

TRT AFRiKA



Mohamed Abdi Hayir Mareye
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation,
Federal Republic of Somali

We asked ourselves, why are somalis hungry when God has blessed us with fertile soil and natural wealth? the Grow or Farm and make Somalia Prosper (initiative) Provides a modern , Climate-resilient farming practices for food security and prosperity



Somalia has taken a bold step to address food insecurity and transform its agricultural future

Somalia has taken a bold step to address food insecurity and transform its agricultural future with the launch of the Integrated Model Farms Programme, known locally as Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS), translated as "Farms that make Somalia Prosper".

This national programme is set to turn its fertile land into a source of strength and prosperity, designed to transform agriculture, tackle food shortages, and unlock Somalia's potential as a breadbasket for its people.

The flagship initiative, launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Mogadishu, seeks to modernise farming through climate-smart technologies, solar energy, drought-tolerant crops, dairy production, and sustainable irrigation systems. It is being hailed as the most ambitious step yet to shift Somalia from food dependency to self-reliance

Somalia unveils agriculture scheme to make nation hunger-free

The government seeks to modernise farming through rainwater harvesting, climate-smart technologies, drought-tolerant crops, fodder cultivation and irrigation systems

Reducing food shortage is among the targets in a new agricultural strategy unveiled by Somalia's government.

The Integrated Model Farms Programme, known locally as Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS), translated as Farm, and make Somalia prosper, has been hailed as the most ambitious step yet to shift the country from food dependency to self-reliance.

A new era for Somalia's agriculture has begun," said Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, at the launch in the capital, Mogadishu.

Under the programme, the government seeks to modernise farming through sustainable rainwater harvesting, climate-smart technologies, drought-tolerant crops, fodder cultivation and sustainable irrigation systems.

It is designed not only to feed Somalia but to empower our farmers for generations to come,” the minister said.

Some nine demonstration farms have been established in Afgoye, Balcad, Kismayo, and Baidoa that will serve as training and innovation hubs. That number will be increased to 100 across the country by 2029 to create a nationwide network of integrated farming centers.



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The ministry urged the Somali private sector, diaspora community and development partners to invest in scaling up the model farms - with a significant number expected to be funded through partnerships.

Food security challenges

Somalia is endowed with vast arable lands, major rivers and favorable climatic zones but still imports most of its food.

“Traditional farming practices, limited access to technology and lack of investment have constrained productivity, leaving farmers unable to maximize their potential.” Minister Mareye said.

“We asked ourselves, why are Somalis hungry while we have fertile land and abundant natural resources?”

“This programme provides a concrete answer by replacing outdated methods with modern, climate-resilient farming practices,” he added. Already, Somali entrepreneurs are stepping in and have begun investing in agriculture, including the importation of dairy cows from South Africa and the Netherlands while also experimenting with new crops.

Officials believe such private-sector initiatives, combined with the BBS programme, will position Somalia alongside its neighbours in food sufficiency

Somalia eyes food system revolution amid mounting hunger crisis

Somalia is setting its sights on transforming its food systems, as the country grapples with an escalating hunger crisis.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), the Horn of Africa nation is on the brink of widespread food insecurity due to a confluence of challenges — including recurring droughts, floods, high food prices, ongoing conflict, and declining agricultural yields.

“A total of 4.6 million people are facing Crisis levels of hunger,” WFP reported, citing data from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. “Additionally, 1.8 million children under the age of five are suffering from acute malnutrition.”

In response, Somalia's Ministry of Agriculture is turning to regional trade and strategic investments in food system transformation to reverse the trend.

Agriculture Minister Mohamed Abdi Hayir "Maareeye" emphasized the government's commitment to modernizing the agriculture sector and positioning Somalia as a future regional food basket.

Speaking at the Africa Food Systems Forum 2025, Maareeye unveiled the Somalia Agri-Food Investment Partnership (SAIP) — a comprehensive Ksh.12.9 billion strategy aimed at enhancing food security and driving inclusive economic growth through targeted reforms and investments.

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“Today’s 100 million dollars anchor package is the first step in turning policy into bankable country deals,” said Abdihakim Ainte, Director of Food Security & Climate Change, Office of the Prime Minister.

“SAIP blends public and private capital to de-risk investment, crowd in partners, and deliver climate-smart production, processing, and reliable offtak, so farmers see higher incomes and Somalia moves steadily toward nutrition security and export growth.”

The SAIP initiative is designed to blend public and private capital, de-risk investments, and attract partners to support climate-smart production, agro-processing, and reliable offtake agreements — all intended to raise farmer incomes and boost nutrition and export potential

The Ministry has identified six key value chains — maize, sesame, lime, sorghum, cowpea, and fodder — as central to achieving this transformation.

