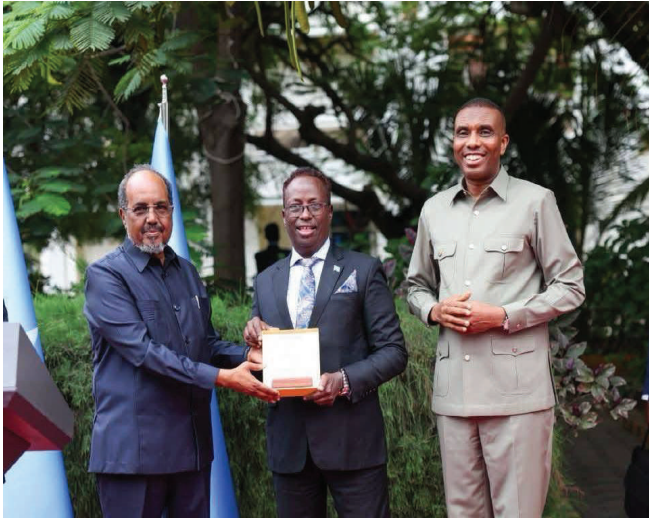


## Award of Excellence Bestowed upon the Minister

**AUGUST 2025**



H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Government of Somalia, and H.E. Hamse Abdi Barre, Prime Minister of Somalia. This prestigious acknowledgement, conferred during the launch of the National Governmental Performance Review.

23.08.2025 H.E. Hon\_Maareeye is deeply honored to receive the Award of Excellence in recognition of the outstanding performance of Somalia's agriculture and irrigation sectors, presented by H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Government of Somalia, and H.E. Hamse Abdi Barre, Prime Minister of Somalia. This prestigious acknowledgement, conferred during the launch of the National Governmental Performance Review Ceremony at Villa Somalia, stands as a testament to our shared dedication to transformative agricultural progress and our unwavering commitment to building a food-secure Somalia. The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia, e Somali



In a ceremony held at Villa Somalia, H.E. President Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and H.E. Prime Minister Hamse Abdi Barre acknowledged the Minister for his exemplary leadership and exceptional service delivery in agriculture. This honor recognizes the Minister's tireless efforts and steadfast commitment to transformative agricultural progress and the pursuit of a food-secure Somali







*was pleased to host a strategic high-level meeting between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and WFP Somalia at the Ministry HQ.*

**16.08.2025**, H.E. Hon\_Maareeye was pleased to host a strategic high-level meeting between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and WFP Somalia at the Ministry HQ. The meeting focused on aligning priorities and programs, with joint commitments to Launch Agriculture Sector Coordination Introduce a new model for project design and implementation Strengthen institutional capacity for agricultural service delivery

H.E. Hon\_Maareeye expressed sincere appreciation to the WFP Somalia team, led by Mr. Elkhidir Daloum (EKDaloum), Representative and Country Director, for their openness to collaboration and dedication to a results-driven partnership



H.E. Hon\_Maareeye was honored to warmly welcome Mrs. Rasha Omar, IFAD Country Director for Somalia, together with the distinguished IFAD high-level delegation,

**23.08.2025**, H.E. Hon\_Maareeye was honored to warmly welcome Mrs. Rasha Omar, IFAD Country Director for Somalia, together with the distinguished IFAD high-level delegation, for a strategic supervision visit on RLRP held at the MoAI HQ.

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome Mrs. Rasha Omar, IFAD Country Director for Somalia, Sudan, and Djibouti, along with the esteemed IFAD high-level delegation, who joined us for a strategic supervision and collaboration visit under the Rural Livelihood and Resilience Programme (RLRP) today at the MoAI HQ. Their engagement reflects a shared commitment to strengthening rural livelihoods, enhancing resilience, and advancing inclusive development across Somalia.



## Cultivating Change: Somalia's Vision for a Food-Secure and Resilient Future.

The wind of change is blowing in Somalia—a country that has endured the devastating impacts of civil war, climatic challenges, and poor governance for more than three decades. In a bold move to recover lost opportunities and shape a brighter future for food security, Somalia has recently launched the “Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya” (BBS) initiative—a groundbreaking agricultural transformation project aimed at reversing rural decline, food insecurity, and climate vulnerability.

