



**MAIN FEATURE:**

## The role of Development Partners and Stakeholders in the agriculture sector

### **The potential for economic growth in Somalia has been hampered by protracted instability.**

Important economic infrastructure has been destroyed or seriously damaged as a result of the 30-year conflict in the nation; this includes public buildings, roads, government buildings, and transportation and communication networks.

The urban population is essentially forced to rely primarily on an informal economy based on trade, transportation, utilities, communication, and construction for income, service provision, and international humanitarian aid due to the lack of

economic infrastructure that fosters enterprise development and supports economic growth.

Today's agriculture is developing in a setting where markets, technology, regulations, population, and the environment are changing quickly. All parties involved in and surrounding the agricultural sector are under pressure to innovate and create new collaborative strategies to generate knowledge that can be applied when needed, as a result of the context-specific and complex challenges these changes pose to the country's agricultural sectors and rural communities. Diverse perspectives are widely held regarding innovation in agriculture.

[Cont'd. on Pg. 2>>](#)

**In this Issue...**

**Pg 3** Assessing the Impact of P. Juliflora Invasion on Agricultural Production and Socio-economic Challenges in Somalia

**Pg 4** Farming system and Irrigation infrastructure in Baidoa District South West State

**Pg 5** Why Somalia's Fertilizer Ban Threatens Food Security: **A Call to Action?**

**Pg 8** Somali Agro-meteorology situation

**Pg 10** Climate Change and Crop Production in Southwest State of Somalia: **A Comprehensive Report**

**Pg 13** Desert Locust Bulletin No. 008 March 2024

>> Cont'd. from Pg. 1

Presently, it is regarded as a catalyst for expansion and long-term worker productivity, as well as a tool for addressing environmental issues and expediting the shift towards sustainable ecological and economic outcomes.

Through its work in agriculture, food security, and nutrition, Partners for Development improves farmer livelihoods, increases access to credit and marketing opportunities, boosts agricultural efficiency, and enhances agricultural infrastructure. It also promotes the production of nutrient-rich foods in home gardens. While our national agricultural programs aim to enact meaningful policy changes and create responsive institutions, our community-based programming offers training and support to individual households.

The following areas need collaboration between the public and private sectors, development organizations, donors, and the government to guarantee a comprehensive approach to agriculture and agribusiness:

- Measures for productivity and production increases;  
Rapid advancements in embedded services and agricultural mechanization;



**Agriculture is a catalyst for expansion & long-term worker productivity, as well as a tool for addressing environmental issues and expediting the shift towards sustainable ecological and economic outcomes.**

- The private sector's proactive participation in sustainable commodity value chains through the Public Private Partnership framework;
- Growth of large-scale commercial agriculture initiatives;
- Easier access to financial services and products that are sustainable over the short, medium, and long terms; and
- Robust cross-sectoral connections, synchronization, and coordinated strategies for rural, agricultural, and economic development.



# P. Juliflora

Assessing the Impact of its Invasion on Agricultural Production and Socio-Economic Challenges in Somalia



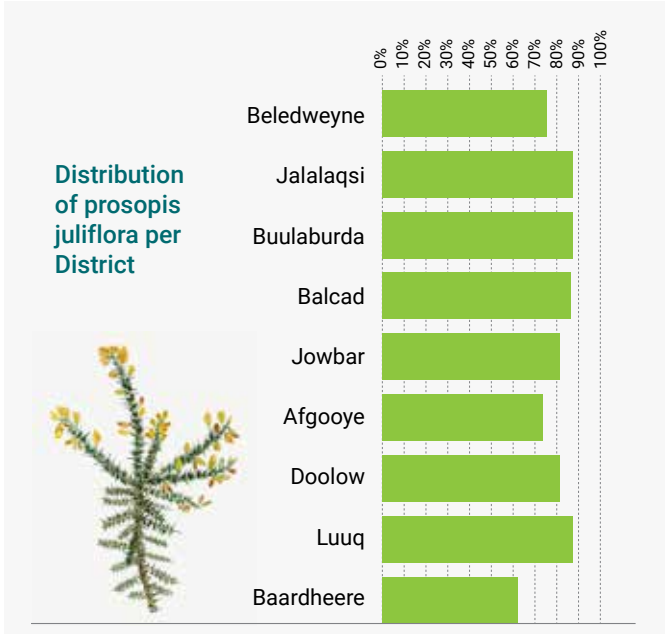
**According to Zollner, 1986, Prosopis Juliflora was used in Somalia from the 1970s for dune fixation in central regions and close to Mogadishu.**

The historical use of P. Juliflora for sand dune fixation resulted in its complete takeover of agricultural areas surrounding the Jubba and Shabelle river valleys.

During this Gu' season, technical experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) undertook a rapid assessment of the invasion of P. Juliflora on agricultural land in nine districts of the country namely: Beledweyne, Jalalaqsi, Bulaburda, Balcad, Jowhar, Afgooye, Doolow, Luuq, Baardheere.