“This legacy program is our investment blueprint,” Maareeye explained. “It bridges policy and impact by delivering tangible results for farmers and rural communities, while opening Somalia up to responsible investment and international markets.”

He also underscored Somalia’s strategic geographic advantage and potential for regional integration.

“With one of the longest coastlines in Africa — over 3,000 kilometers along the Indian Ocean — Somalia is well-positioned to facilitate agricultural exports and tap into regional and global supply chains.”

Currently, Somalia faces an estimated annual food deficit of \$2 billion, heavily relying on imports to meet domestic needs.

The SAIP initiative aims to gradually close this gap by enhancing local production and market systems.



Mogadishu, September 17, 2025 – The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), under the leadership of H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), proudly participated in the Somali Agricultural Women Association (SAWA) Expo held at the Jazeera Palace Hotel in Mogadishu.

During the Expo, a vibrant exhibition showcased agricultural products, farm inputs, tools, and machinery. Exhibitors included women-owned and women-led agribusinesses, female farmers, agricultural cooperatives, value chain actors, experts, researchers, and women’s empowerment advocates from across Somalia. SAWA is a pioneering organization championing women’s participation in Somalia’s agriculture and livestock sectors. It works to remove barriers to resources, training, and decision-making, while promoting food security, gender equality, and rural resilience through sustainable practices and economic empowerment.

H.E. Minister Maareeye delivered the official statement, saying: ‘It is a great pleasure to participate in this important event organized by SAWA. I extend my sincere thanks to Mrs Fatima Gabyow, Chairlady of SAWA, for the remarkable progress achieved since its establishment in April 2025. I reaffirm my full commitment to supporting and empowering women and girls in agriculture by facilitating access to financial resources, skills development, advocacy, markets, and trade opportunities.

‘In my 18 months as Minister of Agriculture, we have established the Centre for Innovation and Agropreneurship Development (CIAD), introduced key initiatives for women and youth empowerment such as SheFarm, and launched the BBS program to benefit women and youth across the country. By the end of this year, we will finalize a comprehensive strategy and costed action plan that will outline concrete actions to advance the empowerment of women and girls in Somalia’s agriculture sector’ Minister Maareeye added.

One of the keynote speakers at the event was Mrs Fatima Gabyoow, who outlined SAWA’s mandate, strategic priorities, and plans. She highlighted the purpose of the Somali Agricultural Women Association (SAWA) Expo and the expected outcomes in promoting women’s participation in agriculture.

The SAWA Expo convened high-level stakeholders dedicated to advancing women’s empowerment in the agricultural sector. Participants included representatives from the government of Somalia, embassies, TIKa, FAO, WFP, UN Women, Shaqodoon, IFAD-RLRP programme, Dahabshil Bank, Premier Bank, the Somalia Bank Association, the Somalia Reconstruction and Development Bank, microfinance institutions, numerous NGOs, private sector investors, and farmers.

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Attendees expressed their heartfelt appreciation to H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, and to SAWA’s leadership. They reaffirmed their commitment to supporting and empowering women in Somalia’s agriculture sector.

Official Launch of Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS) Integrated Model Farms

Mogadishu, Somalia – September 7, 2025:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), Federal Republic of Somalia, today launched the Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS) Integrated Model Farms Programme. The event showcased the Ministry’s commitment to transforming and modernizing Somali agriculture sector, building climate resilience, and improving livelihoods for farmers, rural communities, pastoralists, and agro-pastoral populations across the country.

Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS) is a transformative agricultural initiative aimed at fundamentally reshaping how Somali communities engage in farming. It seeks to modernize agricultural practices, enhance productivity, and catalyze a shift from traditional methods to climate-smart, integrated farming systems by promoting innovation, resilience, and sustainability. BBS empowers farmers to embrace a new era of resilient farming and drought-tolerant mechanisms

Official Statement by Minister Maareeye: The Minister delivered the official statement during the event, stating the following:

A new era for Somalia's agriculture has begun with the official launch of the Beero oo Barwaaqee Somalia (BBS) programme. I am proud to introduce this landmark initiative—a flagship national program that promotes an integrated modern farming system with sustainable rainwater harvesting to thrive year-round production, renewable energy from solar, dairy production, high-value and drought-tolerant crops, fodder cultivation, and climate-smart technologies. Following rigorous design and technical feasibility studies, the Ministry has successfully established nine demonstrative farms, competitively selected from fourteen candidates across four regions (Afgoye, Balcad, Kismayo and Baidoa). Our goal is to develop and replicate over 100 model farms nationwide by 2029. These model integrated farming will act as training and demonstration centers. However, we cannot achieve this alone. We call upon the Somali private sector, Diaspora community, and development partners to pledge financial and technical support to scale up and sustain these transformative farms.