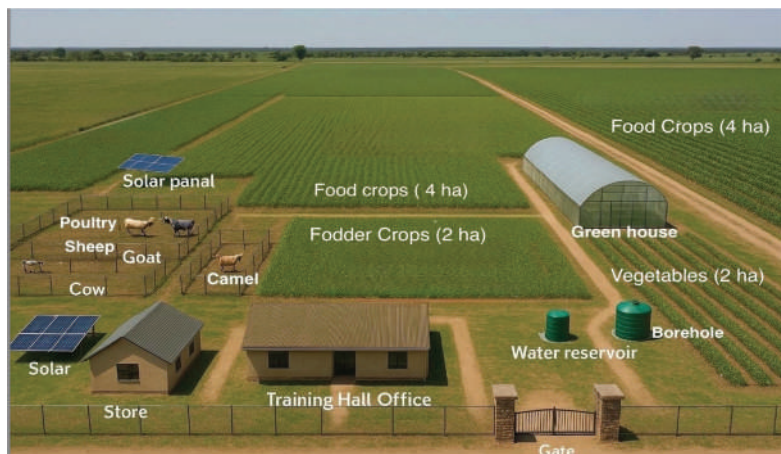
Led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation under the National Transformation Plan (2025–2029), the initiative seeks to shift from the traditional nomadic pastoralist lifestyle to a modern, technology-driven agro-pastoral economy that emphasizes climate resilience, sustainable food systems, and empowerment of youth and women.

At the forefront of this effort is the Minister of Agriculture, HE Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Mareeye), who is determined to address the growing challenges of food insecurity, rural displacement, and youth unemployment—while promoting sustainable economic development, social inclusion, and climate resilience.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), global demand for food is expected to increase by 50% between 2012 and 2050—highlighting the urgent need to modernize local food systems. Somalia is at a pivotal moment to build momentum and establish a pathway to providing food security for its people. resilience.

Since the onset of civil conflict in 1991, Somalia has experienced a significant decline in its rural population—from 70% in 1991 to just 53% in 2020. Climate-induced droughts, floods, and recurring famines have devastated agricultural productivity, forcing many farmers to migrate to urban slums and camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

As of 2022, approximately 3.9 million Somalis—nearly a quarter of the population—depended on humanitarian assistance, and food imports surged to \$1.19 billion in 2021. The country's agricultural decline is compounded by its vulnerability to climate change, making Somalia one of the most affected nations globally. Traditional farming and pastoral systems have proven unsustainable in the face of increasingly severe weather shocks



The BBS initiative represents a paradigm shift in Somalia's development approach. Central to this effort is the transformation of traditional nomadic livelihoods into sedentary, climate-smart agro-pastoralism driven by innovation and inclusive economic policies. The initiative is anchored in three key pillars of Somalia's National Transformation Plan: Sustainable Economic Transformation, Social and Human Capital Development, and Environment and Climate Resilience.

In addition, the BBS initiative is Aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the aim of creating systemic change in rural Somalia—empowering communities not just to survive, but to thrive. With agriculture and livestock accounting for 60% of GDP, 80% of employment, and 90% of exports, revitalizing these sectors is a national imperative.

The BBS initiative promotes modern farming techniques—including advanced climate resilient irrigation systems, improved seeds varieties, centralized livestock management with veterinary and feed support, agribusiness development for value addition and market access, and job creation for youth and women through vocational training, value addition and entrepreneurship, among other priorities.

Beyond enhancing food security, BBS envisions fostering effective institutional coordination to support sustainable rural development. The initiative advocates for harmonized action across all levels of government, alongside strong participation and engagement from the private sector, civil society, and development partners. By nurturing an ecosystem of innovation, investment, and inclusive governance, the program aims to reduce youth migration, reverse rural displacement, and restore environmental balance through afforestation and soil conservation.

The Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya initiative is more than just an agricultural project—it is a nation-building strategy rooted in resilience, dignity, and opportunity. By reimagining rural life and cultivating a new generation of climate-smart farmers, Somalia is planting the seeds for a more food-secure, self-reliant, and hopeful future.



## Desert Locust Situation

Danger	Threat	Caution	Calm
			✓



Figure 1: Desert Locust Situation during August 2025

## Forecasting

Ecological conditions may become favorable for locust breeding in some areas. If substantial rainfall persists through September, especially in coastal areas like Zaila, Lughaya, and Berbera districts in the Northwest part of the country, which are primary Desert Locust breeding areas. This could lead to the creation of favorable conditions for locust breeding.

## Desert Locust Situation

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm during August 2025. No surveys were carried out; 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 beginning of the month in the breeding areas may create favorable ecological conditions. Vegetation is beginning to green, and the soil has become moist.

