

## THE 69TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF DLCO-EA



The Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA), a regional entity comprising nine Member States (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda), held its 69th Governing Council of Ministers' Session in Mombasa, Kenya, on December 5–6, 2024.

The Federal Republic of Somalia was represented by Hon. Asad Abdirizak Mohamed, the State Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Somalia, as a founding member of the DLCO-EA since 1962, played a pivotal role in the proceedings. The session focused on addressing food security challenges posed by migratory pests and enhancing the organization's effectiveness.

### Key Highlights:

#### 1- Mandate and Role:

DLCO-EA is pivotal in enhancing food security through research, monitoring, forecasting, and implementing control operations for migratory pests such as desert locusts, African armyworms, grain-eating quelea birds, tsetse flies, and emerging threats.

**2. Council's Recognitions and Resolutions:**

- Agriculture's Importance:**  
 Acknowledged agriculture as the economic backbone of Member States, essential for income, employment, exports, agro-industry inputs, and poverty alleviation.
- Critical Role of DLCO-EA:** Emphasized DLCO-EA's significance in controlling transboundary pests threatening regional food security.
- Modernization:** Called for the organization to transform and modernize its pest control operations to address evolving challenges.
- Financial Support:** Highlighted financial constraints and urged Member States to honor annual contributions and arrears for improved service delivery.
- Emerging Pests:** Recognized the growing seriousness of new migratory pest threats.
- Control Operations:** Urged Member States to support DLCO-EA's operations, including aircraft fuel provision to address the rising quelea bird population.
- Development Partners:** Advised management to seek technical and financial assistance from development partners.



**Figure 1 State Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia Releases Communiqué**



**Figure 2 State Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia Releases Communiqué**



**Figure 3 State Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia Releases Communiqué**

## INFLUENCE OF MARKET

INFORMATION SUPPORT SERVICES ON SESAME PRODUCTION AMONG SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN BAL'AD DISTRICT, SOMALIA

### Abstract

Agriculture is an important sector in the economies of most developing countries. Most people's livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa are hinged on agriculture. The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of market information support services on sesame production among smallholder farmers in Bal'ad district, Middle Shabelle, Somalia.

The study used quantitative and qualitative methods to collect data from farm households. The target population was 3098 smallholder sesame farmers in Bal'ad district. With the known population size, the sample size of the study was estimated to be 148 farmers

### Introduction

In the Netherlands, three types of extension service providers are leading in offering extension services, These operate as: (i) economic operators on the supply chain (ii) private consultants; and (iii) firms commercializing agronomic modeling software (Labarthe & Laurent, 2013).

Undeveloped infrastructure, farmers are in difficulty accessing international markets are some of the major constraints on investments, and the absence of any maintenance of infrastructure facilities for over twenty-five years has left major infrastructure facilities (Abate et al., 2023).

According to Yusuf (2018), Somali Agribusiness Group was created in 2018 in Mogadishu to empower local farmers to produce high-quality products and market them in both domestic and foreign markets, and connecting local farmers to the global market.

The farmer cooperatives in Bal'ad are Arif, Ali sharaf, Moumin group and 19 Mars cooperatives cultivating 400ha, 50ha and 600ha respectively (Ibrahim & Ngina, 2019).

Sesame is marketable and exported to Dubai and other countries around the world. However, sesame production in Somalia is below due to low inputs and poor management, e.g., low or non-fertilization, irrigation, pest control, etc. (Ismaan et al., 2020).

### Access to market information and sesame production

Markets and market information access are important for the smallholder sesame farmers. Market information guides farmers in planning production to meet market demand and negotiate better prices with traders (Magesa, 2014).

Market access and information are often seen as the main drivers of innovations and initiatives (Suvedi et al., 2017).

Sesame is grown mainly for the export market (Geneti et al., 2017). Improper market identification and price information is one of the major challenges, as identified in the case of farmer organizations in India (Deka et al., 2020).

Households with access to market information have greater productivity and food security than those with no access to markets and market information (Ragasa *Etal*, 2016).

Sesame is produced for the market, and its seed is needed for oil production.

The provision of market outlets encourages farmers to increase their marketable surplus and mechanize production (Longley et al., 2001).

Distance to market is a major contributor to the increase in input prices and reduction of product prices, which sometimes discourages farmers (de Janvry & Sadoulet, 2020).

Access to market information helps farmers raise their earnings, alleviate poverty, and improve general welfare (Mulpi et al., 2021).

### Response rate on access to market information on sesame production

In trying to know where Sesame farmers sell their produce, results were 57% for those who sell to processors, 21% to hotels, 14% to schools/research Institutions and 9% to other farmers.