One critical reason for selecting those districts for the assessment is the substantial presence of small-scale farmers in these areas.

The assessment primarily focused on farmers' opinions on the impact of P. Juliflora on agricultural production, understanding the controlling strategies/solutions for its spread, as well as strategies employed to make it beneficial. The assessment found a significant displacement



of native vegetation, loss of tree biodiversity, and socio-economic challenges caused by P. Juliflora, including diminished agricultural productivity and increased healthcare costs due to thorn-related injuries.

The study revealed that 182.4 (80%) of the respondents in the 9 district assessed were small-scale farmers who owned more than one hectare (ha.) of farmland, while 45.6 (20%) owned one ha.

Based on the findings of this assessment, we observed that P. Juliflora has extensively invaded farmland in the districts of Luuq, Bulo-burde, Jalaalqsi, and Balcad, taking over 90% of the agricultural land in these areas. Similarly, in the districts of Dollow and Jowhar, the invasion of P. Juliflora had taken over 80% of the total farmland.

On a positive note, some of the farmers interviewed (30%) reported that they utilize P. Juliflora for fodder and charcoal production.



*P. Juliflora invasion in agriculture land - Luuq*

## Farming system and Irrigation infrastructure in Baidoa District, South West State

**Farmers residing in the arable land around Baidoa practice a mixture of rain-fed farming and irrigation, sourcing their water from a seasonal stream originating from Ethiopia called Isha Bay.**

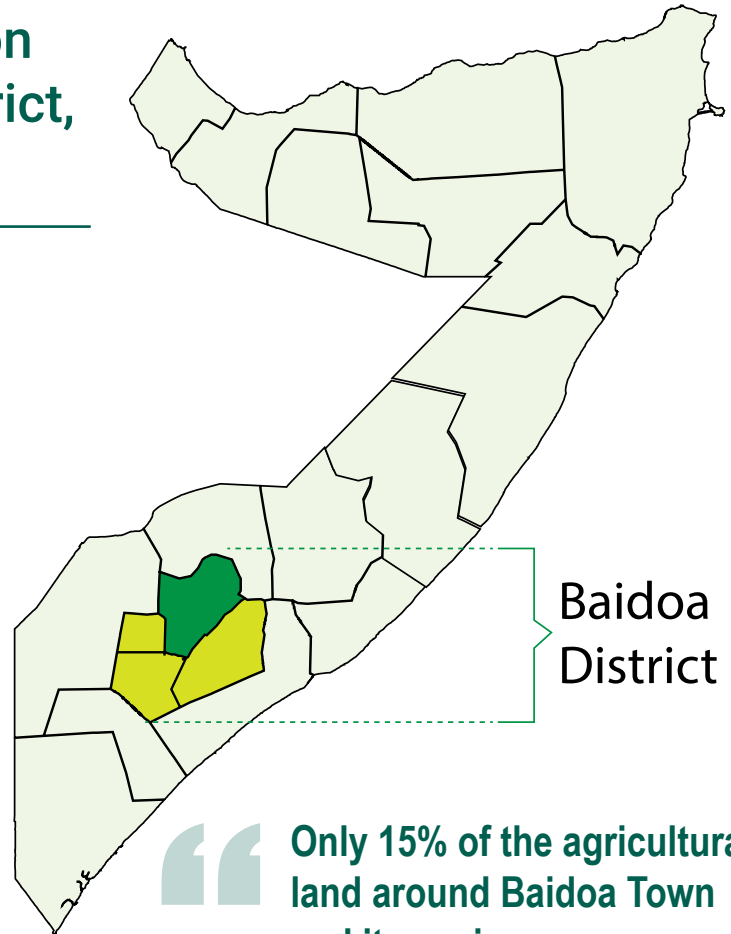
Isha Bay originates from the Ethiopian highlands and weaves through the Bay and Bakol regions - farmers in these areas consider it a lifeline and use its water for gravity-based irrigation, and have constructed three primary canals about 2-3km long that draw water from Isha Bay - there are no secondary canals.

Isha Bay provides water during the Gu' (April to June) and Dayr (October to December) rainy seasons - in the intervals between Gu' and Dayr, the stream's water levels decrease and, at times, run completely dry.

Small-scale farmers are the majority in Baidoa and they do not own agro machinery. Traders and businessmen in Baidoa hire out farming equipment at USD 20 per hour - a tractor can cultivate one hectare of land in three hours.

A significant portion of Smallholder farmers in Baidoa cultivate small plots of land using hand tools. Their yields are usually low due to soil infertility, inadequate rainfall and limited access to inputs (fertilizer, improved seeds). The government and non-governmental organizations launched initiatives to enable farmers to access hybrid seeds and fertilizers, while also instructing farmers on good agricultural practices.

