

H.E. Minister Mohamed Hayir Maareeye

**Message from H.E. Minister Mohamed Hayir  
Maareeye**

First, I would like to extend my ardent greetings to my staff at the federal and member state ministries for their dedication, our development partners for their unrelenting support to Somalia and to our farming communities & cooperatives as they stride forward to feed the nation. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is the lead government ministry mandated to increase food production, ensure food security & sovereignty, transform food systems and develop agricultural infrastructure & irrigation systems to support all means of production in transforming agriculture in this country. Somalia agricultural transformation in becoming food self-sufficient requires dedication, skills and resources.

The government of Somalia under the leadership of the H.E the President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the Prime Minister H.E Hamza Abdi Bare envision food security as top national agenda. The Somali government prioritises agriculture and food security as a durable solution to revive the productive sector as the country emerges from El Nino flooding that has caused significant damage to crops, livelihoods, property and led to the displacement of farming communities in large numbers.

As the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, my vision is to embark on an energetic and ambitious tenure to guide and re-structure the ministry, build capacity and offer tangible support to farmers. I am pleased to announce that the ministry is currently undergoing structural, collaborative, strategic and financial reform that will act as catalyst to transform and modernise agriculture in Somalia. I am confident that we have what it takes to deliver this promise to the Somali people and alleviate poverty, displacement, food scarcity and address insecurity.



During my tenure, I will particularly focus on key priorities that we have set for the ministry to enable us to achieve national development goals. In order to unlock Somalia's agricultural potential, the ministry is about to embark large and ambitious projects to increase agricultural output in the country. Serious efforts are now underway to rehabilitate irrigation infrastructure, reactivate agricultural research stations throughout the country, introduce new climate smart technologies, transform food systems, increase the availability of improved seeds/varieties and to enhance farmers' access to local and international markets/finance.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation together with Federal Member State Ministries and developmental partners, envision a new era of cooperation & collaboration for agricultural development. Our target focus is to improve quality of life and the capacity of farmers to produce beyond their household needs to bring about a sustainable economic development and social progress through the creation of jobs and income. Another key area of focus will be strategic setting, policy formulation, regulations/legislations and to improve government service delivery.

Finally, I would like to assure all stakeholders in the agricultural sector from farmers, traders and consumers that we are committed to offer our utmost service to end hunger & malnutrition and feed the nation amidst numerous natural and man-made challenges.

Hon. Minister Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye)  
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, FGS



## Media Communications and Public Relations Office (MCPR Office)

The Federal Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Federal Government of Somalia His Excellency Mohammed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye) has reorganised the communications unit of the ministry by augmenting it with media and public relations professionals to provide a wide range of communication services. The Media Communications Team officially coordinates public and media communications on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI). The Media Communications and Public Relations Office (MCPR Office) develops effective execution and dissemination of information on agriculture sector in Somalia.

The office is responsible for: Communications between the ministry,

the media including the National Television, social media and website content gathering Alerting decision makers in government ministries, agencies, developmental partners and farming communities to outbreaks of pests & diseases, Floods, crop performance and food scarcity in the country Coordinates collection, production, and dissemination of country-wide agricultural data & food security situation for publication

News releases, statements for the media, new initiatives/projects, research data and extension and other information materials to be released through a variety of media by MoAI and Federal Member States (FMS)



JAMHUURIYADA FEDERALKA SOOMAALIY  
WASAARADDA BEERAHA IYO WARAABKA JFS

### COMMUNICATION OFFICE

[info@moa.gov.so](mailto:info@moa.gov.so)

[www.moa.gov.so](http://www.moa.gov.so)

Develops national forum for agricultural information exchange between the ministry, states and agricultural professionals

- Coordinates and reviews printed publications and monthly release of Somalia Agriculture Country Report prior to public release.

The team includes communications coordinators, Media liaison staff IT personnel and Social Media content creators working directly with the office of the minister, Director General (DG), Departmental heads and Federal Member State Ministries for media relations, press and public communication.

For general queries about the MCPR Office priorities and schedules please contact:

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation  
KM4 Street, Hodan, Mogadishu Somalia  
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## CROP PRODUCTION IN SOMALIA

In late September to early October 2023, most of the southern cropping areas began their seasonal farming activities, such as land preparation and planting, due to the arrival of the Deyr'2023 rains. The Deyr rainfall rainfalls were adequate and evenly distributed, which facilitated successful crop germination and supported early crop development.

The agriculture production has experienced remarkable success due to a bountiful rainy season that provided ample water for irrigation and supported healthy plant growth.

During this season the cumulative precipitation amounts reached 200-300% of the long-term average due to torrential rains.

