



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND IRRIGATION

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATIVES POLICY

2024

FORWARD

Cooperatives have long been a cornerstone of Somalia's agricultural landscape, representing a powerful force for economic empowerment and social development. In the decades preceding the nation's upheaval, cooperatives thrived under the stewardship of a government committed to advancing agricultural prosperity. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) emerged as a pivotal institution, spearheading initiatives to promote cooperative enterprises and harness the potential of the agricultural sector.

During this period, Somalia witnessed the establishment of numerous cooperative associations and societies, serving as catalysts for agricultural growth and rural development. However, the onset of political instability and conflict dealt a severe blow to Somalia's agricultural cooperative, disrupting decades of progress and plunging the agricultural sector into turmoil. In the aftermath of these challenges, the MoAI remained steadfast in its commitment to reviving and revitalizing the cooperative sector, recognizing its fundamental importance to the nation's economic well-being.

Against this backdrop, the National Agricultural Cooperatives Policy emerges as a beacon of hope and renewal, signaling a renewed commitment to empowering agricultural cooperatives and fostering sustainable development. Rooted in the belief that cooperatives represent the cornerstone of agricultural progress, this policy reflects a strategic vision for reinvigorating Somalia's agricultural sector and enhancing the livelihoods of its people.

Finally, I am delighted to present to the nation the National Agricultural Cooperatives Policy. I urge all stakeholders to join hands in its swift implementation and in realizing the vision of a vibrant and resilient agricultural sector. Together, let us build a future where cooperatives thrive, and Somalia emerges as a beacon of agricultural excellence and innovation.

Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

CIGs: Common Interest Groups

NTP: National Transformation Plan

MIS: Management Information Systems

ACF: Agribusiness, Cooperative Development, and Food Reserve

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

IDPs: Internally Displaced Persons

KPIs: Key Performance Indicators

MoAI: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations

PDRA: Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis

Definitions

Agricultural Cooperative: An autonomous association of farmers united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

A Federal Modality Cooperative: is a cooperative structure where both federal and state governments collaborate to address issues and governance the structure and implement policies. This model emphasizes shared responsibilities, resources, and programs, allowing for a flexible approach to policy implementation and problem-solving.

A Federal state cooperative: is a cooperative that operates under the joint jurisdiction of federal and state governments. This type of cooperative benefits from both levels of government support and regulation, ensuring a cohesive approach to achieving common goals and addressing local needs.

Local Cooperative: a cooperative that operates within a specific geographic area, typically serving the needs of its local community. These cooperatives are managed and controlled by their member-owners, who utilize the cooperative's services to achieve common economic, social, and cultural goals.

Cooperative Governance: refers to the system of rules, practices, and processes by which cooperatives are directed and controlled. It involves democratic decision-making, member participation, and accountability to ensure that the cooperative meets its objectives, protects member interests, and maintains member control.

A Public-Private Partnership (PPP): is a partnership between the public sector and the private sector to deliver a project or a service traditionally provided by the public sector

Common Interest Groups (CIGs): Groups formed by individuals with similar interests, often in agricultural production, to collaborate and enhance their productivity and market access.

Climate-Smart Agriculture: Agricultural practices that increase productivity sustainably, enhance resilience (adaptation), reduce/remove greenhouse gases (mitigation), and enhance the achievement of national food security and development goals.

Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis (PDRA): A process that involves community members in identifying and analyzing the risks of disasters, leading to the development of community-led disaster risk reduction plans.

Resilient Crop Varieties: Crop varieties that are bred to withstand extreme weather conditions and other environmental stresses.

Value Chain: The full range of activities required to bring a product or service from its conception, through the intermediary phases of production, transformation, and delivery to final consumers.

MIS (Management Information Systems): Systems used to manage and analyze data for decision-making purposes within cooperatives.

Introduction

A. Background

Somalia, with its vast expanse of fertile land and diverse climatic conditions, holds significant potential for agricultural development. Covering a total land area of 637,657 km², the country boasts approximately 8.9 million hectares of arable land, offering favorable conditions for agricultural activities. Agriculture and livestock sectors together contribute approximately 70% to the country's GDP, employ around 80% of the population, and account for 90% of exports¹.

Key agricultural statistics reveal Somalia's agricultural prowess. Approximately 14% of the total land area is under cultivation², with around 25% of crop production being supported by irrigation systems³. The country experiences an average annual rainfall of 610 mm and maintains an average temperature of 28°C⁴, providing suitable conditions for agricultural production. Somalia is also home to two main rivers, with a total length exceeding 2,300 km, contributing to irrigation and supporting agricultural activities⁵. Furthermore, Somalia ranks as the 7th largest producer of sesame globally, highlighting its potential in agricultural production⁶.

The agricultural cooperative is a popular crop and livestock production model. In Somalia, agricultural cooperatives are mostly concentrated in Gedo, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Lower Shebelle, Middle Shebelle, Hiran regions, Bay, and Bakol regions.

Agricultural cooperatives play a crucial role in the economic development of Somalia, providing essential services to farmers, enhancing productivity, and contributing to food security. However, the sector faces numerous challenges, including a complex regulatory environment, limited access to markets, and inadequate financial management.

As part of the National Agricultural Cooperative Policy, interventions aimed at establishing, and strengthening primary cooperatives, unions, and federations will be prioritized. These include facilitating the formation and registration of agricultural cooperatives, promoting cooperative principles and best practices, and enhancing governance and management within cooperatives.

Through targeted capacity building and financial support, cooperatives will be empowered to compete in domestic, regional, and international markets. Furthermore, cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders involved in cooperative development will be fostered to maximize the impact of interventions.

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Country Profiles: Somalia.

