MoAI Monthly Report

A Country Report on Agriculture in Somalia

Issue: February- 2025

# REPORT OF JOWHAR

## RICE PROMOTION EVENT

### Background

The Department of Agribusiness Development and Cooperatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Federal Government of Somalia, held a significant meeting on February 1, 2025 to showcase the rice produced in Jowhar.

This dinner event was part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to enhance domestic production. The focus of the meeting was on how to find a market for Jowhar rice and encourage the Somali community to utilize it.

During the event, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, H.E Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, delivered an inspiring speech.

He passionately highlighted the importance of supporting local rice farmers and emphasized the need for collective efforts to achieve food slf-sufficiency.

His speech included a beautiful fundraising appeal, urging attendees to contribute to the development of the rice sector.

He acknowledged the dedication of the farmers and encouraged them to continue their hard

work, assuring them of the Ministry's unwavering support. His words resonated deeply with the audience, instilling a sense of hope and unity in the pursuit of agricultural prosperity.


**Figure 1**

Event Highlights The event was attended by key dignitaries, including the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People, Members of Parliament, Federal and State Ministers, Chairpersons, the Chairman of the Somali Chamber of Commerce, Banking Officials, Military Officers, the Women's Association of Banadir Region, and companies involved in agriculture. Throughout the meeting, the quality of Somali rice, its benefits, and opportunities for increasing its production to reduce dependence on imported rice were highlighted.

## Key Outcomes

1. The officials present at the meeting welcomed the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's efforts to improve domestic production.

They noted that boosting rice production is a crucial step toward achieving food self-sufficiency.

2. A significant outcome of the event was the successful fundraising of $180,000, aimed at supporting the rice farmers and enhancing rice production in Jowhar.

## Budget Proposal

The Minister of Agriculture proposed encouraging the company currently engaged in rice production, Danwadaag, and rice farmers by raised fun of **$180,000.**

This amount is intended for the purchase of rice harvesting and cleaning machinery.
The breakdown of the budget is as follows:


**Figure 2**

**Figure 3**

**Figure 4**

# PRESS RELEASE

## Somalia's Minister of Agriculture Enlists His Nation in the Register of the African Rice Producing Countries, And He Realizes His People to Consume Home-Grown Rice

Mogadishu, Somalia, February 1, 2025. H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) of the Federal Government of Somalia, held a night-dinner ceremony at the MoAI compound to exhibit and promote locally grown rice and support local rice farmers in Jowhar, Middle Shabele region.

This dinner ceremony was attended by the Deputy Speaker of the Somalia People's Assembly, Ministers of Environment and Climate Change, Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing, Defense and Justice, and FMS Ministers of Agriculture, Members of Parliament, Head of the Chamber of Commerce, Heads of Banks and Investors, Armed Forces Officers, Women's Unions of Banadir Region, private companies, cooperatives, farmers, and countless distinguished guests, enjoying the delicacy and flavour of the Somali rice as in this high-level dinner in Mogadishu.

H. E. Minister Maareeye presented the progress that was made and impediments that hindered smallholder rice farmers in Jowhar, highlighting:

''Tonight is to confirm that the Government of Somalia, spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, enlisted our nation into the register of the African rice-producing countries where we enabled our people to buy and consume this local rice.

Our rice growers have been suffering from a lack of machines, and I hereby urge all the distinguished guests in the event to raise funds for the procurement of the advanced machines urgently needed by the Jowhar rice farmers.'

During the event, the quality of the country's rice, its benefits, and opportunities to increase its production to reduce dependence on imported rice were presented.

The participants greatly appreciated the tireless efforts and remarkable achievements of the Minister, and so, they dedicatedly accepted his proposition of fundraising for the Jowhar rice farmers.

H. E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Dahabshil Group of Companies as they paid 91 K USD on the spot, 50% out of the whole sum collected during the event, he also expressed his deep appreciation to all other contributors.

Finally, 180 K USD were raised during the event, and mammoth individuals and entities committed that they would donate more resources soon.

