FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION STRATEGY

AND ACTION PLAN | 2026 - 2030

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3. Approval and Adoption

I hereby officially approve and adopt this National Agricultural Extension Strategy and Action Plan (AESAP) 2026–2030 as the primary framework for agricultural transformation in Somalia. All sector partners and stakeholders are directed to align their interventions with the strategic pillars outlined herein.

Approved by: **H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye)**
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Federal Government of Somalia

Date: _____

Signature: _____ *(Official Stamp)*

FORWARD

Somalia stands at a pivotal moment for transforming its agriculture. Building resilient, inclusive, and effective extension and advisory services is essential to empowering farmers, strengthening food self-sufficiency, raising rural incomes, and improving livelihoods across all farming communities. The National Agricultural Extension Strategy & Action Plan (AESAP) 2026–2030 provides a practical roadmap to achieve these ambitions.

AESAP operationalizes the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) and is aligned with national priorities and global frameworks. Specifically, it is anchored in the MoAI National Transformation Strategy (2020–2025), the National Transformation Plan (NTP-10), and complementary sector policies (fertilizer, irrigation, cooperative, pesticides), while contributing to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Strategy sets a new direction: from fragmented, parallel efforts to a coordinated, harmonized, and regulated pluralistic system in which public and private service providers jointly deliver along entire value chains from production to markets, finance, nutrition, and climate resilience. It embraces decentralization so that services are responsive to local contexts across all FMS, and it establishes clear roles for MoAI, state institutions, farmer organizations, NGOs, and the private sector.

AESAP is structured around four strategic pillars: Human and Institutional Agricultural Extension Organizational Capacity, Decentralized Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services, Innovation, Learning, and Agricultural Transformation & Sustainable Financing and Access to Inputs and Services. Under these pillars, the AESAP prioritizes rehabilitating existing advisory centers; establishing 18 new extension facilities across the FMS; professionalizing the extension cadre (including Village-Based Advisors); strengthening research–extension–farmer linkages; mainstreaming gender, youth, and nutrition; and leveraging digital tools and information systems to expand reach and quality. It further advances coordination platforms and standards to reduce duplication, improve efficiency, and ensure quality and accountability.

This Strategy reflects a shared commitment to transform extension into a high-performing engine for agricultural growth, resilience to climate shocks, and inclusive socio-economic development. I call upon all partners, public institutions, FMS authorities, farmer organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector to champion and implement AESAP 2026–2030 with urgency and unity of purpose.

H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye)
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation,
Federal Government of Somalia

Mogadishu, Somalia | January, 2026

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) extends its deepest appreciation to all institutions and individuals whose contributions made the development of the Somali Agricultural Extension Strategy and Action Plan (AESAP) 2026–2030 possible.

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We equally recognize the leadership and direction provided by the senior management of the MoAI and the dedicated technical efforts of the Department of Research & Extension, which coordinated the entire process from inception to finalization. Special thanks are extended to the Federal Member States for their active participation in consultations and for providing valuable insights that ensured the Strategy reflects Somalia's diverse agricultural realities. The Ministry also appreciates the valuable contributions from farmer organizations, cooperatives, Village-Based Advisors (VBAs), private sector actors, and academic institutions, whose shared experiences and perspectives enriched the Strategy's focus on pluralistic, demand-driven, and inclusive agricultural extension services.

We acknowledge the invaluable support from national and international NGOs, development partners, and technical experts, whose engagement strengthened the quality and comprehensiveness of the Strategy. The Ministry is particularly grateful to all stakeholders who participated in the consultation meetings, technical reviews, and validation workshop, and whose recommendations were instrumental in shaping the final document.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to the many farmers and community representatives across Somalia who generously shared their experiences and insights during the field consultations. Their voices are at the heart of this Strategy. The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to work with all partners to ensure that extension and advisory services are effectively implemented to improve agricultural productivity, resilience, and livelihoods across Somalia.

Eng. Mohamed Hassan Abdulle
Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Federal Government of Somalia

Mogadishu, Somalia | January, 2026

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEI	Agricultural Extension Institution
AESAP	Agricultural Extension Strategy and Action Plan
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CFA	Contract Farmer Approach
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DAECC	District Agriculture Extension Coordinating Committee
DDA	Demand Driven Approach
ESP	Extension Service Providers
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
FMS	Federal Member States
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IMS	Information Management System
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEALS	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System
MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
NAEP	National Agricultural Extension Policy
NAES	National Agricultural Extension Strategy
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NDP	National Development Plan
NTP	National Transformation Plan
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NSA	Non-State Actors
NSF	National Stakeholder Forums
PPPP	Public-Private-Producer-Partnerships
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisals
RAAKS	Rapid Appraisal of Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems
SDA	Supply Driven Approach
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
T&V	Training & Visit
UN	United Nations
VAC	Village Agriculture Committees
VBA	Village-Based Advisors
WFP	World Food Programme

GLOSSARY

Agricultural Extension Approaches: These are strategies aimed at improving adoption of farming practices, enhancing productivity and supporting rural communities through learning, knowledge transfer and capacity building and such strategies include Farmer Field Schools (FFS), Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F), and the Training & Visit (T&V) system.

Agricultural Extension Methods: Techniques used in facilitating learning, transfer of knowledge, skills and technologies such as demonstrations, workshops, individual visits, and use of mass media.

Agricultural Extension Policy: A framework developed to guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of extension services for sustainable agricultural development.

Agricultural Extension Services: These include interventions/activities by government and NSAs that facilitate the access of farmers, their organizations, and other value chain actors to knowledge, information, and technologies; mediate their interaction with other relevant organizations; and assist them to develop their technical and management capacity in agriculture and family life. Agricultural

Extension System: The agricultural extension system includes the entire set of organizations and institutions (public, private, civil society), that are involved in providing agricultural extension services.

Agricultural Extension System: A networkof institutions and actors delivering agricultural advisory services to farmers

Agricultural Extension: The dissemination of agricultural information, knowledge, technologies, and practices to farmers and rural communities to improve productivity and livelihoods.

Agricultural sector: Includes crops, livestock, agro-forestry, fishing, apiculture, sericulture and other related activities.

Agriculture (also called farming or husbandry): The art and science of growing crops, rearing livestock, fish, bees, and other productive insects.

Beneficiaries: Individuals and organizations directly reached and benefiting from agricultural extension services.

Client-led extension services: This is a type of service where extension service providers routinely adopt a mindset of listening carefully to the demands/needs of beneficiaries as a basis for any interventions.

Climate-Smart Agriculture: An approach that enhances productivity while addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Commercial agriculture: Production of crops, livestock, fish, apiculture and sericulture products primarily for sale.

Decentralization: The process of transferring authority from central to local governments to improve service delivery and accountability.

Extension Service Providers: Government, private sector NGOs, or individuals delivering agricultural knowledge and technologies to farmers.

Extension Workers: Personnel employed by agricultural extension service provider organizations (Government and NSAs) deployed to work directly with beneficiaries. Such personnel can be from a range of disciplines including agriculture, agricultural engineering, nutrition, agribusiness and related areas.

Farmer Empowerment: Building the capacity of individual farmers and farmer institutions to have greater access and control over structures and processes that transform their resources and assets into outcomes that they desire to achieve their goals.

Farmer organizations: Farmer organization is a generic word that includes farmer groups, farmer forum, farmer cooperatives, and other types of formal and informal collective structures.

Farmer: A person who grows crops, or rears livestock fish, bees, silkworms and other productive insects.

Formal linkages: This is where organizations sign binding written agreements to guide their joint activities such as a memorandum of understanding. There are two types:

1. Formal agreements to cooperate with extension services and;
2. Formal agreements to collaborate on extension activities, where collaboration on specific activities is defined and agreed upon.

Gender: Expected behavior and social characteristics (roles, responsibilities, decision making powers, status, access and control over resources) of men and women as determined by cultural norms in a particular community.

Informal linkages: These are working relationships between organizations with no written binding agreement.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): The systematic process of tracking and assessing the effectiveness and impact of extension programs.

Multi-Stakeholder Platforms: This is a physical or virtual forum that brings together different stakeholders to interact and work together towards mutually agreed goals and objectives.

Non-State Actors: These entities or individuals that deliver extension services but are not part of government. Examples include private extension providers, inputs dealers, traders, farmers' organizations and NGOs.

Pluralistic Extension System: A system involving multiple actors-public, private, and civil society in delivering agricultural extension services.

Private sector: That part of the economy, which is run by private individuals or groups, usually as an enterprise for profit, and is not controlled by the state.

Public-Private-Producer-Partnerships (PPPP): A collaborative model among government, private sector, and farmers to improve agricultural outcomes.

Stakeholders: Individuals or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by or have an interest in agricultural activities.

Subsistence agriculture: A type of farming in which most of the produce is consumed by the farmer and his or her household, rather than being produced for sale.

Technical content: All types of information, data, good practices, machinery, equipment, services, or other types of technology to be extended to beneficiaries.

Village-Based Advisors(VBAs): Trained individuals in rural communities provide localized extension services to nearby farmers.

Youth: Persons between the ages of 18 and 30 years.

OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Motivated by the vision to build a resilient, inclusive, and effective extension service system that empowers Somali farmers, enhances food self-sufficiency to reduce import reliance, boosts incomes, supports market access and improves the overall standard of living across farming communities in Somalia the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal Members States with all their key partners has developed the Somali Agricultural Extension Strategy and Action Plan (AESAP) for Somali for the period 2026-2030 to rebuild and strengthen effectiveness of pluralistic, demand-driven and market-led agricultural extension and advisory services. The goal of the strategy is to enhance adoption of improved agriculture technologies, practices and methods to achieve food, income and nutrition security for sustainable socioeconomic growth and development of Somali in the context of climate change. The strategy was developed in stages, which included: desk reviews, consultative meetings with various stakeholders, and validation workshops.

The AESAP is aligned to relevant country agriculture sector policies and strategies and outlines specific actions for addressing the main challenges and constraints in the extension sector including insecurity hindering the delivery of extension services across the country, poor harmonization and coordination, insufficient financial resources, weak institutional capacity, lack of curriculum to guide extension services delivery, limited and dysfunctional agricultural research centers and limited research experts, poor and insufficient dissemination pathways and poor access to technologies.

The following are key policy instruments to which the AESAP is aligned: The MoAI National Transformation Strategy (2025-2030), the Somali National Transformation Plan (NTP- 10), the National Development Plan 2020-2024 (NDP9), the Somali National Fertilizer Policy (2019), the National Irrigation Policy (2019), the Somali National Pesticides Policy (2019), the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP), Somalia Country Report 2025: The African Seed Access Index, the global goals including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other Agriculture related policies and strategies that priorities agriculture as the engine for socio-economic transformation in Somali.

The strategy recognizes that agriculture extension and advisory services have wider scope spanning from supporting food security interventions to market competitiveness for commercial agriculture in a holistic and integrated manner.

In this regard, the strategy shifts the agenda of agriculture extension and advisory services from a biased and exclusive focus on agriculture production to a broader range of services relating to demand-driven production, marketing, savings and credit, natural resource management, nutrition, climate change adaptation, youth and gender mainstreaming.

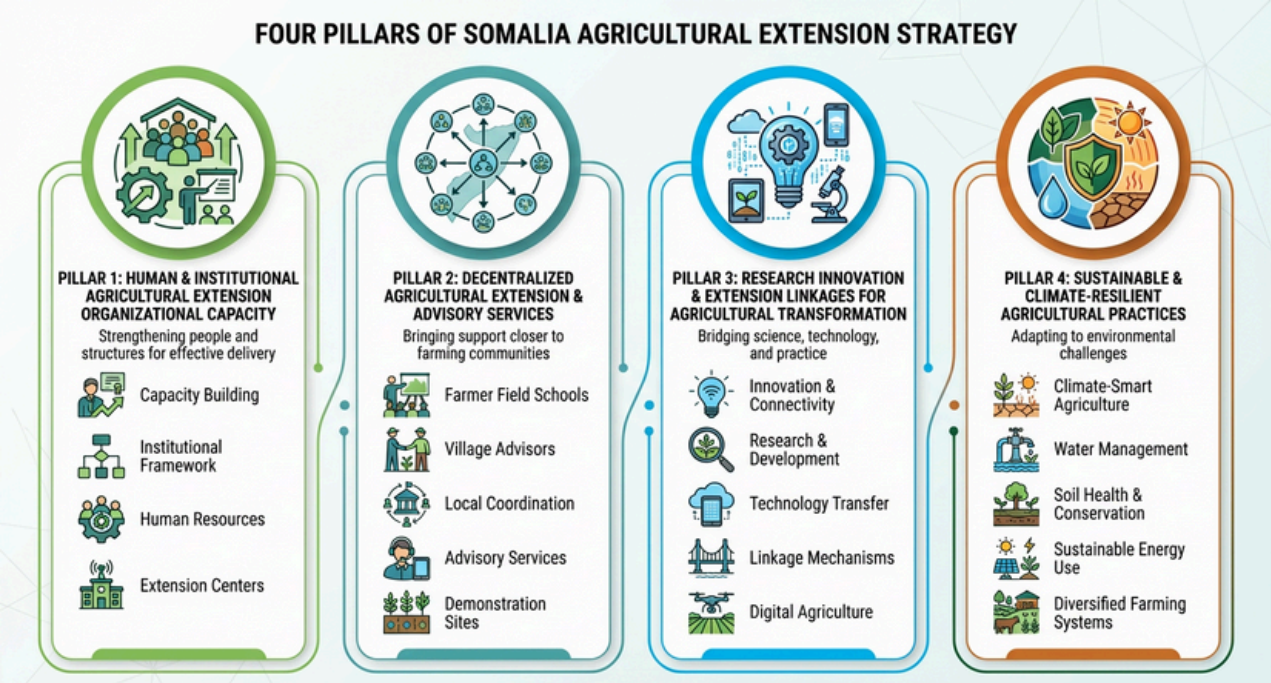
The AESAP is anchored on four strategic pillars that draw-out and address specific areas of focus in agriculture extension and advisory services. The pillars aim at articulating an implementation framework that complements agreed principles and core values. The pillars are as follows:

Pillar 1:
Human and Institutional Agricultural Extension Organizational Capacity

Pillar 2:
Decentralized Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Pillar 3:
Research, Innovation & Extension Linkages for Agricultural Transformation

Pillar 4:
Sustainable Financing of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services



The AESAP is guided by these principles

- **Holistic and Inclusiveness**
  Ensures all stakeholders are considered and benefits are shared.
- **Responsiveness and Accountability**
  Promotes timely action and clear responsibility.
- **Accessibility**
  Makes services available to everyone, regardless of location or ability.
- **Regulation and Coordination**
  Establishes clear guidelines and prevents conflicts.
- **Sustainability**
  Focuses on long-term viability and environmental impact.
- **Mainstreaming Cross-cutting Issues**
  Integrates multi-sectorial concerns into all aspects.

The strategy defines clear roles and technical coordination mechanisms among Ministry of Agriculture technical departments, NGOs, the private sector as well as farmer organizations. The MoAI shall play a critical role in facilitating coordination, collaboration and stronger linkages among extension service providers and other actors of the innovation system. The ministry, through the Department of Agriculture Extension Services shall define the relationships of actors for the innovation system, especially research, input suppliers, financial and marketing institutions. Through its structures, the MoAI shall be responsible for providing guidance on agriculture extension and advisory services delivery under the decentralized arrangements in place in all Federal Member States in Somalia. The major roles of the private sector actors, NGOs and farmer organizations shall include financing and providing agriculture extension and advisory services to farmers and other actors in the agriculture value chains to complement efforts and interventions of public service providers. It is envisaged that agriculture extension services from the private sector will support the agriculture commercialization agenda in the country.

The AESAP has a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System (MEALS) for its effective monitoring. The system will be implemented to track and report progress on the various indicators as reflected in the Results Framework of the current strategy. This strategy will be evaluated periodically to generate lessons for progressive changes and addressing issues affecting implementation of the strategy in the process.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Importance of the Agriculture Sector in Somalia

According to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's (MoAI) proposed five-year Agriculture Transformation Strategy (ATS) and related intervention for the period 2025-2029, Somalia's agricultural sector is the cornerstone of the economy, accounting for over 70 percent of GDP, 50-60 percent of employment, and approximately 90 percent of exports.' Overall, the agriculture sector contributes about three-fifths of the economy's gross value on average during the period (2004-2023), with livestock contributing about 60% of the agricultural output and the crop sector contributing about 40%[1]. Geographically, agricultural production is concentrated in the southern region, where over 8.9 million hectares of arable land is fed by three major rivers (Juba, Shabe and Dawa) spanning over 2,500 kilometers. Despite the challenges posed by climate change,Somalia's agricultural sector holds immense potential. The country's fertilesoils, particularly in the riverineregions, enable year-round production of cereals, oil seed crops, pulses, horticultural crops including vegetables, fruits, and other crops. The four main staple foods are maize, sorghum, rice and wheat, with the first two produced locally, and rice and wheat almost entirely imported.

