



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS & COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT | 2024



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Introduction

The Department of Agribusiness and Cooperatives Development's Annual Report highlights a year of transformative progress and dedicated efforts to drive Somalia's agricultural sector towards resilience, inclusivity, and innovation. This report captures the department's achievements, reforms, and strategic activities that align with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's (MoAI) broader mandate and national priorities. Through collaborative initiatives, innovative solutions, and strengthened partnerships, the department has laid a robust foundation for sustainable agricultural growth, addressing critical challenges such as cooperative development, market access, value addition, and resilience to climate impacts.

Acknowledgment

This report would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of the department's staff, whose tireless efforts and expertise were instrumental in achieving these successes. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), for his visionary leadership and steadfast guidance. Our sincere appreciation also goes to the State Minister, Asad Abdirizak, Deputy Ministry Zahra Ige and the Director General, Prof. Mohamud Mohamed, who provided continuous support and strategic direction, enabling the department to execute its mission effectively.

We acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our development partners and donors, whose support made it possible to implement critical programs and initiatives. Special thanks go to the ministry's departments who worked tirelessly alongside us to empower farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses across the country. Additionally, we recognize the ministry's advisors and experts, whose technical support and insights significantly strengthened the department's programs and activities.

This report serves as a testament to the collaborative spirit, dedication, and innovative approaches that have driven the department's progress. It not only documents the milestones achieved in 2024 but also provides a roadmap for continued excellence and impact in the years to come. We hope this report will inspire further collaboration, investment, and innovation in Somalia's agricultural sector.

Ms. Sowda Mire Osman

Director of Agribusiness and Cooperatives Development

About the Department

The Department of Agribusiness and Cooperative Development plays a critical role in driving agricultural transformation, rural economic growth, and sustainable livelihoods. As a cornerstone of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the department is mandated to develop and implement robust policies, strategies, and frameworks that foster agribusiness innovation, strengthen cooperatives, and enhance value chain efficiency. By addressing systemic challenges and aligning with national and international priorities, the department aims to position agriculture as a key driver of economic development and food security. This document outlines the department's structure, vision, mission, objectives, and strategic priorities, detailing its actionable roadmap for achieving sustainable agricultural growth. The profile highlights the department's focus on empowering stakeholders—farmers, cooperatives, youth, and women—while addressing critical gaps in infrastructure, governance, and resource mobilization. By leveraging partnerships, promoting inclusivity, and adopting climate-smart practices, the department is committed to building resilient agricultural systems that contribute to national development goals.

Mandate of the Department

1. Develop and implement policies, strategies, procedures, and frameworks for agribusiness, cooperative development, and economic growth in rural livelihood.
2. Create an enabling environment for agricultural investment and cooperative development, and promote and facilitate domestic, regional, and international trade of agricultural products.
3. Strengthen, support, develop, and manage the agricultural value chain, from farm gate to consumer (suppliers, input providers, harvesting, produce aggregation and post-harvest facilities, primary and secondary processing—packaging, value addition, etc.—distribution, agro-dealers, marketing, and agribusiness parks).
4. Plan, coordinate, and implement agricultural marketing infrastructure projects, including transportation, bulking centers, agro-parks, processing and post-harvest facilities, and marketplaces.
5. Establish, register, certify, and regulate agricultural farmers, cooperatives, associations, and agribusiness companies.
6. Conduct value chain analysis, market research, and investment assessments, and generate, analyze, and disseminate market information, including cooperatives' production capacity and market readiness, market and farm

- gate prices, import/export tracking, and enterprise development data.
7. Mobilize resources and build partnerships to support agribusiness and cooperative initiatives, including finance, technical assistance, market access, and capacity development, while liaising with regional and international bodies and markets such as EAC, COMESA, and AU on agribusiness, value chain, cooperative, and youth and women in agriculture matters.
 8. Support cooperative development as self-sustaining entities that benefit their members and contribute to national goals.
 9. Support youth and women in agribusiness with targeted interventions, skill development, business development services, entrepreneurship, resources, and rural development initiatives to encourage their active participation, empowerment, and job creation and promote agribusiness innovation, climate-smart practices, and sustainability within farmers and cooperatives.
 10. Monitor, evaluate, and report on the performance of cooperatives, agribusinesses, farmers, and value chain stakeholders to ensure alignment with national objectives.
 11. Organize and hold agribusiness and investment forums such as Somalia Agriculture Expo and International Conference on Agri-Value Chain Investment.

Department Services

The Department of Agribusiness and Cooperative Development provides a wide range of services to foster agricultural growth, empower farmers and agribusinesses, and enhance value chain efficiency. These services promote cooperative development, market access, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship while addressing critical challenges in Somalia's agricultural sector.



Cooperatives Development

- Farmer Registration
- Cooperatives Registration
- New modern cooperatives establishment
- Production & Performance tracking
- Cooperative support & market facilitation



Exhibitions & Conferences

- Somali Agri-Expo (annual)
- International Investment Conference on Agri-Value Chains (annual)
- State-level B2B events (annual)



Market Information

- e-Marketplaces
- National Price Monitoring
- Farm Gate price monitoring
- Export / Import Tracking



Value Chain & Market Development

- Post-Harvest Management
- Agriculture Produce Marketing
- Agro-Processing & Value Addition
- Value chain analysis
- Agro-business Parks & Agro-Industries



Financial Access

- Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)
- MSMEs Financing and Credit
- Contract Farming System
- Rural Entrepreneurship & Rural Finance
- Agricultural Insurance
- Market System Development (MSD)



Agribusiness Services

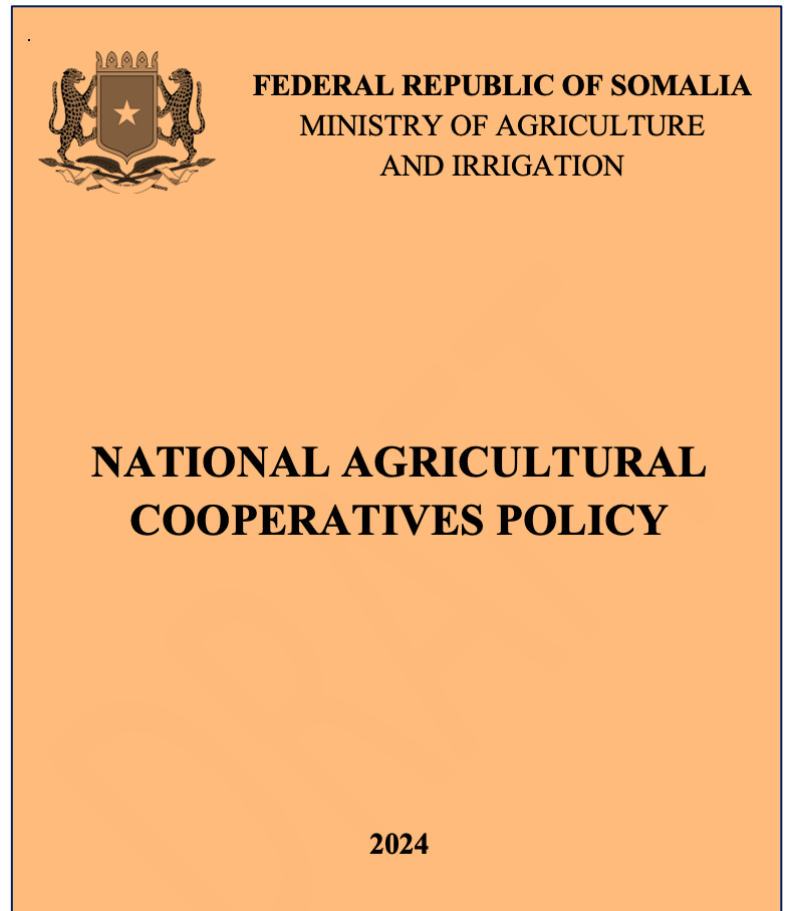
- Company registrations
- Business Development Services
- Local and International Market Linkages
- Entrepreneurship, Youth & Women Job creation