# PRELIMINARY REPORT:

## CONSTRAINTS IN RICE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

**Study Period:**

January - April 2025 – Jowhar district

### Background

Rice is a significant crop in Somalia and plays a crucial role in the country's main food imports.

local rice farmers have been intensifying their efforts in rice production.

However, compared to imports, local rice production remains quite very low. Over the past 3 to 6 years, private companies like Danwadag Company have made significant strides in boosting the country's rice production through the introduction of new varieties and improved rice farming practices.

Despite these efforts, rice-growing farmers face various challenges, including production and marketing constraints.

Understanding these constraints is crucial for developing appropriate interventions to enhance the productivity and profitability of rice farming in Somalia.

The Department of Research and Extension at MoAI is conducting a study to examine the challenges facing rice growers in the Jowhar district, with the aim of improving local rice production and providing decision-making data for rice stakeholders.

In collaboration with Danwadag Company, which recently mapped rice growers in the Jowhar district, the study targets 2000 rice-growing farmers in the same district.

The study employs a cross-sectional design with clearly outlined response rate criteria.

### 2.Objective

- To identify the major constraints in rice production faced by farmers.
- To analyze the marketing challenges encountered by rice producers.
- To propose actionable recommendations for overcoming these constraints.
- To make data available for rice stakeholders for intervention and decision making.

### 3. Methodology

- **Targets:** The study focuses on a population of 2,000 rice- growing farmers, whose details were obtained from Danwadag Company.
- **Design:** The study employs a cross-sectional design with clearly outlined response rate criteria.

**Table 1. Response rating Criteria**

| Number | Percentage | Rate |
|---|---|---|
| 1601 - 2000 | >80% | Excellent |
| 1301 - 1600 | 65% - 80% | Good |
| 1001 - 1300 | 50% - 65% | Fair |
| 601 - 1000 | 30% - 50% | Poor |
| 0 - 600 | ≤30% | Very Poor |

- **Data Collection:** Data is being collected using a structured questionnaire built in Kobo Toolbox.
- **Timeframe:** The data collection period spans from January 2025 to April 2025.

- **Progress:** As of now, 61 farmers have been reached and their responses recorded. The data collection process is ongoing, and efforts are being made to reach the remaining target population within the stipulated timeframe

## 4. Preliminary Findings

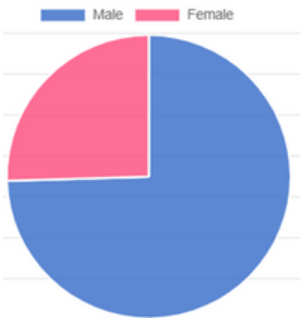
The below data analysis shows so far what the study has got in terms of rice farmers responses.

**Table 2. Consent of respondents**

| Value | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Yes, I Confirm to participate in this Survey | 55 | 90.16 |
| No, I will not participate in this Survey | 6 | 9.84 |

So far, the survey reveals that out of the respondents, 55 individuals (90.16%) confirmed their participation, whereas 6 individuals (9.84%) declined.

**Pie 1. Sex of Respondents**




Across the 55 respondents who accepted participation in the study, 41 were male (67.21%) and 14 were female (22.95%).

### Age of Respondents

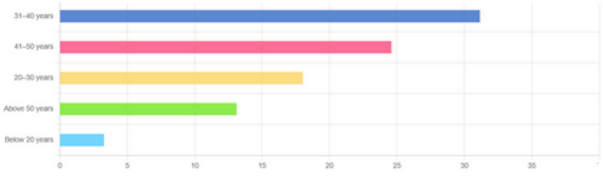
Among the 55 respondents who accepted participation in the study, 19 individuals (31.15%) were aged 31–40 years, 15 individuals (24.59%) were aged 41–50 years, 11 individuals (18.03%) were aged 20–30 years, 8 individuals (13.11%) were above 50 years, and 2 individuals (3.28%) were below 20 years.

