



H.E. Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Mareeye had the pleasure to meet with Mr. Liza KAMWITHI, Chief of Office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM Somalia) at the Ministry of Agriculture HQ. During their discussion, they recognised the profound impact of rural-to-urban migration on Somalia's farming systems and rural livelihoods. They agreed to work collaboratively to support and empower Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), particularly those displaced from the agricultural communities.



H.E. Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye launch the Smart Farming Training for Sustainable Agriculture in partnership with Jamhuriya University of Science and Technology



H.E. Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye launch the somalia women's market Access open Innovation Challenge



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H.E. Hon. Maxemed Abdi Hayir Mareeye is honored to officially launch the Smart Farming Training for Sustainable Agriculture in partnership with Jamhuriya University of Science and Technology in Mogadishu, Somalia. The 45-day training will empower 50 Somali youth (25 male and 25 female), carefully selected from a highly competitive pool of 776 applicants, to become pioneers of tech-driven agriculture.

H.E. Hon. Maxemed Abdi Hayir Mareeye is thrilled to proudly launch the Somalia Women's Market Access Open Innovation Challenge Fund 2025 in Mogadishu today. This landmark initiative builds on the successful establishment of the Centre of Innovation and Agropreneurship Development (CIAD) and the Empowering Women Farmers Initiative, under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), in strategic collaboration with IFAD and the World Bank.

H.E. Hon. Maxemed Abdi Hayir Mareeye is honored to launch a six-month TVET program officially focused on empowering 30 Somali youth in the repair, maintenance, and operation of tractors and modern farming machinery at the Ministry Headquarters in Mogadishu in collaboration with Gaalooqe and CASE IH companies.

Launching the National Agricultural Transformation Strategy and Reviewing the Somali Agriculture Riverine Programme (SARP)

Mogadishu, Somalia – July 14, 2025: The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, in collaboration with the European Union and key implementing partners, officially launched the National Agricultural Transformation Strategy and conducted a strategic review of the EU-funded Somali Agriculture Riverine Programme (SARP) during a high-level workshop held in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The National Agricultural Transformation Strategy (2025–2029) has been officially launched to serve as a comprehensive roadmap for driving sustainable agricultural transformation in Somalia. Anchored in the broader National Transformation Plan, the strategy sets out actionable priorities to modernize the agri-food sector, foster resilience, enhance productivity, and promote inclusive growth.

Concurrently, the Somali Agriculture Riverine Program (SARP), which is six interlinked projects, was comprehensively reviewed during the event workshop. The review provided valuable insights into how the program was designed and implemented to strengthen food security by scaling local agri-food production and enhancing the adaptive capacities of rural communities to climate shocks and food crises. H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), Federal Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia, delivered official remarks alongside with the Federal Member State (FMS) Ministers of Agriculture, and senior representatives from the European Union, as well as key implementing partners, including FAO, BRICS, and SomRep.



Today marks a pivotal milestone as we officially disseminated and published the National Agricultural Transformation Strategy (2025–2029) to overcome challenges within Somalia's agriculture sector to enhance productivity, increase farmer incomes and employment opportunities, and bolster national food security.

I extend my profound appreciation to the European Union Delegation to Somalia for their generous financial support towards the Somali Agriculture Riverine Program (SARP). This support has significantly boosted local agri-food production and fortified the resilience of Somali livelihoods against climatic shocks and food crises across all states in Somalia. Following the remarkable outcomes from SARP, I kindly urge the EU to sustain its commitment and consider funding the second phase of the program.”

Price Fluctuation of Fresh Coriander in Baay Region – Baidoa Focus

Fresh coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) continues to play a vital role in the Somali diet and agribusiness landscape, particularly in irrigated and peri-urban zones. It is one of the most frequently consumed crops at household level and a key income source for smallholder farmers. However, recent field assessments indicate that its market value has undergone irregular fluctuations, especially over the last few months.



During the months of April and May 2025, retail prices in Mogadishu's urban markets ranged between \$7–\$11 per Maas, with sharp shifts depending on day-to-day supply and consumer demand. This volatility has made it difficult for producers and traders alike to forecast profitability or plan planting and harvesting schedules reliably. Currently, field observations from the Baay Region, specifically in Baidoa—show a dramatic price drop. The producer-level price of coriander in local farming communities stands at around 10,000 Somali Shillings per Maas, which is equivalent to less than \$0.50. This price disparity of nearly 75% between rural and urban markets highlights a persistent inefficiency in the value chain, primarily caused by weak aggregation systems, poor infrastructure, and limited farmer access to market data.

Several factors contribute to these fluctuations. A major issue is the lack of awareness among local producers about seasonal demand cycles, urban price trends, and market negotiation strategies. This results in poorly timed sales and frequent oversupply. Additionally, coriander's perishability combined with the absence of proper post-harvest storage or processing forces farmers to sell quickly at suppressed prices, leading to

significant revenue loss. Rising costs of inputs such as irrigation fuel and fertilizers are further squeezing producer margins. As part of our departmental mandate, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation holds a strategic responsibility to address these inefficiencies. Efforts must be made to modernize cultivation practices, enhance farmer understanding of market dynamics, and invest in post-harvest handling infrastructure. Strengthening farmer cooperatives, launching mobile market information systems, and developing aggregation centers near production zones will be essential to improving price stability and unlocking higher income for coriander farmers.