1. The National Agricultural Cooperative Policy

The Department achieved a key milestone by finalizing the **National Agricultural Cooperative Policy** in 2024. This policy emerged through extensive consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, including farmers, cooperatives, agribusinesses, government agencies, community leaders, financial institutions, and development partners. Its development reflects the Ministry's prioritization of cooperative development as a foundation for agricultural transformation and rural economic empowerment.

The policy aims to streamline cooperative establishment and governance processes, empowering cooperatives to operate independently and sustainably. It addresses gaps in governance, market access, capacity building, and resource mobilization, ensuring that cooperatives are better equipped to support their members and contribute to national food security and economic development.

The policy currently awaits translation and cabinet approval. The department will develop the **National Cooperative Development Strategy (2025 – 2029) and Action Plan** in 2025 Q1. The department also plans to digitalize cooperatives and farmers' registration to enhance transparency and efficiency. This policy underscores the Ministry's commitment to strengthening the cooperative sector, with a focus on inclusivity and sustainable development.



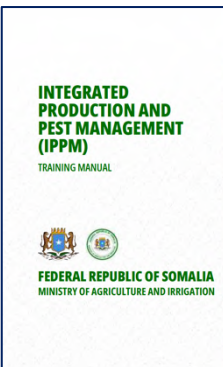
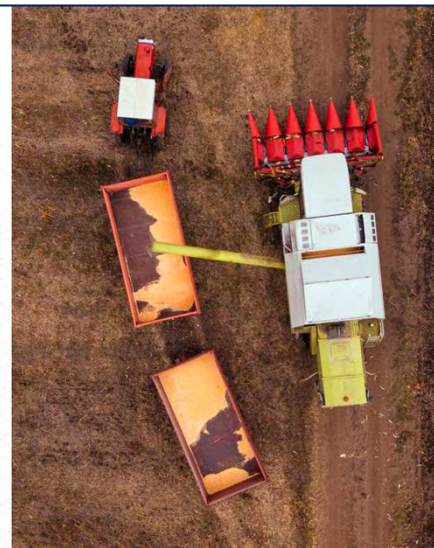
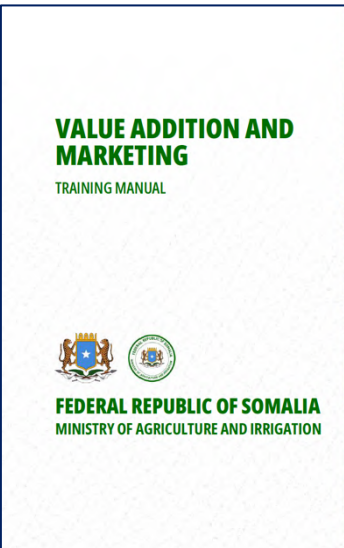
2. Training manuals on Good Agriculture Practice (GAP), Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM), Post-harvest Handling (PHH), Marketing and Value Addition, and Organization Leadership/management.

The Department oversaw the successful development of five comprehensive **training manuals** and conducted **Training of Trainers (ToT)** sessions on **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM), Post-Harvest Handling (PHH), Marketing and Value Addition, and Organizational Leadership/Management** in 2024.

With the support of FAO under the CadRe Project, the Ministry developed detailed training manuals in English and Somali, complemented by corresponding presentations. These materials were informed by a needs assessment and extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including federal member states, agricultural experts, university faculties, and the Ministry team. Stakeholders provided

feedback to refine the manuals, which were then standardized for widespread use.

A five-day ToT session was conducted from **June 23–28, 2024**, training **26 participants** from FGS and FMS ministries. The trained ToTs received the finalized manuals and are now equipped to train farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses, ensuring the adoption of standardized practices across the sector. To sustain this initiative, the Ministry has established a WhatsApp group to maintain communication and support for the ToTs, enabling future scalability and capacity building. This activity is pivotal in promoting sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing productivity, and supporting cooperative and agribusiness development.



3. Mapping and identification of appropriate approaches and technologies for gender-inclusive, climate-smart, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture

The CadRe Project managed by the director of the Department conducted a pivotal mapping and assessment activity in Southwest and Jubaland states. This initiative sought to identify and map practical, gender-inclusive, climate-smart, and nutrition-sensitive agricultural approaches and technologies to foster resilience against climate shocks and support pro-poor market development.

The activity began with an inception phase assessment and a gender-specific value chain study, laying the foundation for detailed mapping and analysis. The study included both secondary data analysis and primary data collection through consultations with key informants, value chain actors, and stakeholders.

Consultative meetings held in Southwest (11-13 July 2023) and Jubaland (23-25 July 2023) engaged local communities, cooperatives, and farmers to gather insights on climate vulnerabilities and agricultural challenges. The findings revealed critical gaps in seed systems, pest management, post-harvest handling, and access to resources for women farmers. Recommendations emphasized adopting drought-resistant crop varieties, conservation agriculture, efficient irrigation methods, and strengthening the role of women in decision-making and resource access.

This mapping and assessment have provided a data-driven roadmap for preparing location-specific interventions that align with the Ministry's goals for sustainable, inclusive agricultural growth.

4. Field Mission Visits to States for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Activities

The Department, in collaboration with the M&E section of the Planning Department, conducted multiple field missions to Baidoa and Kismaayo in 2024 to monitor and evaluate activities implemented under the CadRe project. These missions aimed to ensure effective implementation, alignment with project goals, and progress tracking.

In Baidoa, missions were carried out on 27-29 August, 7-11 September, 22-26 September, and 20-22 October. Key activities monitored included:

- Training communities on gender-sensitive, climate-smart practices.
- Mobilizing farmers and disseminating agricultural messages through SMS and radio.
- Conducting Participatory Disaster Risk Analyses (PDRA) and forming Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) groups.
- Facilitating agribusiness forums to strengthen public-private dialogues.