## Forecasting

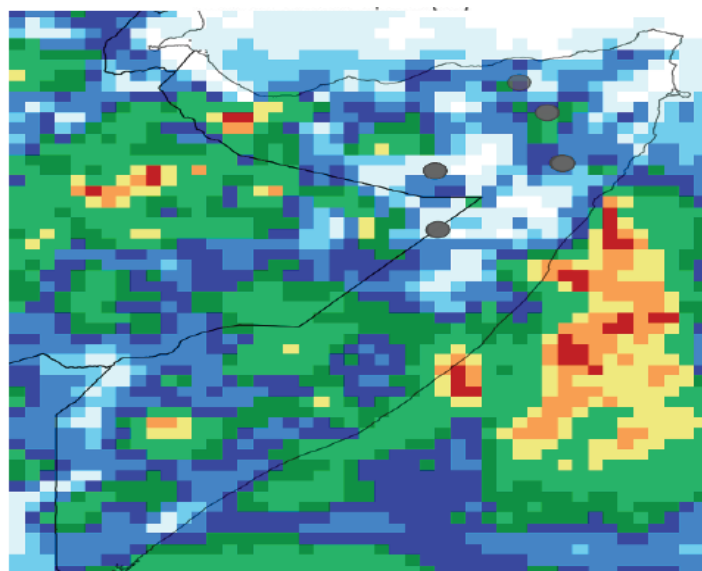


Figure 2: Rainfall Estimation August 2025

## National workshop on Somalia Digital Agriculture and Livestock Ecosystem

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation participated in a three-day National Workshop on the Somalia Digital Agriculture and Livestock Ecosystem, organized by the Somalia Food Systems Resilience Project (S-FSRP) from 1–3 August 2025.

The workshop took place at a time when Somalia is making concerted efforts to modernize its agriculture and livestock sectors through digital technologies, innovation, and mechanization. Agriculture and livestock remain the backbone of the Somali economy, employing over 60% of the population and contributing significantly to livelihoods, food security, and exports. However, both subsectors face persistent challenges: low mechanization levels, weak data systems, fragmented services, limited access to finance, and low adoption of digital tools among producers.

The workshop was therefore designed as a national platform to align key stakeholders, review ongoing initiatives, and lay out a roadmap for a coherent digital agriculture and livestock ecosystem. By integrating modern technologies such as mobile applications, digital farmer registries, mechanization telematics, livestock traceability, and e-voucher systems the Government of Somalia aims to improve productivity, transparency, and resilience across value chains.

The event also served as a knowledge exchange forum, enabling participants to share experiences from within Somalia and from regional/global best practices. It provided an opportunity to identify gaps, propose innovative solutions, and foster partnerships between government, development partners, the private sector, and producer organizations.



During the three-day workshop, the Director of the Department of Mechanization, Technology and Innovation, Eng. Dirie Abdi Mohamed, delivered two technical presentations—the Somalia Digital Agriculture Strategy (2025–2029) and the Somalia Digital Agriculture Landscape: Gaps and Opportunities which together outlined the strategic vision, highlighted key pillars infrastructure

development, capacity building on digital literacy, policy and regulatory Framework, data management and sharing, promoting of smart farming and public-private partnerships, emphasized alignment with national and continental frameworks, analyzed existing gaps including weak infrastructure and lack of interoperability, and underscored opportunities for innovation, partnerships, and investment, thereby setting the tone for discussions and shaping the workshop's road-map toward building a unified national digital agriculture and livestock ecosystem.



Recognizing these challenges, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has prioritized mechanization and technology adoption as part of its national strategy to transform Somalia's agricultural systems. By working closely with partners such as Qatar Charit the Ministry is implementing targeted interventions that provide farmers and producer cooperatives with the tools they need to transition from traditional practices to more modern, efficient, and market-oriented approaches



### **Handover of Milling Machines and Motorcycles to Farmers and Cooperatives**

On 8 August 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), in collaboration with Qatar Charity, convened a landmark handover event at the Ministry's headquarters in Mogadishu. The initiative marked an important milestone in Somalia's journey toward agricultural modernization and mechanization, as a total of 40 milling machines and 40 motorcycles were officially handed over to farmers and cooperatives from —Jubaland, Southwest, Galmudug, Hirshabelle and Benadir

Despite its central role, the agriculture sector continues to face persistent challenges, including low mechanization, weak infrastructure, poor logistics, and high post-harvest losses. Farmers often struggle to access modern machinery and affordable transport, which limits productivity, reduces market competitiveness, and contributes to widespread food insecurity.





