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**PRESS RELEASE**

**The National Agri-Food Investment Summit (NAFIS 2025) Unlocks Investment Opportunities and Paves the Way for Sustainable and Resilient Agri-Food Systems in Somalia**

**Mogadishu, Somalia – May 6, 2025**: The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, led by H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), concluded the two-day National Agri-Food Investment Summit (NAFIS) held at Jazeera Hotel, Mogadishu, Somalia, from May 5-6, 2025.

The summit culminated in concrete actions to unlock investment opportunities aimed at empowering and transforming Somalia’s agri-food sector for a sustainable and resilient future. The conference inspired Somali entrepreneurs, business communities, and banks to invest in agriculture and food production in Somalia.

H.E. Hamse Abdi Barre, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, officially inaugurated the summit. He expressed his gratitude for holding this crucial summit, emphasising the global focus on building agri-food systems post the Ukrainian war, he stated, "*Somalia should take revolutionary actions to improve our food security, and this conference provides solutions to the long-standing problems in agriculture to unlock our potential for attaining food sovereignty’’*

H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, alongside his colleagues from the Ministries of Livestock and Fisheries at the FGS, and FMS Agriculture Ministers, provided the opening and closing remarks. He emphasized, *"This National Agri-Food Investment Summit (NAFIS) is a yearly transformative platform initiated by the MoAI to mobilize Somali businesspeople and local banks to invest and transform our agri-food systems. The goal is to shift from subsistence and traditional farming, driven by low-income rural households, to modern and sustainable farming practices with efficient food production companies."*

The summit brought together 300 participants from the Federal Government of Somalia, local investors, banks, researchers, universities, academic institutions, development partners, and farmers. The participants collectively committed to investing in Somalia's agricultural and food systems by utilizing local resources and fulfilling their respective roles. Local banks, micro-finance institutions (MFIs), and investors agreed to ease access to finance, while the government committed to ensuring access to facilities, conducive regulations, international markets, and full support for Somali farmers. NAFIS 2025 aimed to implement agri-food priorities such as irrigation and infrastructure development, enhancing agri-value chains, innovation, policy, and structural reforms to unlock the sector’s full potential.

The NAFIS 2025 participants expressed their gratitude towards H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, MoAI staff, and the World Bank-funded FSRP Programme team for organizing this crucial summit. They unanimously confirmed their commitment to implementing all outcomes from the summit.

For more inquiries, please contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.