By late 1986 Somalia was close to self-sufficiency in sorghum and maize production.[2] Moreover, by 1996, Somali was self-sufficient in sugar and exported to neighboring countries including Kenya and Ethiopia[2]. However, the current agricultural production systems are not realizing their full potential in terms of productivity. The poor crop performance is mainly attributed to poor rainfall, disease, and pest infestations, lack of proper extension services, shortage of quality seeds and other inputs. The agricultural production has significant implications for the food security and livelihoods of Somali communities. Since 1991, the Somaligovernment currently lacks allocated financial resources to support the agricultural sector,causing agricultural production to fall below its potential, as current output levels indicate.

As indicated in the Somalia Economic Outlook (2025), enhancing Somali's agricultural productivity as cornerstone of the economy requires various policy options and strategies of implementation including:

- Implementing climate-smart practices.
- Training farmers in sustainable agricultural techniques and technologies.
- Improving irrigation systems via investing in irrigation infrastructure.

1. Federal Republic of Somali Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (2025). Somalia Economic Outlook: Rebuilding Somalia's Economy: Overcoming Challenges and Leveraging Opportunities for Sustainable Growth and Development. Mogadishu.
2. Marchal, R. (1996). The Post-Civil War Somali Business Class. European Commission, Somalia Unit, Nairobi.

- Providing improved seeds.
- Facilitating agricultural financing conditions and attracting support for farmers from international organizations.

Provision of agricultural extension services plays a critical role in implementing some of these policy options to address some of the challenges facing the agriculture sector.

1.2 Broader Context of Somali Agricultural Extension Services

Agriculture remains the key sector of Somali's economy. It is vital for the livelihoods of most Somali people. Agriculture is important for household and national food, income and nutrition security. The crop and livestock have been historically and continue to be by far the most important economic activities in Somalia, together accounting for up to 70% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 50-60% of employment and 90% of export earnings. Before the civil war, crop production was second in importance to livestock concerning its shares of GDP and export earnings. It was also crucial for food security making Somali almost self-sufficient in main staples in 1989. However, conflict and recurrent droughts and floods linked to climate change have negatively impacted on crop production, leading to a significant decline in both areas cultivated and productivity over the past four decades. The same factors caused large-scale rural population displacement and depopulation of the countryside with much of historic agricultural labour force now residing camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

About 75 percent of the land is owned and managed by smallholder farmers, while 25 percent is owned/managed by large-scale farmers, with about 66% of people employed in primary production[3]. The agriculture sector operates far below its potential owing to various challenges and constraints. One of the challenges is limited extension services for the smallholder sector and lack of dedicated extension and advisory services for the commercial agriculture sector in the country. Nevertheless, the crop sector continues to be important for domestic food consumption and to lesser extent export, in particular sesame, lemons, onion and fruits. Somalia currently relies heavily on food imports to meet 50-60% of its food demand. In addition to the declining domestic production, rapid urbanization and associated shift in consumer preferences toward imported foods such as cereals, vegetables oils, and confectionary and canned products, among others, have also driven the food imports.

3. DAKAR 2 SOMALIA COUNTRY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DELIVERY COMPACT. https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/somalie_country_food_and_agriculture_delivery_compact.pdf

The agriculture sector has several opportunities such as growing interest by organizations to invest and support agriculture commercialization, abundant water resources in some parts of the country, conducive policy environment, and hardworking farming population. However, the sector also faces several challenges including low productivity due to over dependence on rain-fed farming, low uptake of improved technologies, and insufficient technology development. Furthermore, the sector also has weak agricultural extension services, weak farmer organizations, high transportation costs for farm inputs and outputs, inadequate and inefficient inputs and output markets, as well as limited access to agricultural credit and market information.

Efforts to commercialize the sector have been constrained by weak private sector participation, low investment in the sector, as well as low levels of mechanization along value chains processes including production, harvesting, storage, processing and other forms of value addition. Despite Somali having various policies guiding the sector, implementation of the policies is generally weak and such that stakeholders barely engage, link-up and coordinate on different interventions. There has been failure to guide delivery of quality agricultural extension and advisory services. In addition, the policies have not stimulated increased and coordinated financing of agriculture extension and advisory services.

The situation described in the foregoing underscore the need for agriculture extension and advisory services to ensure that farmers of all gender groups and scale access information and messages in good agriculture practices to inspire contribution of the agriculture extension subsector to agriculture development. The National Agricultural Extension Strategy for Somali has been developed to achieve efficiency and effectiveness of pluralistic, demand-driven agricultural extension services from 2026-2030.

1.3 National Policy Context

This Strategy has been aligned to prevailing relevant policies and other strategies in Somali. It has also drawn from specific strategies that directly influence agriculture extension and advisory services. These include: The MoAI National Transformation Strategy (2025-2029), the Somali National Transformation Plan (NTP- 10), the National Development Plan 2020-2024 (NDP9), the Somali National Fertilizer Policy (2019), the National Irrigation Policy (2019), the Somali National Pesticides Policy (2019), the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP), the Somali Cooperative Policy and Strategy (2025), Agenda 2060, the global goals including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other Agriculture related policies and schemes that prioritize agriculture as the engine for socio-economic transformation in Somali. All these policy instruments prioritize agriculture as the engine for socio-economic transformation.

1.4 Approach and Process of Developing the Current Strategy

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somali and the six MoAI Federal Member States (Hirshabelle, Southwest, Jubaland, Galmudug, Puntland, and Banadir administration) through the Department of Agricultural Research and Extension led the process of developing the AESAP. The strategy has been developed in four broad stages that encompassed desk reviews and consultative meetings. The desk review involved detailed review of the 2025 National Agriculture Extension Policy (NAEP) to assess its implementation performance. The review focused on establishing the extent to which the policy intends to change the extension approach from supply-driven to demand-driven services and how decentralization of the extension services can increase farmer participation in the decision-making process and in accessing the services.

A comparative review of the National Agriculture Extension Policy was done through case studies from Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Rwanda to draw lessons and experiences. Analysis of experiences of the selected study African countries that have implemented reforms on agricultural extension and advisory services provision deepened the base of insights and ideas for consideration in the current strategy. Key lessons drawn from the case studies were as follows:

- The countries studied have developed comprehensive agricultural extension and advisory services systems that are informed by sound guiding principles consistent with pluralism in provision of demand-driven agriculture extension services in decentralized institutional arrangements.
- The case study countries have developed and are able to maintain a level of professional capacity to provide quality agriculture extension services that are bearing positive results.
- Full ownership of extension service programmes by key actors and reconciliation of differences in values between development partners and governments.
- Implementation of inclusive institutional reform programs that with large-scale implementation commitments and consensus-building have ensured commitments to support service delivery by key actors at national level.

In the processes of developing the current strategy, stakeholders in Somali have debated and adapted some of the strategies employed by countries whose cases have been analyzed and had registered to varying degrees success in extension service provision. This Strategy will be validated by about 50 stakeholders who participated in the previous consultative processes. During the validation workshop, the multidisciplinary team of experts will refine the Agricultural Extension Strategy and Action Plan Draft. Broadly the stakeholders will be drawn from drawn from Federal Government level, Federal Member State level departments and agencies; NGOs; private sector and development partners and farmer organizations. Results of the consultative processes will inform the final strategy to guide the implementation of the MoAI's National Agricultural Extension Policy.

CHAPTER TWO: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE SOMALI AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

Somalia's agricultural sector, though endowed with fertile land, abundant labor, and significant water resources, has experienced a significant decline in productivity and growth over the past three decades.A combination of structural and institutional challenges exacerbated by prolonged conflict, climatechange, and weak governance has undermined the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's (MoAI)ability to builda resilient and sustainable agriculture system. Understanding the underlying strengths and opportunities, and weaknesses and threats is therefore crucial to an effective national extension services strategy.

2.1. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services in Somali

Various consultations have been held and inputs from these discussions of MoAI FGS and MoAI FMS (Hirshabelle, Southwest, Jubbaland, Galmudug, Puntland, and Banadir administration) shown opportunities and challenges affecting agriculture extension. While the opportunities provide hope of advancement in service provision, the challenges threaten achievement of some objectives of agriculture extension. This strategy provides for actions of mitigating against the threats towards achievement of agriculture extension objectives while leveraging on opportunities.

2.1.1 Strengths of the Agricultural Extension Services at MOAI and FMS Levels

- Commitment for a functional agricultural extension services system that provides for support of both programming and delivery of agricultural extension services to farmers in Somalia.
- Strong leadership at MOAI and FMS for extension services government and budget allocation for extension activities in the country.
- Availability of institutional arrangements to support both planning and implementation of agricultural extension services in the country. The institutional arrangements include technical departments for Crop Production, Mechanization Technology and Innovation, Plant Protection, and crucially, Research and Extension. There are also Academic Institutions offering the required knowledge. Additionally, there are International Organizations and NGOs providing services.
- Availability of structures to support the agricultural extension systems at decentralized levels. Federal Member State Stakeholder Forums, District Extension Coordinating Committees, and Village Level Agriculture Committees support decentralization of extension services.

- Availability of highly qualified personnel with some stakeholders such as government and some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to drive the agenda of agriculture development hence extension services in the country. There are many areas where additional specialized knowledge is required for improved extension services including Advanced Climate-Smart Agriculture and resilience, Sustainable Water Resource Management and Irrigation Engineering, Irrigation engineers, hydro geologists, water and soil specialists, market analysts, Data Management and E-Extension Tools (e-Fidiye), Plant protection specialist, Digital agriculture and ICT-based extension tools, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Disease Control, Modern Farming Techniques and Technology, Value Chain Development and Market Access, Soil Health and Fertility Management, Extension Methodology and Communication.
- Availability of many agricultural extension service providers serving farmers in different parts of the country avails farmers with a broad range of options.
- Availability of knowledgeable, skilled and experienced personnel in some organizations to lobby, advocate, and mobilize variety of resources, for instance: human, financial, material resources for agriculture extension and advisory services.
- Institutionalized agricultural extension approaches and techniques for reaching out to farmers. These include: The Model Village Approach, Household Hold Approach, Integrated Household Farming Approach, Lead Farmer Approach, techniques such as Farmer Field School, Farm Business School.
- An enabling policy environment impacting the governance of agricultural extension services such as National Agricultural Transformation Strategy and Action Plan, National Agriculture Extension Policy, National Food Security, Food Systems and Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, National Irrigation Strategy, Plant Protection and Quarantine Law, Seeds and Varieties Release Law, Bill on the Service and Inspection of Agriculture and others. All the prelisted policy instruments leverage provision of agriculture extension and advisory services strategy. However, there are no rules and regulations related to agricultural extension.

2.1.2 Weaknesses in the Agricultural Extension Services

Over reliance on interpersonal engagement approaches compounded with few extension workers and limited skills and knowledge for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for extension.

- Limited qualified personnel in some specialized fields such as agribusiness for most of the agriculture extension service providers and limited technical capacity by most NGOs who do not employ extension personnel or employ unqualified personnel for extension workers.
- Most extension workers are not up to date with the level of knowledge in modern agricultural techniques such as agricultural technologies and have low levels of connectivity with farmers.
- Inadequate and poor means of transport for most of the extension personnel to serve farmers efficiently and effectively.
- Low staff salaries and incentives due to lack of a system of incentivizing agricultural extension personnel especially public extension workers in Somali.
- Inadequate Government budget allocation for agricultural extension and advisory services provision especially in the public sector. Limited operational funds.
- Weak financial management and accountability.
- Limited access to market information and credit for farmers.
- Weak regulatory framework for extension service resulting in poor quality agriculture extension services by some service providers.
- Weak research-extension-farmer linkage in the country has implications for relevance of technology generation. Some technologies generated are irrelevant to farmers' needs.

2.1.3 Opportunities for Agricultural Extension Services

Despite the many challenges and constraints facing agricultural extensions in Somali, several opportunities and advantages exist that can be exploited to establish an effective and efficient agricultural extension service. Such include the following:

- Numerous international and local NGOs collaborate with the MOAI and FMS on agricultural development projects including (IOM, WFP, FAO, GIZ), Private sectors (input companies, agribusinesses etc.), research institutions and academics. However, this varies across Federal Member States.

- Diversified funding of extension services through Government budget allocations, Donor Funding and Development Assistance, Private Sector Contributions, Farmer-Based Financing, and Research and Academic Institutions.
- Availability of value addition infrastructure like warehouses, agro processing units with some organizations like cooperative is a big opportunity for agribusiness development.
- Availability of irrigation infrastructure for agribusiness development with increased enterprise production.
- Political will to transform agricultural extension services in the country.
- Development partner willingness to support agriculture extension and advisory services in the country.
- Development programmes and projects designed to promote agriculture extension and advisory services in the country.

In this strategy, it is acknowledged that delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services has the foregoing strengths and opportunities for further development and faces the highlighted weaknesses and threats that can constrain success of the agriculture extension sub-sector. This strategy provides for actions of mitigating against the threats towards achievement of agriculture extension objectives while leveraging on opportunities.

2.1.4 Threats to Agriculture Extension Services

Several threats limit the provision of agricultural extension services to farmers in the country and these include:

- Political instability and security concerns: The ongoing political instability and security pose substantial barriers to economic development in general and provision of agricultural extension services in particular. The presence of militant groups, internal conflicts, and weak governance structures contribute to an environment where business struggle to operate effectively. Such environment limits provision of and access to agricultural extension services. Insecurity is a major hindrance to market development and functionality.
- Unreliable markets for agriculture produce and high volatility of agricultural commodity prices jeopardizes agribusiness development in the country.
- Staff turnover - Key agricultural experts have been leaving Somalia, and this leads to negative impacts such as limited institutional knowledge and experience, reduced effectiveness and quality of services, increased recruitment and training costs, and poor policy implementation.

- Limited financial facilities for farmers and poor access to agriculture finance can challenge the zeal to increase agribusiness investment.
- Relatively attractive extension personnel conditions of service by other development organizations than the public services may lead to brain drain from the public agriculture extension service agencies which is the main service provider in the country.

Climate variability has potential to challenge and discourage efforts in agriculture extension and advisory services in Somali.

CHAPTER THREE: STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES PROVISION IN SOMALIA

The new strategic direction is to transform agricultural extension from a system of parallel institutionally fragmented public and non-state actors into a well-coordinated, harmonized, regulated pluralistic service where both public and private service providers are active participants addressing diverse needs. The second dimension of the new direction is to address the extension needs along entire value chains (as opposed to the previous focus on primary production) and synergistic integration with other agricultural support services for optimum return on investment. The third dimension of the strategy is to provide a point of reference for service providers and other stakeholders on principles, outcomes, and guides all actors on how to strengthen coordination, partnership and collaboration.

3.1 Agricultural Extension Policy Focus

The National Agricultural Extension Policy of Somalia is designed to align with and contribute to the strategic goals outlined in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's National Strategy for 2025-2029. It also supports broader regional and global frameworks, including the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Somali National Transformation Plan (NTP 10). The MoAI National Transformation Strategy for 2025-2029 serves as the guiding framework for the development and implementation of the NAEP, ensuring that policy priorities are in harmony with national agricultural objectives. The MoAI Strategy 2025-2029 provides the foundation for strengthening Somalia's agricultural sector through a collaborative and stakeholder driven approach.

3.1.1 Vision

The vision of the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) is to build a resilient, inclusive, and effective extension service system that empowers Somali farmers, enhances food self- sufficiency to reduce import reliance, boosts incomes, supports market access and improves the overall standard of living across farming communities in Somalia.

3.1.2 Mission

The mission of Somalia'sNational Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) is to establish a dynamic and efficient pluralistic extension system that strengthens farming communities, rebuilds national agricultural extension stations and advisory services, and promotes sustainable agricultural practices for long-term resilience and prosperity.