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/somalia/overview>

³ <https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=SOM>

⁴ World Bank, Somalia Overview

⁵ <https://www.wfp.org/countries/somalia>

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=SOM>

Overall, the National Agricultural Cooperative Policy recognizes the integral role of cooperatives in driving agricultural development in Somalia. By harnessing the collective strength of farmers through cooperatives, the policy aims to overcome challenges, promote sustainable growth, and enhance food security in the country.

B. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a comprehensive framework for the development and support of agricultural cooperatives in Somalia, enhancing their contribution to the agricultural sector and overall economic development.

Through this policy, the government seeks to create an enabling environment that supports the establishment, growth, and sustainability of agricultural cooperatives. It aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of cooperatives, enhance their governance structures, and promote cooperative principles and values.

Additionally, the policy aims to facilitate access to inputs, technologies, innovations, management practices, financial resources, markets, and technical assistance for cooperatives, thereby building a resilient agricultural system and enhancing the overall effectiveness of cooperatives in contributing to the nation's economic growth and food security.

C. Policy Beneficiary

A Policy Beneficiary is an agricultural cooperative either an individual, group or entity designated to receive the benefits or advantages provided by a policy governance. In the context of cooperative policies, beneficiaries are typically the cooperative members who gain from improved services, resources, and support structures established by the policy.

D. Rationale and Justification

This policy is necessary to address the challenges faced by agricultural cooperatives, streamline regulatory processes, improve access to markets and financial services, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. By providing a clear and supportive framework, the policy aims to empower cooperatives to thrive and contribute significantly to the national economy. The National Agricultural Cooperative Policy is crucial for the following reasons:

Economic Imperative:

Agriculture is a vital sector of Somalia's economy, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and exports. However, the sector faces numerous challenges, including low productivity, poor infrastructure, weak value chain development, and loss of market linkage. Addressing these challenges is essential for unlocking the sector's economic potential and driving sustainable development.

Poverty Reduction and Livelihoods:

Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for most Somalis, particularly in rural areas. Strengthening agricultural cooperatives can empower smallholder farmers, improve their access to inputs, markets, and resources, and enhance their incomes. By promoting cooperative principles and best practices, the policy aims to alleviate poverty and enhance the resilience of rural communities.

Food Security and Nutrition:

Somalia faces persistent challenges related to food security and malnutrition, exacerbated by factors such as climate change, conflict, and economic instability. Enhancing the productivity and sustainability of the agricultural sector is crucial for ensuring food security and improving nutrition outcomes. Agricultural cooperatives can play a pivotal role in increasing agricultural productivity, diversifying crops, and improving access to nutritious food for vulnerable populations.

Climate Resilience:

Climate change poses significant risks to Somalia's agricultural sector, including increased frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events. Strengthening agricultural cooperatives can enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate shocks by promoting sustainable farming practices, water management techniques, and drought-resistant crop varieties. By building adaptive capacity within agricultural cooperatives, the policy aims to mitigate the impacts of climate change and safeguard livelihoods.

Institutional Strengthening:

Strengthening the institutional capacity of the agricultural sector is critical for effective policy implementation, coordination, and monitoring. By promoting cooperative principles and good governance practices, the policy aims to enhance the institutional capacity of agricultural cooperatives and government agencies responsible for cooperative development. Through improved coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, the policy seeks to create an enabling environment for the sustainable growth of agricultural cooperatives.

Alignment with National Policies:

This policy aligns with Somalia's existing national agriculture and rural development policies and strategies, including poverty reduction, financial access, rural commercialization, market access, employment creation, and agro-processing. It's also aligned with the National Transformation Plan (NTP 10) and the Ministry's priorities. It supports ongoing programs implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) and development partners, ensuring coherence and synergy in agricultural development efforts.

E. Policy Vision

A vibrant and sustainable cooperative sector that drives agricultural development and economic growth in Somalia.

F. Policy Mission

To create an enabling environment for agricultural cooperatives through effective policies, capacity building, and support services, ensuring their growth and sustainability.

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Current Situation of the Agricultural Cooperatives

A. Strengths

- Somalia possesses fertile land spanning over 8.2 million hectares, offering vast potential for agricultural production. This arable land, coupled with the country's diverse climatic conditions, supports a variety of crops and livestock.
- Agriculture has deep roots in Somali culture, providing a strong foundation for the development of cooperatives and collective action among farmers.
- Strong community ties and collective action.
- Existing traditional knowledge and practices.
- Potential for economies of scale.

B. Weaknesses

- Productivity levels in agriculture cooperatives are low due to various factors, including inadequate infrastructure, poor farming practices, and limited access to modern technologies and inputs.
- The collapse of state institutions has resulted in a lack of regulatory oversight and support services for cooperatives, hindering their organizational development and effectiveness.
- Weak value chains, inadequate storage and processing facilities, and limited access to domestic and international markets constrain the growth and profitability of agricultural enterprises.
- A lack of gender awareness among the population leads to the exclusion of women's needs in decision-making, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes.
- There is a need for up-to-date and comprehensive data on cooperative groups, including membership composition, registered categories, and their respective percentages in production, marketing, savings, and credit.

C. Opportunities

- Infrastructure rehabilitation and investment present opportunities for improving agricultural productivity, market access, and value addition within cooperative frameworks.
- The adoption of modern agricultural technologies can enhance productivity, resilience, and sustainability in farming, offering opportunities for cooperative development.
- There is potential for value addition in agriculture through the processing, packaging, and branding of agricultural products, tapping into domestic and international markets for higher returns.

- Engaging climate-smart youth advocates in agriculture through training and entrepreneurship programs can rejuvenate the sector and foster innovation within cooperatives.
- International organizations and donor agencies provide resources and expertise to support agricultural development initiatives, offering partnerships and capacity-building opportunities for cooperatives.
- Agricultural cooperatives in Somalia have significant export potential, particularly for products like sesame seeds, bananas, and dried lemon. This can contribute substantially to national income and economic development.