**Age of Respondents**

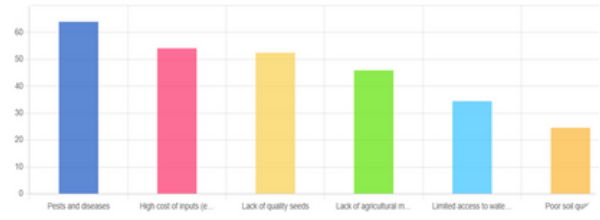
Among the 55 respondents who accepted participation in the study, 19 individuals (31.15%) were aged 31–40 years, 15 individuals (24.59%) were aged 41–50 years, 11 individuals (18.03%) were aged 20–30 years, 8 individuals (13.11%) were above 50 years, and 2 individuals (3.28%) were below 20 years.

**Pie 2. Years involved in rice production and marketing**


When farmers were asked about their years of involvement in rice production and markets, 37.7% reported having 2-5 years of experience, 34.43% had 6-10 years, 11.48% had more than 10 years, and 6.56% had less than 2 years of experience.

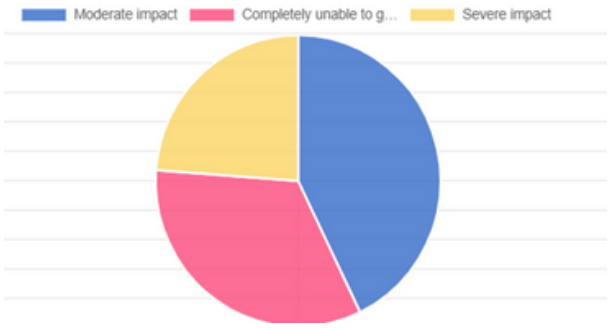



**Challenges facing rice farmers during production.**



When farmers were asked about the main challenges they face during rice production, 63.93% cited pests and diseases, 54.1% mentioned the high cost of inputs (e.g., fertilizers, pesticides), 52.46% reported a lack of quality seeds, 45.9% pointed to a lack of agricultural machinery, 34.43% noted limited access to water/irrigation, and 24.59% indicated poor soil quality.

**Pie 3. Water shortage affects rice production.**




Regarding the effects of water shortage on rice production, 14.75% of respondents reported a moderate impact, 11.48% were completely unable to grow rice, and 8.2% experienced a severe impact.

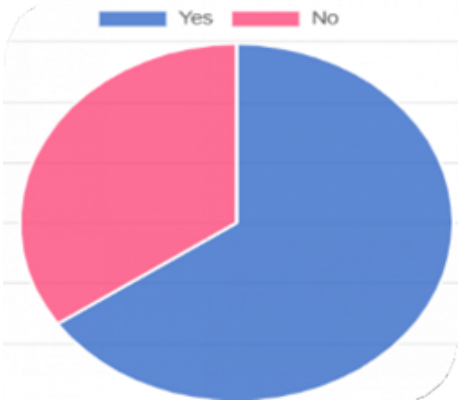
**Table 3. How pests and diseases affect rice production.**

| Value | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Moderate impact | 23 | 37.7 |
| Severe impact | 13 | 21.31 |
| Completely unable to grow rice | 3 | 4.92 |

Pests and diseases significantly impact rice production, with 37.7% of farmers experiencing moderate effects and 21.31% facing severe effects, while 4.92% are completely unable to grow rice due to these issues.

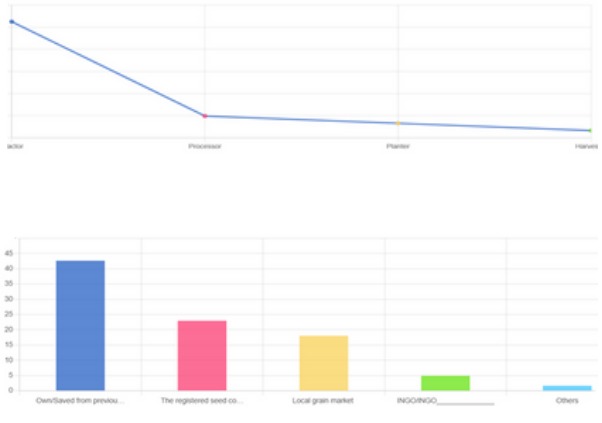
**Pie 4. Access to farm machinery.**

The data indicates that 59.02% have access to farm machinery, while 31.15% do not, highlighting a significant portion of farmers who may face challenges in efficient farm operations and productivity.