3.1.3 Goal, Objectives, and Policy Outcome

Enhancing agricultural productivity and diversification by ensuring that all Somali farmers have access to proficient and impactful services, agricultural knowledge, information & technologies and encouraging external investors by providing financial resources, expertise, and technology to support the sustainable agricultural practices, the adoption of innovative technologies, and the improvement of agricultural value chains, ultimately helping Somali farmers to improve their yields, increase their income, and build resilience against various challenges such as climate change and market fluctuations.

Strategic Objectives:

The objectives of NAEP are to establish well-harmonized pluralistic and effective agricultural extension services which are an instrumental tool in achieving national food security goals.

The following **strategic objectives** help realize the overarching vision outlined in the NAEP policy:

1. Establish a well-structured institutional framework for pluralistic agricultural extension services to improve effectiveness, cooperation, and coordination at all levels, and strengthen linkages among stakeholders.
2. Improve institutional and organizational capacity to provide extension services through revamping the current agricultural extension advisory center sand creation of new centers and synergies between agricultural research, extension, and innovation systems.
3. Strengthen agricultural education and knowledge by developing extension and advisory materials and enhancing the transfer of modern technologies and farming practices such as climate-smart agriculture through farmer field schools, training sessions, farm visits, demonstration plots, and farmer's days.
4. Enhance multi-stakeholder cooperation among various extension service providers at government levels, the private sector, non governmental organization, civil society organizations, and development partners in providing agricultural extension services.
5. Strengthening linkages and innovation processes between government, agricultural research, farmers, agricultural academic institutions, and the private sector to increase farmers' knowledge and skills leading to various outcomes including agricultural productivity, food security and improved livelihoods.

7. Enhance access to information and technology among farmers in Somalia through the effective use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and digital platforms.
8. Improve farmers' access to inputs, infrastructure, markets, financial services and credit in rural areas to facilitate use of innovations, technologies and practices for transforming the agriculture sector.

This strategy is meant to operationalize implementation of these NAES strategic objectives. It recognizes that a well-functioning agricultural extension service operated by the public and private sectors is one of the critical inputs required for increased agricultural productivity to transform subsistence farming into modern and commercial farming, attain food security, improve incomes and reduce. An effective and functioning extension service is therefore one of the critical systems change agents required to transform subsistence farming to modern and commercial agriculture. This is critically important in promoting household food security, improving incomes and reducing poverty.

3.2 Guiding Principles

The National Agricultural Extension Strategy is guided by the following principles:

Holistic approach and inclusiveness: This principle recognizes developmental commitments and obligations regarding diverse needs and demands of farmers while promoting equitable access to resources and services. The principle is designed to promote equalization by ensuring that all farmers and segments of society access extension services along value chains from production to consumption.

Responsiveness and accountability: This principle is designed to ensure that agricultural extension services are provided in response to farmers' needs and demands and that service providers are accountable to the farmers, women, youth and other relevant users.

Decentralized, Demand and Market-led services: This principle promotes establishment of decentralized extension structures that are empowered to facilitate identification and addressing of farmers' needs in response to the domestic and external markets. This also implies that public and private research service providers develop user friendly, demand and market-led and client-oriented agriculture innovations.

Accessibility: This principle supports the development and use of innovative approaches and methods to make agricultural extension services easily accessible to all clients particularly women farmers and youth.

Coordination and Collaboration: This principle recognizes the importance of proper coordination of interventions from different stakeholders and collaboration among innovation developers, users, and public and private service providers to reduce inefficiencies in provision of agricultural services.

Quality and Regulation: This principle advocates provision of quality services and ensures that agricultural extension services are regulated with clear code of practice, standards and accreditation for impact in Somali.

Sustainability of services: This principle ensures that agricultural extension services are sustainable for progressive changes. This advocates comprehensive mainstreaming and capacity building of extension personnel on new innovations, approaches and methods for them to be able to manage them alone. The principle further calls for ownership and contributions towards services provision. It also ensures that farmers participate and own extension through vibrant farmer organizations. It also recognizes the need for provision of sustainable financing mechanisms for agricultural extension and advisory services.

3.3 Strategic Outcomes

The National Agriculture Extension Strategy aims to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Strengthened sustainable agricultural extension system with clear human and institutional roles leading to improved information flow, increased farmer access, enhanced coordination, and strengthened linkages between research and extension for practical on-farm application.

Outcome 2: Improved institutional and organizational capacity to provide extension services through revamping the existing extension advisory centers and establishing 18 new centers, leading to enhanced knowledge dissemination, increased technology adoption, and accelerated agricultural development within the community.

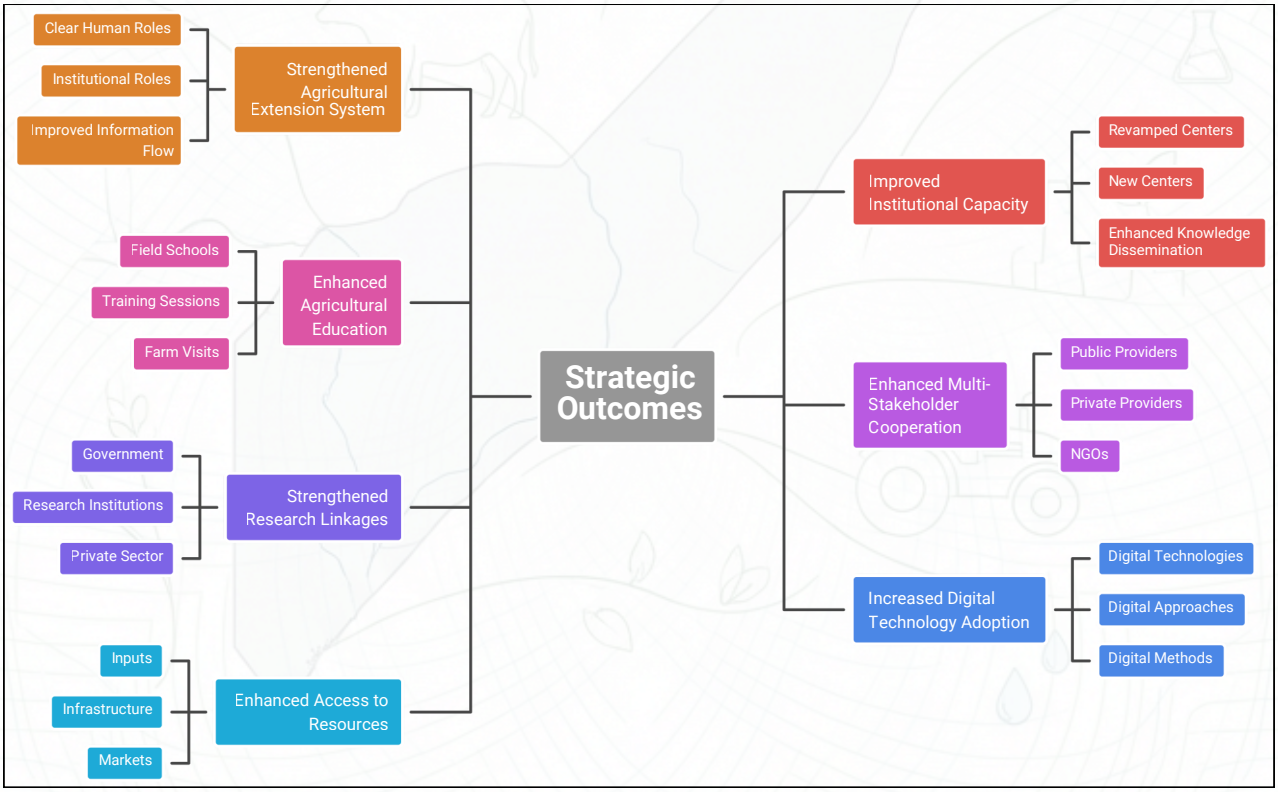
Outcome 3: Enhanced agricultural education and knowledge among farmers actively engaged through innovative platforms such as field schools, training sessions, farm visits, demonstration plots, and farmers' field days.

Outcome 4: Enhanced multi-stakeholder cooperation and improved coordination among various extension service providers (public, private, NGO, CSO, development partners) leading to reduced duplication of efforts, increased efficiency, innovative solutions implemented, improved service delivery to farmers, maximized impact, inclusive decision-making, increased ownership, and enhanced resilience of the agricultural sector.

Outcome 5: Strengthened agricultural research, innovation and extension linkages between government, research, farmers, agricultural academic institutions, and the private sector leading to enhanced increase farmers' knowledge and skills, agricultural productivity, food security and improved livelihoods.

Outcome 6: Increased adoption of digital agricultural technologies, approaches, methods and messages leading to improved productivity, efficiency, and decision making in farming practices.

Outcome 7: Enhanced access to inputs, infrastructure, markets, financial services, and credit facilities among farmers fostering economic growth and development in agricultural communities.



Outcomes of Sustainable Agricultural Extension System

CHAPTER FOUR: STRATEGIC PILLARS, OUTCOMES AND INTERVENTIONS

4.1 Strategic Pillars and Outcomes for AESAP

Agricultural extension services are very important to enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting sustainable practices. Therefore supporting extension services and building the capacity of farmers to adopt climate resilience technologies, innovations and management practices through a robust and revitalized extension system is expected to contribute to improved agricultural production, well-being of the farmers, environmental sustainability and addressing of the challenges posed by climate change. The outcomes will consequently contribute to overall development and growth of agriculture anchored in two strategic goals:

- Increasing crop productivity through the introduction and adoption of modern farming practices and technologies that allow a more efficient and sustainable use of agricultural input, including seeds, land, water, agrochemicals and labour.
- Developing agricultural value chains through the improvement of producer organizations such as associations and cooperatives to derive economies of scale, improve access to finance and new markets.

To achieve the two strategic goals, this AESAP will be managed along four strategic pillars addressing specific areas of focus in agricultural extension and advisory services as expressed by stakeholders following consultations, literature review and country case studies. The pillars aim to articulate an implementation framework that complements agreed on principles and good practices. The four pillars of the NAES are summarized in Table 1.

Pillar	Outcomes
1. Human and Institutional Agricultural Extension Organizational Capacity	**Outcome 1**: Strengthened sustainable agricultural extension system with clear human and institutional roles leading to improved information flow, increased farmer access, enhanced coordination, and strengthened linkages between research and extension for practical on-farm applications. **Outcome 2**: Improved institutional and organizational capacity to provide extension services through revamping existing extension advisory centers and establishing new centers, leading to enhanced knowledge dissemination, increased technology adoption, and accelerated agricultural development within the community.

Pillar	Outcomes
2. Decentralized Agricultural Extension, Advisory and Support Services	**Outcome 3**: Enhanced agricultural education and knowledge among farmers actively engaged through innovative platforms such as field schools, training sessions, farm visits, demonstration plots, and farmers' days. **Outcome 4**: Enhanced multi-stakeholder cooperation and improved coordination among various extension service providers (public, private, NGO, CSO, development partners) leading to reduced duplication of efforts, increased efficiency, innovative solutions implemented, improved service delivery to farmers, maximized impact, inclusive decision-making, increased ownership, and enhanced resilience of the agricultural sector.
3. Research, Innovation & Extension Linkages for Agricultural Transformation	**Outcome 5**: Strengthened agricultural research, innovation and extension linkages between government, research, farmers, agricultural academic institutions, and the private sector leading to enhanced increase farmers' knowledge and skills, agricultural productivity, food security and improved livelihoods. **Outcome 6**: Increased adoption of digital agricultural technologies, approaches, methods and messages leading to improved productivity, efficiency, and decision making in farming practices.
4. Sustainable Access, Markets and Financing of Agricultural Extension Services	**Outcome 7**: Enhanced access to inputs, infrastructure, markets, financial services, and credit facilities among farmers fostering economic growth and development in agricultural communities.

Table 1. Strategic Pillars and Outcomes for AESAP

4.2 Description of Strategic Pillars, Outcomes and Interventions

Pillar 1:
Human and Institutional Agricultural Extension Organizational Capacity

Outcome 1: Strengthened sustainable agricultural extension system with clear human and institutional roles leading to improved information flow, increased farmer access, enhanced coordination, and strengthened linkages between research and extension for practical on-farm applications.

Under this outcome, the strategy shall enhance skills and knowledge of extension service providers; existing innovations will be promoted by the extension services providers. The outcome will also work on incentivizing the extension services providers and improving inclusivity. This is aligned with the expectation that the function of agricultural extension service provision requires improved human capacity and strengthened institutions.

Intervention 1.1: Strengthen capacity of agricultural and training institutions in the provision of agricultural extension services

Periodic capacity assessment for service providers will be conducted to identify capacity gaps on technologies, good agriculture practices, extension methods and approaches. Service delivery institutions will develop comprehensive long and short-term training programs to address the capacity gaps. In addition, refresher courses, need-based international and local exchange and learning visits will be periodically conducted to enhance staff knowledge and skills on implementation of various technologies, good agriculture practices, extension methods and approaches. Staff capacity in use of ICT based extension methods will be enhanced to use a variety of technologies such as phone, radio, and television.

Intervention 1.2: Improve productive capacity of farmers including women farmers and youth

Comprehensive capacity assessments will be conducted to identify needs of farmers including women farmers and youth. Tailor-made training and linkages to relevant service providers, financial services, inputs and output markets will be conducted using innovative approaches and methods.

It is also recommended to utilize contact farmers to establish demonstration plots and conduct on-the-job training for other farmers. This peer-to-peer learning and capacity building will contribute to realizing a sustainable agricultural extension system.

Intervention 1.3: Promote availability and use of innovations in agricultural extension

The strategy will create and promote an environment for farmers, researchers, extension experts and other extension actors to co-generate, validate, out-scale and upscale innovations. The intervention will specifically build the capacity of the actors of innovation platforms under AESAP to spearhead their role in innovation generation and use. Functional AESAP platforms will become community learning hubs through which various solutions can be collectively innovated, prototyped and out scaled.

Intervention 1.4: Incentivize Providers of Agricultural Extension Services

The strategy will revitalize the inherent value of agricultural extension services by ensuring that the services are appropriate and beneficial to the farmers and other relevant target groups. The strategy will also enforce provision of agricultural extension services, which respect and respond to the needs of farmers and especially women and youth.

Intervention 1.5: Strengthening Occupational Safety in Agriculture

This strategy recognizes that farmers, employers and workers in agriculture need simple, practical methods to improve safety, health and productivity together. The intervention will develop safety guidelines, encourage participatory safety and health training activities for farmers, provide protective equipment and enforce compliance measures.

Outcome 2: Improved institutional and organizational capacity to provide extension services through revamping existing extension advisory centers and establishing new centers, leading to enhanced knowledge dissemination, increased technology adoption, and accelerated agricultural development within the community

This outcome aims at institutionalizing structures for coordinating agricultural extension services at all levels and developing vibrant farmer groups and youth clubs. The outcome also aims at professionalizing agricultural extension services and revitalizing delivery of institutional training programs by extension agents and other services actors. It also ensures improved working and living conditions for agricultural extension service providers.

Intervention 2.1: Rehabilitate existing extension Centers (Jowhar, Baidoa and Kismayo)

This strategy will rehabilitate the existing advisory centers to provide appropriate tailored extension programs to be designed and implemented to broaden access to knowledge and other services. The programs provide extension services in safe use of technologies and good agricultural practices including pesticide use, fertilizer application, Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), agroforestry and environmental conservation, water conservation and others.

Intervention 2.2: Establish 18 new agricultural extension facilities

This strategy will select sites, construct, equip and staff advisory centers in FMS to enable appropriate tailored extension programs to be designed and implemented to address the unique needs and conditions of the farmers in all the regions. This decentralized approach ensures that extension services are customized and responsive to the diverse agricultural landscapes and challenges present across Somalia. The centers should build capacity of farmers in safe use of technologies and good agricultural practices including pesticide use, fertilizer application, Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and others.

Intervention 2.3: Digital registration and training of Extension Officers and Village Based Advisors (VBAs)

This strategy will develop a digital registration platform, track performance of extension offices and VBAs, and implement training programs using standardized manuals. The extension staff will also be trained in advanced technologies such as social media, films, and radio programs to provide extension services to farmers.

Intervention 2.4: Strengthen institutional capacity of all key actors for agricultural extension

The strategy will ensure intensified and coordinated provision of training programs to extension agents in all the FMS. Training institutions, both formal and informal will conduct capacity-building programs to ensure tailor made training programs for both the staff and the farmers. The strategy shall also ensure that staff undergoes short-term, long-term and professional training for carrier development.

