

# BEERO OO BARWAAQEE SOOMAALIYA (BBS)

Transforming Lives and Livelihoods for Farmers, Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Communities

## FARMING FOR PROSPERITY IN SOMALIA

A FLAGSHIP AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE BY THE MINISTER  
FOR AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA



**Ministry of  
Agriculture and  
Irrigation**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1991, the rural population in Somalia has declined from 70% to 53% by 2020. [1] Many former rural residents now live in IDP camps, facing limited prospects of integration or return due to the absence of large-scale resettlement programs and ongoing climate challenges. As a result, these displaced individuals rely on international humanitarian aid, with 3.9 million people—24% of the population—living in camps by 2022. [2] Rapid urbanization has also increased food demand, while declining domestic agricultural productivity has led to a heavy dependence on food imports, reaching \$1.19 billion in 2021. [3]

The Somali economy is based on traditional, primary productive sectors. Livestock and agriculture account for 60% of the country's Gross Domestic Product, 80% of employment, and 90% of exports [1]. The agriculture sector has great potential to provide food security, create employment, generate income, increase exports, and contribute to economic prosperity for the country. However, this potential is hampered by low levels of productivity. Key factors inhibiting the productivity of the sector include high vulnerability to climate change, insecurity, flooding, drought, poor product quality, inadequate skills and capacity of producers, the private sector actors, and the limited government efforts to produce, participate in, and strengthen the trade and production environments [2]. Labor force participation rates are exceptionally low, with significant gender gaps. Only one-third of men and 12% of women participate in the labor market. Almost half of those employed are living below the poverty line, indicating that jobs are of low productivity. [3]

Women are actively engaged in agricultural activities, comprising 50% of the agricultural labor force, they continue to be marginalized in access to agricultural extension services, knowledge, resources, and capital. [4] The lack of women's ownership of productive resources, coupled with their lack of decision-making power, results in reduced income for households and less food production and contributes to heightened food insecurity as well as increased gender disparity.



Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), launched the "Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya" (BBS) initiative, meaning "Farming for Prosperity in Somalia," to promote a shift towards centralized livestock raising and sustainable farming practices resilient to climate change. This initiative aims to transform traditional subsistence farming into sustainable, modern agricultural systems through climate-smart and innovative agribusiness practices.

The Federal Member States actively supported the initiative. The Ministry plans to advance the BBS initiative, targeting small-scale farming in rural and pastoral communities to strengthen local agriculture and animal feeding operations. The BBS initiative is designed to enhance stability, reduce poverty, and build resilience in rural communities by empowering youth, women, and vulnerable groups through sustainable agriculture.

## 2. VISION

BBS's Vision is to transform the lives and livelihoods by shifting from a nomadic lifestyle to a more sedentary mixed farming on with technology in put intensifying production.



## 3. OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives include:

- To promote integrated farming in pre-urban and rural households.
- To enhance food production and climate resilience while also empowering women and youth in agriculture to tackle food insecurity.
- To boost economic growth through modern agricultural practices and improve the knowledge and skills of Somali farmers on climate-smart agriculture.
- To alleviate poverty by providing resources to small-scale farmers, promoting inclusive growth and sustainable agricultural development, fostering regional collaboration, and empowering farmers to shape their development trajectories.
- To promote the use of advanced technology, mechanization, water resource utilization, and renewable energy.

## 4. RATIONALE

Thirty years of insecurity, climate change, and environmental challenges have severely impacted Somalia's agricultural sector, affecting both farmers and pastoralists. While international assistance is crucial during crises, poorly timed and designed aid often distorts markets and discourages the rural workforce from returning to productive activities while encouraging dependency. To break this cycle of poverty and vulnerability, a transformative agricultural development agenda is badly needed. Despite improving security, the rural economy remains fragile due to the increasing threat of climate change, with unpredictable weather patterns and recurrent droughts and floods undermining recovery efforts. This ongoing crisis exacerbates poverty and weakens resilience among rural households.

However, Somalia's improving security, abundant arable land, livestock assets, skilled labor and entrepreneurship spirit warrant opportunities for a new approach. By focusing on climate adaptation and better planning of humanitarian and development assistance, the government can promote agriculture-led growth and improve living standards. Key to this strategy is a shift from the traditional mode of production to intensive farming to prevent rural depopulation and build resilience.

Thus, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) has launched an ambitious reform agenda under the banner of the “Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya” (BBS) initiative. BBS is closely aligned with a new comprehensive Agricultural Development Strategy and the National Transformation Plan. BBS aims to transition from short-term humanitarian spending to long-term agricultural investments, creating sustainable and inclusive food systems that end extreme poverty, enhance food security, and foster shared prosperity.