*H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, emphasized the government's continued commitment to advancing Somalia's mechanization agenda*

**07.08.2025**, H.E. Hon\_Maareeye proudly announced the successful distribution of 40 milling machines and 40 high-performance farm motorcycles to 80 smallholder farmers at the Ministry's Headquarters in Mogadishu, Somalia. This milestone builds on the recent distribution of 26 tractors across the Federal Member States (FMS), marking another step forward in strengthening agricultural mechanization nationwide.

The distribution of milling machines and motorcycles is a practical step toward addressing critical gaps in post-harvest processing and transport logistics. Milling machines will empower cooperatives to process cereals locally, reducing dependency on external services while enhancing value addition. Meanwhile, motorcycles will serve as vital transport assets, helping farmers—particularly youth engaged in greenhouse fruit and vegetable farming in Mogadishu—move produce quickly to markets, reduce spoilage, and improve income.



In his keynote remarks, H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, emphasized the government's continued commitment to advancing Somalia's mechanization agenda. He noted that the Ministry will continue to support farmers and cooperatives with modern equipment and tools in order to scale up the current state of mechanization across the country. The Minister further underlined that one of the Ministry's top priorities is to mechanize Somalia's agriculture through the adoption of modern technologies, thereby improving productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, and ensuring food security for all citizens.



## How These Equipment Will Transform Agriculture Production in Somalia

The distribution of milling machines and motorcycles represents a transformative step in strengthening Somalia's agrifood system. By enabling farmers and cooperatives to process raw cereals into flour and other value-added products, milling machines help build stronger linkages between production, processing, and markets, creating a more integrated value chain. They also play a vital role in reducing post-harvest losses, one of the sector's biggest challenges, by allowing farmers to process harvests immediately. Complementing this, motorcycles provide a reliable means of transporting perishable goods such as fruits and vegetables to markets, reducing spoilage, ensuring timely delivery, and expanding farmers' access to consumers.

Beyond logistics and processing, these tools empower cooperatives as service providers and open up opportunities for youth and women to engage in agribusiness, thereby fostering entrepreneurship and inclusive growth. Together, the equipment contributes directly to national food security by reducing losses, adding value, and improving distribution, while also making the food system more resilient to shocks such as drought, market disruptions, and climate-related risks. Most importantly, these interventions lay the foundation for the modernization of Somalia's agriculture, supporting the Ministry's vision to move from subsistence farming toward a modern, market-oriented, and technology-driven sector.



*Ministry's vision to move from subsistence farming toward a modern, market-oriented, and technology-driven sector.*

### National Workshop on Launching and Dissemination of Somalia Digital Agriculture Strategy 2025-2029

On 20 August 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) of the Federal Republic of Somalia with support from FAO and the Somalia Food Systems Resilience Project (S-FSRP), successfully organized a National Workshop on the Launching and Dissemination of the Somalia Digital Agriculture Strategy in Mogadishu. The event marked a historic milestone in Somalia's journey toward modernizing its agriculture sector through digital transformation, bringing together government institutions, private sector actors, development partners, universities, and farmer representatives to discuss and endorse the strategy.



The strategy was prepared with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and financial support from the African Development Bank (AfDB). Its development reflects the shared vision of the Government and partners to establish a robust framework that harnesses digital platforms to strengthen food security, improve farmer livelihoods, and build resilience against climate and market shocks.

This strategy represents a milestone in Somalia's efforts to modernize its agriculture sector by leveraging technology, data systems, and innovative solutions. The workshop served as a platform to officially launch the strategy, disseminate its key components, and engage stakeholders from government institutions, the private sector, development partners, universities, and farmer representatives.



By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the workshop reinforced the national commitment to advancing digital agriculture as a driver of inclusive growth, innovation, and sustainability in Somalia's agriculture sector.



In his opening remarks, Hon. Asad Abdirizak Mohamed, State Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, expressed his gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for providing technical support, the African Development Bank (AfDB) for its financial contribution, and the Somalia Food Systems Resilience Project (S-FSRP) for supporting the workshop. He described the occasion as a historic day for Somalia, marking the official launch of the Somalia Digital Agriculture Strategy. The Minister emphasized that the strategy represents a significant milestone in the modernization of the country's agricultural system through the adoption of modern technologies and innovative solutions.



Somalia has a unique opportunity to digitalize its agriculture sector, leveraging the widespread use of mobile phones, mobile money platforms, expanding internet coverage, and an increasingly innovative youth population. By adopting digital tools such as farmer e-registration, e-voucher systems, mechanization telematics, market information platforms, and early warning systems, Somalia can transform its agriculture into a more productive, transparent, and resilient sector that supports food security, inclusive growth, and climate adaptation.