Similarly, in Kismaayo, missions on 22-25 July, 2-6 September, 23-27 September, and 20-22 October focused on:

- Supporting community resilience through training on climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive practices.
- Establishing and supporting women's vegetable producer and marketing associations.
- Enhancing farmer production and marketing practices.
- Distributing climate-smart inputs and facilitating PPP dialogues with agribusiness stakeholders.

The missions also ensured alignment with project outcomes by collecting progress reports, evaluating project activities, and engaging with stakeholders at the state level. Recommendations from the missions emphasized the need for better coordination, avoiding delays caused by interdependent activities, and providing adequate resources for ongoing and future monitoring efforts.



5. Study on Hidden Burden of Illegal Roadblocks and Security Checkpoints on Agricultural Produce Movement

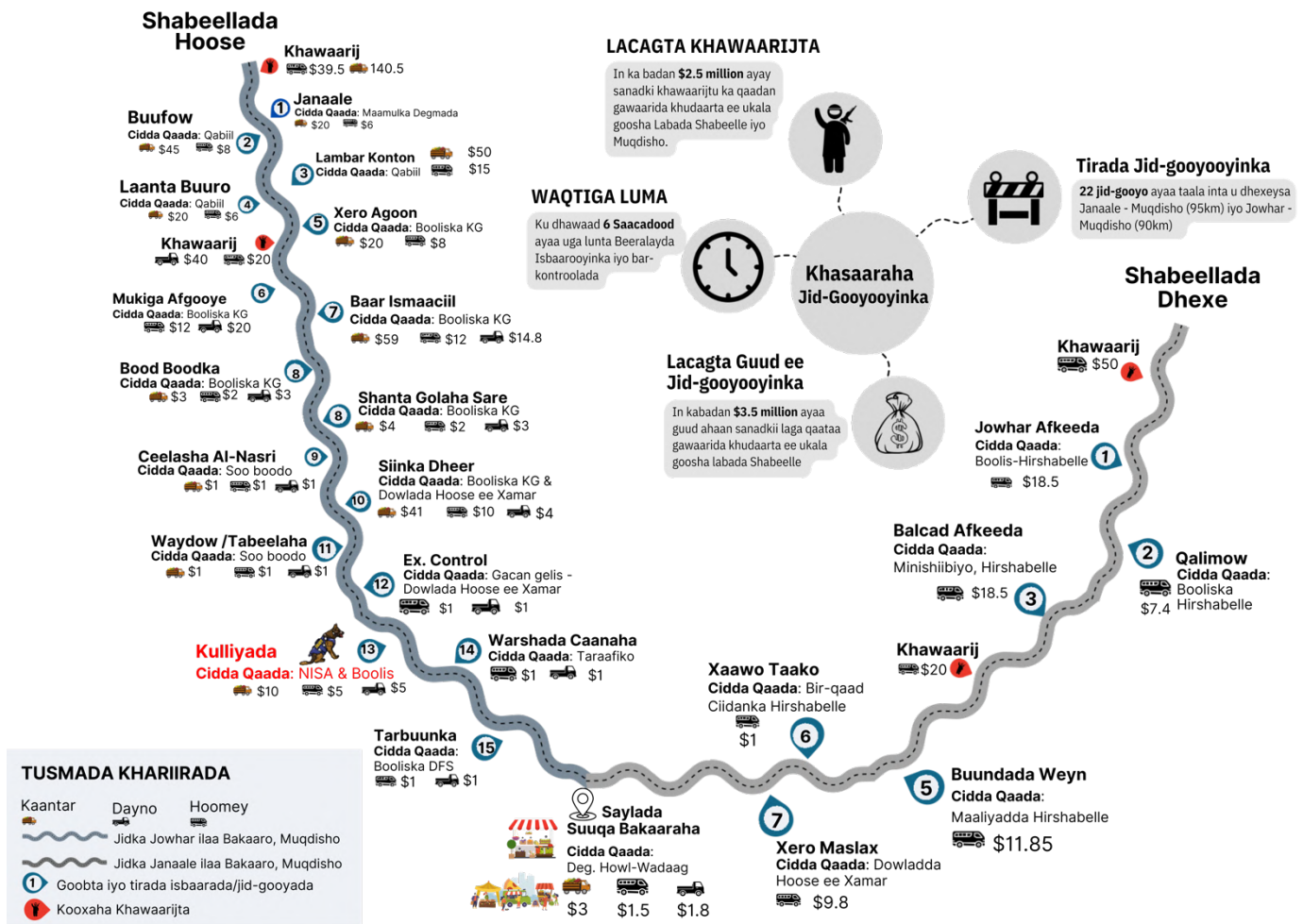
The Department conducted a comprehensive study to examine the challenges faced by farmers transporting fresh produce from Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle to Mogadishu's Bakaaro Market. The study mapped all checkpoints, including illegal roadblocks, state border security checkpoints, and tax collection points, highlighting the financial burdens and logistical delays imposed on farmers. These roadblocks often led to increased transportation costs, significant delays, and substantial losses of fresh produce.

The findings revealed the severe impact of illegal roadblocks and irregular tax collection on agricultural trade and food security. The results were escalated to relevant authorities. His Excellency Minister Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye presented the findings at the National Security Council meeting chaired by His Excellency President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. The President responded decisively, appointing a high-level committee comprising security forces and relevant ministries to dismantle illegal roadblocks, harmonize tax collection processes, and ease the burden on agricultural trade routes.

The study also outlined actionable recommendations to address these challenges, including:

1. Establishing specialized police or military units to patrol key routes and remove unauthorized checkpoints.
2. Standardizing and harmonizing all legal taxes and designating specific points for tax collection to reduce corruption and inefficiency.
3. Developing secure and efficient systems to facilitate the smooth movement of farmers and goods.
4. Encouraging local communities and farmers to report illegal roadblocks and collaborate with law enforcement.
5. Strengthening security inspections with additional well-trained K9 units to expedite processes.
6. Implementing strict penalties for individuals, including officials, complicit in operating illegal roadblocks.

These measures aimed to eliminate systemic barriers in agricultural trade, reduce produce losses, and improve the livelihoods of farmers while promoting efficient transportation of goods.



6. Urban Farmers Mapping



The Department conducted a comprehensive mapping and needs assessment of urban farmers in and around the Banadir region. The study surveyed 86 plots across districts like Deyniile, Garasbaaleey, Kaxda, Weydow, and Lafoole, revealing critical insights into urban farming practices, demographics, and challenges. Key findings included:

- 61.9% of plots were owned by farmers, while 38.1% were rented.
- The majority of farmers were young (52.38% aged 25-30) and educated (71.43% held university degrees).
- Most farmers had 1-5 years of experience.
- High input costs, poor road infrastructure, competition from imports, reliance on credit sales (95.24%), and lack

of modern storage facilities were highlighted as significant hurdles.