The launch event brought together high-level stakeholders committed to transforming Somalia's agricultural landscape. Participants included the Deputy Ambassador of Qatar, representatives from development partners, including FAO, WFP, CARE International, SomRep/World Vision, Qatar Charity, Coopi, IOM, BRICs consortium (NRC, IRC, Save the Children). The financial institutions were also well represented, including the Somali Bankers Association, as well as representatives from the private sector and farmers.

Finally, the Minister urged donors and partners to align their interventions with the National Transformation Plan (NTP), the National Agriculture Transformation Strategy, the Ministry's ten national priority areas, and its fourteen flagship programmes.

Participation in the Stakeholder Validation Workshop on the Feasibility Study of the National Single Window (NSW) – Somalia

1. Objective of the Workshop

The workshop focused on the presentation of the Draft Feasibility Report for the establishment and implementation of the National Single Window (NSW).

The NSW is a digital platform that connects government agencies and the private sector to streamline import and export processes.

2. Agenda Items

Welcoming remarks and opening speeches by senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), the World Bank, and representatives of Somali business associations.

- A detailed presentation covering:
 - Somalia's economic and trade context
 - Institutional linkages and coordination
 - Trade-related laws and regulations
 - ICT infrastructure and system integration
 - Governance and institutional frameworks
 - Capacity building and change management
 - Risks and the NSW implementation roadmap
 - Interactive discussion and stakeholder feedback
 - Conclusions and official closing of the workshop

3. Key Issues Relevant to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for issuing phytosanitary certificates as well as permits related to seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural inputs.

- These processes are currently manual, leading to significant delays and costs.
- Existing legislation, such as the Pesticides Act (1969) and the Plant Quarantine Act, require revision to align with digital systems.
- There is a need for legal recognition of digital certificates for agricultural exports.
- The NSW should integrate modules for SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) certificates to accelerate market access for crops and ensure food safety.

4. Recommendations and Contributions I Provided

The Ministry of Agriculture should be formally included in the NSW Steering Committee.

- Phytosanitary certificates and permits for fertilizers/pesticides should be part of the first phase of implementation.
- Tailored training programs should be developed for ministry staff and agricultural exporters.
- The NSW should incorporate a data collection and analytics function to support food policy decisions and agricultural production planning.

5. Conclusion

This workshop provided a crucial platform to underscore the importance of the NSW, which is expected to deliver:

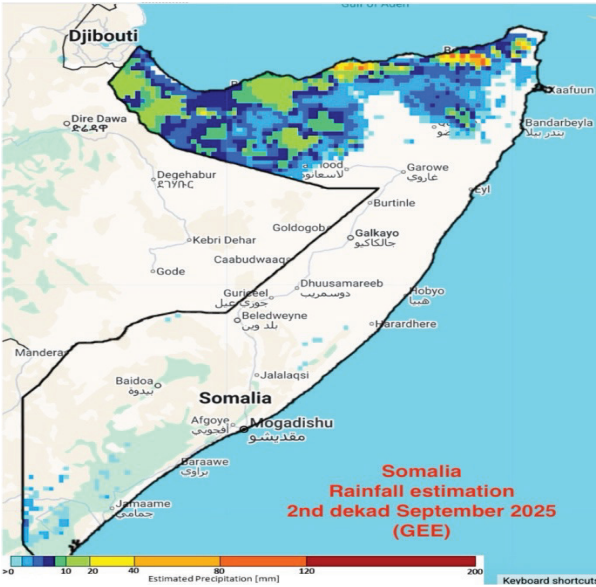
- Reduced trade costs and time
- Enhanced efficiency, transparency, and accountability
- Stronger integration into international trade agreements

For the Ministry of Agriculture, it is essential to:

- Secure an active leadership role in the NSW process
- Modernize existing SPS-related legislation
- Ensure that Somali farmers fully benefit from the new digital system

Desert Locust Situation

Danger	Threat	Caution	Calm
			✓



Desert Locust Situation

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm during September 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 north-west 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

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

Assessment and Site Identification for the Establishment of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in the Federal Government and Federal Member States of Somalia:

1. Executive Summary

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Somalia is working to rebuild agricultural extension systems to support farmers in improving productivity and resilience. The Farmer Field School (FFS) approach, supported by the World Bank-funded Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP), is being implemented to strengthen community-level extension services through participatory learning. An assessment and site selection process conducted in four Federal Member States identified suitable locations for establishing FFS. The findings highlighted strong community support, access to land and water, functional markets, and interest from local facilitators. However, challenges such as pest infestations and climate variability emphasize the need for intervention. Extension officers will play a crucial role in guiding farmers, transferring knowledge, and promoting climate-smart practices within the FFS approach. Their involvement is vital for ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of the program, ultimately contributing to building resilient farming communities. The report advocates for mobilizing resources to

establish and operate FFS in the selected sites. This initiative aims to empower farmers with practical skills, enhance food security, promote inclusivity among women and youth, and develop resilient agricultural systems in alignment with Somalia's National Transformation Plan and Agricultural Transformation Strategy.