D. Threats

- Continued climate change poses significant threats to agricultural production, exacerbating risks of crop failures, livestock losses, and food insecurity. Frequent droughts, floods, and extreme weather events are major concerns.
- Political instability and conflict create uncertainties, disrupt livelihoods, and deter investment in agriculture, undermining the resilience and effectiveness of cooperatives.
- Competition from imported agricultural products
- Fluctuations in global commodity prices and trade disruptions expose agricultural cooperatives to market risks, affecting their profitability and long-term viability.
- Water scarcity, land degradation, and depletion of natural resources pose challenges to sustainable agricultural practices, threatening long-term productivity and environmental sustainability.
- Outbreaks of diseases, such as locust infestations and livestock epidemics, can devastate agricultural production, disrupt supply chains, and exacerbate food insecurity in vulnerable communities.

Policy Actions

A. Legal and Regulatory Framework

Establish a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework that facilitates the formation, registration, and operation of agricultural cooperatives, ensuring clarity, consistency, and effectiveness in governance and oversight.

The government shall:

- I. Review existing laws, regulations, and procedures for the formation, registration, certification processes, and operation of agricultural cooperatives to identify gaps and areas for improvement, ensuring accessibility, effectiveness, and alignment with sector needs and international best practices and standards.
- II. Draft and enact the Agricultural Cooperative Act which will serve as the primary law governing the formation, operation, and regulation of agricultural cooperatives.
- III. Develop new cooperative formation and licensing (structures and types) that are based on current sector situation and needs such as crop production, inputs usage, location, marketing, and other applicable grouping and types as per the Agricultural Cooperative Act and other applicable laws.
- IV. Mobilize more farmers, and input providers (such as seeds and machines) to form cooperatives and facilitate the establishment of primary and secondary cooperatives at the district level, unions at the state level, and a cooperative federation at the national level. Empower these entities with resources, and oversight from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The Ministry through the federal member states shall oversee their work, provide support for capacity building through standardized manuals, and training, and ensure improved governance with standardized bylaws and governance systems to ensure effective service delivery.
- V. Conduct audits to ensure the financial health and effective governance of cooperatives.
- VI. Rebuild the cooperative image through enhanced governance, service delivery, and publicity campaigns, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and member participation.
- VII. Foster autonomy and independence, enabling agricultural cooperatives to operate as self-governing entities controlled by their members, free from external interference or domination.
- VIII. Promote and establish mechanisms for close collaboration between districts, states, and regional agricultural cooperatives, fostering cooperation, resource sharing, and collective representation of agricultural cooperatives.
- IX. Develop Cooperative Governance Guidelines and strengthen enforcement mechanisms and penalties for violations of cooperative laws to deter malpractices and safeguard the interests of cooperative members and stakeholders. The Ministry of Agriculture and

Irrigation shall specify a clear level and type of penalties that the government will impose.

B. Institutional Support for Agricultural Cooperatives

Establish and strengthen institutional arrangements that provide comprehensive support and guidance to agricultural cooperatives, fostering their development, sustainability, and effectiveness as key actors in the agricultural sector.

The government shall:

- I. Strengthen the Cooperative Development Section responsible for overseeing the establishment, registration, management, and development of agricultural cooperatives, providing policy guidance, technical assistance, and capacity-building support at both federal and respective state ministries. This section will serve as the central body for cooperative support and is responsible for developing and maintaining a central database of cooperatives and members' production data, trends, and market activities.
- II. Develop and implement the National Agricultural Cooperatives Development Strategy (NACDS) outlining priorities, actions, targeted interventions to support their formation, registration, and operation, and timelines for supporting the growth and sustainability of agricultural cooperatives.
- III. Take a leadership role and strengthen collaboration and coordination among relevant government levels, development partners, and stakeholders involved in supporting agricultural cooperatives, ensuring coherence, synergy, and complementarity of efforts.
- IV. Establish, guide, and facilitate the formation of cooperative support institutions, development centers, or training institutes, to provide specialized training, advisory services, and technical assistance to agricultural cooperatives.
- V. Promote partnerships and collaboration between agricultural cooperatives and other actors in the agricultural value chain to enhance market access, access to finance, and value-addition opportunities.
- VI. Establish mechanisms for coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating institutional support programs for agricultural cooperatives (including those provided by development partners and their proxies), assessing their impact, effectiveness, and relevance. All interventions by government agencies, and international and local partners directed to the cooperatives should be managed, monitored, and approved by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's responsible unit.
- VII. Ensure inclusivity and representation of diverse stakeholders in institutional arrangements for agricultural cooperatives, promoting equitable access to resources, opportunities, and benefits.
- VIII. Strengthen the capacity of local and state government authorities and community-based organizations to support and engage with agricultural cooperatives at the grassroots level, facilitating community ownership, participation, and empowerment.

- IX. Promote innovation and best practices in institutional arrangements for agricultural cooperatives, drawing on successful models and experiences adapted to the local context.

C. Cooperative Values and Principles

Agricultural cooperatives shall adhere to national and internationally recognized cooperative principles, fostering a culture of cooperation, solidarity, and member-driven governance.

The agricultural cooperatives shall:

- I. Operate based on the principles of voluntary and open membership, ensuring that membership is open to all individuals and entities willing to accept the responsibilities of membership and adhere to the cooperative by-laws without discrimination.
- II. Embrace democratic member control, providing each member with equal voting rights and opportunities to participate in decision-making processes, regardless of their contribution or investment.
- III. Prioritize member economic participation, ensuring that members contribute equitably to the capital of the cooperative and participate in the economic benefits generated by the cooperative's activities. This includes enhancing bargaining power and promoting input and output marketing.
- IV. Promote education, training, and information-sharing among members, empowering them with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively participate in cooperative governance and management.
- V. Commit to serving the best interests of members and the community, aligning cooperative activities with the needs and aspirations of members while contributing to the sustainable development of the local economy and society.
- VI. Uphold ethical values and principles in all aspects of cooperative operations, including transparency, honesty, integrity, and accountability, to build trust and confidence among members and stakeholders.