A Month of Progress in Agricultural Research and Extension



What a productive month June has been for the Department of Research and Extension! We've been incredibly busy across various fronts, from our ongoing field trials to exciting new collaborations and the final preparations for our digital platform. It's truly rewarding to see our strategic goals for strengthening Somalia's seed systems and promoting climate-smart agriculture come to life.

Early June: Deep Dive into Field Trials

The early weeks of June were dominated by our crucial field trials for the Gu Season 2025. Our teams were diligently working at Bonkey (Southwest State), Jowhar (Hirshabelle State), and Bula-Gaduud (Jubaland State). These sites are so important because they represent different agro-ecological zones, allowing us to really understand how our maize, cowpea, and mung bean varieties perform under diverse conditions.



We focused heavily on monitoring the vegetative growth stage, ensuring timely weeding, and, critically, implementing our integrated pest management (IPM) practices. Weekly inspections were non-negotiable, and we applied environmentally friendly foliar sprays whenever pest thresholds were exceeded. Collecting detailed phenotypic and agronomic data – plant height, leaf development, flowering dates, and pest damage – has been a meticulous but essential task. This data is the backbone of our future recommendations to farmers and seed producers.

Simultaneously, our national maize variety trial at the Ministry's Seed Testing and Multiplication Farm in Mogadishu was also progressing well. We're testing four hybrid maize varieties alongside control plots. It was exciting to see most varieties reaching the flowering stage by late June. We maintained strict field hygiene, removed off-types, and provided supplemental irrigation to ensure optimal growth. The data from these trials will be vital for assessing adaptability and yield potential under Somali conditions.

Mid-June: Strengthening Resilience in Dollow

A significant highlight of the month was the joint field mission to Dollow District in Jubaland State. As the Head of Seed Multiplication, it was inspiring to see the agricultural resilience-building interventions being implemented by SomRep in close partnership with our Ministry at both federal and state levels.

We provided technical oversight, ensuring that all initiatives aligned with national policies and supported local capacity building. Observing the concrete irrigation canals in Bullo Qalooc, the functional farmer groups in Dayah, and the distribution of certified seeds at Kabasa IDP Camp underscored the tangible impact of these efforts. The launch of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) in Aboke and the formation of Early Warning Committees in Beertir are also fantastic steps towards empowering communities and enhancing their preparedness against climate risks. This mission truly reinforced the power of collaboration between development partners and government institutions..

Mid-June: Strengthening Resilience in Dollow



A proud moment for the Ministry was participating in the official inauguration of the new Seed Bank at City University's KM9 campus in Mogadishu. While the International Organization for Migration (IOM) spearheaded its establishment, our high-level presence, including the Director General and myself, clearly demonstrated our unwavering commitment to seed conservation, genetic diversity, and collaborative initiatives that bolster Somalia's seed systems. It's a vital step for our national agricultural future..

Late June: Collaborative Research Takes Root at ZamZam University

Towards the end of the month, we officially launched a collaborative cowpea variety trial at ZamZam University's Research Station in Garasbaalay. This is a fantastic partnership involving our Department, ZamZam University, and a fellow researcher from the University of Cambridge. We've included 60 cowpea accessions, many of which are prominent local varieties like Baidoa White, Jowhar Black Eye, and Afgoye Short Pod, sourced directly from our national germplasm collection



It was wonderful to see all varieties achieve successful germination, showing great initial adaptability. Our focus now is on meticulously collecting data on yield potential, pest and disease resistance, and drought tolerance. This initiative is a significant stride towards developing climate-resilient cowpea varieties for Somalia and highlights the immense value of international and national research collaboration

Looking Ahead: July's Agenda

July promises to be another busy month! We're planning to initiate a field study on banana pests and diseases, continue our extensive data collection from the multi-location seed trials, and, excitingly, begin harvesting our cowpea and mung bean trials. We'll also proceed with data collection from rice trials and conduct a technical field visit to ZamZam University.

Mechanization Field Demonstration in Afgoye

On 13 July 2025, the Department of Mechanization, Technology and Innovation in close collaboration with Gaalooge Agribusiness Enterprise, successfully organized a Farmer's Field Demonstration Day in Afgoye District. The event formed a key part of the Department's broader strategy to accelerate the adoption of mechanized farming technologies and strengthen linkages between farmers, cooperatives, private sector actors, and government institutions.

The Field Day was conceptualized as a hands-on awareness platform to bring mechanization closer to end users. With Somalia's agriculture sector heavily dependent on manual labor and traditional tools, many farmers remain unaware of the practical benefits, cost-savings, and efficiency improvements associated with mechanized agriculture. This demonstration was therefore intended to address the knowledge gap, dispel misconceptions around machinery usage, and build farmer confidence in embracing modern equipment.