Objectives of the Assessment

1. Identify Suitable Locations
2. Evaluate Community Readiness
3. Assess Agricultural Potential
4. Strengthen Inclusivity
5. Lay Groundwork for Investment

A structured assessment methodology was employed to transparently and evidence-biasedly select sites for Farmer Field School (FFS) implementation across four Federal Member States in Somalia. The process combined quantitative and qualitative approaches, involving field visits, consultations with local stakeholders, data collection through surveys and mapping, application of a scoring matrix for objective site ranking, and soil sample collection for fertility assessment. The methodology integrated community insights with technical assessments to ensure that the chosen sites align with both local priorities and the requirements for successful FFS implementation. The process included site visits, community consultations, data collection using KoboToolbox, scoring and ranking based on various criteria, soil sample collection, and data analysis through descriptive statistics and



2. Key Findings

As part of the assessment, farms in Jowhar (Baarey, Kaluundi, and Gumbe) as well as sites in Baidoa, Kismayo, and Dhusamareb were visited and evaluated against a set of weighted criteria, including land availability, water access, security, soil fertility, community support, and previous crop performance.

Table 1: Detailed Scoring Legend (1–5 for Each Criterion)

Criterion	Weight	Score = 5	Score = 4	Score = 3	Score = 2	Score = 1
Accessibility & Security	20%	Very poor (insecure, far from town)	Poor (difficult access, occasional security risks)	Moderate (accessible with some challenges)	Good (generally safe, close to town)	Excellent (fully secure, easy access from town)
Access to Water Source	20%	River + permanent water point	River or permanent canal	Seasonal canal/pond	Shallow well or limited access	Rainfed only
Disease Prevalence	10%	Severe disease pressure	High prevalence	Moderate disease presence	Low prevalence	No disease observed
Willingness of Land Owner	10%	Highly willing and supportive	Willing with some conditions	Neutral/undecided	Reluctant	Not willing
Land Size	30%	10 hectares or more	7–9 hectares	4–6 hectares	1–3 hectares	Less than 1 hectare
Soil Fertility	5%	Very fertile (deep, dark soils, high productivity)	Fertile (good productivity with minimal inputs)	Moderate fertility (requires some inputs)	Low fertility (needs heavy improvement)	Very poor soils (saline/degraded)
Previous Crop Performance	5%	Excellent yields in previous seasons	Good yields	Average yields	Poor yields	Crop failure in recent seasons

Table 2: Site Scoring Matrix

Farm / District	Accessibility & Security (20%)	Water Access (20%)	Pest/Disease Prevalence (10%)	Community Support (10%)	Land Size (30%)	Soil Fertility (5%)	Previous Crop Performance (5%)	Total Score
Kaluundi (Jowhar)	0.8 (4/5)	1.0 (5/5)	0.2 (2/5)	0.5 (5/5)	1.5 (5/5)	0.25 (5/5)	0.25 (5/5)	4.5
Bur (Jowhar)	0.6 (3/5)	0.8 (4/5)	0.3 (3/5)	0.4 (4/5)	0.9 (3/5)	0.15 (3/5)	0.15 (3/5)	3.3
Mirig (Jowhar)	0.4 (2/5)	0.6 (3/5)	0.4 (4/5)	0.3 (3/5)	0.6 (2/5)	0.10 (2/5)	0.10 (2/5)	2.5
Hawa Mohamed (Dhusamareb)	0.8 (4/5)	0.9 (4/5)	0.2 (2/5)	0.9 (4/5)	1.5 (5/5)	0.25 (5/5)	0.25 (5/5)	4.3
Og village (Dhusamareb)	0.5 (3/5)	0.8 (4/5)	0.3 (3/5)	0.4 (4/5)	0.7 (3/5)	0.15 (3/5)	0.15 (3/5)	3.0
Wahar-ade (Dhusamareb)	0.4 (2/5)	0.5 (3/5)	0.4 (4/5)	0.3 (3/5)	0.6 (2/5)	0.10 (2/5)	0.10 (2/5)	2.4
Bulo-gadud (Kismayo)	0.8 (4/5)	0.9 (4/5)	0.2 (2/5)	0.5 (5/5)	1.5 (5/5)	0.25 (5/5)	0.25 (5/5)	4.4
Yontoy (Kismayo)	0.6 (3/5)	0.8 (4/5)	0.3 (3/5)	0.4 (4/5)	0.8 (3/5)	0.15 (3/5)	0.15 (3/5)	3.2
Luglow (Kismayo)	0.4 (2/5)	0.6 (3/5)	0.4 (4/5)	0.3 (3/5)	0.6 (2/5)	0.10 (2/5)	0.10 (2/5)	2.5
Bonkay (Baidoa)	0.7 (4/5)	0.8 (4/5)	0.2 (2/5)	0.4 (5/5)	1.5 (5/5)	0.25 (5/5)	0.25 (5/5)	4.1
Salbui (Baidoa)	0.6 (3/5)	0.8 (4/5)	0.3 (3/5)	0.4 (4/5)	0.8 (3/5)	0.15 (3/5)	0.15 (3/5)	3.2
Garbada (Baidoa)	0.5 (2/5)	0.6 (3/5)	0.5 (4/5)	0.3 (3/5)	0.6 (2/5)	0.10 (2/5)	0.10 (2/5)	2.7