The data shows that 52.46% of farmers have access to tractors, while fewer have access to other machinery like processors (9.84%), planters (6.56%), and harvesters (3.28%).

**Line 1. Type of machinery access to.**



The data indicates that 42.62% of farmers use seeds saved from the previous year, while 22.95% obtain seeds from registered seed companies, and 18.03% source seeds from local grain markets

**Table 4. Average yield of rice produces per Hectare in kg.**

| Mean | Median | Mode | Standard deviation |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2951.04** | 3250.00 | 3500.00 | 1214.18 |

The mean rice yield per hectare is 2951.04 kg, indicating the average yield among farmers. The median yield is 3250.00 kg, showing that half of the yields are above this value, while the mode of 3500.00 kg is the most common yield reported.

The standard deviation of 1214.18 kg suggests considerable variability in rice yields among farmers

**Table 5. Challenges facing in post-harvesting handling.**

| Value | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Lack of effective Market | 40 | 65.57 |
| Poor road infrastructure | 32 | 52.46 |
| Illegal taxation | 32 | 52.46 |
| Lack of processing machines ( eg, threshing , milling etc) | 30 | 49.18 |
| Lack of proper storage | 25 | 40.98 |
| Pest infestation | 14 | 22.95 |
| Others infestation | 1 | 1.64 |

**Table 6. Primary use of rice produces (last season)**

| Value | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Both | 27 | 44.26 |
| Sell as a source of income | 17 | 27.87 |
| For HH consumption | 11 | 18.03 |

**Table 7. Challenges face in Rice Marketing**

| Value | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Low market prices | 48 | 78.69 |
| High transportation costs | 36 | 59.02 |
| Roadblock and checkpoints | 27 | 44.26 |
| Lack of buyers | 21 | 34.43 |
| Poor storage facilities | 19 | 31.15 |
| Unfair practices by middlemen | 14 | 22.95 |
| Other ( Please specify) _____ | 1 | 1.64 |

**Table 8. Improvements may help in rice marketing.**

| Value | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Better transportation Infrastructure | 49 | 80.33 |
| Improved storage facilities | 32 | 52.46 |
| Government support – low/Zero tax on local production | 31 | 50.82 |
| Limited Rice import – increase Taxation | 27 | 44.26 |
| Open and competitive Market | 19 | 31.15 |
| Formation of cooperatives | 19 | 31.15 |
| Others | 2 | 3.28 |

# DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm during January 2025. No surveys or data were collected in February due to the eLocust3mPRO app not working since February 6th.

This issue arose after Plant Village stopped receiving funding from USAID following the U.S. government's decision to put all USAID projects on hold. FAO leadership is currently in discussions with Plant Village. As an alternative, we have been working on developing a solution based on KoboToolBox


**Desert Locust situation during February 2025**

| Danger | Threat | Caution | Calm |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | √ |

# EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

The Early warning systems of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somalia are important in reducing the impact of climate risks and disasters.

While increasing vulnerability to climate shocks by providing reliable information about agrometeorology against droughts and floods, strengthening these systems is important to improve disaster preparedness, save lives, and ensure agricultural production

However, overcoming obstacles such as infrastructure, and limited capacity will be necessary to build a resilient system that can better respond to the needs of vulnerable Somalia farmers however Here is the weekly rain forecast showing how much rainfall is expected this coming week.