Intervention 2.5: Enhance professionalism through linkages with Agricultural Education & Training Institutions

This will ensure the Department of Agricultural Research and Extension collaborates with universities to revise curricula, provide hands-on training and promote research. The strategy aims at promoting professionalism in agricultural extension service provision. It will promote a culture of professional institutions and safeguard availability of well-qualified staff and quality agricultural extension services. In addition, the strategy will provide support to implement and reinforce minimum standards and mechanisms for regulation and enforcement of professionalism in agricultural extension and advisory services.

Intervention 2.6 Improve working and living conditions of Agricultural Extension Services workers

Working with national policymakers to prioritize extension funding in agriculture is a key consideration. Extension agents should be provided with basic work incentives including transportation and safety allowances, competitive salaries, and opportunities for career growth. Another key priority should be strengthening digital extension connectivity to reach out to distant geographic region. This strategy will ensure improved working and living conditions for agricultural extension services workers, especially at village-based level (VBAs). Capacity of FMS will be improved to make the states become responsive to infrastructure and material demands of the agricultural extension service workers. State and Non-State Actors will ensure provision of working equipment, transportation, and protective clothing.

Intervention 2.7: Develop vibrant Farmer Groups and Agro-based Youth clubs

The strategy will strengthen farmer-based organizations (FOs) such as farmer groups, associations and cooperatives to improve the farmers' access to extension services. To serve the farmers better the FOs will be strengthened in supporting various functions including procurement, marketing, financing and farm guidance services to their members. Furthermore, the strategy will ensure the FOs is strong in governance, business management, agro-processing, value addition and in strengthening of market linkages. To strengthen the business environment, there will be establishment of Youth and Women-Centric Funding Programs to provide youth and women with access to microloans, grants, and credit facilities tailored specifically for engagement in agribusiness. This will involve fostering agri-tech start-ups, providing support for agribusiness incubation programs, and establishing dedicated funding mechanisms for youth-ledagricultural projects.

Intervention 2.8: Promote Agribusiness for farmers and other value chains

The strategy will ensure that provision of agricultural extension services embraces agribusiness development and market linkages. This will enhance value chain players' ability to intensify use of productivity-enhancing technologies to achieve maximum output for markets and consumption. The strategy will facilitate investments in production, agro-processing, transportation, storage, and warehousing. The strategy will also engage the government and NGOs to support private companies and universities in developing the agricultural sector by supplementing provision of extension services, subsidies, etc.

Pillar 2:
Decentralized Agricultural Extension, Advisory and Support Services

Outcome 3: Enhanced agricultural education and knowledge among farmers actively engaged through innovative platforms such as field schools, training sessions, farm visits, demonstration plots, and farmers' days.

This decentralized strategy ensures that extension services are customized and responsive to the diverse agricultural landscapes and challenges present across Somalia. The strategy promotes provision of high-quality agricultural extension and advisory services in Somali. This will be achieved through the enactment of statutory regulations and the enforcement of these regulations. Both technical and management issues such as technology development licensing of service providers will be addressed by the regulations for the sector.

Intervention 3.1 Develop agricultural extension services regulatory framework

The strategy will develop a framework for providing the Agricultural Extension Services in Somali. The framework will guide recognition and licensing of service providers for agricultural extension and advisory services to meet the minimum standards, and code of conduct for technology dissemination and adaptation. The strategy prioritizes establishment of a regulatory authority for the sector.

Intervention 3.2: Integrating nutritional education into extension services

This intervention will link agricultural extension and advisory service (EAS) with participatory learning and action on nutrition and health given the potential to improve the sustainability and impact of food and agricultural programs on nutrition and household food security. The rationale for the integration of nutrition education into agricultural extension and advisory services lies in the opportunity to leverage the key strengths of agricultural extension and advisory services which include; an established infrastructure, reach, community trust, cultural awareness, as well as an understanding of how to mitigate the constraints faced by the farmers.

Outcome 4: Enhanced multi-stakeholder cooperation and improved coordination among various extension service providers (public, private, NGO, CSO, development partners) leading to reduced duplication of efforts, increased efficiency, innovative solutions implemented, improved service delivery to farmers, maximized impact, inclusive decision-making, increased ownership, and enhanced resilience of the agricultural sector

This outcome aims at creating and improving the delivery of decentralized agricultural extension services by institutionalizing their provision by relevant institutions, enforcing standards, strengthening and establishing agricultural extension services coordination structures at all levels. The outcome will also promote implementation of community led interventions; conduct periodic joint planning, monitoring and review the functionality of AESAP structures.

Intervention 4.1: Establish a decentralized and pluralistic extension system

This intervention aims at addressing one of the challenges facing provision of extension and advisory services to farmers, particularly the dwindling government resources.
Somali is among the countries most vulnerable to food insecurity and hunger and are often affected by climate-driven extreme weather and other disasters. Extension officers in the field often operate with few resources. They need consistent, robust funding to ensure that any relevant and available research, technology, and information reach farmers promptly. This intervention calls on extension organizations to support farm households' livelihood security initiatives, through a framework of pluralistic extension system for ensuring efficient and effective use of available resources for extension and sustainable development. Both the Federal Government and the Federal Member States will set up regional offices; engage various extension service providers including NGOs and private sector and implement monitoring & evaluation framework.

Intervention 4.2: Enhance coordination & stakeholder collaboration structures at all levels

The AESAP anticipates establishment of a functional National Stakeholder Forum at national level to coordinate provision of extension services and strengthen operational capacity of AESAP structures at all levels. Key activities under the intervention shall include sensitization of all stakeholders, formation and revamping of AESAP structures, orientation on roles of various AESAP structures, orientation on various policies and conduct learning visits.

The linkage between the structures will be strengthened to ensure that there is better articulation of farmers' needs and demands and relevant response. Farmer participation, especially in the higher-level structures of AESAP, will be encouraged to ensure that they are involved in decision making at every level and that development is people centered. Lower structures will be encouraged to support the participation of their democratically elected representatives in the higher structures.

Intervention 4.3: Enforce standards in provision of Agricultural Extension Services

The intervention will ensure that all service providers, at their level of operation, sign a Memorandum of Understanding, which will among other things stipulate the agricultural extension services provision standards to be followed. Government institutions mandated to regulate agricultural extension services provision at Federal and FMS level will lead in enforcing standards in agricultural extension services provision through monitoring and support visits, conducting periodic technical audits, setting up of bye-laws, and development of service charters by service providers. Adherence to standards will ensure that there is quality, harmonization and inclusiveness in the provision of agricultural extension services. This will be handled in relation to the recently passed agricultural laws provide a legal framework for regulating agricultural development in the country, including the quality control of farming inputs and products.

Intervention 4.4: Promote gender inclusion in Agricultural Extension Services

This strategy recognizes that women play a crucial role in agriculture, particularly in rural areas, yet they often face significant barriers to resources, extension services, and decision-making. Traditional agricultural extension services have predominantly targeted male farmers, neglecting the specific needs and schedules of women. Gender-inclusive agricultural extension services aim to bridge these gaps through targeted policies, increased resource allocation, and capacity-building efforts.Implementation of agricultural extension services shall focus on empowerment of the women through engagement in various interventions such as women participation through training, funding access, recruitment of female extension staff, and NGO. Strategies and guidelines for how the various gender groups will be involved in extension and advisory services will be developed.

Intervention 4.5: Develop and implement Agriculture Community-led interventions

Community-Based Extension by training and equipping local farmers and VBAs to ensure knowledge transfer even amidst service disruptions will be instrumental in articulating community-based demands and responses, which can culminate into full community-based projects. Political instability in Somalia can significantly disrupt service delivery, causing insecurity, displacements, interruptions in essential services critical for effective agricultural extension programs, resource diversion to security and humanitarian needs during conflicts, and the displacement of trained extension workers, impacting service continuity and quality, hence the need for such mitigation measures. The intervention therefore aims to empower local structures to prepare proposals for possible financial and technical support by service providers and development partners and provide services in the event of political instability of other destabilizing causes. VBAs will be capacitated to help generate activities that could be implemented in distressful circumstances.

Intervention 4.6: Strengthen inclusive Planning and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Systems

The intervention will focus on building capacity of stakeholders and extension services providers to plan, monitor and review their programs and interventions. The Department of Research and Extension will develop key performance indicators (KPIs), implement real-time data collection, and conduct periodic reviews. Available mapping tools will be used to map stakeholders within each extension unit and show their levels and strengths of collaboration with each other.

Intervention 4.7: Establish a National Agricultural Extension Agency (or National Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services)

This strategy will establish a National Agriculture Extension Agency (NAEA) or National Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services[4], which will serve as a vital link bridging the knowledge gap between researchers, farmers, and other stakeholders across the country, ensuring timely delivery of farmers' concerns directly to the Ministry. The agency or Service will support the government's wider objective of increasing agricultural productivity, sustainability and overall livelihoods of farmers across Somali through effective coordination of all the extension service providers, ensuring all farmers are reached with extension services and ensuring quality delivery of the extension and advisory services.

4. The Somali Forum for Agricultural Advisory Service could become part of the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) and the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).

Pillar 3:
Research, Innovation & Extension Linkages for Agricultural Transformation

Outcome 5: Strengthened agricultural research, innovation and extension linkages between government, research, farmers, agricultural academic institutions, and the private sector leading to enhanced increase farmers' knowledge and skills, agricultural productivity, food security and improved livelihoods.

The provision of agricultural extension services aims at helping farmers and rural communities learn by raising their awareness, increasing knowledge and skills, as well as enabling them to have the right attitudes and motivation to put into practice the innovations required for addressing their farming problems and needs. However, such changes in farmers' behavior demand the availability and utilization of innovative and appropriate methodologies and approaches to effectively deliver the right messages to farmers in specific contexts. In addition, to support equitable access to agricultural extension services by diverse farmer categories (for instance, men and women; youth and elderly; male, female and child headed farm households; physically challenged farmers, poor and well-off farm households; and small, middle and large-scale farmers), there is need for a variety of effective methods and approaches, which extension service providers can select and utilize to reach out to a particular farmer category. The production of user-friendly handbooks, manuals and booklets for use by staff and farmers will also be promoted. AESAP and the Academia in collaboration with relevant stakeholders from NGOs, private and farmer organizations will organize and facilitate periodic experience sharing conferences and community of practice platforms to widely spread best fit technologies and practices for their adoption.

Intervention 5.1: Develop innovative Agricultural Extension approaches, methods and messages

The provision of quality extension services requires innovative methods and approaches that are all encompassing and appropriate for all categories of farmers and actors along the value chains. This calls for scholars and practitioners to draw on soft systems approaches as well as participatory learning and innovation methods and approaches for instance farmer-to-farmer training, demonstration plots, ICT-based extension tools for instance radio learning circles, participatory video training and learning market-led and integrated household extension approaches, and Farmer Field Schools (FFS). And Farmer Research Network.

Therefore, this intervention will promote engagement of multiple stakeholders including farmers in participatory action research to develop, identify, test and validate effective and appropriate agriculture extension and advisory services methods, approaches and messages across the value chain. The intervention will also involve the use of participatory approaches for instance: Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) and Rapid Appraisal of Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems (RAAKS) to jointly identify, analyze, prioritize and generate solutions and messages for addressing farmers' problems and needs. These innovative extension approaches and methods will be used to facilitate dissemination of technologies and messages on good agricultural practices to a wider farming community of Somali.

Outcome 6: Increased adoption of digital agricultural technologies, approaches, methods and messages leading to improved productivity, efficiency, and decision making in farming practices.

Information and Communication Technology is widely recognized in this technology era as offering innovations essential to transforming the delivery of agricultural extension services in developing countries including Somali. Therefore, this strategy will promote dissemination of messages through ICT-based extension methods that use pathways such as mobile phone, radio, television and computer to help diverse farmer's access agriculture extension and advisory services. To increase farmer awareness of new innovations or technologies and practices, the strategy shall promote packaging and dissemination of technical information through production of various Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. Different IEC materials will be used to disseminate messages, depending on the problem being addressed, the innovation being promoted, the category of farmers being targeted, and context in which the targeted farmers operate. These IEC materials will include leaflets, posters, flyers, farmer Magazines as well as radio, TV programs and video documentaries that are also posted on social media platforms. In addition, Agricultural Resource Centers and mobile campaigns will also be used to package information that will be disseminated to farmers and other stakeholders.

Intervention 6.1: Leverage digital agricultural technologies, approaches, methods and message in provision of agricultural extension services

This strategy will deploy various digital platforms to complement other dissemination methods in providing agricultural extension services. Access to digital technology by smallholder farmers and other rural business will provide links to suppliers and information and allowing users to tap into workforce talent, build strategic partnership, access support services such as training, finance services and, critically, reach markets and customers.

Intervention 6.2: Set up Monitoring and Evaluation units at national, divisional and district levels

Quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation are necessary mechanisms for ensuring delivery of high-quality extension services. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit will be set up to oversee the identification of M&E criteria and indicators, data collection protocols, process, and ethics, data management and analysis, as well as reporting of progress, relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of agriculture extension and advisory services related interventions. Establishment of such a system will be very instrumental in informing the design of future agricultural extension services projects and programmes as well as research initiatives. It will also facilitate evidence-based agriculture extension and advisory services policy formulation. The M&E units and database will be based at the FGS and FMS levels. The district M &E unit will be sending consolidated data to the national data base.

The implementation of this strategy will involve establishment of M&E units at all levels and ensure that they are well-equipped physically, financially and in terms of human resources to be able to coordinate all monitoring and evaluation activities related to agricultural extension and advisory services. Using participatory monitoring and evaluation as well as results-based monitoring and evaluation, these units will develop Theories of Change (TOCs) and identify Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that will help in tracking progress and measuring performance of agricultural extension and advisory services at National level and Federal Member State level.

Pillar 4:
Sustainable Financing of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Outcome 7: Enhanced access to inputs, infrastructure, markets, financial services, and credit facilities among farmers fostering economic growth and development in agricultural communities.

The outcome will ensure increased, diversified and harmonized sources of finances for agricultural extension and advisory services in support of agricultural inputs, production enabling infrastructure, establishing and accessing markets, financial and credit access. To facilitate this, several interventions will be undertaken such as coordination of agricultural extension and advisory service providers on financing and financing of interventions as well as the establishment of agriculture extension fund.

Intervention 7.1: Strengthening and Coordination Private Sector Investment in Agriculture

A coordinated approach towards financial resources allocation and management will ensure that there is no duplication of efforts thereby increasing effectiveness in the provision of agricultural extension and advisory services. It will also help improve accountability and transparency in the way financial resources are applied for agricultural related activities. At various implementation levels coordination meetings will be conducted to discuss conditions that will facilitate smooth implementation of agriculture extension and advisory services activities.

Intervention 7.2: Ensuring fair and transparent Access to agricultural resources

AESAP intends to promote prudence in allocation and use of resources earmarked for agricultural extension and advisory services. All ESP providers shall declare financial allocations towards specific interventions for mutual accountability and transparency. It will also be necessary for agriculture extension and advisory services providers to adhere to established clear guidelines for resource distribution and ensure merit-based funding allocation. Resource mobilization should be considered as one of the key interventions to be done to raise resources for implementation of interventions on agriculture extension and advisory services. In this regard, the skills and capacity of finance, administrative and technical officers will be improved to ensure proper finance management and instill discipline for good financial management.

Intervention 7.3: Developing Cost-recovery mechanisms for some extension services, providers and some categories of farmers.

It is not all farmers who can afford to pay for agriculture extension and advisory services. In this regard the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy shall promote identification of high-value agriculture activities and category of farmers for which extension and advisory services could be managed on cost-recovery basis. Payment for cost-recovery services shall be deposited into the Trust Fund. The fund shall be established with very clear operational guidelines where donors and other partners will be encouraged to put resources for agriculture extension and advisory services.

CHAPTER FIVE: INSTITUTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 National Structure of Agricultural Extension System in Somali

The current extension system involves various stakeholders such as government agencies, research institutions, farmer associations, the United Nations (UN), Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector, academia and other stakeholders working together to provide technical assistance, training, information, and resources to farmers to help them adopt modern and sustainable agricultural practices. During the policy consultation meetings held in Federal Member States, different extension approaches and methods were discussed to identify the realistic approach that fulfills the needs of the Somali farmers.The best agriculture extension approach appears to be involving farmers and farmer groups and where the role of government is more advisory, facilitating opportunities at the local scale and creating effectivecoordination among various actors.