The production of cereals in this Deyr season is estimated at 230,000 MT of which Sorghum production accounts for 119,250 MT, Maize production amounts to 100,750 MT, rice production amounts 5,000MT and 5,000MT of other cereals. This represents a significant increase compared to the production levels of the past two years.

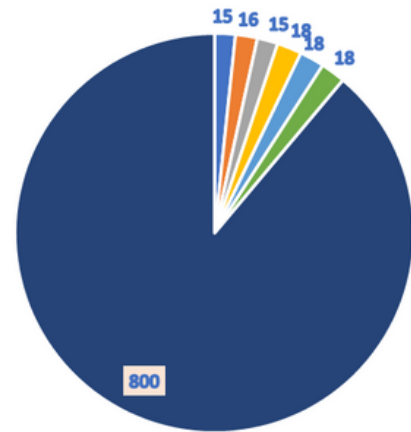
## Urban Farming

The global COVID-19 pandemic and severe infestation of Desert Locust in 2021/2022 has led to most of the families being financially constrained which subsequently reduced their affordability and purchasing power of food. In response, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) has undertaken efforts to raise awareness among families in urban settlements to grow healthy, nutritious, and fresh food during these challenging times.

As a result, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) has supported 900 HHs urban families headed by female in Mogadishu and Galmudug state to enable them to cultivate their own food, leading to improvements in their health, nutrition, and overall resilience.

Women have been provided with highly nutritious vegetable seeds and tools to start and manage their own food productions.

Urban farming targeted districts



■ Kaxda ■ Yaqshiid ■ Deynile ■ Hamar-jajab ■ Karan ■ Wabari ■ Abudwak



Figure 4: indoors Planting Material Mogadishu 2023



Figure 3: Urban Farming training for 100 HHs Mogadishu 2023





## PESTS AND DISEASES OUTBREAKS

### 1. Desert Locust

#### Situation report Nov 2023 - Jan 2024

Desert Locust situation remained a concern from November 2023 to January 2024 with the first winter generation. Control operations were significant and effective; and extensive control operations treated 6454 hectares in Berbera, Lughaya, Zeylac and Borama districts since November 2023 using Biopesticides and Insect growth regulators (IGRs). However, the second-generation hatching began in late January, with reports of hopper bands in Lughaya district and no locusts were found in Puntland and Galmudug states.

During November 2023, a local outbreak developed along the Gulf of Aden coast where scattered adults, groups, and small swarms in the northwest coast within about 200 km to Berbera district. First winter generation laid eggs and hatched, 178 ha had been controlled. No Desert locusts were seen in Puntland and Galmudug regions.

During December 2023, first winter generation hatched with increasing hopper groups and small bands on the northwest coast from the west of Berbera to Zeylac districts. More. Fledgling started mid-month, immature groups, and small swarms appeared late and 4189 ha had been controlled. No locusts were reported in Puntland or Galmudug regions.