Despite these noble efforts, farmers in Baidoa remain vulnerable to climate change, land degradation and insecurity. However, target interventions coupled with technical and financial support can build capacity within Baidoa's farmers to overcome these challenges and improve their livelihoods.



**Only 15% of the agricultural land around Baidoa Town and its environs are cultivated using irrigation**

### *Irrigation in Baidoa*

Farmers who grow crops with high water demand (tomatoes, sweet peppers, hot peppers, watermelon, carrots, spinach, lettuce, lemon, guava and mangoes) use water pumps to draw water from shallow hand-dug wells not more than 20m deep - major pump brands include Changfa, Kingmax, and Robbin Koshin which range in price between \$350 - \$1300 per pump.

Shallow wells have limited yield. Each shallow well supplies enough water to irrigate farms between 0.5ha and 3ha in size (dependent on each well's water yield - m<sup>3</sup>/sec). Due to this constraint, only 15% of farms surrounding villages and Baidoa town are irrigated.

FEATURE:

## Why Somalia's Fertilizer Ban Threatens Food Security: A Call to Action?



### *Somalia's food security faces a new threat*

The Ministry of Agriculture, citing isolated incidents of fertilizer misuse, proposed a ban on fertilizer imports, a decision that prioritized short-term anxieties over long-term survival.

This report argues that the ban's impact on agricultural production could worsen existing food insecurity.

### *Disarming Farmers in the Fight Against Hunger*

Fertilizers play a vital role in replenishing nutrients depleted from the soil, boosting crop yields, and empowering farmers. A ban on fertilizers would be akin to disarming them in their fight against hunger.

Studies conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicate a potential decrease in crop yields by as much as 50% in the absence of fertilizers. This translates into millions facing hunger, a situation Somalia simply cannot afford.

### *The Ban's Impact*

The ban, already implemented in Mogadishu, has hurt farmers. They lack access to crucial nutrients, leading to lower yields. Fertilizer prices have skyrocketed by 130%, forcing farmers to choose between expensive options or the unreliable black market. Additionally, the ban's limited reach within Somalia's federal system highlights its flawed implementation.

### *The Weak Justification Behind Somalia's Fertilizer Ban*

The Ministry of Agriculture justifies the ban by citing security concerns arising from a few isolated incidents of fertilizer misuse leading to explosions. While these incidents are indeed tragic, a complete ban is an unconvincing response, not a solution based on research or reason. It fails to acknowledge the crucial role fertilizers play in food production.

### *Learning from Others:*

Across Africa, a different approach is yielding positive results. Kenya, for instance, doubled its fertilizer subsidy program in 2024, investing approximately \$37 million.

This program acknowledges the critical role fertilizers play in ensuring food security. Similarly, Ghana, Nigeria, and Uganda are building domestic fertilizer manufacturing capabilities.

These nations understand that fertilizer, when used responsibly, is an essential tool in the fight against hunger.

### *The Real Challenge.*

The most significant challenge to Somalia's food security might not be drought or conflict, but the Ministry of Agriculture itself. Its focus on a flawed ban reflects a disconnect from the realities faced by farmers. Their primary concern should be supporting farmers, not hindering them. This includes prioritizing infrastructure development – building and maintaining key roads, feeder roads,

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canals, and dams – to ensure efficient distribution of resources and facilitate agricultural productivity.

### **Recommendations for a Food - Secure Future**

- **Lifting the Ban for Strategic Planting Seasons:**

The Ministry of Agriculture should swiftly lift the ban within a designated timeframe to allow farmers access to fertilizers for the upcoming planting seasons, maximizing harvest potential.

- **Policy Reform:**

The Ministry of Agriculture should prioritize stricter regulations on fertilizer sales and storage. These regulations could involve licensing for fertilizer vendors and secure storage facilities. Furthermore, educational programs for farmers on safe handling and storage practices are essential.

- **Infrastructure Investment:**

Increased investment in infrastructure development is paramount. Building and maintaining key roads, feeder roads, canals, and dams would ensure the efficient distribution of fertilizers and other agricultural resources to farmers across the nation.

- **Safe and Responsible Use:**

Educational programs for farmers on proper fertilizer application techniques are crucial to ensure optimal crop yields while minimizing environmental impact

- **Quality Control Measures:**

Stringent measures are needed to ensure access to safe and effective fertilizers. This could involve collaborating with international organizations to establish testing facilities and certification programs

- **Transparent Import System:**

A transparent and regulated import system, with licensed vendors and designated import channels, will eliminate the black market, ensure fertilizer availability, and generate tax revenue for further agricultural development initiatives.

- **Collaboration:**

Somalia can learn valuable lessons from neighbouring countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, and Nigeria. Knowledge sharing through partnerships and joint ventures in fertilizer production and distribution could significantly benefit Somalia.



## Contarinia Sorghicola (Sorghum midge)



### Damage

The sorghum midge is found in all African countries where sorghum is grown. Its main hosts are sorghum and Johnson grass, but it can develop in a few other grasses. The midge can damage sorghum only during the bloom period. Once blooming begins, an individual head can be damaged for the first four to nine days.