These findings were presented during a high-profile event chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir. The farmers shared their success stories and challenges, fostering discussions on the future of urban farming in Somalia. The event brought together over 90 participants, including agribusiness companies, financial institutions, and development partners, creating valuable networking opportunities.

This activity has laid the groundwork for targeted interventions aimed at modernizing urban farming, improving resilience, and promoting sustainable livelihoods in urban areas.



7. Market Price Monitoring and Dissemination

The department restructured its market pricing monitoring system to provide timely and accurate updates on agricultural product prices. This initiative involved collecting weekly price data for 22 key crops across five major markets: Mogadishu, Kismaayo, Jowhar, Dhusamareeb, and Baydhabo. Additionally, farmgate prices of the same crops were recorded to ensure comprehensive coverage of price trends from production to market levels. 2025 will add 7 new markets and 15 crops.

Each week, the department disseminated a concise, one-page weekly price sheet that highlights:

- Current market prices for the 22 crops.
- Comparisons across the five markets for each of the monitored crops.
- Farmgate prices for each crop.

The price sheet is designed to be informative and actionable, enabling farmers and cooperatives to make data-driven decisions. It is disseminated widely through social media, community groups, and the ministry's official website. This effort has improved market access, supported farmers in optimizing their pricing strategies, and enhanced overall transparency in the agricultural market. This activity also includes monthly prices report which consolidates that month's outputs with a more detailed analysis.

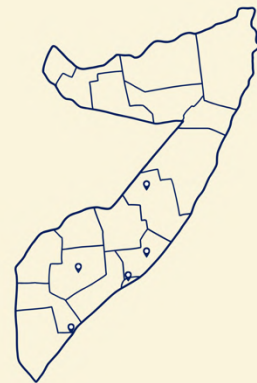
Key Outcomes:

- Increased access to market information enabled better decision-making and negotiation power.
- Farmers gained insights into the most lucrative selling times and markets.



AGRICULTURAL MARKET PRICES

20 DECEMBER –26 DECEMBER 2024



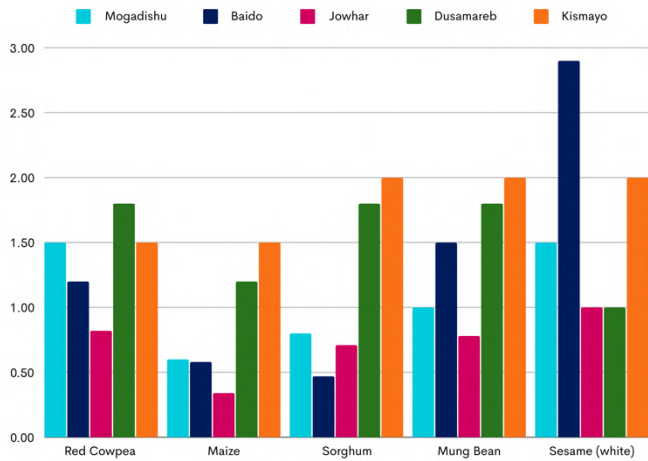
The Department of Agribusiness and Cooperative Development of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Somalia, is pleased to present this week's report on the agricultural market and farm gate prices in Somalia. This report provides valuable insights into price trends for essential agricultural commodities across five major markets in the country. Covering data collected from December 20 to December 26, 2024, it analyzes the pricing of 22 key products categorized as grains, vegetables, and fruits.

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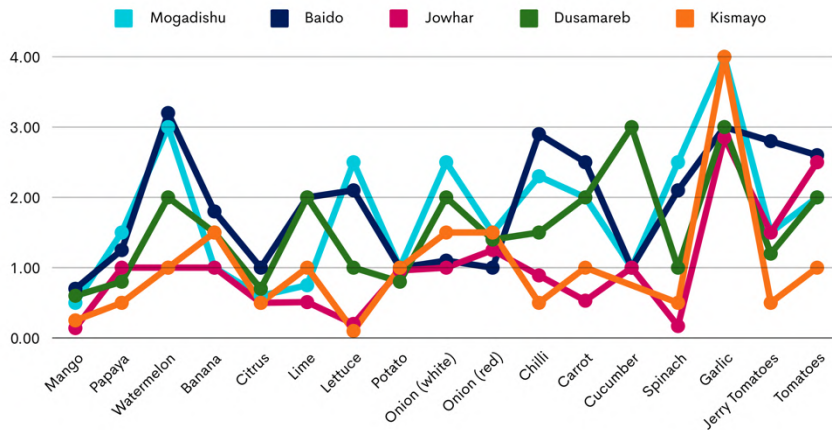
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Cereal Prices Comparison in the Somali Markets



Crop Prices Comparison in the Somali Markets



MARKET CROP PRICES (\$)

CROP	STANDARD	MOGADISHU	BAIDO	JOWHAR	DH. MAREB	KISMAYO
Mango	1 Piece	0.50	0.70	0.14	0.60	0.25
Papaya	1 Piece	1.50	1.25	1.00	0.80	0.50
Watermelon	1 Piece	3.00	3.20	1.00	2.00	1.00
Banana	1 Kg	1.00	1.80	1.00	1.50	1.50
Citrus	1 Piece	0.60	1.00	0.50	0.70	0.50
Lime	1 Kg	0.75	2.00	0.51	2.00	1.00
Lettuce	1 Pack	2.50	2.10	0.20	1.00	0.10
Potato	1 Kg	1.00	1.00	0.96	0.80	1.00
Onion (white)	1 Kg	2.50	1.10	1.00	2.00	1.50
Onion (red)	1 Kg	1.50	1.00	1.25	1.40	1.50
Chilli	1 Kg	2.30	2.90	0.89	1.50	0.50
Carrot	1 Kg	2.00	2.50	0.53	2.00	1.00
Cucumber	1 Kg	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	0
Spinach	1 Pack	2.50	2.10	0.17	1.00	0.50
Garlic	1 Kg	4.00	3.00	2.85	3.00	4.00
Jerry Tomatoes	1 Kg	1.50	2.80	1.50	1.20	0.50
Tomatoes	1 Kg	2.00	2.60	2.50	2.00	1.00
Red Cowpea	1 Kg	1.50	1.20	0.82	1.80	1.50
Maize	1 kg	0.60	0.58	0.34	1.20	1.50
Sorghum	1 kg	0.80	0.47	0.71	1.80	2.00
Mung Bean	1 kg	1.00	1.50	0.78	1.80	2.00
Sesame (white)	1 kg	1.50	2.90	1.00	1.00	2.00

FARM GATE PRICES(SOS)

