WASAARADDA BEERAHA IYO WARAABKA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION: (MOAI)

وزارة الزراعة والري

NEWS LETTER

MOAI MONTHLY

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

TABLE OF CONTENT

Minister of Agriculture Visits Afgooye To Assess Water Shortage And Irrigation Challenges.....3

Minister Of Agriculture And Irrigation Of SomaliaReceives Wfp-Somalia Representative To Strengthen Cooperation On Food Security And Agricultural Development.....5

Somalia's participation in the Africa Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ACSAM) held from 3–6 February 2026 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.....6

Youth Agribusiness Training Program.....12

National Workshop on Strengthening Fabrication and Assembly of Agricultural Mechanization Technologies, Equipment, and Localization of Technology.....14

Seed Security Assessment Report (2025).....18

Desert Locust Situation.....22

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VISITS AFGOOYE TO ASSESS WATER SHORTAGE AND IRRIGATION CHALLENGES

14.feb.2026 The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, **H.E. Mohamed Abdi Xayir (Maareeye),** visited some of the farms in Afgooye district, where there are severe water shortages.

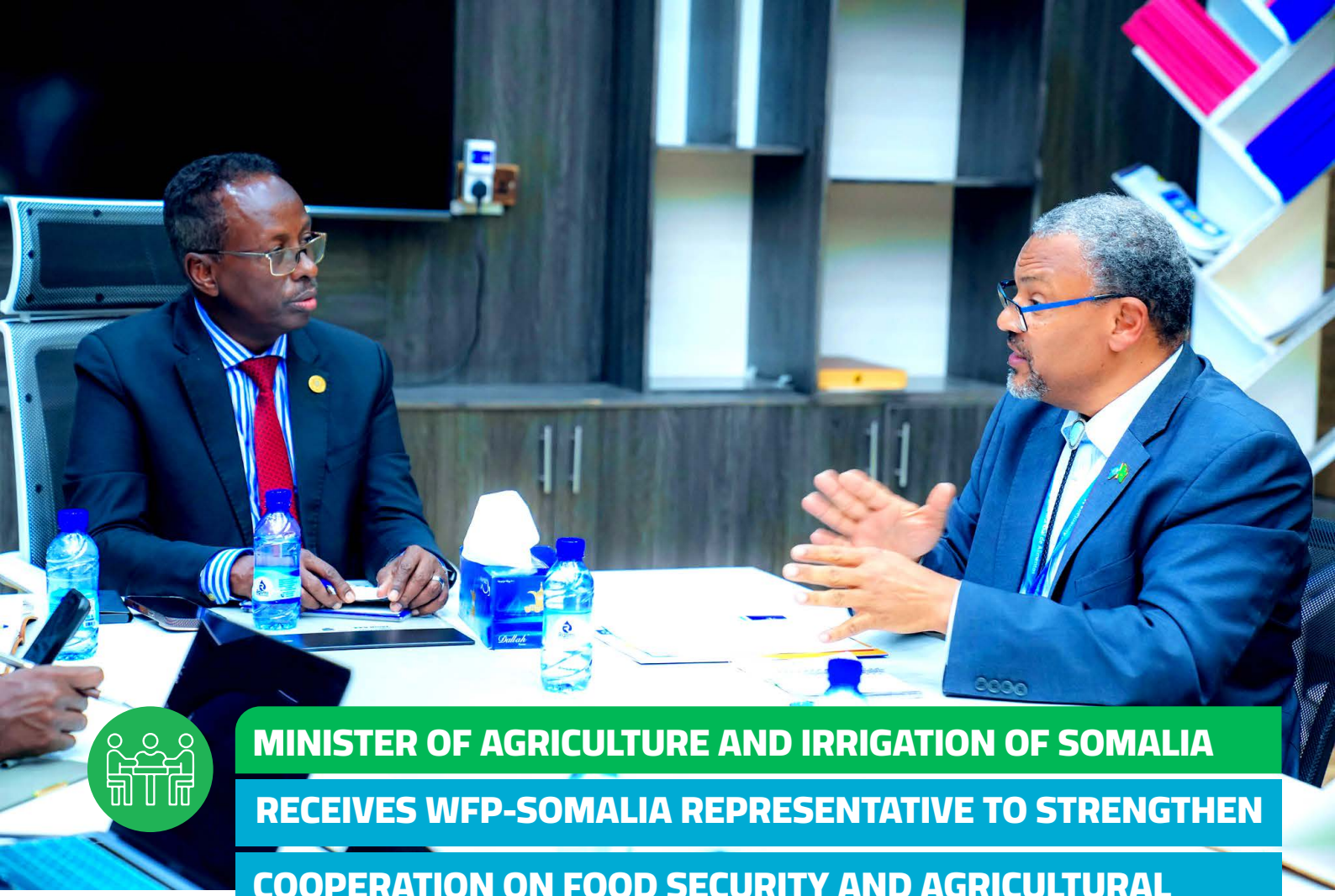
The Minister met with local farmers, listening closely to the challenges facing irrigation and the impact of water shortages on crop production. Farmers shared their complaints regarding water shortages and the neglect of irrigation canals that have directly affected their production activities.