## 5. TARGET AREA OF INTERVENTION AND APPROACHES

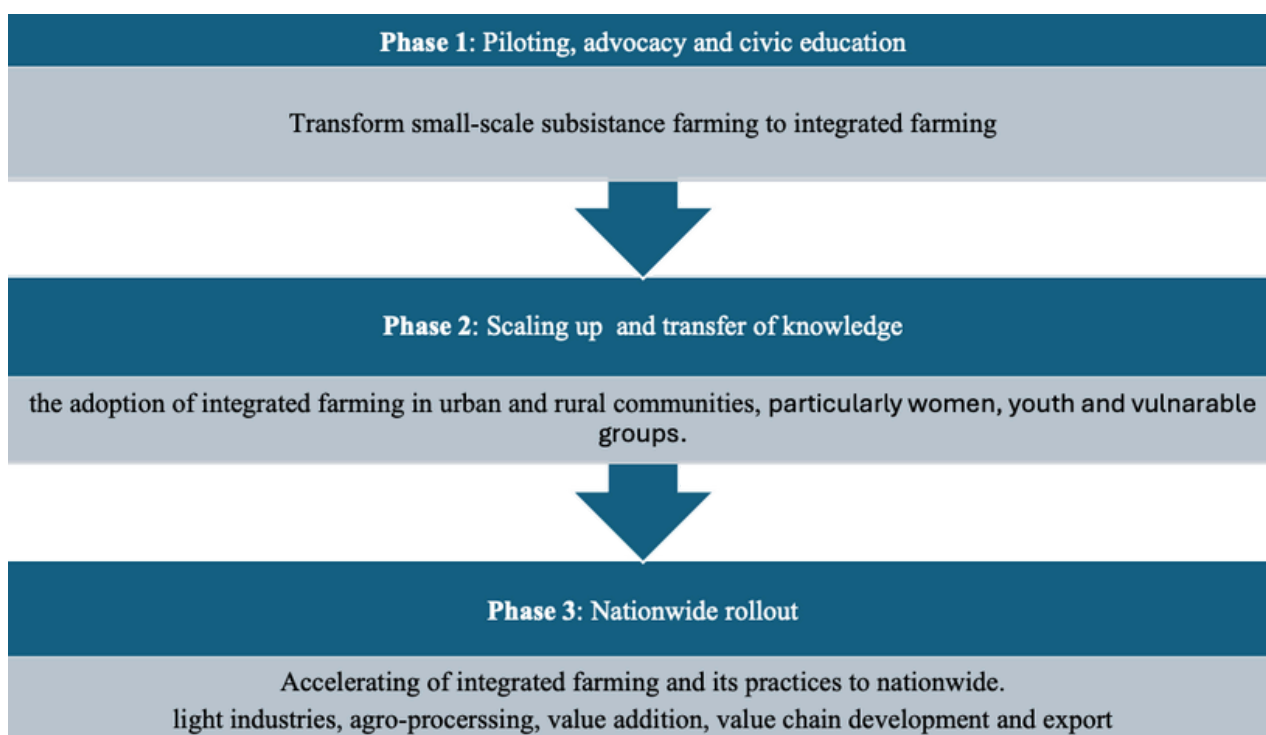
BBS initiative brings together the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, local farmer organizations, FMS agriculture ministries, and development partners to empower small-scale farmers to transition into integrated farming, strengthening their resilience and fostering sustainable economic growth. The initiative focuses on capacity building, equipping farmers with practical skills, and promoting collaboration among local stakeholders.

This initiative will remain a multifaceted approach aimed not only at eradicating hunger and food insecurity but also at instilling a comprehensive understanding of integrated farming methods that harmonize agricultural production at the household, community, and district levels.



BBS initially targets selected districts in Southwest, Hirshabelle, Jubbaland, Galmudug, Puntland, and Somaliland, representing a significant step toward transformative change. With initial farmers ready to lead the way, the Ministry remains committed to mobilizing resources and realizing the vision of transforming small-scale farmers into sustainable, integrated farmers.

### The initiative will work in three phases:



### Phase 1: Piloting, Advocacy and Civic Education

The Ministry will initiate a pilot phase focusing on behavioral change and transforming small-scale subsistence farming into integrated farming, adapting climate-smart agriculture and modern practices. The goal is to transition Somali farmers and communities to more sustainable farming methods.