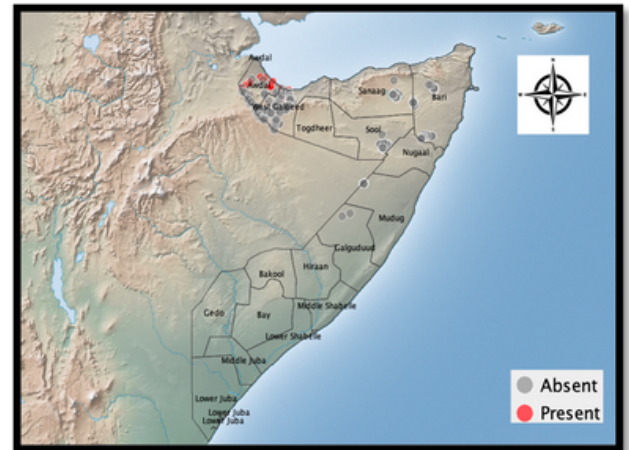


Figure 1: Desert Locust situation in Somalia during November

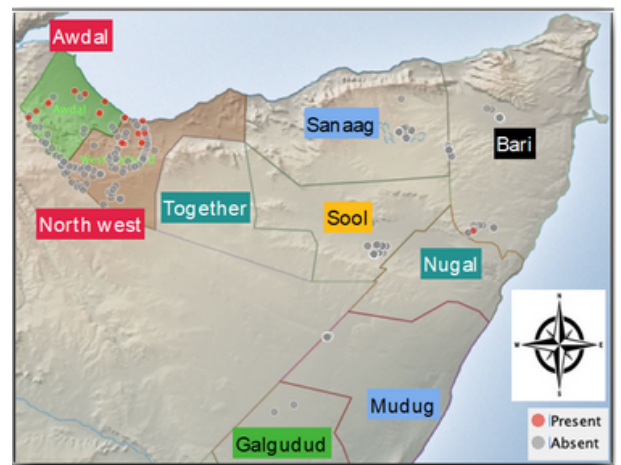


Figure 2: Desert Locust situation in Somalia during December 2023

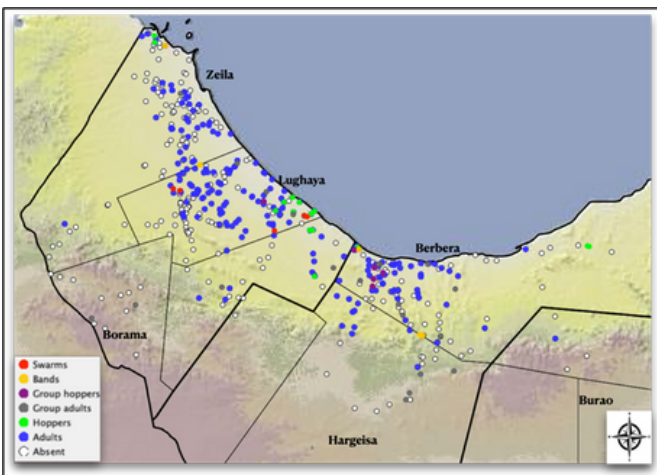


Figure 3: Desert Locust situation in Somalia during January 2024

During January 2024, first winter generation continued along the northwest coast from west of Berbera to Zaylac districts with late-instar hoppers and small swarms of adults. Second-generation hatching started late January with only scattered adults and small groups remaining from the first generation. Hopper bands for instars 1 and 2 were reported in the south of Lughaya district and 2087 ha had been controlled. No locusts were reported in Puntland and Galmudug regions.

#### Forecast

The second generation will continue with hopper groups and some bands on the northwest coast. Fledgling will start at the end of February 2024, followed by new immature adults and groups during March. However, Desert Locust population may decrease due to the extensive control operations.





PICTURE 1 :INAGRAUATION CERMONAY FOR BBS PROJECT

## Booskaaga Beer ka Samayso (BBS) Farm your Own Plot -

The Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) H.E. Mohammed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye) together with the Federal Member States (FMS) Ministers launched “Booskaaga Beer ka Sameyso (BBS),” home gardening project to grow crops on your own piece of land. The initiative is aimed to transform the way that food is produced, conserved and consumed throughout Somalia. BBS initiative will ultimately target hundred major urban and suburban areas with high population density. The project is intended to reduce urban and rural poverty,



PICTURE 2:Tomatoes grown in a greenhouse

improve household nutrition and income. Rural insecurity and displacement of farmers had huge implication on livelihoods and food security in Somalia over the past few decades. BBS consequently addresses the food production imbalances, higher food prices and access to nutritious diet in Somalia. The initiative will be initially piloted in and around specified cities with high number of farmer IDPs. The project will support to potential growers in acquiring water, solar power, feed and other farm input to ensure economically viable enterprise for crop and livestock production. The MoAI’s research and extension service personnel will provide seed and market support to growers. The Minister, H.E. Mohamed Hayir has appealed to the donor community, international development partners, INGOs to support the initiative. The Minister also urged Somalia-based banks, micro-financing institutions and private companies to contribute this effort.





## 2. Sigatoka Disease outbreak in Banana Cultivation, Lower Shabelle, Somalia

It is fungal disease caused by the pathogen *Mycosphaerella* spp which poses a significant threat to banana cultivation areas. For instance, Black Sigatoka Disease (BSD) *Mycosphaerella fijiensis*, manifests a black leaf spot on banana leaves. Leaves infected with BSD exhibit elliptical spots, with the center of these spots turning a light gray color, surrounded by yellow halo spots. These spots often combine to form larger, irregular patches of dry tissue. Rapid drying and defoliation of leaves are characteristic symptoms of BSD. The impact of BSD on banana plants is severe, leading to reduced photosynthetic capacity, diminished fruit yield, and increased susceptibility to other diseases. The rapid spread of BSD can devastate entire banana plantations, worsening the challenges faced by farmers already grappling with negative climate change impacts and economic pressures.

**Table 1: Sigatoka Disease Symptoms**

A-	The first visible symptom is a slight discoloration between the leaf's secondary veins	
B-	Over time, these points develop into pale yellow streaks and elliptic necrotic spots arranged parallel to the secondary veins	
C-	The depressed gray center is surrounded by a yellow halo	
D-	As the disease progresses, the lesions coalesce and cover a large area of the leaf.	