D. Financial Management and Sustainability

Agricultural cooperatives shall establish sound financial management practices and promote long-term sustainability to ensure their resilience and effectiveness in achieving their objectives.

Agricultural cooperatives shall:

- I. Practice sound financial management processes to ensure prudent use of resources compliance with regulatory requirements, and maintenance of a healthy financial system.

- II. Implement transparent financial reporting mechanisms, providing regular updates and disclosures to members, stakeholders, and regulatory authorities on the cooperative's financial performance, position, and prospects.

The government shall:

- I. Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to agricultural cooperatives in developing and implementing effective financial management policies and practices.
- II. Facilitate access to financial resources, credit facilities, and investment opportunities for agricultural cooperatives through partnerships with financial institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders.

E. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Agricultural cooperatives shall prioritize comprehensive capacity building and technical assistance initiatives to enhance the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of their members and staff, encompassing both agricultural practices and cooperative management.

The government shall:

- I. Implement comprehensive capacity-building plans and programs encompassing technical agriculture training, business management, and cooperative governance, tailored to the specific needs and priorities of cooperative members and staff.
- II. Establish and maintain dedicated resource centers and online platforms to provide agricultural cooperatives with access to educational resources, tools, and training materials on technical agriculture, sustainable farming practices, cooperative governance, and business management.
- III. Foster partnerships and collaborations between agricultural cooperatives, research institutions, extension services, and technical experts to leverage their expertise and resources in addressing capacity-building needs and challenges in both agricultural production and cooperative management.
- IV. Develop standardized training manuals and procedures in the Somali language, build a network of Trainers throughout the country through Training of Trainers (ToT) programs, and organize regular training programs, workshops, and seminars to capacitate cooperative leadership, members, and staff on the latest agricultural techniques, market trends, and governance practices.
- V. Develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of training programs and technical assistance initiatives to ensure continuous improvement and relevance to the cooperatives' needs.
- VI. Undertake a comprehensive cooperative training needs assessment to identify gaps and opportunities in cooperative education and training.
- VII. Commit to supporting cooperative education and training that meets the evolving needs of the cooperative sector, encouraging the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to farms, and promoting reemployment in agriculture.

- VIII. Institute, promote, and enforce quality assurance measures that conform to standards in the management of the cooperative business.
- IX. Conduct a comprehensive member education and training program to enhance the skills and knowledge of cooperative members.
- X. Translate and disseminate cooperative education materials, policies, and information into Arabic, English, and local dialects such as Maay.

The Cooperatives shall:

- I. Actively participate in training needs assessments to ensure their specific requirements and challenges are identified and addressed.
- II. Conduct a comprehensive member education and training program to enhance the skills and knowledge of cooperative members.
- III. Promote reemployment and facilitate the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their farms by providing relevant training and support to reintegrate them into agricultural activities.
- IV. Create mentorship programs where experienced cooperative leaders and agricultural experts can guide and support less experienced members.

F. Market Access and Value Addition

Actively create and facilitate market access, value chain development, and add value to agricultural products, thereby increasing profitability and contributing to the overall growth and development of the agricultural sector.

The government shall:

- I. Facilitate the development of market infrastructure and value addition facilities through technical support and partnerships with the private sector and development partners.
- II. Establish market information systems to disseminate timely market updates and opportunities to agricultural cooperatives and other stakeholders.
- III. Facilitate access to credit, insurance, and other financial services for agricultural cooperatives, leveraging partnerships with financial institutions and development agencies.
- IV. Develop policies supporting fair trade practices and market access for cooperatives to ensure equitable participation in local and international markets.
- V. Strengthen coordination among government agencies and market stakeholders to address barriers, promote market integration, and build a win-win business-to-business linkage among key market actors and value chain actors.
- VI. Support agricultural cooperatives to implement value addition activities such as processing, packaging, and branding of agricultural products. Lead value chain analysis

and support the implementation of upgrading strategies and establishing governance systems.

G. Environmental Sustainability

Adopt environmentally sustainable practices to mitigate negative impacts on ecosystems and natural resources while promoting long-term agricultural productivity and resilience.

Agricultural cooperatives shall:

- I. Implement soil conservation measures such as terracing, contour plowing, minimum tillage, crop rotation, and agroforestry to prevent soil erosion and degradation.
- II. Promote water-efficient irrigation techniques and rainwater harvesting to conserve water resources.
- III. Encourage the use of organic farming methods and integrated pest management to reduce reliance on chemical inputs and actively minimize environmental pollution.
- IV. Adopt climate-smart agricultural practices such as crop diversification, resilient crop varieties, and agroecological approaches to enhance climate resilience.
- V. Participate in afforestation and reforestation initiatives to restore degraded lands and enhance biodiversity conservation.
- VI. Engage in sustainable supply chain practices, ensuring that all stages of production, processing, and distribution are environmentally friendly.
- VII. Implement educational programs to raise awareness among cooperative members about the environmental impacts of their farming practices and the importance of sustainability.

The government shall:

- I. Provide technical assistance and training programs on sustainable agricultural practices for cooperative members.
- II. Establish incentives and subsidies to promote the adoption of environmentally friendly farming techniques.
- III. Strengthen enforcement of environmental regulations and standards to prevent land degradation and pollution.
- IV. Support research and innovation in sustainable agriculture to develop new technologies and practices.
- V. Foster partnerships with international organizations and partners to access funding and expertise for environmental conservation efforts in agriculture.

H. Management Information Systems (MIS)

The government shall support the upgrading and modernization of Management Information Systems for the Ministry and the cooperatives to enhance sound and consistent management

practices across the sector.