The pilot phase aims to establish and support 50 demonstration farms owned by women, youth, and vulnerable groups in selected districts. Each demonstration farm will train and mentor another 50, totaling 2,500 smallholder farmers. The Ministry will work with development partners, financial institutions, and other relevant government agencies to mobilize resources for greenhouses, fencing, seeds, renewable energy, farming tools, water management interventions, and agrochemicals through microfinance, soft loans, and other forms of credit schemes like Gargaara.

### Phase 2: Scaling up and Transfer of Knowledge

The success of Phase 1 will lead to Phase 2, targeting an additional 5,000 households in urban and rural communities, focusing on women, youth, and vulnerable groups through climate-smart agriculture and integrated farming. Drawing on lessons from Phase 1, Phase 2 will promote integrated farming, with the initial 2,500 farmers training and mentoring the new participants in modern practices and building similar interventions as Phase 1. The MoAI will continue to advocate for and mobilize resources to realize this phase.

### Phase 3: Nationwide Rollout

Phase 3 aims to roll out BBS initiative nationwide. In addition, BBS will promote the establishment of light industries, agro-processing, value addition, value chain development, and exporting surplus commodities. In addition to the 7,500 beneficiaries from Phases 1 and 2, an extra 92,500 smallholders will directly benefit from Phase 3.

At this stage, we expect the initiative to expand nationwide, encouraging every household, regardless of location, to adopt a forward-thinking approach to farming.



## 6. DESCRIPTION

### 6.1 COMPONENTS

BBS initiative possesses four key components, each serving as a critical instrument to realize agricultural and socio-economic transformation.

Component	Description
<b>Component One:</b> Empowering small-scale subsistence farmers to transform into integrated farmers	This component will focus on enhancing small-scale farmers' capacities through a groundbreaking greenhouse pilot project to promote integrated farming. The component will target women-led households, young graduates, and vulnerable groups with the provision of greenhouses, fencing, renewable energy, farming tools, pesticides, seeds, fertilizers, water resources, and training.
<b>Component Two:</b> Scaling Up Input Access	<p>This component will promote knowledge transfer and investment through existing credit schemes and financing facilities. This component provides mentoring and financial aid to small-scale farmers, enhancing productivity, addressing resource limitations, and promoting sustainable practices.</p> <p>This component focuses on capacity-building for farmers, enhancing their skills through partnerships with private-sector agro-dealers, thereby strengthening the agricultural sector and promoting growth, innovation and market linkage.</p>
<b>Component Three:</b> Cultivating Agricultural Resilience through scaled-up	Component Three is a comprehensive strategy aimed at enhancing agricultural resilience, focusing on the anticipated output of small-scale farmers. This component aims to enhance resource efficiency, crop productivity, and resilience of small-scale farmers by implementing a customized drip irrigation system and climate smart agriculture.
<b>Component Four:</b> Ensuring Operational Excellence	<p>The component involves a comprehensive approach that includes governmental operational expenses, M&amp;E frameworks, and robust communication strategies.</p> <p>Transparency, accountability, and information exchange are key to enhancing organizational effectiveness, fostering stakeholder engagement, and promoting best practices in the agricultural sector.</p>

*Table 1: Initiative Components*

These four components synergize to propel the “Beero oo Barwaaqee Somalia” initiative towards its lofty objectives of agricultural revitalization, socio-economic empowerment, and sustainable development. Through a judicious blend of innovation, collaboration, and strategic foresight, this initiative stands poised to usher in a new era of prosperity, resilience, and inclusive growth across the landscapes of urban and rural Somalia.

## 6.2 ACTIVITIES, OUTPUTS, OUTCOME AND IMPACT

The initiative will tackle key obstacles to agricultural development, such as deteriorated water infrastructure, environmental degradation, climate change, and a weak business environment, all of which have led to declining productivity and rural depopulation. A transformative agenda will be implemented to address these structural and institutional weaknesses at both regional and national levels.

We anticipate that the initiative will significantly improve the livelihoods of Somali farmers and agropastoral communities by enhancing resilience in crop and livestock production systems. Additionally, developing agricultural value chains will stimulate growth, provide sustainable employment opportunities, reduce poverty, improve food security, and foster shared prosperity. It is crucial that all ongoing and future international interventions supporting Somali agriculture and agropastoral communities align with this new government vision.

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	IMPACT
<b>Capacity Building:</b> Training workshops on sustainable farming techniques, soil conservation, and water management for small-scale farmers.	<b>Improved Agricultural Practices:</b> Adoption of sustainable farming methods, crop diversification, and integrated pest management among small-scale farmers.	<b>Poverty Alleviation:</b> Economic empowerment of small-scale farmers, poverty reduction, and improved living standards in rural areas.	<b>Rural Development:</b> Thriving rural economies, increased agricultural productivity, and vibrant smallholder farming communities.
<b>Input Provision:</b> Distribution of seeds, fertilizers, and tools at subsidized rates or through input voucher schemes.	<b>Increased Productivity:</b> Higher crop yields, improved livestock management practices, and optimized resource use on smallholder farms.	<b>Food Security:</b> Enhanced access to nutritious food, reduced dependency on external food aid, and improved dietary diversity.	<b>Resilient Food Systems:</b> Robust local food systems reduced post-harvest losses, and enhanced food sovereignty.
<b>Market Access:</b> Establishment of farmer cooperatives, market linkages, and value-added processing facilities to enhance farmers' bargaining power and access to markets.	<b>Enhanced Livelihoods:</b> Income diversification, increased household income from farming activities, and reduced vulnerability to food insecurity.	<b>Environmental Sustainability:</b> Sustainable land management practices, conservation of biodiversity, and resilience to climate change impacts.	<b>Ecosystem Health:</b> Regenerated landscapes, restored soil fertility, and preserved natural resources for future generations.
<b>Policy Advocacy:</b> Lobbying for policies that prioritize small-scale agriculture, land tenure security, and access to rural infrastructure and services.	<b>Strengthened Community Resilience:</b> Collective action, social cohesion, and mutual support networks among small-scale farming communities.	<b>Social Inclusion:</b> Empowerment of marginalized groups, gender equity in agricultural decision-making, and inclusive development processes.	<b>Empowered Communities:</b> Strengthened social capital, empowered farmers' organizations, and participatory governance structures.

Table 2: Activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact

## 7. THEORY OF CHANGE

By empowering small-scale subsistence into an integrated farmer, this theory of change aims to catalyze a sustainable rural transformation characterized by inclusive growth, food sovereignty, and environmental stewardship. Through targeted interventions and collaborative efforts, it seeks to build resilience, alleviate poverty, and create vibrant farming communities capable of thriving amidst global challenges.

## 8. INPUTS

- **Financial Resources:** Investment in agricultural infrastructure, access to credit, and subsidies for inputs.
- **Technical Support:** Training programs, extension services, and agronomic advice tailored to small-scale farming.
- **Community Participation:** Active involvement of small-scale farmers in decision-making processes and collective action.
- **Setting Enabling Environment:** Supportive policies, regulations, and incentives to promote small scale farming and protect farmers' rights





## Beeroo oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS) initiative

*Transforming Lives and Livelihoods for Farmers, Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Communities*

### SECTOR

**Agriculture, Rural Development, Climate Resilience, Food Security**

### SUMMARY

The Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS) initiative is a flagship agricultural development programme launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) of the Federal Government of Somalia to modernize traditional farming, increase agricultural productivity, enhance food security, and strengthen institutional capacity for effective governance. The initiative promotes climate-smart agriculture, integrated farming, mechanization, and value chain development to build resilience against climate and environmental shocks while creating employment opportunities and boosting incomes. The initiative aims to increase crop production by 30%, reduce post-harvest losses by 20%, create over 50,000 jobs, and expand agricultural exports by 15-20%. A key focus is on gender and youth inclusion, ensuring equitable participation in agricultural activities.

BBS aligns with Somalia's National Transformation Plan (NTP) 2025-2029, UN SDG 2030 and AU Agenda2063, shifting from short-term humanitarian aid to long-term agricultural investment and fostering sustainable food systems. The **Rural Livelihoods Resilience Programme (RLRP)** and **Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2R2)** financed by **IFAD**, Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) financed by World Bank and Climate Resilient for Agriculture Productivity (**UGBAAD**) financed by Global Climate Finance contributes to BBS by expanding climate-resilient rural livelihoods, improving smallholder productivity, and supporting value chain integration. Similarly, the focuses on sustainable rangeland management and climate adaptation for pastoralist communities, ensuring long-term resilience and improved rural livelihoods.

### COMPONENTS AND OBJECTIVES

The project interventions are clustered around five components, promoting related outcomes:

**(1) Empowering Small-Scale Subsistence Farmers to Transform into Integrated Farmers (US\$ 15 million)** equips small-scale farmers with greenhouse technology, climate-resilient crop varieties, renewable energy solutions, and improved irrigation systems. It enhances water efficiency and productivity while providing tailored training programs to ensure sustainable adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.

**(2) Scaling Up Access to Inputs (US\$ 20 million)** - strengthens agro-dealer networks and public-private partnerships to ensure access to quality seeds, fertilizers, and tools. It promotes financial inclusion through affordable credit, insurance, and risk-mitigation instruments, enabling smallholders to finance operations and adopt climate-smart agriculture practices for increased productivity and resilience.