### **River Embankment Status and Flood Risk Monitoring – Juba and Shabelle Rivers**

This issue of the Ministry's Monthly Journal presents a detailed analysis of the current condition of river embankments and flood-prone zones along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers. These rivers serve as the lifeblood of agricultural production in southern Somalia, yet they also pose significant threats when weakened or breached.

The Department of Irrigation, Land Use and Agro-Meteorology has conducted a comprehensive assessment based on remote sensing data, identifying vulnerable points along both rivers. This edition aims to inform planning decisions, guide emergency interventions, and support the ongoing coordination among national and regional stakeholders.

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### **River Breakage Summary – August 2025**

#### **Juba River:**

- 105 Open Breakage Points
- 14 Canal Flooding Points
- 31 Overflow Points
- 2 Points Closed with Sandbags

#### **Shabelle River:**

- 126 Open Breakage Points
- 55 Canal Flooding Points
- 188 Overflow Points
- 7 Points Closed with Sandbags

These figures reflect current risk levels based on recent satellite imagery and indicate zones requiring urgent attention.



## 2. Methodology

The Department employed Very High Resolution (VHR) satellite imagery and Digital Elevation Models (DEM) to identify structural weaknesses along river embankments. While the approach offers wide coverage, it has limitations:

- Cloud cover may obscure visual confirmation.
- Ground verification is minimal due to access constraints.
- Breakages in heavily vegetated or shadowed areas may be underreported.

Despite these constraints, this methodology remains a critical tool for early warning and disaster preparedness.

## 3. Legend for River Embankments Analysis

This classification system defines the types of embankment conditions and vulnerabilities identified:

- **OPEN (O):**

Recent (< 1 year) active breakage with no signs of intervention.

- **OVERFLOWS (Of):**

Sections of riverbank recently overtopped by floodwaters (< 1 year), often extending hundreds of meters.

- **CANAL FLOODING POINT (CI):**

Canal intakes where recent floods have entered farmlands, with no intervention visible.

- **POTENTIAL OVERFLOW (POf):**

Stretches with no current flooding, but which overflowed previously and remain unmitigated.

- **POTENTIAL (P):**

Sites with signs of erosion, vegetation clearance, or other indicators of weakening embankments.

- **POTENTIAL OLD (Po):**

Historical weak points (>2 years) now appearing stable, without recent flood activity.

- **CLOSED with Sandbags (Cs):**

Recently breached areas temporarily closed using sandbags; still vulnerable.

- **CLOSED with Heavy Machinery (Cm):**

Recently repaired sites reinforced with machinery and earthworks; currently stable.

- **CLOSED OLD (Co):**

Historical flood sites now stabilized and inactive.

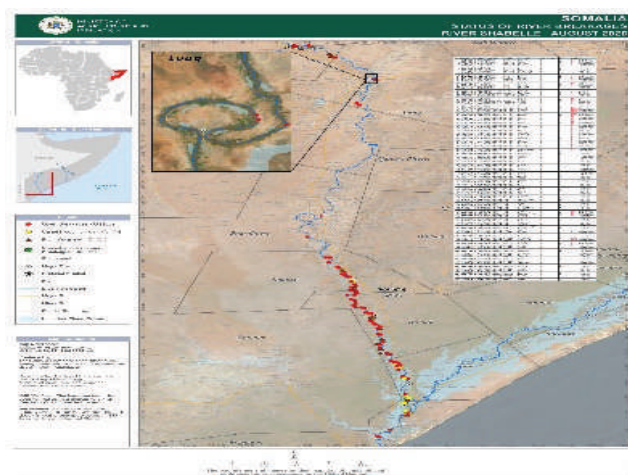
## 4 Key Observations

- The Shabelle River continues to show a higher concentration of breakage and overflow points than the Juba, placing surrounding agricultural zones at significant risk.
- Several canal intake points are recurring zones of vulnerability and need targeted engineering solutions.
- Temporary fixes such as sandbags are still present at multiple sites and should not be considered sustainable mitigation.