CROP	STANDARD	PRICE
Mango	Piece	6,500
Papaya	Saxaarad	2,782,000
Watermelon	Faashad	2,314,000
Banana	Kiintaal	1,092,000
Citrus	Saxaarad	3,692,000
Lime	Fuusto	650,000
Lettuce	Bac Bakaaro	57,200
Potato	Loor (140kg)	2,730,000
Onion (white)	Shabaq (29kg)	1,508,000
Onion (red)	Shabaq (29kg)	754,000
Chilli	Shataf	338,000
Carrot	Maas	26,000
Cucumber	1 Kg	10,400
Spinach	Maas	31,200
Garlic	Shabaq (6kg)	312,000
Jerry Tomatoes	Tanag	267,800
Tomatoes	1 Kg	20,800
Red Cowpea	Loor (100 madaal)	1,196,000
Maize	Loor (100 madaal)	650,000
Sorghum	Loor (100 madaal)	806,000
Mung Bean	Loor (100 madaal)	1,482,000
Sesame (white)	Loor (80 madaal)	1,144,000

8. Establishment of the Somali Beekeepers Association



The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation established the Somali Beekeepers Association, registering it as one of the largest agricultural associations in the country. Since its inception, the association has actively participated in exhibitions, conferences, and stakeholder meetings, showcasing the critical role of beekeeping as a farming practice. This initiative underscores the ministry's commitment to elevating the importance of honey

production, improving its value chain, and promoting beekeeping as a viable avenue for job creation and economic growth.

Aligned with the National Transformation Plan (NTP) and the ministry's 2025 Strategic Priorities, the ministry is expanding its focus to prioritize crop-based cooperatives and associations. Building on the success of the Somali Beekeepers Association, the ministry plans to establish new associations, including the Sesame Association, Seed Association, Women's Cooperative, and the National Agriculture Association. These crop-based cooperatives aim to enhance productivity, strengthen governance, and provide targeted support to specific agricultural value chains. This approach aligns with the ministry's broader goals of fostering collaboration, empowering farmers, and driving sustainable agricultural development across Somalia.

9. Beletweyne Cooperatives Mapping

The Department conducted a comprehensive study on the agricultural cooperatives in Beletweyne, assessing their current state and challenges while exploring ways to enhance productivity. The study, involving 14 cooperative groups comprising **2,912 farmers** and covering **15,827 hectares** of cultivable land, revealed that cereals dominated crop production, with vegetables and fruits also being significant contributors. The cooperatives achieved notable yields, **marketing approximately 70% of their produce**, although they faced challenges such as limited access to capital, lack of modern technology, and environmental threats like droughts and floods.

Key challenges identified included poor road infrastructure, unstable market prices, and inadequate post-harvest storage

facilities, leading to losses in supply chain efficiency. To address these challenges, the department has recommended improving access to finance, adopting climate-smart agricultural practices, upgrading storage and infrastructure, and building alliances with financial institutions and market platforms.

The findings were presented to key stakeholders, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation committed to providing targeted support and implementing the recommendations to strengthen these cooperatives and ensure sustainable agricultural growth in Beletweyne. This activity underscores the Ministry's dedication to empowering agricultural cooperatives to play a pivotal role in Somalia's food security and economic development.





10. Somalia Agri-Tech Expo 2024

The Somalia Agri-Tech Expo 2024, held on July 16-17 at Jazeera Hotel in Mogadishu, was a groundbreaking event aimed at revolutionizing Somalia's agricultural sector. The department, with the support of the Ministry, organized a first-of-its-kind expo for over 35 years and served as a platform to showcase agribusinesses and innovative agricultural technologies, foster investments, and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Themed "Transforming the Agriculture Sector Through Advanced Technologies, Innovation, and Sustainable Sourcing," the event attracted over 500 participants, including government officials, UN agencies, international organizations, agribusinesses, cooperatives, academia, and private sector stakeholders. His Excellency, Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre officiated the event.

The expo featured booths from over 30 stakeholders, including technology providers, agribusinesses, financial institutions, and cooperatives. Exhibits showcased value-added products, agricultural services, advanced agricultural tools, such as precision farming technologies, low-energy irrigation systems, and digital agricultural platforms.

The expo hosted presentations and panel discussions on climate-smart agriculture, value chain development, agri-finance, and enhancing market access. These sessions emphasized the critical role of technology and innovation in addressing challenges like food insecurity and post-harvest losses. The event also highlighted the involvement of women and youth in agriculture, with targeted programs encouraging their active participation in agribusiness and innovation.

Key Outcomes:

1. The government announced key measures, including lifting the ban on chemical fertilizers to reduce production costs for farmers.
2. Plans were unveiled for an International Conference on Agri-Value Chain Investments in October 2024 to attract global and regional investments into the sector.
3. Strengthened partnerships between the public and private sectors, academia, and international development partners for enhancing agricultural innovation and research.
4. Recommendations were made to adopt modern farming technologies, such as hydroponics, solar-powered irrigation, and data-driven precision farming, to improve productivity and climate resilience.
5. Emphasis was placed on training programs for farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses to equip them with skills for sustainable agricultural practices.
6. Calls for improving rural infrastructure, including aggregation centers, cold storage, and processing facilities, to reduce post-harvest losses and improve market linkages.

The Somalia Agri-Tech Expo 2024 was a landmark event that successfully spotlighted the immense potential of Somalia's agricultural sector. It catalyzed fostering innovation, promoting investment, and driving sustainable growth.



11. Establishment of CIAD (Center for Innovation & Agropreneurship Development)



On August 27, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, through its Department of Agribusiness and Cooperative Development, launched the **Center for Innovation and Agropreneurship Development (CIAD)**, marking a transformative milestone in Somalia's agricultural sector. Prior to the launch, on August 2023, the department conducted a business accelerator training for 100 youth with the support of TAAT, which highlighted the immense potential for a dedicated center focused on business acceleration and innovative solutions in the agricultural sector.

The establishment of CIAD was informed by a year-long needs assessment, identifying gaps in innovative solutions and the challenges youth and women face in agriculture. Additionally, the recommendations from the Somali Agri-Tech Expo 2024 emphasized the need for a platform to address critical issues, including limited access to skills,

resources, and markets, as well as the prevalence of informal business practices that stifle innovation and sector growth.

CIAD provides an enabling environment for youth and women-led MSMEs, farmers, and agropreneurs by offering incubation, acceleration, and scaling opportunities. The center bridges the gap between stakeholders and essential resources, including financial services, technical expertise, climate-smart agricultural practices, and digital solutions like blockchain-based traceability. CIAD's innovation labs focus on developing tailored agri-tech and R&D solutions that address local challenges such as climate change, productivity gaps, and sustainable sourcing.

Through its comprehensive approach, CIAD supports youth and women in becoming agribusiness leaders, contributing to inclusive socio-economic growth and agricultural resilience in Somalia. The center is poised to transform agriculture into a key driver of economic development, food security, and climate adaptation by fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.