The government shall:

- I. Develop and implement comprehensive Management Information Systems (MIS) for the agricultural cooperatives section in the ministry to ensure effective data management, transparency, and decision-making.
- II. Disseminate relevant information for advancing the objectives of agricultural cooperatives, ensuring that cooperatives have access to up-to-date and actionable data.
- III. Carry out cooperative societies mapping to coordinate interventions by various stakeholders, identifying gaps, opportunities, and areas for support.

The Cooperatives shall:

- I. Implement and utilize MIS tools to enhance internal management, record-keeping, and reporting practices.
- II. Collect, manage, and analyze data on cooperative activities, member contributions, and financial transactions to inform strategic decisions and improve operational efficiency.
- III. Actively participate in information networks established by the government to stay informed about market trends, opportunities, and regulatory updates.

Contribute to cooperative societies' mapping efforts by providing accurate and timely data about their operations, challenges, and needs.

I. Crosscutting Issues

Recognizing the interconnected nature of agricultural cooperatives with broader socioeconomic and environmental issues, the policy aims to address crosscutting challenges to ensure the sustainability and inclusivity of cooperative development.

Agricultural cooperatives shall:

- I. Ensure women have equal access to resources, participation in decision-making, and leadership positions within cooperatives.
- II. Integrate marginalized groups such as youth, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities into cooperative activities through capacity building, training, and targeted support programs.
- III. Implement risk management strategies, diversify income sources, and integrate climate-smart agriculture practices into cooperative activities.
- IV. Regularly share disaster and risk-related information with members and government agencies.

- V. Implement Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis (PDRA) recommendations and participate in the development and operationalization of community-led disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans.
- VI. Facilitate dialogue, cooperation, and reconciliation among cooperative members and communities affected by conflict or social tensions.
- VII. Conduct awareness campaigns on environmentally friendly practices in cooperative enterprises.

The government shall:

- I. Conduct Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis (PDRA) and lead the development and operationalization of community-led disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans.
- II. Develop, promote, and monitor the adherence to environmental standards.
- III. Integrate crosscutting issues such as gender equality, social inclusion, digital innovation, climate resilience, and peacebuilding into national policies, strategies, and programs for agricultural cooperative development.
- IV. Allocate resources and funding for targeted initiatives that address crosscutting challenges in agricultural cooperatives, including capacity building, infrastructure development, and technology adoption.
- V. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation to track progress, identify gaps, and refine strategies for addressing cross-cutting challenges in agricultural cooperatives.

J. Human Capital and Resource Development

The government is committed to supporting cooperative education and training that meets the ever-changing agricultural cooperative sector needs.

The government shall:

- V. Undertake a comprehensive cooperative training needs assessment to identify gaps and opportunities in cooperative education and training.
- VI. Commit to supporting cooperative education and training that meets the evolving needs of the cooperative sector, encouraging the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to farms and promoting reemployment in agriculture.
- VII. Institute, promote and enforce quality assurance measures that conform to standards in the management of the cooperative business.
- VIII. Conduct a comprehensive member education and training program to enhance the skills and knowledge of cooperative members.
- IX. Translate and disseminate cooperative education materials, policies, and information into Arabic, English, and local dialects such as Maay.

The Cooperatives shall:

- X. Actively participate in training needs assessments to ensure their specific requirements and challenges are identified and addressed.

- XI. Conduct a comprehensive member education and training program to enhance the skills and knowledge of cooperative members.
- XII. Promote reemployment and facilitate the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their farms by providing relevant training and support to reintegrate them into agricultural activities.
- XIII. Create mentorship programs where experienced cooperative leaders and agricultural experts can guide and support less experienced members.

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Implementation, Institutional Framework, and Monitoring

The implementation of this policy will be carried out through a coordinated approach involving various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, development partners, and the private sector. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) will lead the implementation efforts, ensuring in collaboration with the Federal member state's respective ministry of agriculture and irrigation, and other relevant Government Ministries. These include Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Industries, Planning, Investment, and Economic Development, Livestock Forestry & Range, Environment and Climate Change, Communications and Technology, and Housing and Urban Development.

The Ministry shall work closely with relevant government agencies to ensure the integration of cooperatives and other cooperatives-related issues in the National Transformation Plan (NTP 10). The ministry shall develop the National Cooperative Development Plan a National Agricultural Cooperative Strategy, and a Resource Mobilization Strategy to guide the implementation of this policy.

A. Implementation Approach

1. Policy Guidance and Standard Setting:

- MoAI will provide overarching policy guidance and set standards for the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives.
- MoAI will develop new and/or review the existing documents, policies, strategies, regulations, laws, and procedures that ensure the successful implementation of this policy.

2. Resource Mobilization and Allocation:

- MoAI will lead efforts to mobilize resources from the government, private sector, and international donors.

3. Collaborative Implementation:

- MoAI will coordinate with Federal Member States' ministries to ensure consistent policy implementation across regions.
- Ministries such as Finance, Planning, and Investment will provide support for economic development initiatives related to cooperatives.
- Ministries of Environment and Climate Change, Communications, and Technology will integrate sustainability and digital innovation into cooperative activities.

4. Monitoring and Impact Assessment:

- A robust monitoring and evaluation framework will be established by MoAI to track policy implementation and assess its impact annually.

- Regular assessments will be conducted to ensure full engagement with sector stakeholders.
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) will be developed by MoAI to measure success and inform continuous improvement.

B. Roles and Responsibilities

Federal Level:

1. Policy Beneficiaries / Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI):

- Lead the policy implementation and coordination efforts.
- Guide, standardize, and implement cooperative registrations and certifications.
- Develop a National Cooperative Development Plan and a National Agricultural Cooperative Strategy.
- Mobilize resources and ensure effective use of funds.
- Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support.
- Ensure financial oversight and accountability.
- Support market access initiatives and promote fair trade practices.
- Facilitate partnerships between cooperatives and private sector entities.
- Integrate cooperative development into national economic planning and development frameworks.
- Monitor and evaluate the economic impact of cooperative activities.
- Promote sustainable agricultural practices and support climate resilience initiatives.
- Integrate environmental standards in cooperative operations.
- Develop a digital platforms and Management Information Systems (MIS) for cooperatives section in the ministry.
- Facilitate access to market information and technological innovations.