Based on physical observations and symptoms, it was estimated that Sigatoka disease affected approximately 95–100% of banana of the surveyed farm. The disease demonstrated rapid progress, capable of destroying entire farms within three days or less.

**Table 2: Recommendations for the farmers**

a)	Maintain overall sanitation of the farm and its workers
b)	Do not share banana planting materials and farm machines with other farmers
c)	Maintain a good planting space
d)	Use tissue culture materials or your own planting materials
e)	Use windbreaks to avoid the spread of spores of the pathogen
f)	Trim the leaves if you observe any symptom of this disease on the banana



## El Niño-Induced Floods and its Impact on Agriculture in Somalia

In Somalia, heavy rains and flooding have already affected approximately 1.2 million people, with the potential for further devastation. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has allocated US\$25 million to assist the affected population. The United Nations and its partners anticipate that as many as 1.6 million people could be affected by flooding during the current deyr season (October to December), potentially destroying 1.5 million hectares of farmland. This increased rainfall is attributed to the convergence of El Niño conditions and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole phenomenon. The Food and Agriculture Organization's Somali Water and Land Information Management predicts a flood event is statistically likely to occur only once a century, carrying significant humanitarian consequences. While extensive preparatory measures are underway, it is crucial to understand that mitigation is possible, but complete prevention of a flood of this magnitude remains challenging.



Figure 1: River Flooding at Afgoie Deyr 2023

### Irrigation Systems and Crop Yield

El Niño can disrupt the availability and distribution of water resources, leading to drought conditions or excessive rainfall. Droughts can result in water shortages, affecting irrigation systems and reducing crop yields. Conversely, heavy rainfall can cause flooding, damaging irrigation infrastructure and washing away topsoil.

Changes in rainfall patterns and temperature fluctuations can result in water stress, reduced soil moisture, and increased pest and disease pressure, all of which can lower crop yields.

Additionally, extreme weather events can damage crops directly, leading to substantial losses. Reduced agricultural productivity due to El Niño can result in food shortages, increased food prices, and heightened vulnerability to food insecurity. Poor households that heavily rely on subsistence farming are particularly affected, as they may struggle to access affordable and nutritious food.



Figure 2: River Flooding at Beledweyne Deyr 2023







**Table 3: Recommended Fungicide**

Product Name	Technical Content	Dosage
DISCOVERY 400 SC, GOLDAZIM 500 SC, PEARL 500 SC, RODAZIM SC, SHERRIF 75 WP (ready mix) other Carbendazim to be tank mixed with Mancozeb below.	Mancozeb 63% + Carbendazim 12% WP	1.5 - 2 gm/lit water
INDOFIL M45 WP, IVORY 80 WP, MILTHANE SUPER, OSHOTHANE PLUS WDG	Mancozeb 75% WP	0.8 - 1.1 gm/lit water
Dithane 45	Dithane 45	2 - 2.5 gm/lit water
Copper Oxychloride	Copper Oxychloride 50 % WP	1 - 2 gm/lit water
CLORTOCAFFARO (ROVA) 500 Flow, CLORTOSIP 75 WP, DACONIL 720SC (BRAVO 720 SC), GLIDER 720 SC, ODEON 82.5 WDG, AMIZOC 480 SC, FUNGINIL 720 SC	Chlorothalonil 75% WP	2.5 gm/lit water
PROPIMAX 25 EC, TILT 250, PRACTIS 250 EC, BUMPER 25EC	Propiconazole 25% EC	1 ml/lit water
MICROPLUS DISPERS 74.5 WDG, UNICORN 74.5 WG	Tebuconazole 10% + Sulphur 65% WG	2.5 gm/lit water
DYNASTY 70% WDG, PROTACOL 80 WP, ANTRACOL 70 WP	Propineb 70% WP	5 gm/lit water

## Current Projects

### The Somalia Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP)-World Bank

The Somalia Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) is part of a regional initiative by the World Bank to provide a comprehensive framework to intervene at both the national and regional levels. This is a flagship project that aims to tackle the underlying structural challenges of food insecurity and reduce farmers' sensitivity to unpredictable climate, crisis, and conflict events. It seeks to reactivate Somalia's agriculture and livestock research institutions, seed systems, and extension services. FSRP project also develops community institutions that can anchor adaptation of climate smart agriculture and livestock practices; strengthening the availability of water and improved rangelands management for resilient agriculture and livestock production; strengthening the integration of the production systems to domestic and regional markets, with appropriate investments in food safety and value addition, and establishing an enabling policy and institutional framework at sub-national, national and regional level capable of supporting food systems resilience for Somalia.