## 5. Recommendations

The Ministry recommends the following priority actions:

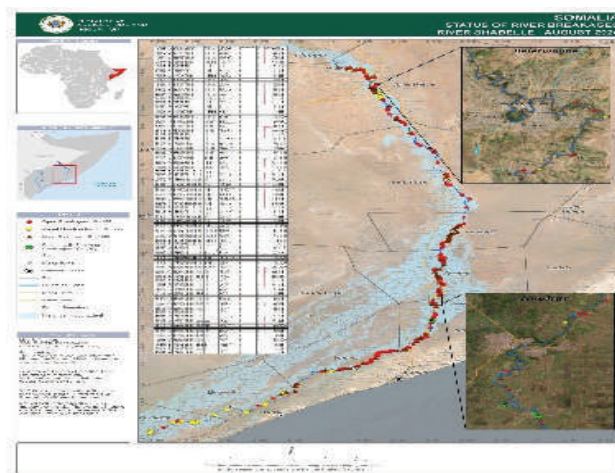
- Emergency repairs at the most critical open breakage points.
- Upgrading temporary closures (e.g., sandbags) with more permanent structures.
- Comprehensive flood preparedness plans for communities along both rivers.
- Ongoing monitoring of potential overflow and erosion points using updated satellite imagery.
- Resource mobilization for long-term river-bank protection projects.



## 6. Conclusion

The analysis presented in this journal confirms that many riverine communities remain vulnerable to flooding due to the persistent degradation of embankments along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers. Strategic, data-informed interventions are urgently required to mitigate these threats before the next major flooding cycle.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, through its technical departments, remains committed to proactive river monitoring, early warning dissemination, and collaborative flood risk management across all levels of government and development partners.





## Field Assessment of Priority Crops – Goobweyn, Jubaland

The purpose of the assessment visit to Goobweyn was to raise awareness among farming communities on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and assess the production status of key strategic crops in the area. The visit also aimed to strengthen farmer engagement, identify challenges affecting productivity, and explore opportunities for cooperative development and value chain improvement.

### Outcomes / Results:

- Awareness sessions on Good Agriculture Practice (GAP), pest and disease management, and post-harvest handling were delivered to local farmers.
- The assessment focused on strategic crops—maize, sorghum, cowpea, sesame, banana, and lime all of which are among MoAI's seven national priority crops.
- Farmers reported production constraints including irregular rainfall, pest infestations, limited access to quality inputs, and inadequate market linkages.
- Strong farmer interest was expressed in cooperative organization for improved input access, aggregation, and marketing.
- Opportunities were identified to expand climate-smart agricultural practices and irrigation schemes in the area.

### Impact & Recommendations:

- Strengthen cooperative structures for collective marketing, input procurement, and value chain integration.
- Support targeted pest control and IPM programs for key crops.
- Enhance irrigation and climate-smart agriculture adoption to improve resilience.
- Facilitate linkages between Goobweyn farmers and regional markets to boost incomes and reduce post-harvest losses.

### Harvesting Progress Report: Hydroponic Vertical Farming & Wall Garden Planters, at Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, MoAI

#### Objective/Purpose

This report summarizes completed harvesting activities for lettuce and outlines upcoming harvest schedules for spinach grown in both hydroponic vertical farming systems and wall garden planters

#### Description of Activities:

##### Recent Harvesting Activity:

- Crop: Lettuce , System: Hydroponic Vertical Farming
- Quantity Harvested: 180 heads
- Harvest Date: 31 July 2025

#### Key Attendees:

- Mohamed Muse Adan, Director of Crop Production
- Mr. Abdulqadir Dakane, National Director, SOS Children's Villages
- Some members of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

- Distribution: The harvested lettuce crop was distributed to employees of the Ministry of Agriculture.

#### • **Upcoming Harvest Schedule:**

- Crop: Spinach
- System: Hydroponic Vertical Farming
- Quantity Scheduled: 360 units
- Planned Harvest Date: 17 August 2025
- Crop: Spinach
- System: Wall Garden Planters
- Quantity Scheduled: 896 units
- Planned Harvest Date: 08 September 2025  
(Three weeks after 17 August 2025)

#### **Distribution (Pending Harvests):**

Distribution plans for the upcoming spinach harvests (both vertical farm and wall planters) are pending and will be finalized closer to the respective harvest dates.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Monitor spinach maturation in the hydroponic vertical farm for harvest readiness on 17 August 2025.
- Continue maintenance and monitoring of spinach in wall garden planters for harvest on 08 September 2025.
- Finalize distribution plans for the upcoming spinach harvests.
- Prepare for harvest activities on the scheduled dates

### **Field Outreach on Priority Crops – Buulo-Doonka, Balcad District**

#### **Objective/Purpose**

The purpose of the field outreach visit was to raise awareness among farming communities on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and evaluate the condition of key crops in the area. The activity also aimed to identify pest and disease pressures affecting production and to provide on-site guidance to farmers for improved management and productivity.