Federal State Level:

1. Federal Member States' Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation:

- Implement national policies at the regional level and ensure alignment with regional priorities.
- Coordinate with local government authorities and community-based organizations.
- Provide region-specific technical support and capacity building.

2. Local Government Authorities:

- Support grassroots-level implementation of cooperative initiatives.
- Facilitate community engagement and mobilization.
- Monitor and report on local cooperative activities.

Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations:

1. Private Sector Entities:

- Partner with cooperatives to provide market access, financial services, and technological support.
- Engage in corporate social responsibility initiatives that benefit cooperatives.

2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Development Partners:

- Provide technical assistance, funding, and capacity-building programs.
- Support research and innovation in cooperative development.

C. Coordination and Resource Mobilization

1. Regular Meetings and Workshops:

- MoAI shall facilitate coordination among government ministries, departments, agencies, and other stakeholders through regular meetings and workshops.

2. National Agriculture Cooperative Development Forum:

- MoAI shall establish an annual National Agriculture Cooperative Development Forum to serve as a platform for information sharing, collaboration, and joint decision-making to advance cooperative development initiatives.

D. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The ministry shall establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework will be established to track the progress of policy implementation, assess the impact of interventions, and identify areas for improvement.

Components of the M&E Framework:

- Develop KPIs to measure the effectiveness of cooperative development programs.
- Produce regular monitoring reports to inform policy adjustments and strategic planning processes.
- The Ministry's Policy Analysis Unit will coordinate monitoring, evaluation, and review activities to ensure accountability and transparency in the implementation of the National Agriculture Cooperative Policy.

Implementation Plan for National Cooperatives Policy

A. Legal and Regulatory Framework

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Establish a robust legal and regulatory framework for cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Draft and enact cooperative laws and regulations. Review and update existing cooperative laws. Ensure compliance with international cooperative standards. 	MoAI: Drafting and reviewing strategy. Parliament: Enacting laws. Cooperative Development Agency: Ensuring compliance.	Short-term (1-2 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct legal research and draft initial Strategy. Review drafts with stakeholders. Submit drafts to Parliament for enactment. Monitor compliance with enacted laws. 	Regular review of legal documents, compliance audits, stakeholder feedback.
Strengthen enforcement mechanisms.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop enforcement guidelines. Train enforcement officers. Establish a cooperative tribunal. 	MoAI Legal Affairs Department: Developing guidelines. Training Department: Training officers. Judiciary: Establishing tribunal.	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Draft enforcement guidelines. Organize training sessions for enforcement officers. Set up the cooperative tribunal and appoint members. 	Training reports, enforcement activity logs, tribunal case reviews.

B. Institutional Support for Agricultural Cooperatives

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Provide institutional support to agricultural cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a Cooperative Development Agency. 2. Develop support programs for cooperatives. 3. Facilitate access to government services. 	<p>MoAI: Establishing the agency. Cooperative Development Agency: Developing programs. Local Government Authorities: Facilitating access.</p>	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft a proposal for the agency. 2. Secure funding and resources. 3. Develop and implement support programs. 4. Coordinate with local authorities to provide services. 	Program evaluation reports, service access logs, cooperative feedback.
Enhance coordination among stakeholders.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize regular stakeholder meetings. 2. Develop a stakeholder coordination framework. 	<p>MoAI: Organizing meetings. Cooperative Development Agency: Developing framework. Stakeholder Organizations: Participating in meetings.</p>	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule and organize stakeholder meetings. 2. Draft and implement a coordination framework. 3. Review and update the framework regularly. 	Meeting minutes, coordination framework reviews, stakeholder surveys.

C. Cooperative Values and Principles

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Promote cooperative values and principles.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct awareness campaigns. 2. Integrate cooperative values into educational curricula. 3. Develop training materials on cooperative principles. 	<p>MoAI: Conducting campaigns.</p> <p>Agri-business innovation hub: Integrating values into curricula.</p> <p>NGOs: Developing training materials.</p>	Short-term (1-2 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and execute awareness campaigns. 2. Collaborate with the Ministry of Education to update curricula. 3. Develop and distribute training materials. 	Campaign impact assessments, curriculum reviews, training material evaluations.
Foster a culture of cooperation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize cooperative events and forums. 2. Recognize and reward exemplary cooperatives. 	<p>MoAI: Organizing events.</p> <p>Cooperative Development Agency: Recognizing cooperatives.</p> <p>Local Government Authorities: Supporting events.</p>	Short-term (1-2 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and schedule cooperative events. 2. Develop criteria for recognizing exemplary cooperatives. 3. Conduct events and award ceremonies. 	Event participation records, award program reviews, cooperative feedback.

D. Financial Management and Sustainability

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Ensure financial sustainability of cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop financial management guidelines. 2. Provide training on financial management. 3. Facilitate access to financial services. 	<p>MoAI: Developing guidelines.</p> <p>Financial Institutions: Providing training.</p> <p>NGOs: Facilitating access.</p>	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft financial management guidelines. 2. Organize and conduct training sessions. 3. Partner with financial institutions to provide services. 	Financial audits, training evaluations, service access logs.
Promote sustainable financial practices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement financial literacy programs. 2. Encourage savings and investment among cooperatives. 	<p>MoAI: Implementing programs.</p> <p>Financial Institutions: Encouraging savings.</p> <p>Cooperative Development Agency: Promoting investment.</p>	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and launch financial literacy programs. 2. Promote savings and investment initiatives. 3. Monitor and evaluate program effectiveness. 	Program impact assessments, savings and investment reports, cooperative feedback.

E. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Build capacity of cooperative members and leaders.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct training needs assessments. 2. Develop and deliver training programs. 3. Establish resource centers. 	<p>MoAI: Conducting assessments.</p> <p>NGOs: Developing programs.</p> <p>Development Partners: Establishing centers.</p>	Short-term (1-2 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct training needs assessments. 2. Develop and implement training programs. 3. Set up and maintain resource centers. 	Training needs assessment reports, training program evaluations, resource center usage logs.
Provide technical assistance to cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop technical assistance programs. 2. Partner with research institutions for technical support. 	<p>MoAI: Developing programs.</p> <p>Research Institutions: Providing support.</p> <p>NGOs: Facilitating partnerships.</p>	Short-term (1-2 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and launch technical assistance programs. 2. Establish partnerships with research institutions. 3. Monitor and evaluate technical assistance impact. 	Program evaluation reports, partnership reviews, cooperative feedback.

F. Market Access and Value Addition

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Enhance market access for cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop market infrastructure. 2. Facilitate access to market information. 3. Promote fair trade practices. 	<p>MoAI: Developing infrastructure.</p> <p>Private Sector: Providing market information.</p> <p>Development Agencies: Promoting fair trade.</p>	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and develop market infrastructure. 2. Set up market information systems. 3. Implement fair trade policies. 	Market infrastructure development reports, market information system usage logs, fair trade policy reviews.
Support value addition initiatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop value addition facilities. 2. Provide training on value addition techniques. 	<p>MoAI: Developing facilities.</p> <p>Private Sector: Providing training.</p> <p>NGOs: Supporting initiatives.</p>	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and construct value addition facilities. 2. Organize and conduct training sessions. 3. Monitor and evaluate value addition impact. 	Facility development reports, training evaluations, cooperative feedback.

G. Environmental Sustainability

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Promote environmentally sustainable practices.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop guidelines for sustainable agriculture. 2. Implement soil and water conservation measures. 3. Encourage organic farming. 	<p>MoAI: Developing guidelines.</p> <p>Ministry of Environment: Implementing measures.</p> <p>NGOs: Encouraging organic farming.</p>	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft and distribute sustainable agriculture guidelines. 2. Implement conservation measures. 3. Promote organic farming practices. 	Guideline reviews, conservation measure impact assessments, organic farming adoption rates.
Support climate resilience initiatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop climate-smart agriculture programs. 2. Promote afforestation and reforestation. 	<p>MoAI: Developing programs.</p> <p>Ministry of Environment: Promoting initiatives.</p> <p>NGOs: Supporting programs.</p>	Medium-term (3-5 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and launch climate-smart agriculture programs. 2. Implement afforestation and reforestation projects. 3. Monitor and evaluate program effectiveness. 	Program evaluation reports, afforestation and reforestation impact assessments.

I. Crosscutting Issues

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Address crosscutting issues affecting cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop gender and youth inclusion programs. 2. Promote social inclusion and equity. 	<p>MoAI: Developing programs.</p> <p>NGOs: Promoting inclusion.</p> <p>Development Partners: Supporting initiatives.</p>	Ongoing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and implement inclusion programs. 2. Conduct awareness campaigns on social inclusion and equity. 3. Monitor and evaluate program impact. 	Program impact assessments, inclusion and equity reports, cooperative feedback.
Integrate crosscutting issues into cooperative policies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and update cooperative policies to address crosscutting issues. 2. Conduct awareness campaigns on crosscutting issues. 	<p>MoAI: Reviewing policies.</p> <p>NGOs: Conducting campaigns.</p> <p>Development Partners: Supporting policy updates.</p>	Ongoing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and update cooperative policies. 2. Plan and execute awareness campaigns. 3. Monitor and evaluate campaign effectiveness. 	Policy review reports, campaign impact assessments, cooperative feedback.

J. Management Information Systems (MIS)

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Develop and implement MIS for cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and develop MIS. 2. Train cooperative members on MIS usage. 3. Ensure data security and privacy. 	<p>MoAI: Designing MIS.</p> <p>Ministry of Communications and Technology: Developing MIS.</p> <p>Private Sector: Providing training.</p>	Short-term (1-2 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft MIS design specifications. 2. Develop and test MIS 3. Conduct training sessions for cooperative members. 4. Implement data security measures. 	MIS development reports, training evaluations, data security audits.
Facilitate access to market information through MIS.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate market information systems into MIS. 2. Provide regular updates on market trends. 	<p>MoAI: Integrating systems.</p> <p>Private Sector: Providing market information.</p>	Short-term (1-2 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and integrate market information systems. 2. Regularly update market information. 3. Monitor and evaluate system usage. 	System usage logs, market information update reports, cooperative feedback.

K. Human Capital and Resource Development

Main Policy Objective	Activities	Roles and Responsibilities	Timeline	Procedures	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
Develop human capital for cooperatives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct human capital needs assessments. 2. Develop human capital development programs. 3. Provide training and career development opportunities. 	<p>MoAI: Conducting assessments.</p> <p>NGOs: Developing programs.</p> <p>Development Partners: Providing training.</p>	Short-term (1-2 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct human capital needs assessments. 2. Develop and implement human capital development programs. 3. Organize training and career development sessions. 	Human capital needs assessment reports, program evaluations, training and career development logs.
Enhance leadership and management skills.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop leadership training programs. 2. Provide mentorship and coaching. 	<p>MoAI: Developing programs.</p> <p>NGOs: Providing mentorship.</p> <p>Development Partners: Supporting coaching.</p>	Ongoing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design and launch leadership training programs. 2. Establish mentorship and coaching initiatives. 3. Monitor and evaluate program effectiveness. 	Training program evaluations, mentorship and coaching reports, cooperative feedback.