Results revealed that ready markets of processors make it possible for the farmers to sell their products and grow more sesame.

Table 1 Sesame market outlets

Sesame market outlets	Frequency	Percent	SD	Mean
Other farmers	13	9	31	36
Sesame oil processors	82	56		
Schools/ research institutions	20	14		
Hotels	30	21		
Total	145	100		

Questionnaire results were 76% for those who gave no feedback and 24% for those who agreed that farmers face challenges in accessing market information. (Mohamed, 2020).

Table 2 Challenges faced in accessing market information

Experience market information access challenges	Frequency	Percent	SD	Mean
Yes	35	24	53	73
No	110	76		
Total	145	100		

The results were 86% for those who received market information on input and output prices in the last season for sesame production and 14% for those who did not receive.

This shows that due to price changes, the farmers have to rely on local traders to adjust their prices for-profit purposes (Hagmann & Stepputat, 2016).

Table 3 Access to sesame price information

Access to sesame market price information	Frequency	Percent
Yes	124	86
No	21	14
Total	145	100

### Conclusion

Farmers who received market information on input and output prices in the last season (86%) outperformed those who did not receive such information (14%). This indicates the importance of timely market information for farmers to make informed decisions.

### Recommendations

1. Efforts should be made to improve the dissemination of market information on input and output prices to all farmers.
2. Establishing direct relationships with buyers or forming cooperatives to collectively negotiate prices to reduce farmers' reliance on local traders for price adjustments.

# BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FOR TOMATOES IN SOMALIA



## Introduction

Somalia's agricultural sector holds significant potential, with tomatoes emerging as one of the most promising crops.

This article explores the business opportunities associated with tomato farming, processing, and marketing in Somalia, highlighting the potential benefits, challenges, and strategies to succeed in this venture.

## Market Demand

Tomatoes are a staple in Somali cuisine, with a high demand for both fresh tomatoes and processed products such as tomato paste, sauces, and ketchup. The increasing urban population and changing dietary habits further drive the demand for tomatoes.

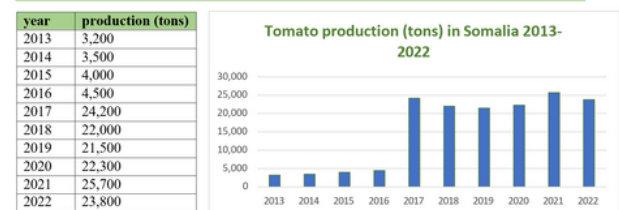
Additionally, there is potential for exporting tomatoes and tomato products to neighboring countries, creating new revenue streams.

## Favorable Climatic Conditions

Somalia's climate is conducive to tomato farming, with regions like the Shabelle and Juba River basins offering fertile soil and ample water resources.

These areas can support year-round tomato cultivation, ensuring a consistent supply to meet market demands.

## Tomato Yield rate of 2013-2022



## Employment and Economic Growth

Investing in tomato agribusiness can create numerous employment opportunities for young people, helping to reduce unemployment and stimulate economic growth.

By engaging in tomato farming and processing, youth can develop new skills in agriculture, business management, and technology, contributing to the overall development of their communities.

## Value Addition through Processing

Establishing tomato processing facilities can add significant value to the raw produce. By producing tomato paste, canned tomatoes, and other processed products, businesses can cater to both domestic and international markets.

This value addition not only increases profitability but also extends the shelf life of tomatoes, reducing post-harvest losses.

Investing in tomato processing machinery in Somalia is a forward-thinking step toward economic growth and self-sufficiency.

With modern tomato processing plants, we can transform our abundant harvests into high-quality products like tomato paste and ketchup, boosting local consumption and paving the way for exports.

This initiative not only enhances efficiency and hygiene in food production but also creates jobs and empowers local communities.

### **Challenges**

#### **1. Access to Resources**

Farmers often face difficulties in accessing quality seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation systems.

Government support, private investment, and partnerships with NGOs can help address these issues.

#### **2. Market Access**

Improving infrastructure and establishing better market linkages can enable farmers to sell their produce more efficiently.

### **Education and Training**

Providing training programs on modern farming techniques, business management, and processing can enhance productivity and profitability.