12. Value Chain Analysis

The Climate-Resilient and Gender-Responsive Value Chain Analysis, conducted under the CADRE project in 2024, provides comprehensive insights into key agricultural value chains in Somalia. Covering eight districts—Baidoa, Merka, Kismayo, Burao, Jowhar, Mogadishu, Dhusamareb, and Garowe—the study focused on critical crops such as maize, sorghum, sesame, banana, lemon, rice, and vegetables.

Key findings highlighted the importance of crop production as a livelihood source for 86.6% of respondents, with land ownership at 91.5%. Challenges such as low crop productivity, limited access to agricultural inputs, and gender disparities were identified. Notably, only 47% of farmers used drought-resistant seeds, and access to formal credit was limited to 17.6%. High-value crops like bananas, lemons, and sesame showed significant profitability and export potential, with gross margins of up to 47%.

The study's significance lies in its detailed mapping of value chain actors, governance structures, and opportunities for enhancing the participation of marginalized groups, including women and youth. It provides actionable recommendations, including promoting value addition, improving market linkages, and fostering gender-sensitive agricultural practices, to drive sustainable agricultural development in Somalia.



13. Department Reform and Staff Capacity Development

The department underwent a significant restructuring to enhance its effectiveness in delivering services to the agricultural sector. This reform included the creation of additional sections and the onboarding of new staff to accelerate departmental activities. As part of this process, the department participated in the ministry's capacity development assessment, which provided a comprehensive evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses. This assessment guided the restructuring, ensuring alignment with the Ministry's strategic priorities.

Upon completion of the restructuring exercise, the team underwent an exercise to develop the 2025 departmental work plan. This work plan, created through a weeks-long collaborative exercise involving all staff, is highly detailed

and aligns with both the ministry's overarching goals, the National Transformation Plan (NTP), and the department's sub-priorities. Each section's role has been clearly defined, fostering accountability and ensuring that activities contribute directly to the department's mandate of supporting cooperatives, agribusinesses, and farmers. Key Outcomes included:

- Enhanced departmental capacity through targeted staffing and structural improvements.
- Development of a comprehensive 2025 work plan of schedule, ensuring readiness for implementation.
- Alignment of the work plan with the National Transformation Plan and ministry strategic priorities for greater impact.



14. Stakeholder Engagements

The department organized and hosted over 10 different gatherings that convened more than 500 participants, including farmers, cooperatives, agribusiness leaders, financial institutions, academics, community leaders, urban farmers, youth and women in agriculture, and ministry officials. The events served as a platform for the department and the ministry to engage and sit with primary stakeholders to celebrate farmer resilience, strengthen public-private sector collaboration, and address key challenges in Somalia's agricultural sector.

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, chaired most of the gatherings. The notable meetings include 5 consecutive pre-engagement meetings for the first International Conference on Agri-Value Chain Investment. Each of the engagements was themed for specific stakeholders including farmers, cooperatives, women, financial institutions, and academics. The last gathering brought together 130 participants and was officiated by His Excellency, the minister. In this sit-down, the ministry opened the conference with an update on the ministry's year-long reforms and achievements. He highlighted significant milestones:

- Lifting the ban on chemical fertilizers is a critical step toward enhancing productivity.

- Distributing machinery to farmers and cooperatives to modernize farming practices.
- Organizing major events such as the Agri-Tech Expo 2024 and the International Investment Conference.
- Rehabilitating vital canals to increase production.

He also emphasized the ministry's recent strategic restructuring and reform efforts, which aimed to enhance service delivery and better address the needs of the agricultural sector. During the conference, participants shared their insights, recommendations, and feedback, fostering an open dialogue.

Key Outcomes:

- Formation of the **National Agriculture Committee** to oversee agricultural development initiatives.
- Launch of a **National Farmer Registration Campaign** to formalize and organize the agricultural sector.
- Strengthened collaboration with private sector entities to introduce innovative technologies and enhance market access.

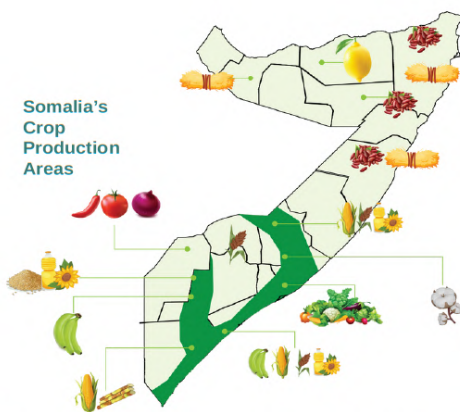
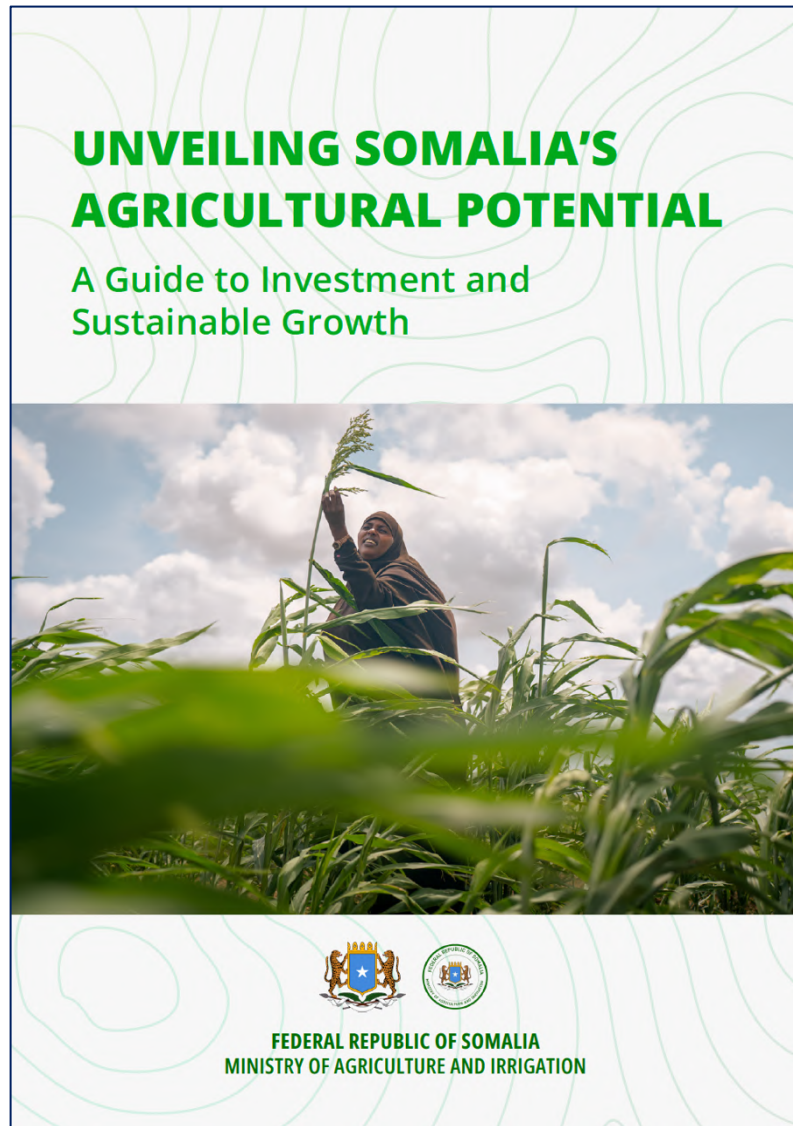
This gathering underscored the ministry's commitment to inclusive engagement and sustainable growth in Somalia's agriculture sector.