Instructions for Developing the Cooperative Registration Procedure

Objective

To develop a comprehensive, digital, and harmonized cooperative registration system that avoids duplication and streamlines the registration process.

Steps and Guidance

1. Assessment and Planning

- **Conduct Needs Assessment:** Identify the current challenges and requirements for cooperative registration, the structural type, FMS level, internal structure, category of the cooperative, and cooperative purpose.
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** Engage with relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and local government authorities.

2. Development of Digital Platform

- **Design Digital Registration System:** Develop a user-friendly digital platform for cooperative registration.
- **Integration with Existing Systems:** Ensure the platform integrates with existing government databases to avoid duplication.
- **Data Security Measures:** Implement robust data security measures to protect sensitive information.

3. Harmonization of Procedures

- **Standardize Registration Procedures:** Develop standardized procedures for cooperative registration across all relevant ministries and agencies.
- **Create Unified Forms:** Design unified registration forms to be used by all cooperatives.

4. Training and Capacity Building

- **Training for Government Officials:** Conduct training sessions for government officials on the new digital registration system.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch awareness campaigns to educate cooperatives about the new registration process.

5. Implementation and Monitoring

- **Pilot Testing:** Conduct pilot testing of the digital registration system in selected regions.

- **Feedback and Improvement:** Collect feedback from users and make necessary improvements.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of the registration system.

Required Documents and Guidance

1. Cooperative Registration Form

- **Basic Information:** Name of the cooperative, address, contact details.
- **Founding Members:** List of founding members with their identification details.
- **Objectives and Activities:** Description of the cooperative's objectives and planned activities.
- **Bylaws:** Copy of the cooperative's bylaws.
- **Financial Plan:** Initial financial plan and budget.

2. Accreditation Form

- **Cooperative Details:** Name, registration number, and contact information.
- **Compliance Check:** Confirmation of compliance with national laws and regulations.
- **Supporting Documents:** Copies of bylaws, financial plan, and member list.

3. Certificate of Registration

- **Certificate Number:** Unique registration number.
- **Cooperative Name:** Official name of the cooperative.
- **Date of Registration:** Date when the cooperative was registered.
- **Authorized Signature:** Signature of the authorized government official.

Annex - Sample Forms

Cooperative Registration Form

Field	Description
Cooperative Name	[Enter Cooperative Name]
Address	[Enter Address]
Contact Details	[Enter Contact Details]
Structure type	Cooperative type
Founding Members	[List of Founding Members]
Objectives and Activities	[Describe Objectives and Activities]
Bylaws	[Attach Copy of Bylaws]
Financial Plan	[Attach Financial Plan]

Accreditation Form

Field	Description
Cooperative Name	[Enter Cooperative Name]
Registration Number	[Enter Registration Number]
Contact Information	[Enter Contact Information]
Compliance Check	[Confirm Compliance]
Supporting Documents	[Attach Supporting Documents]
Cooperative Structure	
Purpose	

Certificate of Registration

Field	Description
Certificate Number	[Enter Certificate Number]
Cooperative Name	[Enter Cooperative Name]
Date of Registration	[Enter Date]
Authorized Signature	[Authorized Signature]

Guidance for Avoiding Duplication

1. **Unique Identification Numbers:** Assign unique identification numbers to each cooperative to prevent duplication.
2. **Centralized Database:** Maintain a centralized database accessible by all relevant ministries and agencies.
3. **Regular Audits:** Conduct regular audits to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the registration data.

References

Reference	Description
National Agricultural Cooperative Policy in East African Community	The primary document outlining the framework and guidelines for the development and support of agricultural cooperatives in Somalia. Agricultural policies from neighboring East African countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, which provide additional context and best practices for cooperative development
Somalia Cooperative Societies Act	The legal foundation governing the formation, registration, and operation of cooperatives in Somalia.
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) Regulations	Specific regulations issued by the MoAI that impact agricultural cooperatives, including guidelines on sustainable agricultural practices and financial management.
Ministry of Commerce and Industry Regulations	Regulations related to the registration and operation of cooperatives, including business licensing and trade practices ¹ .
National Development Plan	The overarching development strategy for Somalia, which includes objectives and targets relevant to the agricultural sector and cooperatives.
National Transformation Plan (2025-2029)	A strategic framework aimed at steering Somalia towards sustainable development, economic stability, and long-term prosperity.

International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Principles	The globally recognized principles that guide the operation and governance of cooperatives, ensuring alignment with international standards.
Somalia Climate Change Policy Act	Legislation that outlines the requirements for environmental sustainability and conservation practices, relevant to agricultural cooperatives.
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Regulations	Policies and regulations issued by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to promote environmental sustainability and climate resilience.
Financial Institutions Act	Regulations governing financial institutions in Somalia, which impact the access to financial services for cooperatives.
Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development	National policies that promote gender equality and social inclusion, ensuring that cooperatives are inclusive and equitable.
Ministry of Youth and Sports	National strategies aimed at promoting youth employment, relevant to the inclusion of young people in cooperative activities.
Food Security and Nutrition Policy	Policies that address food security and nutrition, which are critical to the objectives of agricultural cooperatives.
Nationally Determined Contributions	National strategies for adapting to climate change, relevant to the sustainable practices promoted within cooperatives.
Public Health and Safety Regulations	Regulations that ensure the health and safety of cooperative members and the communities they serve.
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	National policies that facilitate market access and trade for agricultural products, supporting the economic objectives of cooperatives.
Federal State regulations	Legislation that outlines the roles and responsibilities of local government authorities in supporting cooperatives.
Ministry of Livestock Regulations	Policies and regulations issued by the Ministry of Livestock to support livestock-related activities within cooperatives.

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Policies	Policies aimed at improving labor conditions and social welfare within cooperatives.
Somalia Constitution	The supreme law of Somalia, providing the legal framework within which all other laws and policies operate.

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