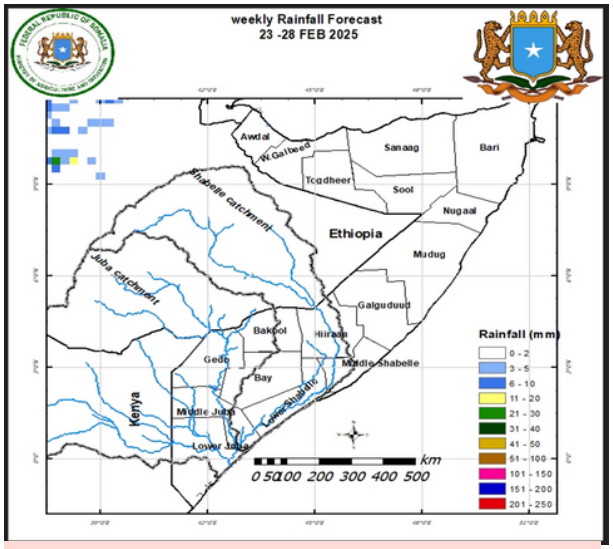



**Figure 1 weekly Rainfall Forecast 23-25 Feb 2025**

Our forecast is presented on how the rainfall will be in our country so that We have different color each color indicates the area and the amount of rain it will receive.

Therefore, the white color is the absence of rain, so it is still clear that there is no rainfall in the country.

| River | Station | Date | Observed River Level (m) | Moderate Risk Levels (m) | High Risk Levels (m) | Bankfull (m) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jubba River | Dollow | 22-02-2025 | 1.96 | 4.50 | 5.00 | 6.00 |
| Jubba River | Luuq | 21-02-2025 | 1.98 | 5.50 | 6.00 | 7.00 |
| Jubba River | Bardheere | 22-02-2025 | --- | 7.40 | 8.20 | 10.40 |
| Jubba River | Bualle | 22-02-2025 | --- | 9.00 | 10.00 | 12.00 |
| Shabelle River | Belet Weyne | 23-02-2025 | 1.70 | 6.50 | 7.30 | 8.30 |
| Shabelle River | Bulo Burti | 23-02-2025 | 1.90 | 6.50 | 7.20 | 8.00 |
| Shabelle River | Jowhar | 22-02-2025 | 2.50 | 5.00 | 5.25 | 5.50 |

As of February 23, 2025, river levels in Somalia are influenced by seasonal rainfall patterns, particularly the Gu rains, which typically commence in late March or early April.

Historically, the Shabelle River has experienced periods of low water levels, with sections of the river drying up during consecutive failed rainy seasons.

These rains are expected to cause a rise in river levels, especially in the Shabelle and Juba rivers.

Given the seasonal nature of river levels in Somalia, it's advisable to consult the latest reports from the department of Irrigation and Early warning of ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of federal government of Somalia.

At the moment there is no change in the river, but there is a change in the water appearance especially the color has changed, which means the expected water is coming.


FEBRUARY 10, 2025

## Background

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) of the Federal Republic of Somalia successfully hosted the World Pulses Day 2025 event on February 10, bringing together over 80 participants from various sectors, including government representatives, private sector stakeholders, farmers and cooperatives, development partners, NGOs, and academic and research institutions.

The event aimed to promote sustainable pulse production through improved agricultural practices and technologies, strengthen collaboration between the government, private sector, farmers, and development partners to enhance agricultural resilience and encourage investment in the pulse value chain, including processing, market linkages, and export opportunities.

Pulses have long been an integral part of Somalia's food system, serving as a nutrient-rich protein source, supporting rural livelihoods, and improving soil health through nitrogen fixation.

However, the sector faces significant challenges, including low productivity, limited market access, and climate change impacts, which have constrained its full potential.

To highlight the importance of pulses in enhancing crop diversity and promoting healthy diets, the theme for World Pulses Day 2025 was: "Pulses: Bringing Diversity to Agrifood Systems.

" As part of its national agricultural development strategy, the MoAI has prioritized pulses as one of Somalia's seven key strategic crops.

This year's World Pulses Day served as a platform to advocate for increased pulse production, stronger market connections, and enhanced investment opportunities within the sector, reinforcing the Ministry's commitment to a sustainable and food-secure Somalia.

## WELCOMING REMARKS

The Acting Director General and Director Department of Food Security at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mr. Mahmoud Yassin Artan, extended a warm welcome to all distinguished guests attending the World Pulses Day 2025 dinner event.


**Figure 1. Director Department of Food Security at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somalia.**

In his remarks, Director Artan highlighted the global significance of World Pulses Day, celebrated annually on February 10, emphasizing its role in raising awareness about the nutritional, economic, and environmental benefits of pulses.