#### **Outcomes / Results:**

- Farmers in Buulo-Doonka gained awareness of GAP, including pest management strategies and crop husbandry techniques.
- Infestations of Cutworm and Fall Armyworm were observed on maize fields, prompting immediate advisory measures.
- The assessment covered five major crops—maize, banana, Lime and Spondias Fruit—Three of which (maize, banana and Lime) are among MoAI's seven strategic priority crops.
- Farmers expressed interest in receiving further technical training on pest control, post-harvest handling, and sustainable input use.
- Community members showed willingness to organize themselves into cooperatives for better access to inputs and markets.

### Impact & Recommendations:

- Strengthen farmer capacity in pest and disease management to reduce crop losses.
- Support the formation of crop-specific cooperatives for improved input access, market linkage, and collective action.
- Provide targeted interventions for Fall Armyworm and Cutworm control in maize production areas.
- Integrate pest monitoring into routine extension services to ensure timely responses and safeguard yields.

### Field Visit Report – Belet-Hawo - Banana Production

#### Objective/Purpose

The purpose of the field visit to Belet-Hawo was to assess the current status of banana production in the region, explore constraints affecting productivity, and identify opportunities for revitalization. The visit also aimed to engage with smallholder farmers and cooperative members, discuss modern techniques like tissue culture, and evaluate potential for local and cross-border banana trade.



### Outcomes / Results:

- The field visit revealed a high interest among farmers in revitalizing banana production.
- Banana production has declined due to reliance on traditional propagation using contaminated suckers, leading to pest infestations, especially by banana weevils and nematodes.
- Tissue culture propagation was discussed as a clean planting option, though access remains limited for resource-poor farmers.
- Participants acknowledged banana's historical economic importance and its potential to create jobs and boost local markets.
- There was strong interest in forming banana cooperatives to improve planting material access, training, and market linkage.

### Impact & Recommendations:

- Support the formation of banana cooperatives for collective marketing and quality assurance.
- Promote access to tissue culture banana plantlets via government and donor-supported nurseries.
- Train farmers on IPM targeting banana weevils and nematodes.
- Explore partnerships to revive banana export pathways to regional and international markets.



## Field Visit Report – Belethawo, Gawiido - Sorghum Production

### Objective/Purpose

The purpose of the field visit to Gawiido in Belethawo District was to assess the current status of sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) production in this key rainfed zone. The visit aimed to observe existing farming practices, evaluate productivity levels, identify challenges faced by farmers, and explore opportunities to enhance production through climate-resilient and modern agronomic techniques. The visit also intended to strengthen engagement with smallholder farmers and promote inclusive participation, particularly of women and youth, in sorghum value chains.



### Outcomes / Results:

- The field visit provided valuable insights into sorghum cultivation practices in Gawiido, where sorghum is grown under low rainfall conditions (300–500 mm annually) in mixed cropping systems with maize.
- It was observed that local sorghum production benefits from the crop's drought tolerance, making it a key food security crop in the semi-arid zones of Gedo.
- Productivity was found to be moderate (1–1.5 t/ha) for landrace varieties due to challenges such as *Striga* infestation, bird damage, and limited access to improved seeds and fertilizers.

- Farmers expressed a strong interest in adopting improved hybrids, integrated pest management, and better post-harvest handling to reduce losses.
- The visit enabled the identification of key capacity-building and input supply gaps, setting the stage for targeted support programs.

### Impact & Recommendations:

- There is significant potential to improve yields from 1–1.5 t/ha to 3–5 t/ha through training, improved seed, pest management, and soil fertility enhancement.
- Strengthening extension services and providing training on climate-smart practices are critical.
- Promote integrated sorghum-livestock systems for increased resilience and value addition.

## Advancing Inclusive Agribusiness: Somalia Women's Market Access Open Innovation Challenge 2025

Women in Somalia's agricultural sector play a vital role in production, processing, and trade. Yet, their access to formal markets remains constrained by structural, financial, and socio-cultural barriers. In response, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), in collaboration with CIAD, RLRP, and S-FSRP and with support from IFAD and the World Bank launched the Women's Market Access Open Innovation Challenge 2025. This initiative seeks to identify and scale inclusive, field-tested solutions that empower women agropreneurs and strengthen their participation in market systems.

### 2. Rationale:

Despite their contributions, women agropreneurs face persistent challenges:

- Limited access to transport, storage, and market infrastructure
- Financial exclusion due to lack of collateral and banking services
- Gender-based restrictions on land ownership and mobility
- Low digital literacy and limited access to mobile finance and e-commerce
- Weak representation in decision-making and policy platforms

These barriers undermine productivity, income generation, and long-term sustainability. The innovation challenge responds by creating a platform for visibility, support, and institutional engagement.