### **Solutions**

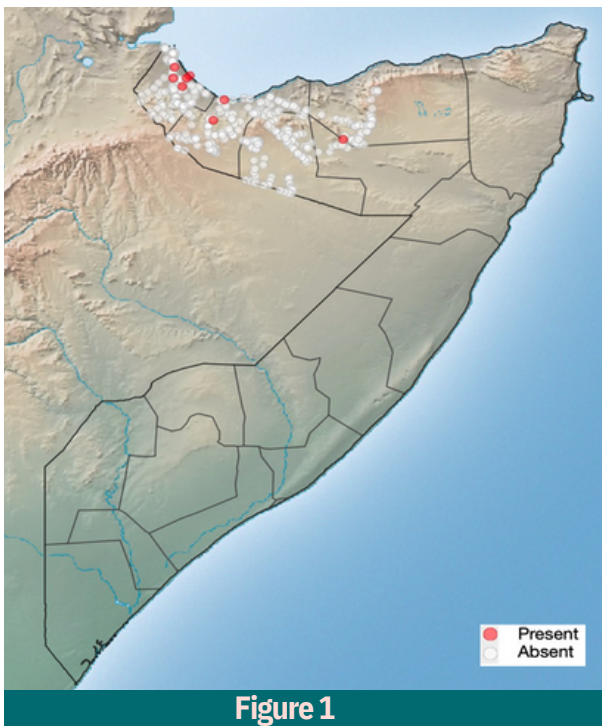
As the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia, we are committed to addressing the challenges faced by our farmers and ensuring their success. Here's our plan to tackle these issues:

- a. We will implement subsidy programs to make quality seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation systems more affordable. By encouraging private sector investment and collaborating with NGOs, we aim to create a robust supply chain for agricultural inputs, ensuring that our farmers have everything they need to thrive.
- b. Investing in rural infrastructure, such as roads and storage facilities, is a top priority to enhance connectivity and reduce post-harvest losses. We will establish market information systems to provide real-time data on prices, demand, and supply trends. Promoting cooperative marketing models will empower our farmers, enabling them to negotiate better prices and reduce transaction costs.
- c. We are dedicated to developing and implementing training programs on modern farming techniques and business management. By partnering with educational institutions, research organizations, and agricultural extension services, we will provide the necessary support to enhance farmers' productivity and profitability.

# DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm during January 2025. Surveys conducted in the coastal, sub-coastal, and inland areas of the locust breeding zones in the northwest regions indicated the presence of solitary adults with scattered behavior.

The light to medium rains that fell in the breeding areas which may create favorable ecological conditions especially during the winter breeding season.

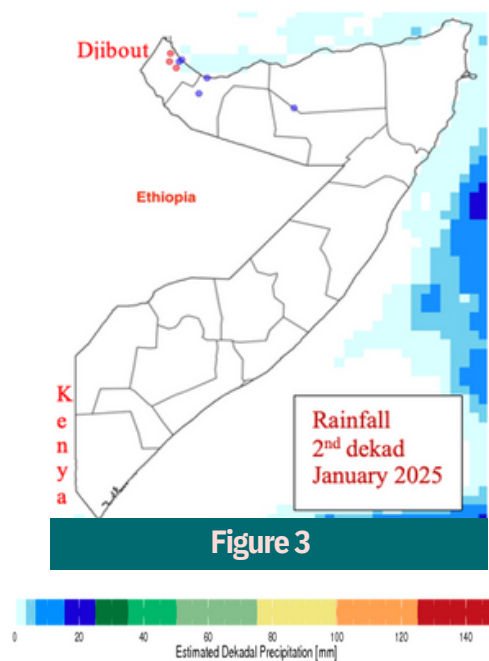
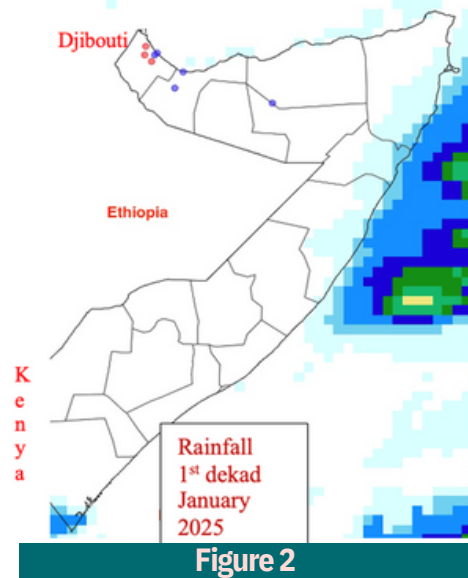


Danger	Threat	Caution	Calm
			✓

### Environmental Conditions

Environmental conditions in northwest and northeast regions continued to improve due to light to moderate rainfall, especially during the first decade of January.

This rainfall led to greening vegetation and increased soil moisture levels.



### Forecasting

Ecological conditions may become favorable for locust breeding, particularly in the northern coastal and sub-coastal areas such as Zaila, Lughaya, and Berbera districts. If abundant rainfall continues, especially in these primary Desert Locust breeding areas.

# IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE IN SOMALIA



The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation recently conducted a comprehensive survey on the impact of climate change on agriculture across 40 districts in Somalia.

The findings, summarized in the attached graphic, highlight the alarming consequences of climate change on farming practices, crop yields, and overall agricultural productivity.

## 1. Observed Changes in Climate Patterns

The survey revealed that 80% of farmers across the 40 districts have observed significant changes in local climate patterns, including increased temperatures and unpredictable rainfall. These changes have disrupted traditional farming calendars and increased vulnerability to crop failures.

Only 20% of farmers reported no noticeable changes in climate, reflecting the widespread nature of these impacts across Somalia's agricultural regions.

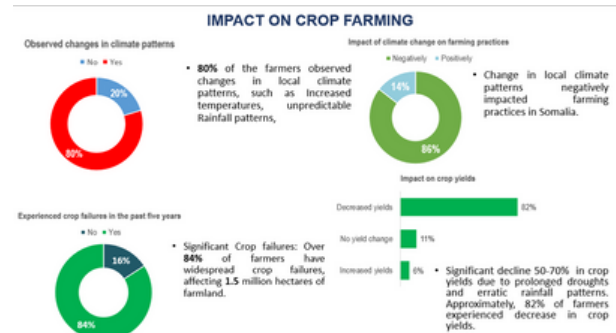
This underscores the critical need for action to adapt farming practices to changing environmental conditions.

## 2. Experienced Crop Failures

The survey found that 84% of farmers reported experiencing significant crop failures in the past five years. These failures have affected approximately 1.5 million hectares of farmland, demonstrating the scale and severity of the crisis.

Factors contributing to these crop failures include prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, and reduced soil fertility.

In contrast, only 16% of farmers have not experienced crop failures during this period, highlighting the vulnerability of Somalia's agricultural sector to climate variability.



## 3. Impact of Climate Change on Farming Practices

The survey results showed that 86% of farmers believe climate change has negatively impacted their farming practices. These impacts include:

- Reduced predictability of planting and harvesting times.
- Increased pest infestations and diseases due to changing temperatures.
- Challenges in managing water resources for irrigation.

However, 14% of farmers reported positive impacts, potentially due to localized adaptations such as access to improved farming techniques or the cultivation of drought-resistant crops.

## 4. Impact on Crop Yields

The data also revealed that 82% of farmers experienced a decline in crop yields, with some reporting yield reductions of 50-70%. This decline is largely attributed to prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and poor soil health exacerbated by climate change. Meanwhile, 11% of farmers reported no significant change in yields, and a small proportion (6%) observed increased yields, possibly due to favorable microclimatic conditions or improved farming inputs.





## RURAL MECHANIZATION IN SOMALIA: CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Somalia's smallholder farmers, like others worldwide, will play a critical role in meeting the growing demand for food production driven by an increasing global population. However, the simultaneous decline in rural populations, due to urban migration, presents challenges that demand immediate solutions. Mechanization – tailored to local conditions, affordable, environmentally friendly, and climate-smart – is the key to ensuring sustainable progress in agricultural production.

### **Mechanization: A cornerstone for agricultural growth**

Mechanization has historically been an overlooked factor in agriculture within developing nations, including Somalia. Enhancing farm power through mechanization allows timely completion of farm tasks, enables larger areas to be cultivated, and significantly increases productivity. Innovations such as no-till farming are particularly relevant for Somali agriculture, given their efficiency in conserving soil resources while reducing energy consumption. The urgency of addressing mechanization gaps is magnified by Somalia's increasing population and rural-to-urban migration trends. As the global population is expected to surpass 9 billion by 2050, Somali smallholders, who already account for most local food production, must improve productivity by adopting modern, resource-efficient farming methods.

### **Natural resources, climate change, and sustainable practices**

Somalia's agricultural potential is heavily reliant on preserving its fragile natural resources while combating the adverse effects of climate change. Adopting conservation agriculture (CA) practices such as reduced tillage, permanent organic soil cover, and crop rotation offers a viable pathway toward sustainable intensification.

Overcoming barriers to mechanization in Somalia

### **Mechanization adoption in Somalia faces unique challenges, including:**

- Limited capital among smallholder farmers.
- Underdeveloped infrastructure for fuel, spare parts, and machinery servicing.
- Limited access to affordable financing for farm equipment.

Promoting mechanization through private sector engagement Building a cadre of skilled, private service providers to deliver mechanization services is a promising solution for Somalia. This approach can be supported through:

1. Training programs in machinery operation, maintenance, and business management.
2. Subsidies or financial incentives to encourage environmentally sustainable practices.
3. Public-private partnerships to foster infrastructure development and market linkages.