He acknowledged that pulses are among the most important crops cultivated in Somalia, serving as a key component of food security due to their high protein, vitamin, and mineral content.

Additionally, he noted their vital contribution to improving soil fertility and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Director Artan concluded by expressing appreciation to all stakeholders, including government representatives, farmers, private sector actors, development partners, and researchers, for their participation.

He then officially welcomed the State Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, inviting him to formally inaugurate the event.


**Figure 2. State minister of agriculture and irrigation federal republic of Somalia H.E Asad Abdirasak**

The State Minister and Acting Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Hon. Asad Abdirasak, officially inaugurated the World Pulses Day 2025 celebration dinner.

During his opening address, Minister Asad delivered a comprehensive speech emphasizing the importance of pulses in ensuring food security, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

He underscored the crucial role pulses play in enhancing soil fertility, improving human nutrition, and strengthening rural livelihoods.

The Minister further outlined key priorities to advance the pulse sector in Somalia, including:

- Expanding pulse production to boost domestic supply and ensure sufficient nutrition and agricultural productivity.

- Enhancing farmer awareness by providing access to development opportunities and promoting the use of modern farming techniques to improve yields.
- Strengthening market access by improving domestic and international trade, facilitating Somali pulses' entry into global markets, and contributing to economic growth.
- Promoting environmental sustainability by recognizing the role of pulses in soil regeneration, natural fertilization, and reducing environmental pollution.

Minister Asad reaffirmed the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's commitment to prioritizing pulses as one of Somalia's key strategic crops and ensuring their long-term sustainability and contribution to national food systems.

## Overview Of Pulses Production & Market Potential In Somalia

Mr. Mohamed Muse Adan, Director Department of Crop Production and Resilience, Federal Republic of Somalia, delivered a keynote speech providing an overview of pulses production and market potential in Somalia.

In his address, Mr. Adan emphasized the significant role of pulses in enhancing food security, improving soil fertility, and increasing farmer resilience to climate change.

He outlined the current status of pulse production in Somalia, noting the expansion of cultivation areas and the growing interest in pulses as key component of sustainable agriculture.


**Figure 3. Director Department of Crop Production and Resilience at the MoAI of the Federal Government of Somalia, Mr. Mohamed Muse Adan**

Furthermore, he discussed market opportunities for Somali pulses, highlighting domestic demand, regional trade prospects, and potential for international exports.

He stressed the importance of enhancing value chains, strengthening market linkages, and improving processing and storage facilities to maximize profitability for farmers.

Director Mohamed Muse also reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to boosting agricultural productivity by integrating modern technology, promoting awareness programs, and implementing supportive policies aimed at transforming the sector.

In conclusion, he called for greater collaboration among government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and development partners to unlock the full potential of the pulse industry and ensure a more resilient and prosperous agricultural future for Somalia.

## 1. TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT)

### ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP) IN BAIDOA DISTRICT, SOUTHWEST STATE

From February 16th to 20th, 2025, the Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI), in collaboration with SomRep, conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in Baidoa District, Southwest State.

**Figure 1: Facilitators Explaining Key Concepts on GAP**

The training program was designed to enhance the agricultural expertise of participants from various organizations, such as ACF, CARE, COOPI, DRC, World Vision, and staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation from different Federal Member States, including Hirshabelle, Jubaland, and Southwest State.

The program was structured to cover fundamental topics relevant to sustainable farming practices, including Integrated Pest Management and Climate-Smart Agriculture.

**Figure 2 : Farm visit Learning the Key Pests and Disease in Baidoa District**

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## 2. TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT)

### ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT IN JOWHAR DISTRICT, HIRSHABELLE STATE.

In February 2025, the Plant Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Pesticide Management in Jowhar District, Hirshabelle State.

The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of seven staff members from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Hishabeele State in pesticide handling, safety, and best practices.

**Figure 1 Group photo of the Training**

**Figure 2 Facilitators Explaining Key Concepts in Pesticide Management**