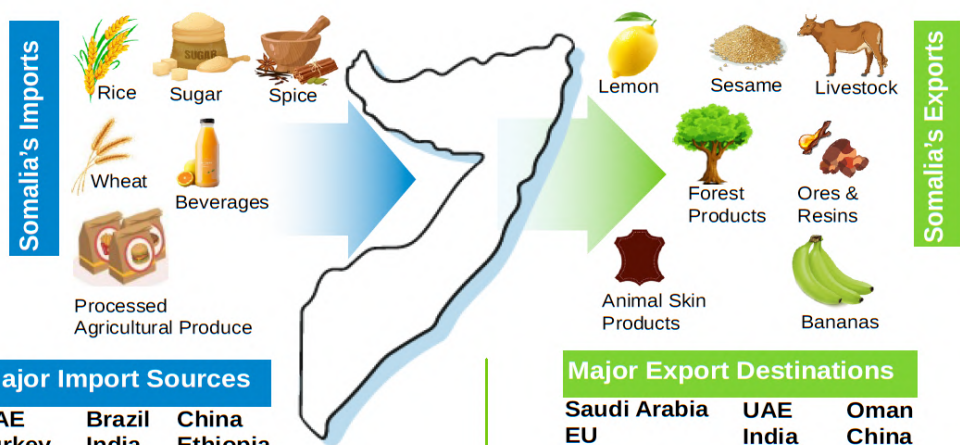
15. Somalia Agriculture Investment Guide Booklet

The Somalia Agricultural Investment Guide serves as a comprehensive resource, providing key insights into the country's agricultural sector and its investment potential. Organized to cater to investors, policymakers, and stakeholders, the guide's content is structured into detailed sections to maximize its utility:

- Agricultural Potential and Resources:** Highlights Somalia's rich arable land, key crops like sesame and bananas, and vast water resources, showcasing the sector's untapped potential.
- Investment Opportunities:** Outlines promising areas such as agro-processing, irrigation systems, and climate-smart agriculture to attract private and institutional investors.
- Policy and Regulatory Environment:** Explains the supportive frameworks Somalia has implemented, including streamlined regulations, incentives, and regional trade alignments.
- Market Access and Infrastructure:** Covers Somalia's expanding transport and logistics networks, crucial for connecting producers with local and international markets.
- Investment Facilitation and Support:** Offers practical guidance for engaging with relevant authorities and stakeholders, easing the investment process in Somalia's agricultural sector.



Total food imports in 2021 were **\$2.38 billion** due to increased domestic demand for food, changing dietary habits, and the collapse of crop production that supports domestic staples



Major Import Sources

UAE Turkey Brazil India China Ethiopia

Major Export Destinations

Saudi Arabia EU UAE India Oman China

Somalia's exports from Agriculture & Livestock increased from **\$388.62M** in 2018 to **\$558M** in 2022

Somalia's Exports

2020	2021	2022
\$549M	\$717M	\$704M



16. First International Conference on Agri-Value Chain Investment 2024

The **First International Conference on Agri-Value Chain Investment**, held from October 1-2, 2024, in Mogadishu, marked a significant milestone in promoting Somalia as a viable destination for agricultural investments. The department first developed the event concept note in March, over the next months, with the support and collaboration of other departments and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) in collaboration with global partners, we brought together over 400 participants, including more than 30 international companies from Europe, 50 local representatives (cooperatives, agribusinesses, associations, and farmers), Somali entrepreneurs, international and local investors, financial institutions, development partners, embassies, and other private sector entities. The conference aimed to strengthen global partnerships, enhance investment opportunities, and accelerate the growth of Somalia's agricultural sector.

The agenda featured a diverse range of activities, including keynote speeches, panel discussions, exhibitions, and business-to-business (B2B) networking sessions. High-level government representatives, including President of Somalia H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, emphasized the strategic importance of agriculture in Somalia's economic development and outlined key initiatives to enhance public-private partnerships (PPPs), infrastructure, and sustainability. Experts discussed critical infrastructure needs, quality assurance in agri-inputs, and climate-smart agricultural practices.

For detailed event highlights, outcomes, and press releases read <https://investinsomaliagriculture.com>



17. Resource Mobilization and Partner Meetings

The department conducted a series of consultations and resource mobilization with key partners, including IFAD (RLRP) and SATG/IRIS, to strengthen collaboration, mobilize resources, and streamline efforts in cooperative development, urban farming, and institutional reforms.

Consultations with IFAD/RLRP

The IFAD team conducted a mission to Somalia to discuss collaboration and alignment with the department's activities. The department presented its 2025 work plan and strategic priorities, while the RLRP team outlined its objectives and identified areas of synergy.

The discussions focused on maximizing the impact of RLRP activities to better support the department's objectives, resulting in:

- Agreed alignment between the RLRP project and the department's 2025 priorities.
- Identification of actionable areas to improve project support for the department's initiatives.

Consultations with SATG/IRIS

The department held multiple meetings with SATG and the IRIS program to focus on cooperative reforms, policy implementation, and capacity building:

- Conducting comprehensive institutional analysis and needs assessment for existing cooperatives.
- Completion of the Agricultural Cooperatives Policy.
- Reforming and restructuring of Cooperatives.
- Targeted training plans for cooperative members.
- Establishing new modern cooperatives aligned with NTP, the Ministry's strategic priorities, and the National Agricultural Transformation Strategy.
- Digitalizing farmers, cooperatives, and agribusiness registrations and performance tracking.

Key Outcomes:

- Enhanced collaboration and alignment with IFAD/RLRP, ensuring project resources are effectively utilized to support the department's goals.
- Concrete commitments from SATG and IRIS to advance cooperative reforms and capacity building.



18. National Transformation Plan (NTP): Connecting to the Department Workplan

The National Transformation Plan (NTP) Agriculture Lab aims to advance Somalia's agricultural sector by addressing critical gaps and driving long-term resilience, sustainability, and growth. The department played an integral role in developing bankable projects and initiatives and aligning its 2025 work plan with the NTP's objectives, ensuring cohesive efforts to bolster the agriculture sector.