The National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) for which this strategy for implementation is designed aims to developpluralistic and decentralized systems in extension which brings various extension service providers on board. Within this framework NAEP also emphasizes cross-cutting issues that are of importance to the people of the government of Somalia. To effectively implement the National Agricultural Extension Strategy (NAES) to operationalize this policy, it is essential that institutional mandates, roles, responsibilities, structures, linkages, coordination and legal frameworks are defined, operationalized and enforced.

The implementation framework for the NAES is shown in Figure 1. It delineates roles and responsibilities of the various institutions and other actors that will be involved in the implementation of the Strategy. These consist of the following:

- The Federal Government
- The FederalMember States (FMS)
- The Private sector
- Farmers' Associations
- Other Key Stakeholders – development partners, other ministries and agencies, other MoAI Departments & Agencies, financial bodies, Non-State Actors (NGOs, CBOs), national and international donors, Agricultural Extension Institutions (AEIs), etc.

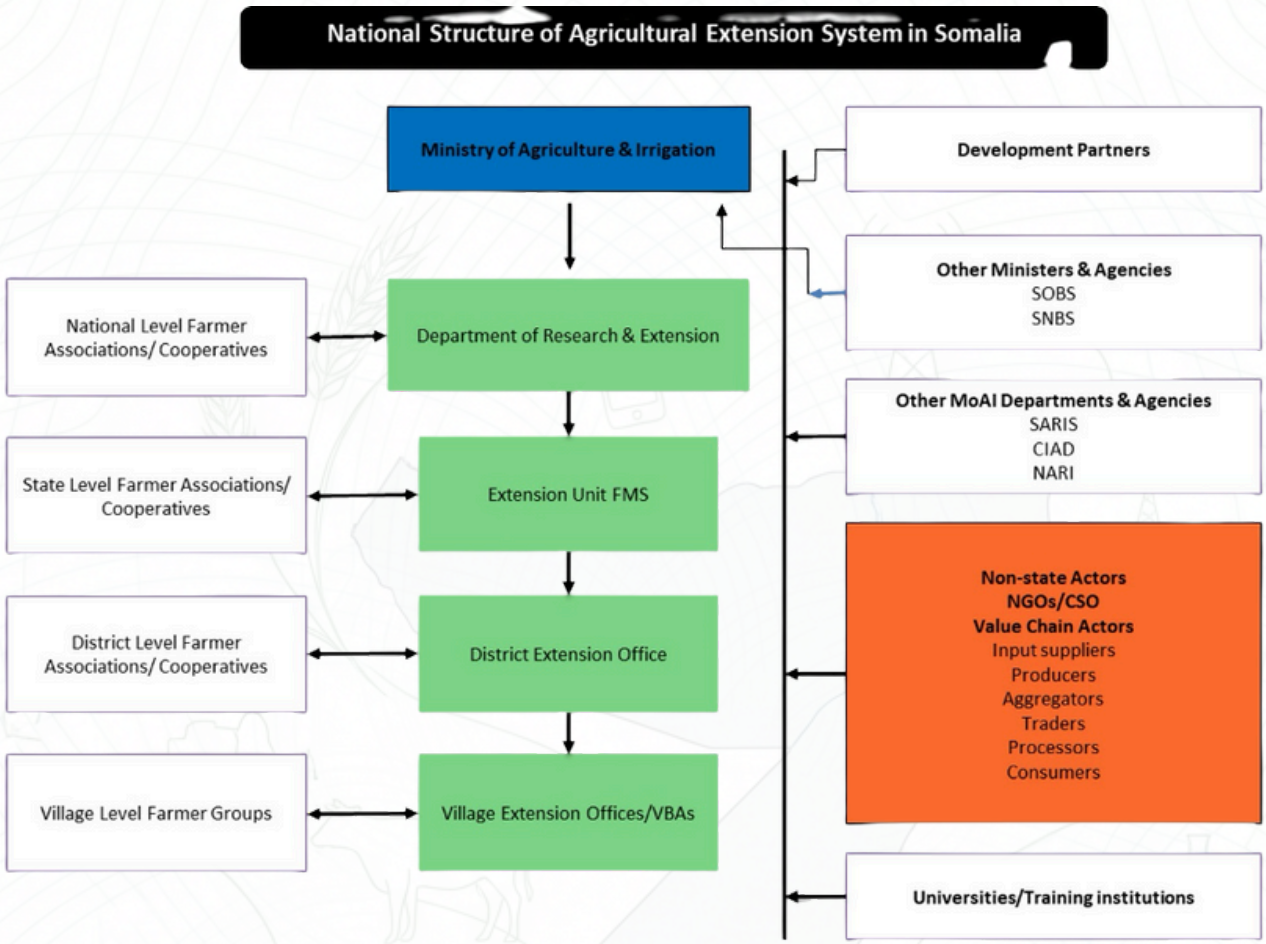


Figure 1: The Decentralized Agriculture Extension Services System

5.2 Mandates, Roles and Responsibilities

5.2.1 Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation (MoAI)

The MoAI is responsible for the development of inclusive agricultural strategies and policies for the nation and has the mandate, legitimacy, and authority to initiate and implement the National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP)[10]. The federal government will be primarily responsible for the following tasks:

1. Overall coordination, monitoring and evaluation, establishing a conducive environment, and developing a legal framework for the extension sector.
2. Formulate and review sectorial policies, regulations, and strategies and monitor the overall performance of the extension sector.
3. Work on infrastructure development in collaboration with Federal Member States.
4. Improve the delivery of quality agricultural inputs

5. Provide technical guidance to the Federal Member States and other stakeholders.
6. Coordinate agricultural data and information management systems.
7. Participate in the monitoring and evaluation of agricultural extension programs and projects.
8. Establish National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and National Extension Service (NES) as a separate agency within the structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, reinstating research and extension centers and reconstructing civil work offices.
9. Build strong partnerships with agriculture state ministries, NGOs, agricultural education Institutions, farmer organizations, and agribusiness companies to ensure effective and quality extension services.
10. Resource mobilization for extension service to support farmers.
11. Improve transfer technology and dissemination of research outcomes to service providers.
12. Empower farmer organizations and cooperatives.
13. Encourage agricultural education institutions and the private sector to expand their role in field extension and undertake extension and research services.

5.2.2 The Federal Member States

In the implementation of the NAEP, the state governments will primarily be responsible for the following activities:

1. Develop programs/projects and activities aligned with policy frameworks to provide effective agricultural extension services.
2. Build the capacity of frontline extension workers and farmers.
3. Collaborate with federal governments and other relevant stakeholders in the investments of rural infrastructure, such as rural roads, advisory stations, and water supplies.
4. Monitor and evaluate the performance of the agricultural projects implemented by the agricultural stakeholders in their respective locations.
5. Assist farmers with access to extension, market information, and other advisory services.
6. Establish strong linkages between farmers, farmers' organizations, and service providers.
7. Promote collaboration between agricultural students, universities, and private companies by providing internship and volunteer opportunities to work in extension services.
8. Conduct regular field visits, assessments, and surveys to identify modern technology and address the gaps to improve crop production.
9. Promote self-reliance and sustainability in extension services.

5.2.3 The Private Sector

The private sector will be expected to play a primary role concerning the following:

1. Investment in agricultural input supply and distribution.
2. Provision of extension and credit services.
3. Investments in agro-industry, storagefacilities, processing, and marketing.
4. Stimulating the development and use of innovative procedures and modern technology in the agricultural sector.
5. Strengthening agricultural education institutions through fundsfor scholarships.

5.2.4 Farmer Associations

Farmer associations (interest groups, commodity groups and cooperatives) are crucial for agricultural development as they provide a platform for farmers to share knowledge, access markets, and influence policies that affect their livelihoods.

Specifically, they shall play the following roles:

1. They mobilize individual farmers and enable them to become a strong force in the economy. By joining the associations, individual farmers are able to participate in larger, more competitive markets.
2. They are also able to compete with large scale farmers for resources and services.
3. They allow individual farmers to get adequately better representation at the local, regional and international level, enabling farmers to contribute to agricultural development programs and policies.

5.2.5 Other Stakeholders

Development Partners Key Roles

These organizations are either multi-lateral or bilateral. They supplement Government resources for the implementation and development of infrastructure, projects and programs aimed at mitigating certain economic development challenges. Specifically, they shall play the following roles:

1. Support policy and advocacy for agricultural extension services
2. Provide technical assistance for agricultural extension services
3. Mobilize financial resources for agriculture extension and advisory service interventions.

Academia Key Roles

Relevant Academic institutions in Somalia shall be responsible for:

1. Developing and reviewing of agricultural extension service curricula
2. Capacity development of agricultural extension service providers including specialized training for agricultural extension service professionals
3. Provision of research services for agricultural extension and advisory services.

5.3 Coordination for Efficient Implementation

The impact of extension services in contributing to the performance of agricultural sector in terms of providing food security, reducing poverty and creating employment lies in effective coordination and collaboration among these representatives is of paramount importance if their efforts to improve agricultural productivity are to be successful. Having structures in place that bring together organizations that have shared goals is a crucial step in facilitating coordination. Developing a District Agricultural Extension Services System (DAESS) Implementation Guide would enable stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of a District Agricultural Extension Services system.

Effective coordination for AES at various levels will involve establishing arrangements that support:

- Setting sector performance targets and indicators in a joint work plan
- Leading planning, monitoring and reporting on sector performance
- Drawing on synergies between players e.g. sharing common/pool resources
- Vetting new projects and players to ensure harmony in approaches and spatial coverage
- Setting standards in extension service provision – and hence avoiding cases where players give contradicting messages
- Ensuring equitable coverage of themes (e.g. soil protection, pro-poor reach, nutrition etc.) and spatial areas (all wards)
- Ensuring themes that go beyond farm level operations are planned for and monitored
- Providing linkage between Ministries and agricultural education and research institutions – e.g. on upgrade of curriculum or provision of refresher courses for ministry staff.
- Resource mobilization
- Innovation exhibitions and outreach
- Knowledge management – standardized reporting format.

5.4 Cross-cutting Issues

The National Agricultural Extension Policy (NAEP) in Somalia recognizes the importance of cross-cutting issues which affect agricultural extension services. Such issues include the involvement of youth and women in agriculture, promoting good governance practices, ensuring equitable access to resources and funding, enhancing safetyand security in agricultural activities, and addressing nutrition concerns. Within this strategy these issues will be addressed by providing the necessary support and solutions to improve the overall effectiveness of agricultural extension services in Somalia. Efforts will be made to ensure these cross-cutting issues are addressed during the implementation.

5.4.1 Youth and Women in Agriculture

The agricultural sector, particularly the farming industry, has traditionally been dominated by men. The NAEP opens avenues to facilitate the participation of youth and women in agricultural production. The policy recognizes the essential roles that youth and women play in subsistence farming, where they make significant contributions to the agriculture sector.

Empowerment of women and youth will be achieved through several key measures, namely:

- Periodic training and education programs will be designed to equip women farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve their agricultural productivity.
- Seeking funding mechanisms for women farmers and encouraging NGOs and community-based organizations to prioritize support for women in agriculture.
- Hiring of more women extension staff and ensuring that women have equal opportunities for employment in the agricultural sector.
- Establishment of Youth and Women-Centric Funding Programs, which would provide youth and women with access to microloans, grants, and credit facilities tailored specifically for agriculture.
- Prioritizing investment in women- led agricultural projects by providing targeted financial support to enhance their participation in agricultural extension services.
- Organizing workshops to enhance leadership skills and providing education on advanced agricultural techniques, climate-smart agriculture, and other relevant areas.
- Enforcing gender quotaswithin agricultural extension services to help ensure equal representation, and torecruit, train, and advance women extension workers to bridge the gender gap and address the unique needs of women farmers.

The programs for empowering youth and women shall focus on skill development, leadership training, technical knowledge, entrepreneurship, and sustainable agricultural practices catering to their specific needs in agricultural extension, ultimately contributing to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

5.4.2 Good Governance

This strategy will ensure that farmers and all those involved in agricultural activities must be provided with a favorable environment by the government. Good governance should ensure that farmers and other stakeholders are not heavily taxed and that taxes they pay benefit them in the form of providing agricultural extension services and needed infrastructure. Good governance also indicates flexible bureaucracy and a lack of red tape. Farmers should be able to purchase and sell equipment, set up farms, and engage in transactions without extreme hindrance from the government. The government's role is to facilitate agricultural production and enhance productivity in the country.

5.4.3 Sustainable environment and natural resources management

Integrating sustainable environment and natural resources management (SENRM) into the extension strategies is important for various reasons. Environmental degradation has a significant impact on agricultural productivity in Somalia. Deforestation, driven by charcoal production and fuel wood collection, leads to soil erosion, reduced water infiltration, and loss of biodiversity, all negatively affecting agricultural output. Land degradation resulting from overgrazing, unsustainable farming practices, and soil erosion diminishes soil fertility, reducing land productivity for agriculture. Water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change and unsustainable water practices, poses a significant constraint to agricultural production in Somalia. The nation is highly susceptible to climate change impacts, including droughts, floods, and erratic rainfall patterns, severely affecting agricultural yields and livelihoods.

Incorporating sustainable practices enhances agricultural resilience, long-term agricultural sustainability and biodiversity. Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices such as water conservation techniques, drought-resistant crops, and agroforestry helps farmers adapt to climate change and fortifies agricultural resilience. Implementing Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices such as terracing, contour plowing, and crop rotation prevents soil erosion, boosts soil fertility, and enhances long-term agricultural productivity.

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) ensures efficient and equitable water resource use for agriculture while safeguarding ecosystems and other users. Agroforestry, through the integration of trees into agricultural systems, provides multiple benefits, including enhancing soil fertility, providing windbreaks, and carbon sequestration.

Integrating Sustainable Environment and Natural Resource Management (SENRM) into the National Agricultural Extension Strategy involves mainstreaming SENRM principles and practices into all extension services, capacity building by training extension workers on SENRM concepts, promoting farmer participation in environmental challenges, forming partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and community-based organizations. By prioritizing SENRM in its National Agricultural Extension Strategy, Somalia can develop a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector that enhances food security, economic growth, and environmental conservation.

All Extension ServiceProviders (ESPs) will mainstream environmental and natural resources-related issues in extension messagesby imparting knowledge on good practices for water catchments management, soil and water conservation, agroforestry, and wetland utilization. They will also focus on appropriate land-use allocation and management of economically viable production units, existing initiatives by other stakeholders on community-based natural resource management plans, the importance of community disaster preparedness, and linking with relevant institutions involved in early warning and disaster preparedness.

5.5 Risk assessment, management and resilience

This strategy recognizes that comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategies are needed to proactively identify, assess, and mitigate risks posed by natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and pests including measures such as early warning systems, land-use planning, infrastructure development, and community-based disaster preparedness initiatives. The strategy should support to implement Insurance schemes tailored for farmers to help them to mitigate the financial impact of crop failures, extremeweather events, and other unforeseen circumstances.

Guided by the extension policy this strategy will focus on establishing effective crisis response mechanisms to provide timely assistance to farmers in times of emergencies. Providing training and capacity-building programs for farmers on risk management techniques and promoting climate-smart agriculture practices can enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change impacts. The agricultural extension strategy will promote sustainable farming techniques that conserve natural resources, improve soil health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CHAPTER 6: EXTENSION APPROACHES & DELIVERY MODELS

Both agriculture extension approaches and methods are essential components of agricultural extension services, which aim to improve agricultural practices, productivity, and livelihoods. However, they differ in terms of their scope, purpose, and how they are applied to engage farmers and rural communities.

6.1 Agricultural Extension Approaches

In Somalia's nationalagricultural extension policy,the Agricultural Extension Approach prioritizes a structured and participatory framework toeffectively deliver services. The approaches should be built on a decentralized model, acknowledging the federal structure and ensuring collaborative efforts between the Federal Government and Federal Member State (FMS) levels. At the federal level, the Ministry of Agriculture focuses on policy development, national standards, and overallcoordination in addition to monitoring, evaluation, learning and accountability. State-level ministries will handle implementation, adapting programs to regional needs and coordinating state-level stakeholders.