4.1 Interpretation of FFS Site Assessments

Jowhar: Among the three sites assessed, Kaluundi emerged as the most favorable for FFS establishment due to its large land size, reliable water access, and strong community support.

Dhusamareb: The Hawa Mohamed farm ranked highest, demonstrating strong community support, reliable water, and sufficient land, making it the best candidate for FFS construction.

Kismayo: The Bulo-Gadud site was the most suitable, benefiting from very large landholdings, good water access, and strong community backing.

Baidoa: The Bonkay site emerged as the strongest candidate, with abundant land (100+ hectares), good water, and strong community support.

4.2 Recommendations for FFS Site Selection

As part of the assessment, farms in Jowhar (Baarey, Kaluundi, and Gumbe) as well as sites in Baidoa, Kismayo, and Dhusamareb were visited and evaluated against a set of weighted criteria, including land availability, water access, security, soil fertility, community support, and previous crop performance.

District	Site	Status	Key Strengths	Key Limitations / Needs
Jowhar	Kaluundi	Primary Site	Large secure land (10+ ha), reliable water, strong community support	None major – ready for immediate construction
	Bur	Secondary Site	Moderate land size, good water access, supportive community	Needs soil fertility improvement, land expansion
	Mirig	Future Phase	Some water access, moderate community support	Small land, weak soils, not viable immediately
Dhusamareb	Hawa Mohamed	Primary Site	Adequate land (5+ ha), reliable water, strong community backing	Minimal – suitable for immediate construction
	Og Village	Secondary Site	Fair land size, fair water access	Needs additional land and soil fertility management
	Wahar-Ade	Future Phase	Some land available, community moderately supportive	Limited irrigation, weak soils, low readiness
Kismayo	Bulo-Gadud	Primary Site	Very large landholding (70+ ha), strong water access, strong community	None major – ready for immediate FFS
	Yontoy	Secondary Site	Accessible, community willing	Soil fertility constraints, needs improvement

	<u>Luglow</u>	Future Phase	Some water, some land available	Land too small, poor soils, irrigation gaps
Baidoa	<u>Bonkay</u>	Primary Site	Abundant land (100+ ha), good water, strong community support	None major – ideal for FFS establishment
	<u>Salbuu</u>	Secondary Site	Fair land and water, some community readiness	Soil fertility and land improvements needed
	<u>Garbada</u>	Future Phase	Some farming activity present	Very limited land, poor soils, weak irrigation

3. Conclusion

The assessment and site selection process in four Federal Member States in Somalia have revealed favorable conditions for establishing Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Strong community support, available extension officers, and accessible markets, land, and water resources indicate readiness for FFS implementation. However, challenges like pest infestations and climate risks underscore the need for structured interventions to enhance resilience and productivity through climate-smart practices.

This assessment affirms Somalia's conducive environment for implementing the FFS model to strengthen the extension system. The upcoming phase of establishing and operationalizing FFS sites will translate assessment outcomes into tangible benefits for farming communities, contributing to national food security and stability. Specific sites in Jowhar, Dhusomareb, Kismayo, and Baidoa have been identified as highly suitable for FFS establishment based on criteria such as land size, water availability, and community support.

These top-ranking sites, including Kaluundi, Hawa Mohamed Farm, Bulogadud, and Bonkay, are recommended for immediate construction and implementation. Secondary sites are considered less favorable but could serve as backups, while the least suitable sites require improvements before consideration in future project phases. Prioritizing resources on the most suitable sites will enhance project success and community engagement.