**(3) Enhancing Resilience, Value Chains, and Agricultural Research (US\$ 45 million)** - Improves resilience through pest management, soil restoration, and reforestation. Boosts value chains with agro-processing, cold storage, and packaging solutions. Drives innovation via research partnerships focusing on climate-resilient crops and water-use efficiency.

**(4) Empowering Youth and Women Through Land Access, Innovation, and Digital Transformation (US\$ 12 million)** - facilitates land access via contract farming and profit-sharing models. It fosters innovation through climate-smart agricultural labs and digital tools like e-market platforms and farm management systems. By enhancing entrepreneurship, it ensures youth and women play a central role in agricultural transformation and value chain development.

**(5) Strengthening Governance, Policy, and Monitoring (US\$ 8 million)** - enhances institutional governance, harmonizes policies, and establishes robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks. It ensures accountability, stakeholder engagement, and effective coordination among federal and state institutions. Knowledge-sharing initiatives support evidence-based decision-making and foster long-term sustainability across the agricultural sector.

### TARGET GROUP

**Phase 1:** 2,500 HH

**Phase 2:** 5,000 HH

**Phase 3:** 92,500 HH

**Total:** 100,000 Households

### PROJECT TARGET AREA

Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Galmudug, Puntland, and Somaliland South-West, and Banadir Region

### EXPECTED DURATION

2025 –2035

### LENDING TERMS

Investment

### IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI)

### CONTACTS

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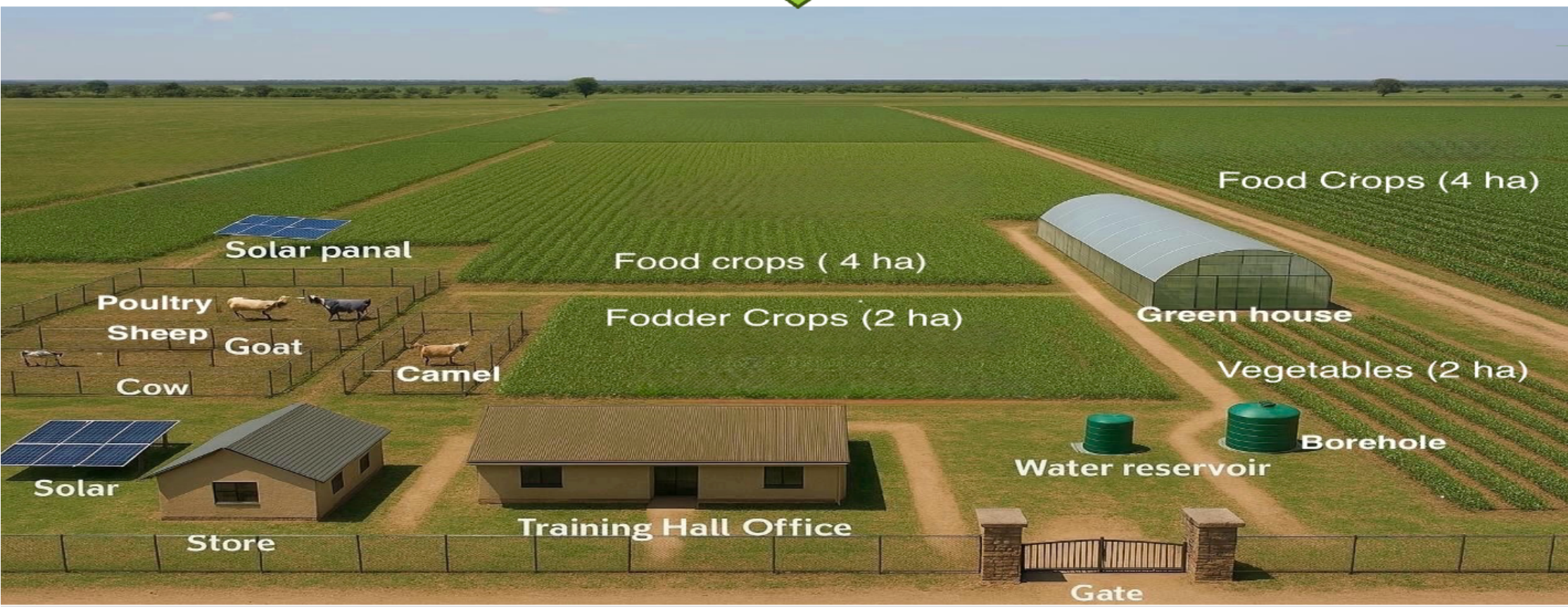
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### FINANCING

### TOTAL PROJECT COST

**100,000,000**

USD





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