A pluralistic approach is vital, actively engaging diverse stakeholders. Farmers and farmer organizations are central to the process, providing feedback and driving demand-driven services. Extension agents, acting as intermediaries, will deliver technical advice, conduct demonstrations, and facilitate access to resources. Village Based Advisors(VBAs), embedded withincommunities, will enhance reach, build trust, and provide localized support. Research institutions will supply scientific knowledge, while NGOs and international organizations will contribute implementation capacity, particularly in vulnerable areas. The private sector, includinginput suppliers and agro processors, will be integrated to strengthen market linkages. Universities and vocational training centers will play a role in training extension personnel.

Delivery of services should utilize a combination of approaches and methods, including on- farm demonstrations, farmer field schools, and information dissemination through radio, mobile technology, and ocher ICTs etc. as perin the table below. Atiered system will ensure information flow, with feedback mechanisms from farmers to local, state, and federal levels and the dissemination of updated information and resources back down. Capacity building for extension agents and VBAs will be continuous, ensuring access to up-to-date knowledge and skills. Finally, the approach must integrate climate-smart agricultural practices and value chain development to enhance resilience and improve livelihoods.

The approach dictates the structure, goals, and priorities of the extension services. The following are the key characteristics of an effective extension approach:

1. I**t is a strategy**: It is the overarching plan or method through which extension services are implemented.
2. **It involves farmer**: Extension approaches can vary in the level of farmer participation. Some approaches are more top-down (government or experts providing information), while others are bottom-up (farmers participate in decision-making).
3. **It engages key stakeholders**: Different approaches may involve different stakeholders such as government bodies, private sector, NGOs, and the farmers themselves.
4. **It should be relevant and flexibility**: The approach helps to adapt or maintain the extension services to meet local, regional, or national needs, considering the audience, environment, socio-economic, and cultural factors.

6.2 Agricultural Extension Methods

In Somalia's national agricultural extension policy, practical farmer engagement hinges on a diverse array of extension methods. On-farm demonstrations serve as a foundation, allowing farmers to witness firsthand the benefits of improved practices within their local context. Complementing this, Farmer Field Schools (FFS) foster participatory learning, empowering farmers to analyze problems and develop tailored solutions. Village Based Advisors (VBAs) and community meetings enhance reach and trust, facilitating information exchange and peer- to-peer learning. Recognizing the power of technology, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) like mobile phone services and radio programs disseminate timely information on weather, markets, and best practices, with visual aids compensating for literacy challenges. (See Annex I for extension methods).

Practical support extends to input demonstrations and distribution, ensuring access to quality seeds and fertilizers. Field days and agricultural shows provide platforms for learning and networking and addressing the crucial needs of farmer communities through training and access to agricultural services. Finally, extension services play a crucial role in linking farmers to markets, providing market information and facilitating connections with agro-processors and traders. These methods, adapted to local contexts and needs, are essential for driving agricultural improvement in Somalia. Methods are the practical, hands-on strategies used to implement the chosen extension approach. These methods directly engage farmers and provide them with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to improve their agricultural practices to increase production, improve productivity, and reduce post-harvest loss, access to technologies, and access to finance and access to market.

It focuses on what happens in practice to engage farmers and help them improve their agricultural practices as per the table below.

The following are the key characteristics of extension methods:

- **They should be a practical application:** Methods are the means or channels through which extension agents deliver information to farmers.
- **They should have a learning and interaction among actors involved in the extension service delivery:** They often involve direct interaction between extension agents and farmers through activities like workshops, field visits, or group meetings.
- **They should have tools for engagement:** Methods could include group-based activities, media, demonstrations, or digital technologies to engage farmers.
- **They should have targeted outcomes:** Methods aim to help farmers adopt better farming practices, improve their skills, and address challenges specific to their needs and conditions

CHAPTER SEVEN: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Linking implementation of the NAES to a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning system to track and report progress on various indicators is particularly important. This will require NAES monitoring and evaluation and learning (MEALS) framework as well as an agriculture extension and advisory service information management system (IMS) to be developed and aligned to the existing agriculture sectorial M&E framework. A results framework has also been developed to support the monitoring and evaluation and learning of the current strategy. A more detailed M&E plan that describes in detail the approach and methodology to be used together with the NAES IMS will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The purposes of MEALS and the IMS in the implementation of NAES is to facilitate the use of timely, relevant and comprehensive information for decision making at policy, programme management and implementation levels and to build the necessary capacity to effectively monitor and evaluate the implementation of the agricultural extension strategy.

7.1 Log Frame Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation

This strategy will use Logical Framework Approach (Log frame) in planning, implementation/management, and evaluation of agricultural extension services delivery. The aim will be to determine the relevance and fulfillment of objectives, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of programmes, projects, services implemented. This will provide credible and useful information to inform decision-making and future programming.The approach is preferred as it helps to clarify objectives, define activities, and establish measurable indicators for success.

For effective NAES monitoring and evaluation and linking the results to the NAEP, a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) will be employed, coveringnuanced and qualitative aspects of the National EAS systems in addition to more in-depth qualitative data generation. Such KPIs will include:

- For farmer outreach, the KPIs will include the percentage of targeted farmers reached by extension activities, measured through attendance records and surveys, with an annual target increase of 10%,adjusted for vulnerable groups.
- Farmer satisfaction, assessed through standardized surveys, will aim for a minimum score of 4 out of 5 on a scale of 1 to 5.
- Technology adoption will be tracked by the percentage of farmers adopting various technologies and practices (e.g., improved seed varieties and digital agricultural tools), with annual target increases of 15% and 20%, respectively, tailored to key crops and local needs.

- Effective extension agent-to-farmer ratio, reflecting the number of active farmers per extension officer or VBA, and the target set for a 1:500 ratios, accounting for logistical constraints.

The NAES indicator framework will be guided by a theory of change (ToC) that considers that enhancing farmers' access to quality extension services and their subsequent effective use (information, knowledge, advice, facilitation, capacities, tools) by farmers (and other value chain actors) are crucial for addressing the challenges the farmers face in the agricultural sector and lead to results that contribute to enhanced food and nutrition security, income generation and greater resilience.

7.2 Monitoring Strategy Implementation

Monitoring consists of an ongoing or regular assessment that aims to provide indications to all stakeholders on the extent of progress on the implementation of an ongoing project, programme or policy. Monitoring implementation of the strategy shall involve systematic tracking of activities and actions to assess progress. Progress will be measured by achievements of specific outputs against expected or planned output targets. This will help the Ministry/Department to take timely corrective measures when implementation progress is off track. Effective monitoring helps to identify challenges and problem areas, and permits taking immediate remedial action, thereby ensuring that the relevant expected targets are achieved. Under this strategy, it is recommended for monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual monitoring reports to be generated for necessary actions.

7.3 Evaluation of Strategy Implementation

Within the Strategy implementation period a systematic and objective assessment of ongoing or completed projects, programmes and policies will be undertaken. The FederalGovernment will oversee the implementation and monitoring, provide support to the Federal Member States (FMS), and coordinate data collection, while FMS will implement the policy locally, collect data, and coordinate with communities. The private sector will contribute to policy design, service delivery, and research; NGOs will support implementation, conduct research, and mobilize communities; farmer associations will participate in program design, provide feedback, and represent farmer interests; and universities will conduct research, generate evidence, and provide training. Data utilization will involve analysis and disseminating findings to all stakeholders to inform policy adjustments, program improvements, and resource allocation decisions, and ensuring transparency and accountability in resource use and service delivery.

7.4 Data Collection, Storage, Analysis and Reporting

Lack of data on Agricultural extension services under pluralistic and decentralized systems pose challenges in collecting data. This Strategy provides for data collection at the national and member state levels at regular intervals so that better policy and investment decisions can be made to enhance the relevance and contribution of the system services to farmers and other stakeholder users.

Appropriate data collection tools will be used to collect data. The data collected and reported at each level will be subjected to quality checks and validation to ensure completeness, consistency, accuracy and reliability before releasing it to users. The Federal Government will ensure that there is adequate capacity for generating quality data. Respective programme and project implementers will be expected to systematically collect both qualitative and quantitative data on implementation progress of their projects and feed into the database. To improve policy research, the Ministry and the Department of Research and Extension will strengthen linkages with research, academic and private sector institutions.

7.5 Knowledge Management and Learning

Interventions promoting knowledge management and learning will be implemented within the period. Comprehensive periodic reviews involving relevant stakeholders in the sector will be conducted to manage knowledge and learning amongst stakeholders.

7.6 Review of the National Agriculture Extension Services Strategy

The annual implementation plans will be reviewed at the end of each fiscal year prior to the formulation of the next budget to help appropriate budgeting for the impending fiscal year. This Strategy will be subjected to a mid-term review in 2027/2028, while a full review will be conducted at the end of the implementation period in 2029/30.

CHAPTER EIGHT: PLANNING, BUDGETING AND FINANCING MECHANISMS

Focusing on developing a clear Strategy of agricultural extension services underscores the pivotal role in enhancing the productivity and sustainability of farming practices. These services serve as a bridge between research institutions and farmers, facilitating the dissemination of knowledge, technology, and best practices. Moreover, they also address broader issues such as environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and market access. By providing farmers with access to the latest agricultural innovations and relevant services, extension services empower them to make informed decisions that can lead to increased yields, improved crop quality, and better resource management. For this to happen the services must be planned for in terms of appropriate budgets and financing.

8.1 Planning and Financing Strategy

The objective of the planning and financing strategy is to develop and establish an effective agricultural extension planning and financing methodology that conforms to the relevant ministries of planning and finance planning and budgeting procedures.

In general, the strategies to meet the planning and financing objective will require:

1. MoAI personnel to work closely with relevant departments and with beneficiaries' representatives and other stakeholders to develop yearly agricultural extension plans and budgets for each district.
2. MoAI shall establish formal work agreements with public and Non-State Actors (NSA) extension service partners on work planning and budgeting activities to ensure realistic, harmonized and coordinated plans.
3. MoAI will work closely with District Planning and Statistics units on the collection, analysis, and distribution of agricultural data/information on a bi-monthly basis to facilitate planning.
4. The FGS to provide adequate funding to cover wage and non-wage recurrent and development costs.
5. The funding for implementation of this strategy will be through the normal government funding of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.
6. MoAI will work with other Ministries for implementation of agricultural activities to identify, harmonize and coordinate the deployment of financial resources for agricultural extension in order to avoid and/or reduce duplications and efficiently use the available resources.
7. MoAI shall explore other avenues of funding and resource mobilization to supplement government funding including co-financing with NSAs and beneficiaries.

8.2 Resource Mobilization for financing the extension budget

The implementation of this five-year strategy will require additional funding from both new and traditional sources of funding. Therefore, the Ministry/DAES shall implement rigorous mobilization campaigns for funding from government, development partners, non-governmental organizations and private institutions. Renewed effort will be made to develop proposals that will be used to solicit new funding avenues nationally and internationally.

The Department of Research & Extension, Extension Unit FMS, and District Extension budgets contain three components: 1) Fixed costs, 2) Operational costs, and 3) Technical development costs. Further, each component is then divided into major budget areas such as, office, transport, equipment, logistic support, workshops, demonstrations, technical activities, and capacity development. These areas are then further subdivided by specific items. In addition to these costs, MoAI agencies with extension functions including NAEA to be formed should have their budgets incorporated in the summary below.

8.3 Summary of the Somali National Extension Strategy Budget

To effectively deliver strategic outcomes, the Ministry will mobilize human, equipment and financial resources. In this respect, a resource mobilization strategy will be developed. The total amount of funding in Somali Shillings and USD required for implementation of this Strategy will be determined during the stakeholder workshop as guided. Appendix 1 Activities /Results and Cost Estimate for the Period 2026-2030 will be important in determining estimates for personal costs and operational costs.

The tables below present the summary of the strategy budget. The budget will be

WAGE COST SUMMARY (USD)

Budget Item	Year 1 (2025/26)	Year 2 (2026/2027)	Year 3 (2027/2028)	Year 4 (2028/2029)	Year 5 (2029/20230)
Department FGS	$43,200.00	$43,200.00	$57,600.00	$57,600.00	$57,600.00
Extension Unit FMS	$9,600.00	$9,600.00	$18,000.00	$18,000.00	$18,000.00
District	$14,400.00	$14,400.00	$14,400.00	$14,400.00	$14,400.00
TOTALS	**$67,200.00**	**$67,200.00**	**$90,000.00**	**$90,000.00**	**$90,000.00**
GRAND TOTAL = $404,400.00					

NON - WAGE COST SUMMARY (USD)

Budget Item	Year 1 (2025/26)	Year 2 (2026/2027)	Year 3 (2027/2028)	Year 4 (2028/2029)	Year 5 (2029/2030)
Department:					
Fixed costs	$43,200.00	$43,200.00	$57,600.00	$57,600.00	$57,600.00
Operating costs	$120,000.00	$190,000.00	$300,000.00	$500,000.00	$700,000.00
Technical Development costs	$120,000.00	$300,000.00	$400,000.00	$550,000.00	$600,000.00
Sub-Total	**$283,200.00**	**$533,200.00**	**$757,600.00**	**$283,200.00**	**$1,357,600.00**
GRAND TOTAL= $3,214,800.00					
Extension Unit FMS:					
Fixed costs	$9,600.00	$9,600.00	$9,600.00	$9,600.00	$9,600.00
Operating costs	$5,000.00	$6,500.00	$7,000.00	$8,000.00	$8,500.00
Technical Development costs	$20,000.00	$20,000.00	$25,000.00	$30,000.00	$40,000.00
Sub-Total	**$34,600.00**	**$36,100.00**	**$41,600.00**	**$47,600.00**	**$58,100.00**
GRAND TOTAL= $218,000.00					

Budget Item	Year 1 (2025/26)	Year 2 (2026/2027)	Year 3 (2027/2028)	Year 4 (2028/2029)	Year 5 (2029/2030)
Districts:					
Fixed Costs	$14,400.00	$14,400.00	$14,400.00	$14,400.00	$14,400.00
Operating Costs	$30,400.00	$34,200.00	$34,400.00	$35,700.00	$37,500.00
Technical Development Costs	$2,000.00	$30,000.00	$40,000.00	$45,000.00	$50,000.00
Sub-Total	**$64,800.00**	**$78,600.00**	**$88,800.00**	**$90,100.00**	**$101,900.00**
GRAND TOTAL= $424,200.00					
GRAND TOTAL (WAGE + NON WAGE)					
5 YEAR COST SUMMARY	**Wage**				**$404,400.00**
	Non-wage				**$1,046,600.00**
	Overall				**$1,451,000.00**

Appendix 1: Types of Extension Approaches

Extension Approaches			
Approach	**Description**	**Strengths**	**Weaknesses**
Top-Down Approach	A traditional approach where information is provided by experts or government to farmers, often without significant input from farmers.	Efficient for quick information dissemination, especially during emergencies or policy implementation.	This can lack local relevance and farmer participation, leading to lower adoption rates.
Bottom-Up Approach	Involves farmers and local communities in the decision-making process, ensuring services are designed based on their needs and preferences.	Promotes relevance and local engagement, increasing the likelihood of adoption.	More time-consuming and resource-intensive compared to top-down methods.
Participatory Approach	Focuses on collaboration between extension workers and farmers, with an emphasis on shared decision- making and co-learning.	Empowers farmers, builds local capacity, and encourages sustainable practices.	Requires more resources and time and may be slower to implement.
Public-Private Producer Partnership Approach (4P)	Involves collaboration between government agencies, private companies, and farmers to deliver agricultural extension services, ensuring that all stakeholders contribute to agricultural development.	Enhances access to resources, technology, and markets, with services tailored to farmers' needs.	Coordination challenges, varying priorities among stakeholders, and potential imbalances in power dynamics.
Integrated Extension Approach	Combines agricultural extension with other sectors like health, nutrition, environmental sustainability, and rural development.	Addresses broader challenges faced by farming communities, improving Overall livelihoods.	This can dilute the focus on agriculture-specific issues, requiring extensive coordination among various sectors.
Farmer-Led Extension Approach	Empowers farmers to lead extension activities, using their experience to guide the development of extension programs.	Ensures relevance and practicality, as it draws directly from the lived experiences of farmers.	Requires strong farmer organization and leadership, which may be lacking in some areas.