The event featured live demonstrations of CASE IH tractors and implements, including models JXT55 HP, JXT75 HP, JXM90 HP, and JX95 HP, operating in real field conditions. Farmers had the opportunity to observe plowing, harrowing, ridging, and tractor maneuvering in practice. The demonstrations also included discussions on operational costs, fuel efficiency, machine maintenance, and mechanization hire services.



Participants included individual farmers, women's groups, agricultural cooperatives, tractor service providers, youth, and local extension officers. The event created a platform for interactive dialogue between these stakeholders and enabled private sector actors to showcase their offerings, including credit facilities, lease-to-own schemes, and spare parts availability.

By hosting the demonstration in a major agricultural hub like Afgooye, the Ministry signaled its commitment to scaling agricultural mechanization as a transformative driver of food security, rural employment, and climate-smart production systems. The successful outcome of this field event supports the case for replicating similar demonstrations across other regions in Somalia to foster wider uptake and investment in mechanization.



Looking Ahead: July's Agenda

On 22 July 2025, the Department of Mechanization, Technology and Innovation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation officially launched a six-month TVET Mechanization Training Program, targeting 30 Somali youth. The Training Program aimed at equipping Somali youth with the skills required to operate, maintain, and repair modern agricultural machinery. This initiative forms a critical component of Somalia's long-term strategy to build a technically capable workforce that can sustain and scale the country's mechanization agenda.

The launch ceremony was officiated by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, who emphasized the critical need to build a strong national cadre of technically trained personnel to sustain and manage the increasing investments in agricultural machinery. In his address, the Minister stated:



“Somalia urgently needs skilled agricultural technicians and operators to maintain and operate our agricultural machinery. This training is not just about machines—it is about equipping our youth with livelihoods and supporting the agricultural transformation of our country.”

H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation”

The training program is implemented through a public-private partnership between the Ministry, Gaalooqe Agribusiness Enterprise, and CASE IH, a leading global agricultural equipment manufacturer. This collaboration brings together public policy leadership, technical expertise, private sector innovation, and real-world training environments to create a comprehensive and hands-on capacity development model.

The training is designed to be modular and blended, combining both theoretical and practical components. The Ministry's headquarters in Mogadishu will serve as the central site for classroom-based sessions focused on tractor systems, machinery theory, agronomic applications, digital monitoring tools, safety standards, and preventive maintenance. Meanwhile, Gaalooqe's demonstration and training field will host the practical sessions, allowing participants to engage directly with CASE IH machinery under guided supervision from qualified technicians and instructors.

The program is a response to a growing challenge in Somalia: the shortage of skilled operators and technicians capable of maintaining, repairing, and efficiently using modern agricultural equipment. Despite increasing investments in machinery, the lack of local expertise continues to hinder service quality and sustainability. The Department views this training as a strategic investment in human capital that will ultimately improve the functionality and outreach of mechanization services.

By the end of the training cycle, the Ministry aims to produce a cadre of certified young technicians who will be linked to government service centers, cooperatives, and private machinery service providers. These youth are expected to become the backbone of Somalia's mechanized farming ecosystem, driving productivity, job creation, and rural innovation.



Handover of Motorcycles and Milling Machines from Qatar Charity

On 25 July 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia officially received a consignment of motorcycles and maize milling machines donated by Qatar Charity, during a handover event held in Mogadishu. This support marks a continued commitment by the State of Qatar and Qatar Charity toward strengthening Somalia's agricultural development and rural livelihoods.

The ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir, who expressed profound gratitude to Qatar Charity and the State of Qatar for their generous contribution to the Somali farming community.



These equipments will be distributed to smallholder farmers and agricultural cooperatives across various regions of Somalia. The motorcycles will play a vital role in improving farmer logistics and field mobility, enabling timely access to markets and input suppliers. Additionally, the milling machines will be deployed to community-based grain processing centers, where they will contribute to reducing post-harvest losses, enhancing value addition, and improving food processing capacity at the village level.

Somalia’s agriculture sector is dominated by small-scale farmers, many of whom face major constraints in accessing modern tools, transport, and post-harvest processing equipment. Mechanization levels remain critically low, resulting in high labor burdens and low productivity.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has prioritized the scaling up of appropriate mechanization and post-harvest technologies as a cornerstone of its agricultural transformation agenda. This focus aims to increase productivity, reduce labor-intensive farming practices, and enhance value addition across the crop production cycle. By promoting cost-effective and locally adaptable machinery, as well as modern post-harvest handling tools, the Ministry seeks to address key challenges such as low mechanization rates, high post-harvest losses, and inefficient grain processing.

Desert Locust Situation

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm during July 2025. No surveys were conducted, however reports from district DL focal persons, scouts, and regional extension officers indicated that no locusts were seen in the coastal, sub-coastal, and inland areas of the locust breeding areas in the northwest and northeast regions. Light to moderate rains that fell during the biggening of the month in the breeding areas may create favorable ecological conditions. vegetation is beginning to green, and the soil has become moist.

Desert Locust Situation



Forecasting

Ecological conditions may become favorable for locust breeding in some areas if abundant rainfall continues during August, especially in coastal areas like Zaila, Lughaya, and Berbera districts in the Northwest, which are primary Desert Locust breeding areas. This could lead to the creation of favorable conditions for locust breeding.