



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

PRESS RELEASE

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre Lays the Foundation Stone for Somalia's National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)

Mogadishu, Sunday, November 16, 2025– H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre, the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, officially laid the foundation stone for the headquarters of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), a agricultural research leading institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI–FGS). The ceremony took place at the designated construction site in Mogadishu, marking a historic milestone in Somalia's journey toward food sovereignty and science-led agricultural transformation.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Barre emphasized the institute's strategic importance, stating:

"Today, I had the honor of laying the foundation stone for NARI during a pivotal moment marked by global food challenges. I believe this institute will nurture a new generation of Somali scientists and patriotic researchers, serving as a beacon of agricultural excellence that empowers our farmers. This foundation stone represents more than just concrete and commitment; it symbolizes that the government of Somalia remains fully committed to investing in and supporting agricultural development to achieve national food sovereignty"

"I greatly appreciate and the World Bank Group for financing this institution and other multiple programs that enhance resilience and food security in Somalia. I urge Somali investors to invest in the agriculture sector, as it is both highly profitable and practical.," Prime Minister Hamza added.

H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Maareeye, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, delivered an official statement highlighting the technical specifications and national significance of the facility.

"It is a great pleasure to welcome H.E Prime Minister Hamza to lay the foundation stone of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), which will consist of a G+2 building, three floors in total, including a ground floor and two upper levels, each covering approximately 761 square meters. The facility will include 19 offices, eight laboratory rooms, two training rooms, two conference halls, and several additional support spaces. I thank the World Bank Group for financing the construction of NARI and other MoAI's HQ offices. In addition to NARI, we will soon commence the construction of two other national research centres: the Bonkay Rain-fed Research Centre in the Southwest and the Central Agricultural Research Station (CARIS) in Afgoye, which will focus on irrigation. These will be complemented by satellite centres across all Federal Member States"

NARI leads Somalia's agricultural innovation by conducting strategic research on crops, soil, water, regulations, and climate-smart technologies. NARI develops improved crop varieties, manages national germplasm and research data, and shapes agricultural policies and capacity-building programs. NARI fosters collaboration with universities and global research entities.

The construction of the new NARI headquarters is being financed through the World Bank Group–funded Somalia Food Systems Resilience Project. As of November 16, work is progressing steadily and on schedule, with completion expected within the next 8 months.