Call for Action

We call upon donors, development partners, and private investors to support the next phase of this effort; the establishment and operationalization of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in the identified sites. Targeted investments in demonstration plots, training of facilitators, improved seeds and pest management tools, and inclusive participation mechanisms will empower farmers with practical skills and strengthen resilience. By funding FFS, partners will directly contribute to building a more productive, food-secure, and climate-resilient Somalia.

Activity: Field Assessment – Horticultural and Cereal Blocks**Date: 09/08/2025**

On 09th August 2025, the Department of Crop Production & Cooperative Development carried out a comprehensive field benchmark assessment in Buulo-Doonka, Balcad District. The assessment identified critical challenges across crop production, irrigation, equipment, livestock management, and cooperative governance.

Key findings revealed that banana plantations were under-dense and uneconomical, citrus orchards (lemon and grapefruit) had suffered severe losses due to lack of irrigation and absence of pruning and fertilization, while maize and vegetable partnership blocks were mismanaged under oral agreements without written contracts. Soil mismanagement, broken tractors, missing implements, and weak livestock management further constrained productivity, compounded by the absence of financial and accountability systems.

To address these gaps, urgent priorities were recommended, including replanting banana fields, rehabilitating citrus orchards, restoring irrigation systems, repairing essential machinery, formalizing partnership agreements, and introducing proper financial and accountability frameworks.

A two-phase turnaround plan was outlined: Phase One (0–4 months) focused on stabilization and quick recovery, while Phase Two (4–12 months) emphasized structured growth, cooperative strengthening, and long-term sustainability. With disciplined action and a focus on banana and citrus rehabilitation, the Department can ensure stabilization within 120 days, setting the pathway toward improved productivity, profitability, and resilient cooperative-based farming systems.



2. Objective/Purpose:

The purpose of this field assessment was to evaluate the condition of major crops: banana, citrus (lemon and grapefruit), maize, and horticultural partnership blocks—in Buulo-Doonka, Balcad District. The assessment aimed to identify agronomic gaps, production constraints, and management challenges, while providing clear recommendations for recovery and long-term productivity. The visit also established benchmarks for replanting, rehabilitation, and contract management to restore productivity and prevent future losses. In addition, the activity sought to create baseline for monitoring progress and to provide guidance on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), soil and water management, and cooperative governance to ensure sustainable farm operations



3.1 Findings – Current Farm Condition (as of 09th August 2025)

3.1 Water Sources

The assessment revealed significant challenges in water management. Generators and pumps are limited, with one unit idle due to lack of power. Inefficient practices include moving pumps long distances to irrigate small areas, leading to labor waste and frequent equipment damage. The absence of a functional borehole or reservoir creates high drought risk. Benchmark: Urgent construction of canals/furrows for citrus blocks, rehabilitation or drilling of a new borehole, and establishment of a reservoir system are required to secure reliable irrigation and reduce vulnerability to climate shocks.



3.2 Irrigation Practices

The assessment revealed that irrigation practices at Farm are highly disorganized and inefficient. Currently, there is no systematic irrigation schedule in place, resulting in inconsistent water application across different plots. Generators and pumps are frequently shifted between fields, which not only disrupts irrigation routines but also causes repeated damage to equipment and leads to unnecessary labor costs. This practice has significantly reduced efficiency and increased maintenance expenses, while also placing crops at greater risk of water stress or over-irrigation. Benchmark: To improve efficiency and sustainability, the farm must establish a block-based irrigation schedule tailored to crop water requirements and ensure that generators remain fixed in designated areas.



3.3 Soil & Land Preparation

The assessment revealed that soil and land preparation at Farm has been poorly managed, leading to significant long-term risks for productivity. Land leveling was carried out incorrectly, which exposed the subsoil and resulted in the development of salinity in several areas. In addition, the uneven leveling has caused irregular irrigation distribution, with some blocks receiving excess water while others remain under-irrigated. These conditions not only reduce crop yields but also increase the risk of soil degradation over time. Benchmark: To restore soil health and ensure efficient water use, comprehensive soil testing and corrective land leveling are urgently required.



3.4 Infrastructure & Equipment

The assessment revealed that Farm's infrastructure and equipment are in state of severe disrepair, undermining farm operations and productivity. All tractors on the farm are currently non-functional, with key implements lying idle due to lack of maintenance and management. Irrigation pumps are frequently misused, leading to inefficiencies, breakdowns, and wasted labor. Moreover, there is no established accountability system for tools and equipment, resulting in poor tracking and careless handling of assets.