ICT-Enabled Extension Approach	Integrates technology and digital platforms (mobile apps, SMS, web platforms) to enhance the reach and effectiveness of extension services.	Increases outreach and efficiency, especially for remote or marginalized Communities.	Relies on access to technology and digital literacy, which can be limited in rural areas.
Contract Farming Approach	Establishes agreements between farmers and buyers (including processing companies) to ensure a steady market for farmers' produce.	Provides guaranteed markets and price stability for farmers, reducing market risks.	This can lead to dependency on buyers and exploitative relationships if not properly regulated.
Value Chain Approach	Focuses on improving the entire agricultural value chain, from input supply to final product marketing, enhancing the overall efficiency and profitability of farming systems.	Provides comprehensive support, from production to market access, improving farmer profitability.	Complex to implement due to the need for multi-stakeholder coordination.
Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Approach	Incorporates practices tl1at help farmers adapt to climate change while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing productivity.	Enhances resilience to climate change while improving productivity and sustainability.	Requires investment in training, research, and infrastructure iliac can be difficult to access.
Village-Based Advisory Approach	Extension services are decentralized and delivered directly at the village level by trained local advisors or extension agents. This approach emphasizes localized, context-specific advice tailored to village and community needs.	Builds on local knowledge and ensures high relevance to farmers. Increases engagement through proximity.	It can be resource-intensive, as it requires a sufficient number of trained local advisors for each village.
Farmer-to-Farmer Approach	Encourages experienced farmers to pass on their knowledge to others, often through informal networks.	Empowers farmers and strengthens community ties.	It can lack structure and formal content, which may reduce the consistency of knowledge transfer.
Technology and Digitalization Approach	Leveraging digital tools, technologies, and platforms (such as mobile apps, online databases, remote sensing, and GIS) to deliver agricultural services, information, and data-driven decision-making.	Enhances access to timely, accurate information and improves efficiency in service delivery.	Requires access to technology, internet connectivity, and digital literacy, which may not be universal in rural areas.

Appendix 2: Activities /Results and Cost Estimate for the Period 2025-2029

STRATEGIC PILLARS, OUTCOMES, INTERVENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES							
ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (USD)
		2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	
Pillar 1: Human and Institutional Agricultural Organization Capacity							
Outcome 1: Strengthened sustainable agricultural extension system with clear human and institutional roles leading to improved information flow, increased farmer access, enhanced coordination, and strengthened linkages between research and extension for practical on-farm application.							
Intervention 1.1: Strengthen capacity of agricultural and training institutions in the provision of agricultural extension services (AES)							
1.1.1 Undertake training needs assessment (TNA) for service providers and extension agents to identify capacity gaps related to technologies, good agriculture practices, extension methods and approaches	**2** TNA for service providers and extension agents undertaken by FGS	1	0	0	1	0	$60,000.00
1.1.2 Undertake AES curricula reviews for improving adoption of new technologies	**23** Agricultural extension curricula reviewed by FGS	3	9	2	3	6	$100,000.00
1.1.3 Provide long and short-term training programmes extension agents in AES and related fields	**100** Extension staff upgraded to degree level by FGS	15	21	21	21	22	$8,382,000.00
	125 Extension staff upgraded to diploma level FGS	5	30	30	30	30	$2,780,000.00
	245 Extension staff receive short term training by FGS	5	60	60	60	60	$2,180,000.00
1.1.4 Recruit extension agents at all levels	**200** Village-Based Agents recruited by FMS	20	40	45	45	50	$50,000.00
	62 District Extension Officers (DEO) recruited by FMS	15	19	25	20	17	$100,000.00

1.1.5 Organize in service and short courses in extension methodologies, approaches and GAPs	**296** Extension officers and VBAs trained by FGS Accreditation of extension officers	35	59	70	65	67	$300,400.00
1.1.6 Support local and international exchange visits	**96** Local visits for exchange learning organized to various districts by FGS	17	20	25	19	15	$150,000.00
	90 International visits organized by FGS	12	20	17	19	22	$200,100.00
1.1.7 Strengthen ICT based extension service system including the e-Fidiye (E-extension platform)	**6** Call centers with E-extension platform established by FGS	2	1	1	1	1	$155,000.00
	288 SMS based extension services by FGS	45	57	75	60	51	$50,000.00
	7 Portal established and integrated into the E-extension platform by FGS	1	1	2	1	2	$20,000.00
	10 ICT packages available at districts and national level offices by FGS	4	1	2	1	2	$40,000.00
	1,995,000 farmers using the E-extension platform by FGS	100,000	470,000	470,000	475,000	480,000	$20,000.00
Intervention 1.2: Improve productive capacity of farmers including women farmers and youth							
1.2.1 Conduct needs assessment of farmers and especially women and youth	**5** Needs assessment and appraisals conducted by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$25,000.00
1.2.2 Conduct farmer trainings on extension approaches and good agricultural practices (GAPs)	**118,000** farmers trained by FMS	20,000	22,000	24,000	25,000	27,000	$480,000.00
1.2.3 Conduct youth trainings on extension approaches and GAPs	**51,734** Youth trained by FGS	8,087	10,042	10,125	11,080	12,400	$280,000.00

1.2.4 Implement extension approaches and methods	**5** Model villages by FMS	1	1	1	1	1	$25,000.00
	22 Farmer Field Schools organized by FGS	3	3	4	6	6	$120,000.00
1.2.4 Promote use of ICT based extension services among farmers (Radio, Mobile SMS, and Television etc.)	**118,000** Farmers accessing ICT based services by FMS	20,000	22,000	24,000	25,000	27,000	$450,000.00
1.2.5 Facilitate formation and development of farmer organizations and companies	**15** Farmer organizations formed by FGS	3	3	3	3	3	$60,000.00
	9 Companies supporting various agricultural value chains formed by FGS	2	2	1	2	2	$30,000.00
1.2.6 Facilitate linkage of farmer organizations to service providers	**112** Farmer organizations linked to service providers by FGS	9	40	20	26	17	$20,000.00
Intervention 1.3: Promote availability and use of communications innovations in agricultural extension							
1.3.1 Develop and disseminate IEC materials	**9** IEC materials produced and distributed by FGS	0	2	2	2	3	$10,000.00
	26 copies of standard extension book by FGS	12	2	3	6	3	$50,000.00
1.3.2 Conduct strategic campaigns	**40** strategic campaigns undertaken by FGS	0	10	10	10	10	$160,000.00
1.3.3 Document and disseminate best practices	**38** best practices documented and disseminated by FGS	9	6	10	7	6	$100,000.00
1.3.4 Establish and manage agricultural radio and TV stations	**5** Farm radio stations established by FGS	0	1	1	2	1	$25,000.00
	1 TV stations established by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$20,000.00

1.3.5 Produce and broadcast radio and TV programmes	**180** Farm Radio programs produced by FGS	36	36	36	36	36	$9,000.00
	120 TV programs produced by FGS	24	24	24	24	24	$18,000.00
Intervention 1.4: Incentivize providers of agricultural extension services							
1.4.1 Develop an award system for service providers and extension agents and farmers	**5** award system for service providers, extension agents and farmers by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$20,000.00
1.4.2 Conduct performance assessment at different levels	**14** performance assessments conducted by FGS	2	3	4	3	2	$100,000.00
1.4.3 Provide farmers with a mechanism for feedback on trainings to improve trust and engagement with extension staff	A mechanism for farmers to provide feedback on trainings developed and availed by FMS	1	0	0	0	0	$10,000.00
Intervention 1.5: Strengthen occupational safety in agriculture							
1.5.1 Develop participatory training guide for farmers and trainers on simple, low-cost ways to improve safety and health in agriculture	**1** Occupational safety regulations for farmers developed by FGS	1	0	0	0	0	$10,000.00
	1 Occupational safety regulations for trainers developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$1,000.00
1.5.2 Provide personal protective equipment	**1,9995,000** farmers have access to PPE from FMS	100,000	470,000	470,000	475,000	480,000	$100,000.00
1.5.3 Organize and conduct participatory safety and health training activities for farmers	**15,800** farmers trained in occupational safety by FMS	1,000	2,200	3,100	4,500	5,000	$500,000.00
1.5.4 Enforce compliance measures by extension officers	**245** extension officers at district level trained in practical measures on regulations of protecting	45	60	60	60	20	$120,000.00

	workers and complying with code of conduct by FGS						
Sub-Total							**$17,330,500.00**
Outcome 2: Improved institutional and organizational capacity to enhance knowledge dissemination, increase technology adoption, and accelerate agricultural development within the community							
Intervention 2.1: Rehabilitate existing Extension Centres (Jowhar, Baidoa and Kismayo)							
2.1.1 Conduct assessments and develop rehabilitation plans	**3** Assessments for the 3 old centres (Jowhar, Baidoa and Kismayo) undertaken by FGS	3	0	0	0	0	$300,000.00
	3 Rehabilitation plans for Jowhar, Baidoa and Kismayo developed by FGS	0	1	1	1	0	$300,000.00
2.1.2 Upgrade infrastructure and integrate technology	The **3** centers are equipped with improved infrastructure (office equipment, furniture, protective kit, and digital tools) to become functional in providing agricultural extension services by FGS	0	1	1	1	0	$100,000.00
2.1.3 Train staff and establish monitoring systems track implementation	**20** personnel trained in operational monitoring systems supported by FGS	0	5	5	5	5	$20,000.00
	1 Monitoring systems track established and implemented	0	1	0	0	0	$10,000.00
Intervention 2.2: Establish new agricultural extension facilities							
2.2.1 Conduct site selection and feasibility assessments	**18** suitable sites identified in 5 FMS and approved by FGS	0	4	4	5	5	$20,000.00

2.2.2 Construct and equip the new extension facilities	**18** new agricultural extension centers constructed in the approved sites by FGS	0	4	4	5	5	$500,000.00
	18 fully equipped and operational extension centers in **5** Federal Member States (FMS) by FGS	3	4	4	5	5	$100,000.00
2.2.3 Recruit staff, train them to run the centers and engage with local communities	**249** Staff recruited to run the centers and community engagement programs developed by FMS	34	52	49	57	57	$882,000.00
Intervention 2.3: Digital registration and training of Extension Officers and Village Based Advisors (VBAs)							
2.3.1 Develop a digital registration platform	**1** Digital registration platform for use by extension officers and VBAs developed by FMS	1	0	0	0	0	$15,000.00
2.3.2 Track performance of extension officers and VBAs	**249** extension officers and VBAs tracked for their performance in real-time and data availed and utilized by FMS	49	50	50	50	50	$50,000.00
2.3.3 Organize training programs for officers and VBAs using standardized manuals	**12,000** extension officers and VBAs digitally registered and trained by FMS	2000	2600	2500	2500	2400	$50,000.00
	1 Extension platforms for expanded outreach and improved quality of extension services established by FGS	1	0	0	0	0	$15,000.00
Intervention 2.4 Strengthening institutional capacity for agricultural extension							
2.4.1 Conduct capacity-building programs	**23** Capacity-building programs strengthened by FGS	11	5	2	4	1	$100,000.00

2.4.2 Enhance coordination mechanisms	**1** Coordination mechanism with clear structure reporting developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$50,000.00
2..4.3 Implement monitoring systems	**1** Monitoring system for capacity building programs and coordination established by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$20,000.00
Intervention 2.5 Enhancing professionalism through agricultural education & training institutions							
2.5.1 Map agricultural extension service professionals	**1** Database of agricultural professionals mapped by FGS	0	1				$10,000.00
2.5.2 Collaborate with universities & development partners to revise agricultural education and extension curricula	**3** Updated agricultural education and extension programs by FGS	0	1	1	1		$35,000.00
2.5.3 Provide hands-on training and internship opportunities	**1,500** Students and extension trainees taken through practical and experiential learning by FGS	100	200	300	400	500	$150,000.00
2.5.4 Establish an agricultural extension professional body	**1** agricultural extension professional body established by FMS	0	1	0	1	1	$20,000.00
2.5.5 Promote agricultural research and quality assurance mechanisms	Skilled agricultural workforce and improved quality assurance mechanisms by FGS	TVET	Accreditation and Certification	1 Traceability System	Independent Certification Bodies	Digital Monitoring and Verification	$250,000.00
Intervention 2.6 Improve working and living conditions of Agricultural Extension Services workers							
2.6.1 Equip all offices with needed equipment and infrastructure	Fully furnished offices with office equipment and furniture procured and maintained at all levels by FGS	Define the Unit Cost	Furniture & Office Equipment procurement	Annual Maintenance	Annual Maintenance	N/A	$110,000.00
	1,390 protective equipment procured for extension officers	80	200	260	400	450	$20,000.00

	by FGS						
2.6.2 Improve mobility and ICT infrastructure at all levels	**62** vehicles procured for field operations by FGS	10	12	14	15	11	$124,000.00
	120 field motorbikes procured for extension officers and VBAs by FGS	40	20	20	20	20	$96,000.00
Intervention 2.7: Develop vibrant Farmer Groups and Agro-based Youth clubs							
2.7.1 Organize trainings for farmer organizations in business, cooperative and enterprise development	**157** farmer cooperatives trained by FMS	20	25	30	38	44	$45,000.00
2.7.2 Train SMEs of women and youth in basic agribusiness establishment	**90** SMEs of women, youth trained in agribusiness skills and management by FGS	10	20	20	20	20	$26,000.00
2.7.3 Train farmer organizations in principles and practices of good leadership, governance and advocacy	**53** farmer organizations trained in various skills by FMS	5	7	10	14	17	$17,000.00
2.7.4 Organize business mentorship for youth in an intensive agribusiness entrepreneurship program	**100** youths mentored in agribusiness entrepreneurship by FGS	20	20	20	20	20	$25,000.00
2.7.5 Facilitate registration of farmer organizations and SMEs to enable them access markets and other services	**150** farmer organizations and SMEs registered by FMS	20	25	30	35	40	$5,000.00
2.7.5 Introduce SMEs and farmer organizations on policies and regulations for compliance	**150** SMEs and farmer organizations sensitized by FGS	27	20	28	35	40	$30,000.00
Intervention 2.8: Promote agribusiness for farmers and other value chains							
2.8.1 Link SMEs and farmer organizations to business development support services (BDS) providers for strong businesses	**217** SMEs and farmer organizations linked to BDS by FMS	30	45	45	47	50	$100,000.00

2.8.2 Promote private sector investments in agribusiness	**85** agribusiness developed through public-private partnerships by FGS	0	10	20	25	30	$120,000.00
2.8.3 Map of agribusiness potential at FMS/district level and five Special Economic Zones for agribusiness established in high potential areas	**1** Map of agribusiness potential in high potential areas established by FGS	0	1	0	o	0	$50,000.00
2.8.4 Develop and strengthen regulatory and institutional frameworks for developed value chains	**2** regulatory and institutional frameworks for key value chains at FMS and District level developed	2	0	0	0	0	$80,000.00
2.8.5 Strengthen analytical capacity of extension staff to analyze market and price trends	**352** extension staff trained in market trends analysis by FGS	41	58	**77**	87	89	$120,000.00
2.8.6 Integrate market information in an ICT-based market information system accessible to large numbers of farmers and other value chain actors	**1** ICT based market information messages integrated by FGS		1				$35,000.00
2.8.7 Conduct National and FMS agricultural shows	**5** National agricultural shows organized by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$25,000.00
	25 FMS agricultural shows organized by FMS	2	5	5	5	5	$110,000.00
2.8.8 Provide an enabling environment that support farmers to have access to agricultural inputs, access to extension services, fair trade regulations and land tenure security	**5** policies supporting farmers via enhanced access to inputs, services and markets by FGS	1	2	2	0	0	$70,000.00
Sub-Total							**$4,205,000.00**