Key Activities Undertaken:

1. Establishment of the True North Charter:

- The Agriculture Sector Development Lab introduced the True North Charter, a strategic document guiding the agricultural sector's development over the next five years.
- It defines priorities, aligns initiatives with the NTP, and lays a clear roadmap for achieving national objectives, including income generation, job creation, and climate resilience.

2. Stakeholder Consultations:

- The department engaged sector experts, agricultural cooperatives, and private stakeholders to identify challenges and align on solutions.
- Insights gathered informed strategies to enhance productivity, private sector engagement, and climate adaptation in agriculture.

3. Development of Projects and Initiatives:

- 9 projects and 10 initiatives were identified, targeting key areas such as investment, productivity, and PPP:

- Six private sector-led projects & 22 stakeholders were identified.
- 10 government-private collaborative initiatives designed to drive innovation and progress.

4. 3-Feet Plan:

- Financial projections, budgets, and detailed implementation plans were developed for each project and initiative, ensuring clarity and feasibility.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were established to monitor progress and effectiveness.

5. Private Sector Engagement:

- A call for business proposals encouraged private sector participation in key agricultural areas such as:
 - Fruit and vegetable production (4 companies).
 - High-value crop production and processing (2 companies).
 - Auxiliary farm services (inputs, equipment, 4 companies).
 - Seed production and processing (4 companies).
 - Cereal and fodder production and processing.
- Proposals outlined investment needs, job creation potential, and expected export growth, ensuring alignment with national goals.

The department has completed a campaign to align its 2025 work plan, initiatives, and programs with the NTP.



19. Integrated Marketplace Study

The **Integrated Marketplace Project**, a flagship initiative by the department under the National Transformation Plan (NTP) developed by Senior Advisor Ahmed Dubow Kaian, aims to enhance Somalia's agricultural and livestock sectors by addressing critical challenges in post-harvest

management, market access, and value addition. The project envisions establishing two integrated marketplaces in Afgooye and Balad, covering 1 km² each, to connect producers directly with buyers, reducing inefficiencies caused by middlemen and fostering economic resilience.

This initiative fosters economic resilience, empowers producers, and enhances food systems by streamlining trade, reducing post-harvest losses, and creating sustainable market opportunities for agriculture and livestock sectors

Project Highlights:

Concept Description

Establish two Integrated Marketplaces in Afgooye and Balad, each covering 1 km², to connect producers directly to buyers, eliminating middlemen inefficiencies. These hubs will provide value chain and processing services, along with business development support, to enhance post-harvest management, increase capacity, and improve access to markets and financial resources for agricultural and livestock producers.

Components & Services

Aggregations	Processing and Value Addition Units	Traceability & Monitoring System	Cold Chain Infrastructure
Logistics Services	Trade Avenues and Markets	Stakeholder Training & Support Center	Waste Recycling & By-product Utilization Units
Farmer's Market	Storage Units	Business Development Services	Financial Services & Business formalization

Post-harvest loss of **65-80%** for vegetables and fruits and **45-55%** for cereals and legumes) of which **at least 25% loss** happens during transit

The project aims to reduce post-harvest losses, which currently stand at 65-80% for vegetables and fruits and 45-55% for cereals and legumes, with 25% occurring during transit. It also integrates innovative technologies like blockchain-based traceability systems to enhance transparency and reliability across the value chain. These hubs will utilize renewable energy and provide

comprehensive services, including waste recycling, logistics, and market access. This initiative will significantly contribute to Somalia's economic growth, job creation, and food security by promoting efficient and sustainable agricultural practices while empowering farmers, cooperatives, and MSMEs through enhanced access to resources and markets.

20. Campaigned and advocated for the Fertilizer ban lift

The Department of Agribusiness and Cooperative Development led a strategic and determined campaign to address the long-standing fertilizer ban, which had significantly hindered agricultural productivity in Somalia. Recognizing that the lack of chemical fertilizers was one of the primary obstacles faced by farmers and cooperatives, the department organized multiple forums and sit-downs with key stakeholders, including farmers, cooperatives, and input suppliers. These sessions, often chaired by His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture, provided a platform for farmers to voice their challenges and highlight the devastating impact of the fertilizer ban on production and livelihoods. Many farmers were forced to abandon farming due to the inability to sustain production without access to fertilizers.

During the development of the National Transformation Plan (NTP), the department emphasized the critical need to lift the fertilizer ban to achieve the national and Ministry's strategic goals, including increasing agricultural production and food security over the next five years. The ministry escalated the issue to the highest levels of government, advocating for immediate action. Evidence-based findings

on how the ban was crippling agricultural productivity and jeopardizing mega-projects in the sector were presented to the Cabinet.

The Ministry successfully campaigned for the fertilizer ban's removal. In a special meeting chaired by His Excellency Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre, the Cabinet approved the decision to lift the ban, culminating in the issuance of Cabinet Directive No. 169. This marked a historic milestone for Somalia's agricultural sector, unlocking the potential for increased production, improved livelihoods, and the successful implementation of the Ministry's strategic priorities.



21. She-Farm: Women in Agriculture

The She-Farm program, led by CIAD in partnership with the Department of Agribusiness and Cooperatives Development and the Department of Research & Extension, is a transformative flagship program designed to empower women in Somalia's agricultural sector. Phase 1 of the program, held in December 2024, successfully trained 42 women in value addition and food processing. The training equipped participants with practical skills in areas such as oil processing, jam making, and pickling, preparing them to improve product quality and expand market opportunities.

This program not only addresses the systemic barriers women face in agriculture but also creates a pathway for them to become agribusiness leaders. The program's multi-phase structure includes advanced business development, financial access, and scaling strategies in subsequent stages, ensuring long-term growth and sustainability. With high demand reflected in over 300 applications for Phase 1, the She-Farm program is a testament to the ministry's commitment to fostering inclusivity and driving innovation in Somalia's agricultural landscape.



22. National Coordination Committee (NCC) on Implementation of EAC Framework for Cross-border Trade on Processed Pre-Packaged Food and Cosmetics Products

The Department of Agribusiness and Cooperatives represents the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the National Coordination Committee (NCC) established under the EAC Framework for Cross-border Trade. The committee is tasked with harmonizing standards, procedures, and frameworks to enhance the free flow of processed pre-packaged food products across East African borders while ensuring consumer protection and trade facilitation.

Key responsibilities of the NCC include promoting mutual recognition of regulatory and conformity assessment results, eliminating technical barriers to intra-EAC trade,

and ensuring effective collaboration among regulatory authorities and stakeholders. The department's involvement focuses on supporting agriculture and agribusiness contributions to this framework, addressing issues related to processed food products, and advocating for measures that enhance Somalia's participation in regional trade.

This activity underscores the Ministry's commitment to improving food safety, boosting agricultural exports, and integrating Somalia into the EAC regional trade system, contributing to economic growth and agricultural development.





MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

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