A critical gap identified is the absence of a Disc Harrow (16 discs), which is essential for proper land preparation and soil management. Benchmark: To restore minimum operational capacity, at least one tractor must be repaired immediately, a clear accountability system for tools and equipment should be introduced, and Disc Harrow acquired to ensure effective land preparation.



3.5 Banana (20 ha – 2–4 Months Old)

The 20 hectares of recently planted bananas, aged between 2–4 months, are currently in poor condition and fall significantly below recommended agronomic standards. Plant density is notably low, averaging fewer than 800 plants per hectare, whereas the recommended density is between 1,600 and 1,800 plants per hectare. This underutilization of land has drastically reduced the field's productivity potential. Sucker management practices are also weak. Each stool is carrying 4–5 suckers, compared to the recommended 1–2 suckers per stool.



This practice not only diverts nutrients away from the main plant but also results in unproductive growth that diminishes overall yield quality. Weeding has been neglected, with 30–40% of the field area covered by weeds. This heavy weed infestation competes directly with banana plants for moisture and nutrients, further compounding growth challenges. In addition, fertilization has never been applied to the plantation.

The absence of Urea, NPK, or organic fertilizers has left the soil nutrient-deficient and unable to support vigorous plant growth. Benchmark: Given the combination of low plant density, poor sucker management, heavy weed infestation, lack of fertilization, and irregular irrigation, the current banana block is deemed uneconomical. It must be cleared and replanted with certified suckers by September 2025 to restore commercial viability and set the plantation on a sustainable path.

3.6 Banana (5 ha – Older Stand)

The older 5-hectare banana stand at Farm is currently in a weak condition and performing far below its potential. Plant spacing and density are very low, with large gaps left unutilized between stools. This has significantly reduced plant population and yield capacity compared to recommended standards. Sucker management is absent, with no systematic pruning or de-suckering being practiced. As a result, stools are carrying multiple unproductive suckers that drain nutrients and water from the mother plants, further depressing productivity.

Compounding this issue, the block has never been fertilized throughout its lifecycle, leaving the soil nutrient-depleted and the plants undernourished. Irrigation practices are also inconsistent, with periods of stress alternating with overwatering, weakening crop vigor. Financially, the block generates approximately USD 150 per month, derived mostly from small, low-grade bunches that are sold at 50% below normal market price.

This low revenue reflects both the poor agronomic practices and the lack of investment in crop nutrition and maintenance. Benchmark: Despite its current condition, the block retains recovery potential. With the immediate introduction of proper pruning, de-suckering, consistent irrigation, and application of fertilizers, the 5-hectare stand can recover and begin producing commercially viable yields within six months.



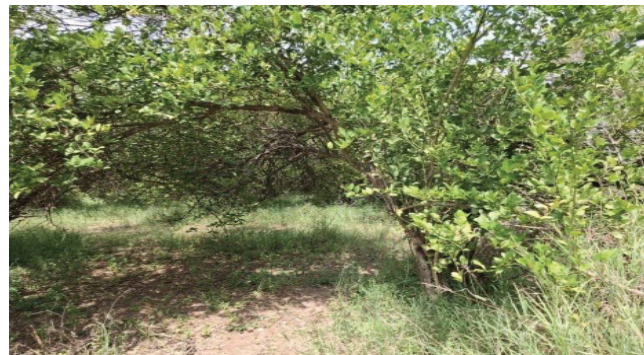
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3.7 Lemon Block (Estimated 30 ha)

The lemon orchard, covering an estimated 30 hectares, is currently in a severely weakened state. Throughout the entire Xagaa season (July–September), no irrigation was applied, resulting in approximately 90% flower and fruit loss, equivalent to nearly one-third of the orchard's annual production. The trees have not undergone any systematic pruning cycles for over 2–3 years, leaving canopies severely overgrown to the extent that workers cannot pass through several rows. In addition, the trees have never been fertilized with NPK, Urea, or organic inputs at any stage of their growth, leaving soils depleted and productivity compromised. While the area is estimated at 30 hectares, an accurate assessment of the true productive area requires a detailed plant population count. Benchmark: To restore productivity, the lemon block urgently requires a program of regular irrigation, systematic pruning, and a comprehensive fertilization regime.

3.8 Grapefruit Block

The grapefruit orchards at Macaani Farm are under severe stress, having received no irrigation for over three months. Canopies remain unmanaged due to the absence of systematic pruning cycles, and no fertilization has ever been applied to the block. As a result, yields are negligible, with fruit set extremely low. Benchmark analysis indicates that recovery is still possible if irrigation is restored promptly and pruning alongside fertilization is implemented before the onset of the Dayr rains.



3.9 Maize (13 ha - Intercropped under Partnerships)

Approximately 13 hectares of maize are cultivated under a partnership arrangement, intercropped with bananas (locally known as kala-goys). Current planting density is below recommended standards, and no fertilization has been applied to the crop. Weeds cover more than 40% of the field, while pest management practices are completely absent. The benchmark assessment concluded that maize production under these conditions is uneconomical. It is therefore recommended that the entire 13 hectares be cleared and replanted with bananas, applying proper agronomic practices.

3.10 Fruits & Vegetables (4 ha - Partnerships)

Four hectares of fruits and vegetables are cultivated under seasonal partnership agreements. These arrangements are conducted entirely on an oral basis, with no written contracts in place. Farming practices applied in these blocks are inconsistent and lack any standardized approach. The benchmark assessment recommends formalizing these partnerships with written agreements and introducing supervision of cultural practices to improve reliability and productivity.

3.11 Partnerships (Seasonal Partnerships - Kala-goys)

In total, 17 hectares of land—comprising 13 ha of maize and 4 ha of fruits and vegetables: are managed under seasonal partnerships. These arrangements rely solely on oral agreements, leaving governance weak and disputes common. Recent disagreement escalated to the community elders, resulting in penalty of approximately USD 600 against the farm. Benchmark analysis advises that the farm should only collaborate with carefully selected partners and that all future agreements must be formalized in writing to avoid disputes and financial losses.

4. Key Observations (Critical Issues)

The Department of Crop Production and Cooperative Development has identified critical challenges affecting crop and livestock production across priority areas. These challenges are undermining productivity, sustainability, and cooperative performance. Overall, poor land preparation and levelling practices have caused soil salinity and uneven irrigation, compounded by the absence of structured irrigation schedules and inefficient pump usage. The lack of functional boreholes or reservoirs leaves farming operations highly vulnerable to drought. Infrastructure and machinery remain non-operational, with all tractors broken, essential implements such as Disc Harrows missing, and no accountability mechanisms in place.

Banana plantations are significantly under-dense (<800 plants/ha against a recommended 1,600–1,800), rendering them uneconomical without replanting. Lemon orchards lost up to 90% of their Xagaa harvest due to lack of irrigation, while grapefruit blocks remain severely stressed as a result of years without pruning and fertilization.

Cereal and horticultural partnerships, including maize and vegetable production, are poorly managed under oral agreements, lacking written contracts and leading to disputes and financial losses. Livestock operations, particularly poultry and sheep, remain unmanaged, facing inadequate housing, poor feeding systems, and absence of veterinary care. Furthermore, weak financial and accountability systems have contributed to inefficiencies and monetary losses.

Summary of Critical Issues:

- Land levelling errors → soil salinity.
- No irrigation schedule; inefficient pump usage.
- Lack of boreholes/reservoirs → drought risk.
- Tractors non-functional; Disc Harrow missing
- Banana density <800/ha (vs. 1,600–1,800 recommended).
- Lemon orchards lost 90% of harvest due to lack of irrigation.
- Grapefruit blocks severely stressed; no pruning/fertilization
- Maize and vegetable partnerships mismanaged; no contracts.
- Poultry and sheep unmanaged, with poor housing and care.
- Absence of financial and accountability systems.
- Partnership disputes resulted in penalties and financial losses.

5. Conclusion

The assessment conducted on 09/08/2025 highlights that Somalia's crop production systems continue to face serious operational, agronomic, and governance challenges. Key constraints include poor planting densities, inadequate irrigation systems, absence of fertilization, and weak management practices across several crop blocks. Livestock enterprises remain unsustainable, equipment and infrastructure are non-functional, and financial and accountability mechanisms are either absent or underdeveloped. Collectively, these issues pose significant risks to both short-term productivity and the long-term viability of agricultural development.

Despite these constraints, the assessment also identifies clear opportunities for recovery and growth. By prioritizing bananas and citrus as strategic crops, introducing systematic irrigation and soil fertility management, repairing essential equipment, formalizing cooperative partnerships, and instituting sound financial and accountability systems, production can be stabilized within 120 days. The phased turn-around plan offers a practical pathway: Phase One (0–4 months) will focus on stabilization and achieving quick results, while Phase Two (4–12 months) will consolidate structured growth, improve governance, and expand revenues.

This report therefore serves as a structured baseline for the Department of Crop Production & Cooperative Development, against which future progress can be measured. With disciplined implementation and strong leadership, Somalia's crop production sector can transition from its current state of vulnerability to a model of profitability, sustainability, and resilience—contributing meaningfully to national food security, rural livelihoods, and the wider agricultural economy.