### Objectives of the Challenge

The initiative invites applications from Agribusiness Companies proposing solutions that:

- Strengthen market linkages for women-led agribusinesses
- Promote financial inclusion through mobile money and savings models
- Enhance competitiveness via branding, logistics, and value addition
- Build technical capacity through mentorship and training
- Advocate for policy reforms that institutionalize gender-responsive market systems

### Strategic Importance of Participation

Participation in the challenge offers multiple benefits:

- Access to seed funding and tailored incubation support
- Increased visibility across national and donor platforms
- Direct engagement with MoAI and strategic partners
- Opportunity to influence inclusive policy frameworks
- Networking with agribusiness leaders, youth innovators, and women's cooperatives

This is not merely a competition it is a strategic gateway to systemic change, community empowerment, and long-term sustainability.

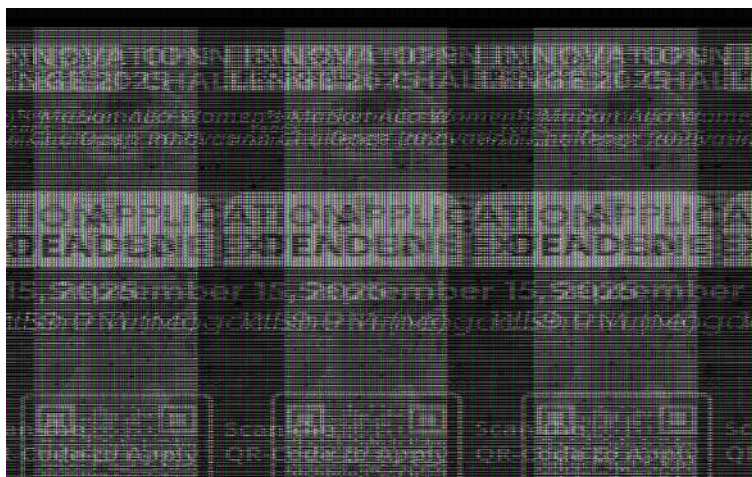


## 5. Extension Announcement

In response to high interest and stakeholder feedback, the Ministry has officially extended the application deadline by 15 days. Innovators now have until September 15, 2025 to submit their proposals via the CIAD portal: <https://ciad.moa.gov.so/event/1/>

<https://ciad.moa.gov.so/event/1/>

This extension ensures broader participation, especially from grassroots women's groups and youth-led enterprises who require additional time to refine their submissions.



## UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake (UNFSS+4)

Delegations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia, led by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation participated in the 2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) held from 27-29 July 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Summit was co-hosted by the Governments of Ethiopia and Italy and brought together ministers, policymakers, development partners, and civil society from across the globe.

The UNFSS+4 provided a crucial platform to reflect on the progress made since the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, while identifying challenges and opportunities to accelerate the transformation of global and national food systems. Discussions focused on scaling up financing, deepening partnerships, , and aligning food system actions with broader agendas on climate resilience, sustainable development, and peace. The Somali delegation actively engaged in plenary sessions, high-level dialogues, and bilateral exchanges, ensuring that Somalia's perspectives and priorities were clearly articulated.

The participation of the Ministry in the UNFSS+4 reinforced Somalia's visibility and engagement in global food systems dialogue. It demonstrated the Government's dedication to ensuring that Somalia is not only part of the global conversation but also shaping solutions that are locally driven and context-specific.

## 5. Extension Announcement

The Summit further provided opportunities for networking and collaboration with key partners to unlock investments for Somalia's food systems transformation.

On the other hand, a bilateral meeting was held between Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD, on the sidelines of the Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Opportunities in the IGAD Region and UNFSS. The session was attended by senior department directors and technical experts from both sides, underscoring the importance of the dialogue for advancing regional cooperation.



The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation opened the discussion by acknowledging the heightened vulnerability of the IGAD region to climate shocks, economic instability, and food insecurity compared to other parts of the world. He emphasized the urgency of collective solutions and stronger coordination to address these shared challenges. Dr. Workneh echoed this sentiment,

noting that the region's heavy reliance on agriculture stems from an underdeveloped industrial sector, making agriculture the primary driver of livelihoods and a critical entry point for development.

In closing, Dr. Workneh reiterated IGAD's commitment to advancing joint efforts that will improve livelihoods, enhance resilience, and foster lasting regional stability. Both sides agreed that deeper engagement between IGAD and Somalia's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is essential to turning these priorities into concrete and impactful actions.