STRATEGIC PILLARS, OUTCOMES, INTERVENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES							
ACTIVITIES	**OUTPUTS**	**TARGETS**					**COST (USD)**
		2025/2026	**2026/2027**	**2027/2028**	**2028/2029**	**2029/2030**	
Pillar 2: Decentralized Agricultural Extension, Advisory and Support Services							
Outcome 3: Enhanced agricultural education and knowledge among farmers actively engaged through innovative platforms such as field schools, training sessions, farm visits, demonstration plots, and farmers' days							
Intervention 3.1 Develop agricultural extension services regulatory framework							
3.1.1 Undertake an assessment of current Acts and Laws on AES provision	**1** gap analysis exercise undertaken and recommendations availed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$5,000.00
3.1.2 Document and avail existing legislation	**1** gap analysis exercise undertaken by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$5,000.00
	1 catalogue of existing legislation on AES by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$5,000.00
3.1.3 Develop minimum standards for AES provision	**1** guideline for minimum standards developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$5,000.00
3.1.4 Develop bill to regulate AES provision	**1** bill for regulating quality of extension services developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$5,000.00
Intervention 3.2: Integrating nutritional education into extension services							
3.2.1 Develop curriculum on nutrient- rich crop production and dietary diversification.	**1** nutrition curriculum developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$5,000.00
3.2.2 Train extension workers, VBAs and	**125** District extension officers	20	25	35	35	40	$75,000.00

farmers on nutrient- rich crop production and dietary diversification.	trained by FGS						
	318 VBAs trained by FMS	40	55	68	75	80	$105,000.00
	118,000 farmers trained by FMS	20,000	22,000	24,000	25,000	27,000	$480,000.00
Sub-Total							**$690,000.00**
Outcome 4: Enhanced multi-stakeholder cooperation and improved coordination among various extension service providers (public, private, NGO, CSO, development partners) leading to reduced duplication of efforts, increased efficiency, innovative solutions implemented, improved service delivery to farmers, maximized impact, inclusive decision-making, increased ownership, and enhanced resilience of the agricultural sector							
Intervention 4.1 Establish a decentralized and pluralistic extension system							
4.1.1 Set up state agricultural extension offices	**21** State offices established and operational by FGS & FMS	3	4	4	5	5	$40,000.00
4.1.2 Develop guidelines for engaging NGOs, development partners and private sector in service delivery	**1** set of guidelines for engaging NGOs, development partners and private sector in service delivery developed by FGS	1	0	0	0		$35,000.00
4.1.3 Implement monitoring and evaluation frameworks	M&E frameworks operationalized by FGS & FMS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	$25,000.00
	2 Localized extension services, enhanced stakeholder participation, and national policy frameworks implemented FGS & FMS	2	2	2	2	2	$145,000.00
Intervention 4.2: Enhance coordination & stakeholder collaboration							
4.2.1 Establish communication & collaboration strategies	**1** Communication & collaboration strategy for strengthened exchange developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$15,000.00

4.2.2 Facilitate action plan development for the various levels of Agricultural Extension Services provision	**5** Action Plan Development sessions conducted by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$5,000.00
4.2.3 Conduct orientation sessions for District level governance and Extension Service Providers	**47** Orientation sessions conducted by FMS	10	12	10	7	8	$82,000.00
4.2.4 Convene joint planning forums at various levels (National, FMS, District, Village)	Joint planning forums at various levels for improved policy alignment held by FGS & FMS						
	a) 7 National level meetings	1	2	2	1	1	$40,000.00
	b) 20 State level meetings	0	5	5	5	5	$60,000.00
	c) 4 District level meetings	0	1	1	1	1	$25,000.00
	d) 4 Village level meetings	0	1	1	1	1	$20,000.00
4.2.5 Implement stakeholder engagement framework	Better partner engagement program implemented through 5 forums per year by FGS	5	5	5	5	5	$50,000.00
Intervention 4.3: Enforce standards in provision of Agricultural Extension Services							
4.3.1 Establish a regulatory body on quality control for agricultural extension services by various actors	**1** National regulatory body established and conduct meetings bi-annually by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$10,000.00
4.3.2 Register and license all AES providers	Catalogue of licensed actors providing services to farmers and other stakeholders by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$60,000.00
4.3.3 Organize dissemination meetings on minimum standards	**30** dissemination meetings organized by FMS	6	6	6	6	6	$120,000.00

4.3.4 Conduct sensitization on available legislation for agricultural extension service providers	**15** sensitization meetings held at district and local level by FMS	1	2	3	4	5	$98,000.00
4.3.5 Conduct periodic technical audits	**2** technical audits conducted once year by FGS & FMS	0	1	0	1	0	$3,000.00
4.3.6 Develop a catalogue/manual of endorsed approaches, and methods	**1** catalogue endorsed and updated annually by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$5,000.00
4.3.7 Facilitate preparation of bye-laws to regulate agricultural extension service provision at district level	**1** bye-laws formulated and updated regularly by FGS	0	0	1	0	0	$18,000.00
Intervention 4.4: Promote gender inclusion in agricultural extension services							
4.4.1 Provide opportunities for female participation through training, funding access, NGO partnerships	**5** programs targeting women-focused agricultural services established by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$80,000.00
4.4.2 Recruitment of female extension staff at various levels	**109** women employed at National level by FGS	12	15	25	27	30	$90,000.00
	150 women employed at FMS level by FMS	20	25	30	35	40	$118,000.00
Intervention 4.5: Develop and implement Agriculture Community-led interventions							
4.5.1 Organize training write shops for preparation of bankable proposals	**5** training sessions on preparation of bankable proposals by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$50,000.00
4.5.2 Conduct training sessions on management of community-based interventions, projects, programmes	**49** training sessions conducted by FGS	5	7	10	13	14	$70,000.00
Intervention 4.6: Strengthen inclusive planning and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems							

4.6.1 Develop a system for tracking compliance of set standards	**1** system for tracking compliance developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$30,000.00
4.6.2 Organize supervision on implementation to track compliance	**25** monitoring visits by FGS	5	5	5	5	5	$50,000.00
4.6.3 Document experiences on compliance to set standards	**1** compendium of experiences on compliance to standards by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$10,000.00
4.6.4 Conduct stakeholders mapping	**1** stakeholder mapping and tasks conducted by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$7,000.00
4.6.5 Develop a database for AES providers	**1** inventory of AES providers developed and updated annually by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$87,000.00
Intervention 4.7: Establish a National Agricultural Extension Agency or National Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services							
4.7.1 Develop National Agricultural Extension Agency (NAEA) or National Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (NFAAS) with clear mandate, structure, functions and staff plan	NAEA/ NFAAS established and fully functional facilitated by FGS	Needs Assessment & Scoping	Finalized organizational chart and governance manual	Cabinet Approval & Bill Drafting	Parliamentary Validation (The Legislative Process)	Presidential Endorsement (Assent)	$57,000.00
4.7.2 Establish mechanism for NAEA/ NFAAS to engage with private sector and other key players in implementing the National Agricultural Extension policy in resource mobilization	A mechanism for NAEA/ NFAAS engagement with private sector and other key players – facilitated by FGS	N/A	National Multi-Stakeholder Platforms	Certification & Accreditation Body	Extension Information Management System (IMS),	Innovative Financing and Investment	$27,000.00
4.7.3 Establish a system of coordination of all the various agricultural extension service providers	**1** system of coordination and partnerships strengthened by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$15,000.00
Sub-Total							**$1,547,000.00**

STRATEGIC PILLARS, OUTCOMES, INTERVENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES							
ACTIVITIES	**OUTPUTS**	**TARGETS**					**COST (USD)**
		2025/2026	**2026/2027**	**2027/2028**	**2028/2029**	**2029/2030**	
Pillar 3: Research, Innovation & Extension Linkages for Agricultural Transformation							
Outcome 5: Increased dynamic and innovative agricultural sector with best practices and new technologies, farmer knowledge and skills acquisition leading to enhanced agricultural productivity, food security and improved livelihoods.							
Intervention 5.1: Develop innovative agricultural extension approaches, methods and messages.							
5.1.1 Implement farmer-to-farmer training programs	**6** Active knowledge-sharing platforms by farmers established by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$92,000.00
5.1.2 Establish demonstration plots and Farmer Field Schools (FFS)	**15** Demonstration plots and FFS established by FGS	3	3	3	3	3	$20,000.00
5.1.3 Develop and facilitate use of ICT-based extension tools	**6** ICT tools developed and used in extension delivery by FMS	2	1	1	1	1	$78,000.00
5.1.4 Conduct studies on effectiveness of extension systems, methodologies, methods and approaches for insights and learnings	**2** studies on extension effectiveness conducted by FGS	0	1	1	0	0	$66,000.00
Sub-Total							**$256,000.00**
Outcome 6: Increased adoption of digital agricultural technologies, approaches, methods and messages leading to improved productivity, efficiency, and decision-making in farming practices							
Intervention 6.1: Leverage digital agricultural technologies, approaches, methods and messages in provision of extension services							
6.1.1 Train extension service providers in the use of digital platforms and technologies to provide AES	**110** of public extension agents trained by FGS	15	20	20	25	30	$86,000.00

	139 of private service providers trained by FGS	25	30	35	40	45	$20,000.00
	42 of CSOs including NGOs, CBOs trained by FGS	6	7	9	11	9	$60,000.00
6.1.2 Provide farmers with information and technology using the digital tools	**28,700** of farmers reached by FMS	4,400	4,900	5,500	6,400	7,500	$200,500.00
	4 of agricultural technologies adopted by farmers	0	1	1	1	1	$37,000.00
	7810 of farmers adopting agricultural technologies and practices	1,000	1,200	1,340	1,770	2,500	$98,200.00
Sub-Total							**$757,700.00**
Intervention 6.2: Set up Monitoring and Evaluation units at national, divisional and district levels							
6.2.1 Develop a system to coordinate monitoring of AES provision	**1** System in place to coordinate monitoring of AES developed and updated annually by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$10,000.00
6.2.2 Develop key performance indicators	**1** Key performance indicators developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$20,000.00
6.2.3 Undertake a baseline survey on AES and service providers	**1** Baseline study on AES conducted by FGS	1	0	0	0	0	$26,000.00
6.2.4 Conduct mid-term reviews	**5** Mid-term review for each FMS conducted by FGS	0	0	5	0	0	$5,000.00
6.2.5 Produce quarterly and annual reports	**75** Quarterly reports for each FMS produced by FGS	15	15	15	15	15	$1,000.00
6.2.6 Undertake evaluation of the strategy	**1** Evaluation of the strategy conducted by FGS	0	0	0	0	1	$5,000.00
Sub-Total							**$67,000.00**
Pillar 4: Sustainable Financing of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services							
Outcome 7: Enhanced access to inputs, infrastructure, market, financial services, and credit facilities among farmers fostering economic growth and development in agricultural communities.							
Intervention 7.1: Strengthening private sector investment in agriculture							
7.1.1 Establish a mechanism for attracting funds from	**1** Strategy developed and	1	0	0	0	0	$20,000.00

the private sector towards AES	implemented – Clear contributions from the private sector made. by FGS						
7.1.2 Seek investments in important key areas – input supply, agro-industry, infrastructure, research and scholarship.	**10** Public-private partnerships formalized by FGS	2	2	2	2	2	$12,000.00
	10 markets improved for access by FGS	2	2	2	2	2	$112,000.00
	10 Research collaborations with education and extension training relevant to AES by FGS	2	2	2	2	2	$50,000.00
	9 extension laboratories (for seeds and soils) established by FGS	1	2	2	2	2	$70,000.00
	Other outputs • **22** Irrigation canals improved by FGS • **5** Water harvesting and catchment systems developed by FGS • **5** Transportation roads established by FGS • **5** Market centers established by FGS	 5 1 1 1	 5 1 1 1	 4 1 1 1	 4 1 1 1	 4 1 1 1	$500,000.00
7.1.3 Establish financial tracking system for AES.	**1** financial tracking system for AES established by FGS, and all District Extension Coordinators trained on how to use it by FMS	0	1	0	0	0	$10,000.00
	5 annual financial reports on private financing of AES compiled by FGS	1	1	1	1	1	$5,000.00

Intervention 7.2: Ensuring fair and transparent access to agricultural resources							
7.2.1 Establish clear guidelines for resource distribution and ensure merit-based funding allocation.	**1** document of guidelines for equitable access to agricultural inputs, credit, and training developed by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$20,000.00
7.2.1 Provide information on available resources including funding.	**25** District Heads of Extension provided information and materials on resources including funding to serve farmers better by FGS	5	5	5	5	5	$50,000.00
Intervention 7.3: Developing cost-recovery mechanisms for some extension services, providers and some categories of farmers							
7.3.1 Conduct mapping of Agricultural Extension Services to isolate services to be put on cost-recovery	**1** study on mapping of AES to put on cost-recovery or sharing measures undertaken by FGS	0	1	0	0	0	$40,000.00
7.3.2 Establish AES Trust Funds to ensure equity in service provision to farmers across Somalia	**1** AES Trust Fund established with a target of raising at least $10,000,0000	0	1	0	0	0	$500,000.00
7.3.2 Conduct sensitization meetings on cost-recovery mechanisms in Agricultural Extension Service provision	**20** sensitization meetings conducted during the first four years (One meeting in each FMs annually) by FGS	5	5	5	5	0	$90,000.00
Sub-Total							**$1,479,000.00** .
GRAND TOTAL							**$26,076,200.00**

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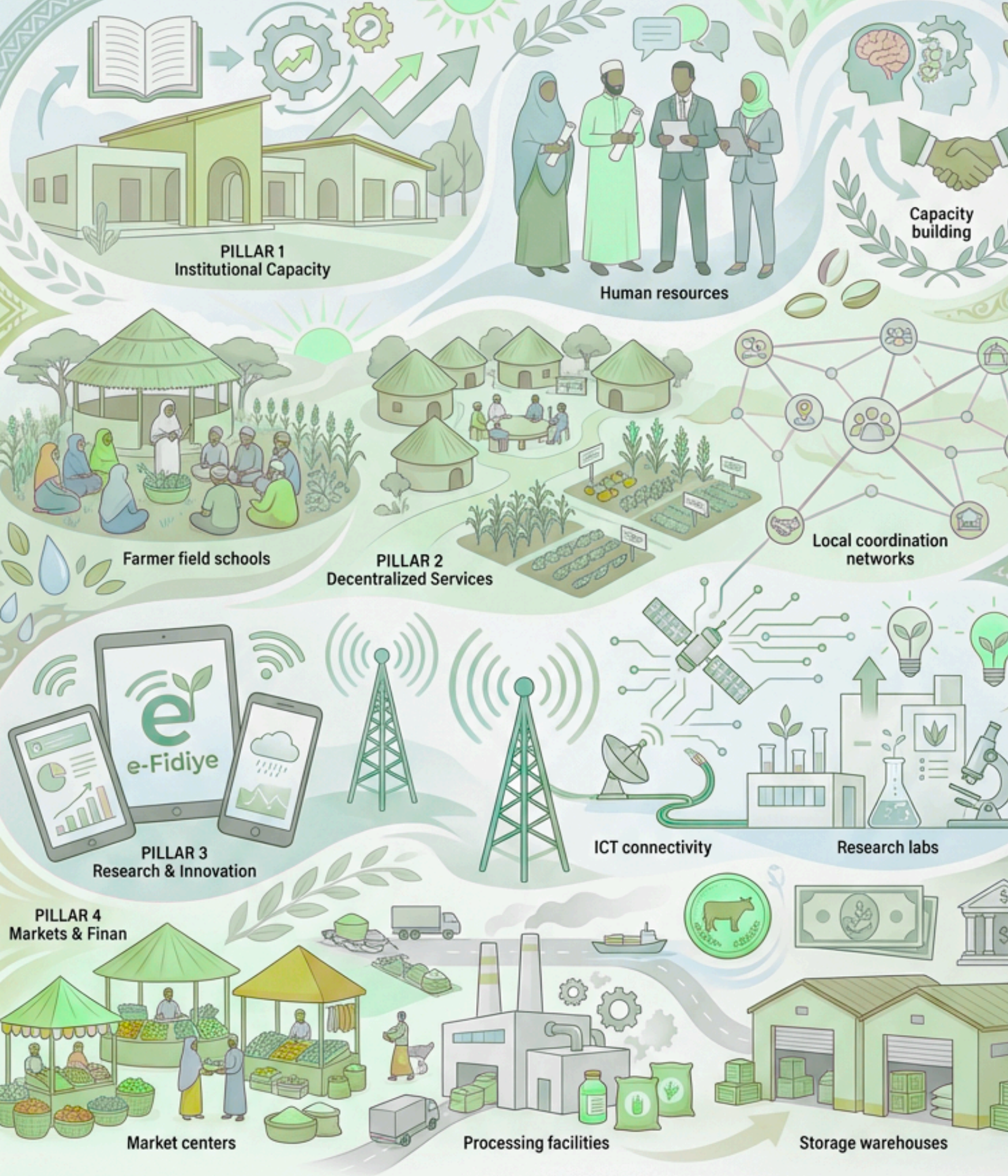

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION