectares and is Somalia's premier institution for agricultural research and development. CARS is charged to investigate issues pertaining to irrigated agriculture with primary focus has been to improve crop varieties, particularly cereals such as; maize, horticulture (banana, grapefruit, mango), legumes (cowpea, mung bean), and fiber crops (cotton).

In addition to conducting research, CARS provides training for farmers and collaborates with local and international organizations to support sustainable agriculture and food security in Somalia.

**2 BONKA DRYLAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION (BARS), BAIDOA**

Recognized internationally for its contributions to dryland agriculture, BARS was established to address the unique challenges of farming in rainfed areas. The center’s research primarily focused on crops like sorghum, cowpea, mung bean, and sunflowers, emphasizing methods to improve crop productivity, promote sustainable farming, and strengthen food security for vulnerable communities in Somalia’s arid regions.

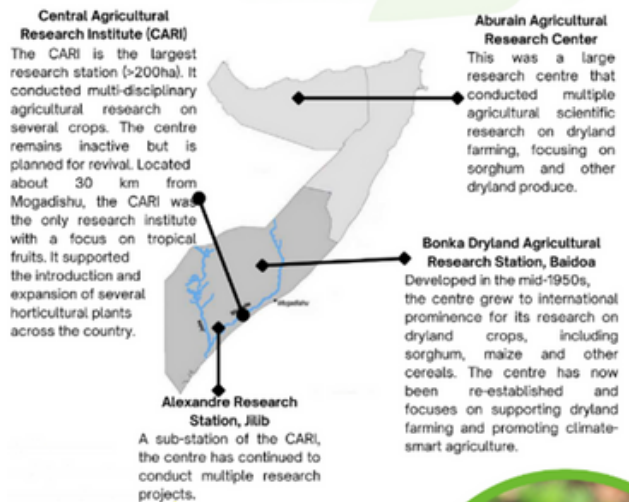
**3 Aburain Agricultural Research Station, Northwestern Somalia**

The Aburain Agricultural Research Station, the largest facility dedicated to dryland farming research, focused on enhancing crop yields for arid environments. Research at Aburain primarily involved such as, sorghum and wheat, with multiple projects aimed at improving these crops’ resilience and productivity.

**4 ALEXANDRE RESEARCH STATION, JILIB**

Functioning as a sub-station of CARS, Alexandre Research Station in Jilib, Middle Juba, has contributed significantly to rice and horticultural crop research. Through its work, Alexandre has been instrumental in advancing agricultural practices in the surrounding region.

**Somalia's agricultural research centres**



Figure

**The Future Prospects of Research in Somalia**

Somalia’s agricultural research centers were devastated by 34 years of civil war and political instability, which halted operations and caused severe setbacks in agricultural progress. In recent years, however, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has made significant strides toward revitalizing the sector. Through the newly established Department of Research and Extension, the Ministry aims to restore and modernize key agricultural research centers, including CARS and Bonka, transforming them into innovation hubs that meet both national and international standards.

Future initiatives include the establishment of extension centers at the national, regional, and district levels, with a focus on improving the delivery of agricultural knowledge and technologies to farmers. These efforts are poised to not only revitalize Somalia’s agricultural research capacity but also to increase food production, enhance productivity, and support sustainable agricultural development across the nation.

# SOMALIA'S SESAME INDUSTRY

Key Insights and Opportunities Department of Agribusiness, Cooperatives Development & Food Reserve

*Overview: Somalia has long been renowned for its rich agricultural resources, and among its most prized commodities is sesame. Over the years, this drought-tolerant crop has become one of the country's leading exports, contributing significantly to the economy.*



Figure

**Significance:** Sesame is one of Somalia's top export commodities, contributing approx. \$300 million to the economy annually.

**Production:** In 2023, Somalia produced approximately 80,000 metric tons of sesame due to improved farming practices and investments.

**Production Trends:** Primary Regions: Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Bay, and Lower Juba.

**Growth Factors:** Drought-resilient crop, favorable climate during the rainy season followed by a dry season.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Gu	3,279	7,295	8,324	4,559	2,223	8,978	1,471	4,216	1,313	7,035	14,804
Deyr	28,274	25,679	17,513	3,487	9,402	15,670	11,437	15,563	5,920	13,135	
Total	31,553	32,974	25,836	8,045	11,624	24,647	12,907	19,779	7,233	20,170	14,804

Source: FSNAU Data 2023 September

Total sesame production in MTs 10 years (2013 to 2023 - sept)

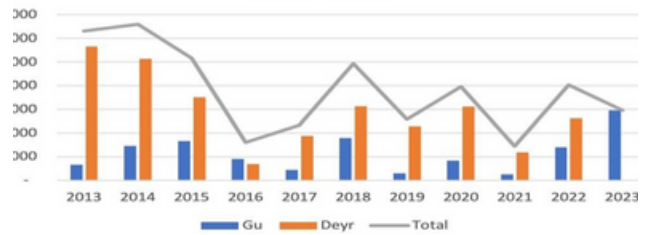


Figure 1: Sesame Production Trends

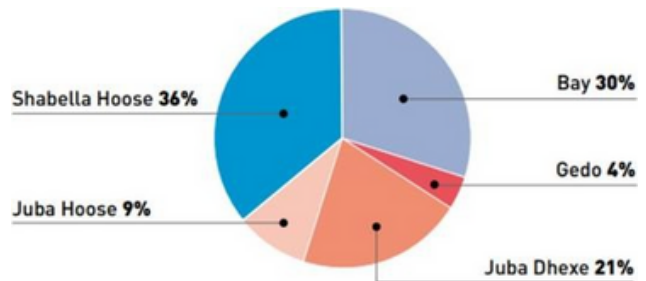


Figure 2: Regional contribution of sesame production2

Global Market Presence

Export Contribution: 5.25% of GDP in 2023.

Major Export Markets: China, UAE, Europe, India, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.

Year	Sesame seed				Sesame oil			
	Import Quantity (t)	Value \$1000	Export Quantity (t)	Value \$1000	Import Quantity (t)	Value \$1000	Export Quantity (t)	Value \$1000
2017	160.92	86.00	6961.00	5038.00	131.01	160.00	90.04	52.00
2018	275.37	434.00	12003.00	17787.00	20.00	34.00	179.09	89.00
2019	2.83	7.00	28943.48	38763.00	96.16	115.00	200.03	133.00
2020	8.13	29.00	17115.31	19858.00	0.89	1.00	318.98	217.00
2021	6.07	14.00	23261.10	30933.00	37.15	62.00	336.78	348.00

Figure 3: Export Destinations

Total Export (2018-2024): 4,632,366 KGs exported to the UAE.

**High Demand:** Increasing preference for organic products.

### Growth Opportunities

- **Agro-Processing:** Establishment of value-added processing industries (hulling, oil extraction).
- **Training Programs:** Educating farmers on modern agricultural methods to boost quality and productivity.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Partnerships among government, private sector, and international development organizations to enhance the value chain.
- **Somalia's sesame sector is positioned for robust growth through investment, modernization, and collaboration. The government actively supports developments in this vital industry.**

# MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW AND FORECAST:

## OCTOBER 2024 WEATHER OVERVIEW (8 – 30 OCTOBER 2024)

In early October, light to moderate rainfall was recorded in parts of Somaliland and Puntland, with notable amounts at Xasbahale (63.0 mm) and Burtule (55.5 mm). Most of Somalia remained dry. The Juba and Shabelle River catchments experienced dry conditions, although water levels rose slightly at Belet Weyne, exceeding moderate flood risk levels.

### Forecast (8 to 17 November 2024)

The upcoming week marks the start of the Deyr rains, expected to spread south from Somaliland into central regions. Moderate rainfall (50 to 100 mm) is anticipated in areas like Galgaduud, Mudug, Hiraaan, and Bakool. However, less rainfall is expected further south in regions like Lower and Middle Juba.

### Key Rainfall Predictions:

- Moderate Rainfall: Expected in central regions.
- Light Rainfall: Less than 50 mm in some areas.
- Dry Conditions: Predicted for southern inland areas.

### Current River Levels

As of 17 October, water levels at Belet Weyne (6.70 m) have risen above moderate flood risk levels, while levels at Bulo Burte (5.44 m) and Jowhar (4.50 m) remain stable but still higher than last year. The Juba River levels are low, with slight increases noted.

### Impacts of Weather Conditions

The expected rains from the Ethiopian Highlands may lead to runoff, increasing river levels. While Dollow and Luuq are below flood risk, Belet Weyne requires close monitoring due to its higher levels.

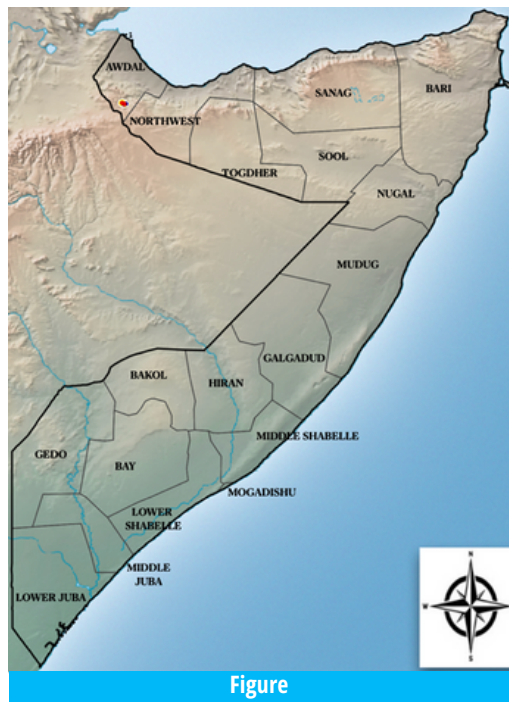
Overall, the rainfall will benefit agriculture by replenishing water sources and improving soil moisture, supporting farming activities.

### Conclusion

The Department of Irrigation and Early Warning will continue to monitor weather conditions and river levels, providing updates to ensure community preparedness and response.

## DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

The desert locust situation remained calm during October 2024. Surveys were conducted in the coastal, sub-coastal, and inland areas of the DL breeding area in the northwest regions where were seen solitary adults with scattered behavior. The light to medium rains that fell in the breeding areas during the last decade of the month which may create favorable ecological conditions.



Figure

### Forecasting

Ecological conditions may become favorable for locust breeding in some areas if abundant rainfall continues, especially in coastal areas like Zaila, Lughaya, and Berbera districts, which are primary Desert Locust breeding areas. This could lead to the creation of favorable conditions for locust breeding.

## **EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ARDWE)**

Held In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia From October 23-25, 2024

The delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somali Federal Government was led by the State Minister, H.E. Asad Abdirisak Mohamed, including the Director of Planning, Policy and Statistics, Dr. Abdullahi Mohamed Hussein (AMIR) and the Focal Person of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), Mr. Mohamed Elmi Gure.

The 2nd STC Meeting was attended by Ministerial level delegation from all Member States of Africa, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Development Partners and Invited Guests. The 3 days STC Meeting was divided into two sessions:

- 1) Experts And Senior Officials' Session For The First Two Days (23-24 October 2024)
- 2) Ministerial Session For The Third Day (25 October 2024)

During the first two days, the Experts and Senior Officials deeply discussed about the following four important issues through presentations by experts and subsequent discussions including questions and clarifications of each issue:

1. Presentation of the Draft Ten-Year CAADP-Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035);
2. Presentation of the CAADP Kampala Declaration;
3. Presentation of the Draft Statute of the Africa Food Safety Agency (AFSA);

4. African Union Centres of Excellence on Training and Research in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystems Management.

At this stage, the Somali delegation lobbied and put huge efforts on winning the headquarter of the Africa Food Safety Agency (AFSA) to be in Mogadishu. The issue is not finalised yet, but I hope, Somalia can win this opportunity if we unite and maintain our efforts.

This office will enable us attract more useful projects and it will increase our employment standard.

At the end of the two days session, the Experts and Senior Officials of the 2nd STC Meeting drafted and adopted a comprehensive Report on all agreed issues to be passed and presented to the Ministerial Meeting on the final day of 25th October 2024.

At the Ministerial Session, all Ministries, RECs, Development Partners and Invited Guests gave their words after hearing all presentations from the STC Meeting organizers. Finally, the Ministerial Segment of the 2nd Extraordinary STC Meeting on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) adopted:

- 1) Draft Ten-Year CAADP-Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035),
- 2) CAADP Kampala Declaration, and
- 3) Six African Union Centres of Excellence on Training and Research in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystems Management,
- 4) Experts and Senior Officials Drafted Report.



# THRIPS



## Identification

Most adult thrips are elongate, slender, minute (less than 1/20 inch long), and have long fringes on the margins of both pairs of their long, narrow wings. Immatures (called larvae or nymphs) are oblong or slender and elongate and lack wings. Most thrips range in color from translucent white or yellowish to dark brown or black.

A few species are brightly colored, such as the distinctive reddish-orange larvae of the predatory thrips, *Franklinothrips orizabensis* and *F. vespiformis*



Figure 1

## life cycle

Thrips hatch from an egg and develop through two actively feeding larval stages and two nonfeeding stages, the prepupa and pupa, before becoming an adult.

Late-instar larvae change greatly in appearance and behavior and are called prepupae and pupae, even though thrips do not have a true pupal stage.

Females of most plant-feeding species lay their elongate, cylindrical to kidney-shaped eggs on or into leaves, buds, or other locations where larvae feed. The pale prepupae and pupae of most species drop to the soil or leaf litter or lodge within plant crevices or galls. Greenhouse thrips pupate openly on lower leaf surfaces; while pupae (and eggs) of some gall-making species, such as Cuban laurel thrips and myoporum thrips, occur on leaf surfaces but are enclosed within distorted plant tissue. Thrips have several generations (up to about eight) a year. When the weather is warm, the life cycle from egg to adult may be completed in as short a time as 2 weeks.

## Damage

Thrips feeding on plants can damage fruit, leaves, and shoots and very noticeably affect plants' cosmetic appearance. However, thrips rarely kill or threaten the survival of trees and shrubs. Herbaceous ornamentals, and certain vegetable crops, are more susceptible to serious injury from thrips feeding and thrips-vectored viruses, especially when plants are young. Thrips cause brown to silvery, scabby scarring on the avocado and citrus fruit surface but do not harm the internal quality or flavor of the fruit. Where thrips lay eggs on grapes, fruit may develop dark scars surrounded by lighter "halos." Thrips feeding on apples, nectarines, and raspberries can deform or scar developing fruit.

Citrus thrips feeding severely distorts blueberry shoot tips and foliage, reducing fruit yield.



Figure 2

### Management

Thrips are difficult to control. If management is necessary, use an integrated program that combines the use of good cultural practices, natural enemies, and the most selective or least-toxic insecticides that are effective in that situation.

### Pruning

Prune and destroy injured and infested terminals when managing a few small specimen plants in the landscape. Avoid shearing plants, which is the clipping of dense foliage to maintain an even surface on formal hedges or creating specific shapes (topiary). Shearing stimulates thrips-susceptible new growth. Prune by cutting plants just above branch crotches and nodes instead of shearing off terminals.

### Monitoring

If thrips are a suspected cause of plant damage, thrips adults and larvae can be monitored by branch beating or gently shaking foliage or flowers

onto a light-colored sheet of paper, beating tray, or small cloth.

### Biological Control

Predatory thrips green lacewings, minute pirate bugs, mites, and certain parasitic wasps help to control plant-feeding thrips. To conserve and encourage naturally occurring populations of these beneficials, avoid creating dust and consider periodically rinsing dust off of small plants, avoid persistent pesticides, and grow a diversity of plant species.

Where thrips are a problem, learn whether that pest has specific natural enemies important in its control. For example, *Euseius* species mites are important predators of citrus thrips *Thripobius semiluteus* parasitizes greenhouse thrips larvae. Thrips parasitized by this wasp's larvae become swollen around the head and turn black, in contrast to the pale color of unparasitized greenhouse thrips larvae. Unlike healthy black mature thrips, the black parasitized larvae are smaller and do not move.

### Chemical Control

Although thrips damage is unsightly, it does not usually warrant the use of insecticides in gardens and landscapes. Feeding injury typically does not become apparent until after tissue grows and expands.

Thus, by the time damage is noticed on ripening fruit or distorted terminals, the thrips that caused the damage are often gone.

No pesticide application will restore the appearance of injured tissue; plants will remain damaged until leaves drop, injury is pruned off, or new unblemished fruit is produced.

Where plant viruses are a problem, insecticides typically do not kill thrips fast enough to prevent the transfer of virus from thrips to plants. Using row covers or other methods to prevent thrips.