Adult midges do not damage sorghum. However, the female flies cause damage to blooming sorghum when they crawl over seed heads in search of egg-laying sites.

### Chemical

Apply an insecticide to a field when an average of one adult midge per head is observed after 20–30% of the heads begin to bloom.

### Identification

The sorghum midge, *Contarinia sorghicola* (Coquillett), is one of the most destructive pests to grain sorghum in Africa and is difficult to detect in a field.

The adult sorghum midge is a 1.3-mm-long, fragile-looking, orange-red fly, with a yellow head, brown antennae, legs, and gray membranous wings. During the single day of the adult midge's life, each female lays about 50 yellowish-white eggs between the glumes of flowering spikelets of sorghum. The cylindrical eggs are 0.1 to 0.4 mm long and hatch in two to three days. Initially, larvae are colorless, but, when fully grown, are dark orange. Larvae

complete development in nine to eleven days and pupate between the glumes of the spikelet. Shortly before adult emergence, the pupa moves upward until three-fourths of the pupa protrudes between the glumes at the tip of the spikelet.

The female sorghum midge deposits a single egg between the glumes of a floret. Larvae destroy the seed, resulting in “blank” or shriveled seed coats that often appear discoloured. Heads with severe midge damage appear small and compressed with blank areas.

### Management Cultural practice

Plant sorghum uniformly at the same depth and on the same date, between April 15 and May 10. A crop planted under these conditions rarely has problems with worms or sorghum midges. Sorghum planted after these dates or in staggered plantings over 6–10 days is much more susceptible to insect attack. Sorghum midge reproduction is highest in fields with staggered plantings or uneven emergence.

Cultural practices that help manage sorghum midges include reducing Johnsongrass in and around fields, especially before it heads, and destroying crop residues. This reduces the number of overwintering larvae. Midge-resistant sorghum varieties may have an important role as more varieties become commercially available.

Significant yield loss occurs where large numbers of midges are found in small plantings or where blooming is not uniform. When head emergence is not uniform, it may take more than one application to protect the whole field. However, large fields planted early with uniform blooming usually lose only a few seeds from midge damage, and increased seed size often makes up for losses



*Sorghum heads severely damaged by midge*

# Somali Agro-meteorology Situation

**The last week was marked by cloudy weather across several parts of the country with light to moderate rainfall received over some areas, particularly Bay, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bakool and Banaadir regions.**

Somaliland and Puntland experienced dry conditions with little or no rainfall reported over the week. Cloud breaks in some areas led to elevated surface air temperature with reported thermal discomfort.

Runoff from the rains within the middle and lower catchments of the Shabelle River caused a sharp rise in water levels. Subsequently, the river broke its bank in two locations at Maandheere (approximately 12 km southeast of Jowhar) resulting in floods in nearby villages, submerging farmlands, and impeding vehicular movement between Jowhar and Balcad.

Fortunately, no fatalities have been reported so far. The flood water is expected to extend to the villages located South of Mandheere (Daymo-same, Jilaale, Boodaale, Bacaadley, Raqayloow, and Buurdheere).

The following stations (Figure 1) received more than 1 mm of rain between 8 and 15 April 2024:

Region	Station	Rainfall (mm)
Bay	Qansax-dhere:	20.3
	Dinsor:	2.9
	Baidoa:	24
Lower Shabelle	Wanle-weyn	23.5
	Awdheegle	3
Lower Jubba	Jamaame:	3
	Kismayo:	5
Middle Jubba	Buulle:	38
Banadi	Mogadishu:	27.9
Gedo	Luuq:	16.08
Hiran	Bulla-burto:	2.5
Bakool	Hudur:	1.5

Heavy cumulative rainfall between 100 mm and 150 mm is likely over some areas in Dinsoor, Baydhaba and Buur Hababa districts in Bay region, southwestern parts of Bulo Burte district in Hiraan region, northwestern parts of Ceel Buur district in Galgaduud region, northern parts of Qardho district in Bari region, Xudun and Taleex district in Sool region, southern parts of Ceerigaabo district in Sanaag region, and southern parts of Burco district in Togdheer region.

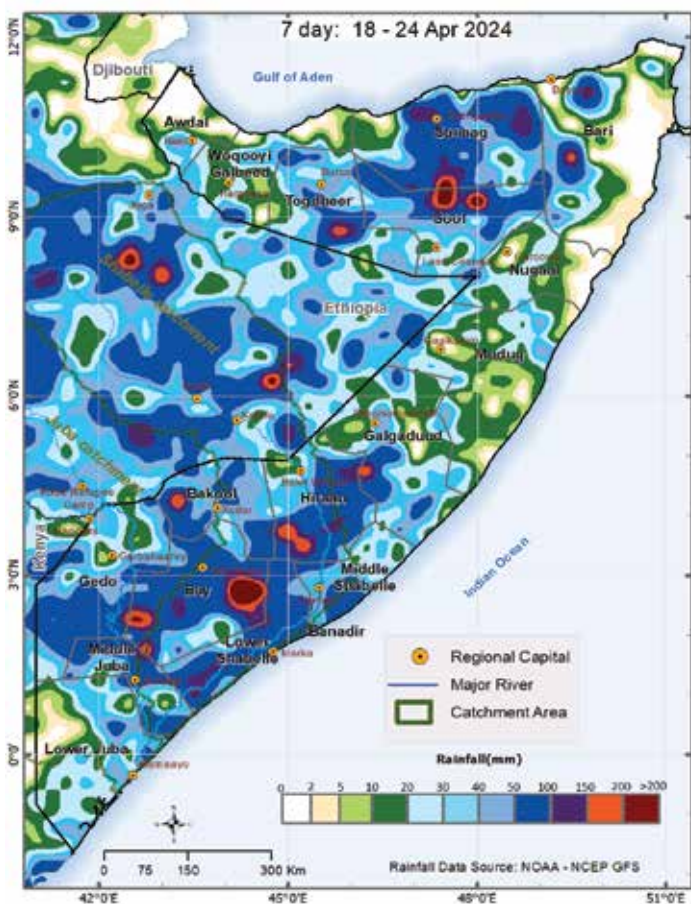


Fig. 1: A flooded Sesame Farm in Jowhar



Fig. 2: River level rising daily at Jowhar

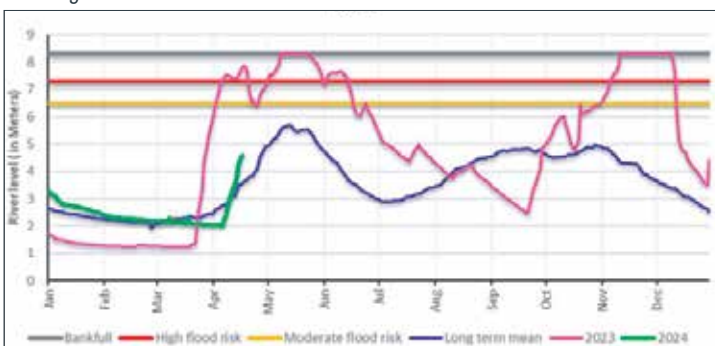




Map 1: Cumulative rainfall forecast over Somalia between 18 and 24 April 2024

The rains over isolated areas in the above parts of Bay, Sool and Sanaag regions may be very intense leading to more than 200 mm in cumulative terms and are likely to fall between 18 and 21 April 2024 with the likelihood of flash flooding.

Historical Data and Flood Risk Levels of Belet Weyne along the Shabelle River



### Current River Level

Along the Shabelle River, the current level at Belet Weyne is above the station Long Term Mean (LTM) but below the 2023 level (Graph 1).

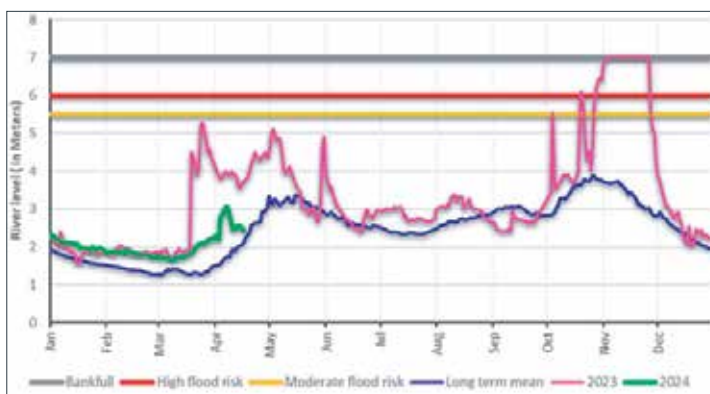
At Bulo Burte, the current river level is exactly equal to the station LTM and below the level it was on the same day last year. The level at Jowhar rose sharply in the last few days to a level above LTM and is exactly as it was last year.

Compared to observations taken on 10 April 2024, levels recorded on 18 April 2024 at Belet Weyne (4.58 m), at Bulo Burte (2.80 m) and Jowhar (5.27 m) represent 1.80 m, 0.60 m, and 3.07 m rise, respectively, in response to run off from the cumulatively moderate local rains observed in the last week. The Shabelle River level at Jowhar is now at a high flood risk level and just 23 cm below bankful.

The moderate-to-heavy rains that are likely along the entire Shabelle River are likely to generate sufficient runoff to sustain the steady rise in the levels with moderate riverine flooding risk at the upper catchment between Belet Weyne and Jalalaqsi.

There is a high riverine flooding risk at its lower catchment, particularly between Jowhar and Balcad. The risk of riverine flooding particularly at other vulnerable breakage points along the entire Shabelle River rises to a high level in the last week of April if the duration and intensity of the rains increases beyond the forecast period.

Historical Data and Flood Risk Levels of Luuqalong the Jubba River





# Climate Change and Crop Production in Southwest State of Somalia:

## A Comprehensive Report:

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to examine the impact of climate change on crop production in Southwest State, Somalia, and propose strategies to enhance climate resilience and sustainable agriculture in the region. The report highlights key challenges, provides examples of climate change impacts, and suggests adaptation measures for crop production systems.

#### Bakool

Bakool region is situated between the Shebelle and Juba rivers, to the border with Ethiopia; it comprises Xudur, Tayeglow and Wajid districts, the major agricultural areas in the region. The 2023 Fall, rains came on time and were well distributed both in the agricultural and rangelands during the crop establishment. However, crop performance remained poor due to a dry spell in the critical development stage. Sorghum commonly intercropped with cowpeas was substantially affected; production is estimated at 2525 tons, around half of the 4 474 tons harvested last fall, season. Maize, the second important crop showed a similar decline in production with only 389 tons expected this season against the 515 tons recorded last year.

Bakool being one of the major pastoral areas in the country, the livestock economy has been contributing significantly to the household economy through exports and local marketing of live animals and their products. Despite the availability of grazing pasture this season, rampant looting of animals particularly in the Huddur and

Wajid districts and outbreaks of parasitic diseases coupled with a lack of effective control practices, hampered the development of livestock in the region.

#### Bay

The region comprises five districts namely Baidoa, Qansax Dheere, Dinisoor, Baydhabo and Buur Hakaba. Bay remains the largest sorghum producer in the country. The 2023 Fall season was fairly good at the beginning but erratic rainfall that occurred at a later stage of crop development reduced significantly the production prospects. The total cropped area this season is estimated at 161700 hectares, close to the last Dyr harvested area of 16000 hectares.

The regional cereal production is at 56304 tons, with sorghum accounting for over 99% of the output. Maize production failed, with merely 300 tons harvested against the previous season's level of about 8000 tons. Sorghum output declined 30 percent to 56104 tons.

Livestock, an important aspect of the household food security of the farmers and the overall economy of the region, was badly hit by the Floods in the last Deyr season, which reduced the quality and quantity of both live animals and their products. Following the improved pasture availability this season, the animals mainly cattle, camel and small ruminants were reported to be in good health.

However, efforts by the farmers to restock the animals have been hampered by a lack of veterinary services.

“ Despite the efforts made by donors, in collaboration with the local community, to rehabilitate some irrigation canals in the region, a large part of these facilities still needs proper improvement

### ***Middle Shebelle***

Situated in the middle of the Shebelle River, both rained and irrigated agriculture have been practised in the region with major crops being sorghum, maize, sesame, beans and Vegetables. With Afgoye and Qoryooley producing the bulk of the maize and sorghum grown in the region, the 2023 Fall sorghum production has been estimated to have doubled to 7260 tons which is slightly higher than the pre-war average level.

Maize output, estimated at nearly 14000 tons, also has not increased but remains well below the pre-war average.

Despite the efforts made by donors, in collaboration with the local community, to rehabilitate some irrigation canals in the region, a large part of these facilities still needs proper improvement. Crop production, which has been increasing in recent years, has been much affected by the poor watering system and flash flooding in the region.

Horticultural and other short-cycle crops are equally affected.

## ***2. Climate Change Impacts on Crop Production***

2.1. Changing Rainfall Patterns Historical data shows a decline in annual rainfall in Southwest State over the past decade, leading to increased water scarcity and reduced crop yields.

2.2. Rising Temperatures Increasing temperatures have accelerated the rate of evaporation, resulting in higher water demand for crops and increased heat stress on plants, leading to reduced productivity.

2.3. Increased Frequency of Extreme Weather Events Southwest State has experienced more frequent and intense droughts and floods, which disrupt planting and harvesting schedules, damage crops, and cause soil erosion.

## ***3. Impacts on Crop Types***

3.1. Staple Crops Maize and sorghum, which are vital staple crops in Southwest State, are particularly vulnerable to droughts and heatwaves, leading to decreased yields and food insecurity.

3.2. Cash Crops Example: Cash crops such as bananas and tomatoes face challenges due to changes in rainfall patterns, which affect crop quality, market availability, and farmers' income.

## ***4. Adaptation Strategies for Climate-Resilient Crop Production***

4.1. Crop Diversification Encourage farmers to diversify their crop portfolios by introducing heat-tolerant and drought-resistant crop varieties such as millet, cowpea, and sweet potatoes, which can better withstand climate stresses.

4.2. Water Management Promote water-efficient irrigation techniques like drip irrigation and water harvesting methods to optimize water use and mitigate the impacts of water scarcity.

4.3. Conservation Agriculture Example: Advocate for the adoption of conservation agriculture practices such as minimum tillage, crop rotation, and mulching to improve soil health, retain moisture, and reduce erosion.

4.4. Agroforestry Promote the integration of trees and crops in agroforestry systems, which can provide shade, windbreaks, and additional income sources while enhancing soil fertility and carbon sequestration.

4.5. Climate Information Services Establish weather monitoring stations and disseminate timely climate information to farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding planting, irrigation, and pest management.

## 5. Strengthening Institutional Support

5.1. Farmer Training and Extension Services  
Develop farmer field schools and training programs to enhance farmers' knowledge of climate-smart agricultural practices, pest management, and sustainable farming techniques.

5.2. Research and Development Collaborate with research institutions to conduct studies on climate change impacts, crop breeding programs for climate-resilient varieties, and innovative farming techniques suitable for Southwest State.

5.3. Policy and Governance Example:

Advocate for policies that prioritize climate change adaptation and sustainable agriculture, including incentives for adopting climate-resilient practices and support for small-scale farmers.

## Conclusion

This report highlights the significant impact of climate change on crop production in Southwest State, Somalia. By adopting adaptation strategies such as crop diversification, water management, conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and strengthening institutional support, Southwest State can enhance climate resilience, ensure food security, and improve the livelihoods of farmers. It is essential to prioritize collaboration among stakeholders, promote knowledge sharing, and integrate climate change considerations into agricultural policies and programs for long-term sustainable development. Please note that the examples provided in this report are hypothetical and should be further researched and tailored to the specific context of Southwest State in Somalia.



“ Despite the efforts made by donors, in collaboration with the local community, to rehabilitate some irrigation canals in the region, a large part of these facilities still needs proper improvement

# Desert Locust Bulletin

Bulletin No. 008 | March 2024

## Forecasting

Ecological conditions may become favourable in some breeding areas due to heavy rainfall expected in April. This may create conditions conducive for locust breeding.

## Summary

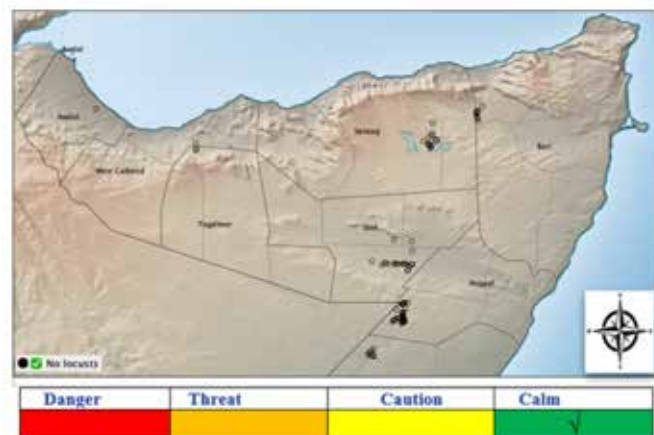
Desert locusts remained calm during March 2024. No survey had been conducted in the coastal, sub-coastal and inland areas of the DL breeding area in the northwest (Somaliland).

## Areas and Ecological Conditions

The ecological condition of DL breeding area indicated by the greening of vegetation and soil moisture was wet light to medium rains felt during the last week of the month.

## Desert Locust Situation

The Desert Locust (DL) situation was calm during March 2024. No survey had been conducted in the coastal, sub-coastal and inland areas of the DL breeding area in the northwest (Somaliland). No locusts were seen in Puntland or Galmudug regions. The rains that fell during the end of the month in the breeding areas may contribute to the creation of favourable ecological conditions for locust breeding.



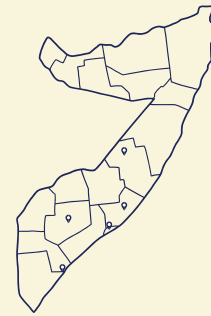
Desert Locust Situation in Somalia - March 2024

“ The rains that fell during the end of the month in the breeding areas may contribute to the creation of favourable ecological conditions for locust breeding





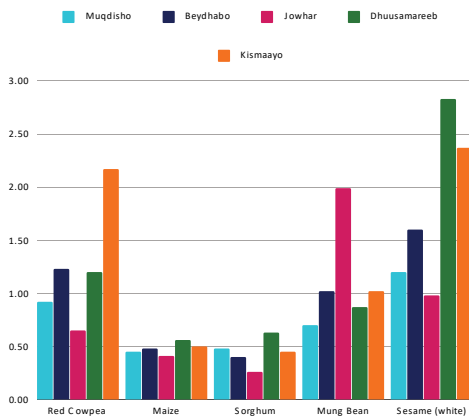
# AGRICULTURAL MARKET PRICES MONTHLY ISSUE (APRIL, 2024)



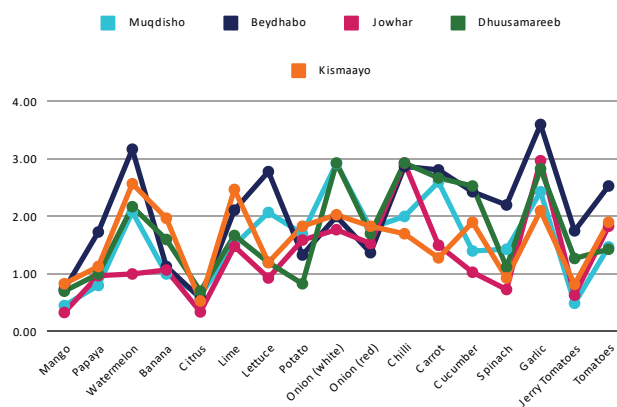
The Department of Agribusiness, Cooperative Development and Food Reserve (ACF) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Somalia, is pleased to present this monthly report on agricultural market prices in Somalia. This report provides valuable insights into price trends for essential agricultural commodities across five major markets in the country. Covering data collected throughout April 2024, it analyzes the pricing of 21 key products categorized as grains, vegetables, and fruits.

Issue 1  
English  
April 30, 2024

Cereal Prices Comparison in the Somali Markets



Crop Prices Comparison in the Somali Markets



## MARKET CROP PRICES (\$) - APRIL, 2024

CROP	STANDARD	MOGADISHU	BAIDOA	JOWHAR	DUSMAREB	KISMAYO
Mango	1Piece	0.45	0.73	0.33	0.70	0.83
Papaya	1Piece	0.80	1.73	0.97	1.00	1.13
Watermelon	1Piece	2.08	3.17	1.00	2.17	2.57
Banana	1Kg	1.00	1.13	1.07	1.60	1.97
Citrus	1Piece	0.63	0.58	0.34	0.70	0.53
Lime	1Kg	1.50	2.11	1.48	1.67	2.47
Lettuce	1Pack	2.07	2.78	0.93	1.20	1.20
Potato	1Kg	1.70	1.33	1.59	0.83	1.83
Onion (white)	1Kg	2.92	2.00	1.77	2.93	2.03
Onion (red)	1Kg	1.80	1.37	1.53	1.70	1.83
Chilli	1Kg	2.00	2.87	2.93	2.93	1.70
Carrot	1Kg	2.60	2.81	1.50	2.67	1.28
Cucumber	1Kg	1.40	2.43	1.03	2.53	1.90
Spinach	1Pack	1.43	2.20	0.73	1.12	0.93
Garlic	1Kg	2.43	3.60	2.97	2.83	2.10
Jerry Tomatoes	1Kg	0.49	1.75	0.63	1.27	0.82
Tomatoes	1Kg	1.47	2.53	1.83	1.43	1.90
Red Cowpea	1Kg	0.92	1.23	0.65	1.20	2.17
Maize	1kg	0.45	0.48	0.41	0.56	0.50
Sorghum	1kg	0.48	0.40	0.26	0.63	0.45
Mung Bean	1kg	0.70	1.02	1.99	0.87	1.02
Sesame (white)	1kg	1.20	1.60	0.98	2.83	2.37

## COMMENTARY

This commentary provides an overview of key trends and challenges observed in Somalia's agricultural markets throughout April 2024. The data reflects price fluctuations, supply disruptions, and other factors impacting various commodities across five major cities.

### Seasonal Impact:

- Spring rains: The arrival of spring rains (reported in Week 1) led to initial anticipation of rising crop prices due to potential planting disruptions. However, these rains later caused significant challenges including floods and road blockage (Weeks 2 & 3).

### Supply Chain Disruptions:

- Flooding and Road Closures: Heavy rains and flooding, particularly around the Shabelle River (Week 2), caused major disruptions to transportation routes. This led to crop isolation within Jowhar and price increases in Mogadishu and Dusamareb (Week 2) due to limited supply.

### Security Concerns:

- Anti-Al-Shabaab Operations (Week 2): Military operations in Jamame (Week 2) impacted Kismaayo's markets, causing price increases for several commodities (bananas, melons, oranges, sesame, cowpeas).

### Commodity-Specific Trends:

- Sesame: Prices increased in Dusamareb (Week 1) due to Ramadan demand and rising temperatures. However, prices later decreased in Jowhar (Week 2) likely due to the aforementioned transportation issues.
- Vegetables: Mogadishu experienced a shortage of vegetables (bananas, onions, carrots) during Eid week (Week 1). Shortages of vegetables (including chili and spinach) persisted in Jowhar throughout April (Weeks 2 & 3).
- Other Crops: Price increases were observed for fruits (mangoes, lemons) in Jowhar (Week 2). Baidoa faced shortages of lettuce, carrots, garlic, and watermelon throughout April.

### Overall Impact:

The combined effects of spring rains, flooding, road closures, and security concerns significantly impacted agricultural market trends in April. These disruptions caused price fluctuations, shortages, and market isolation in various cities. While some price increases were anticipated due to seasonal factors, the transportation disruptions exacerbated the situation, particularly for perishable goods.