During his inspection, the Minister told the farming community that the Ministry will take effective measures to solve the water shortage problem, while strengthening efforts to develop irrigation systems and boost agricultural production.

Mohamed Abdi Xayir (Maareeye) and his delegation visited the Shabelle River in Afgooye district this morning, where he inspected the state of agricultural production and the water shortage in the river, which is very dry.

The overall purpose of the visit by the Minister and his delegation was to assess the actual situation in the area.

This situation reflects the impact of the drought in the country in general and in Afgooye district in particular, as it is clearly felt in the river, which is very low.
The Minister and his delegation were welcomed at the site by the Deputy Commissioner for Security and Acting District Commissioner: Mahdi Ahmed Hassan and the Deputy Commissioner for Social Affairs, Mohamed Ali Farax.



MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION OF SOMALIA RECEIVES WFP-SOMALIA REPRESENTATIVE TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

16.feb.2026 The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia. **Mohamed Abdi Xayir (Maareeye)**, received at the Ministry's headquarters the Representative of the WFP-Somalia, **Mr. Hamid Nuru.**

The meeting, which was a welcoming and strengthening of the partnership, focused on developing cooperation in the areas of food security, school feeding programs, supporting farmers and programs that increase agricultural production.
Finally, the importance of continuing effective cooperation that can contribute to the challenges and contribute to the development of agriculture in the country was agreed upon.

SOMALIA'S PARTICIPATION

IN THE AFRICA CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE

AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION (ACSAM) HELD FROM 3–6 FEBRUARY 2026 IN DAR ES SALAAM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia participated in the Africa Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ACSAM), with representation by **Eng. Dirie Abdi Mohamed**, Director of the Department of Agricultural Technology and Innovation.

The conference was held from **3–6 February 2026** and was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The event marked the first continental African conference dedicated specifically to sustainable agricultural mechanization and served as a follow-up to the Global Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization held in Rome in 2023, providing a high-level platform for policy dialogue, technical exchange, and partnership building to advance inclusive, climate-smart, and sustainable mechanization across Africa, while bringing together policymakers, technical experts, development partners, research and financial institutions, farmers' organizations, youth and women representatives, and private sector stakeholders; the conference attracted more than 600 in-person participants and over 1,000 virtual attendees from across the continent and beyond, demonstrating strong regional and global commitment to transforming agriculture through sustainable mechanization.


3 - 6 February, 2026
Johari Rotana, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations
3 - 6 February,
Johari Rotana, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania


TAABISI


TANZANIA AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION
STRATEGY (TAMS II) (2025 / 2026 / 2036)

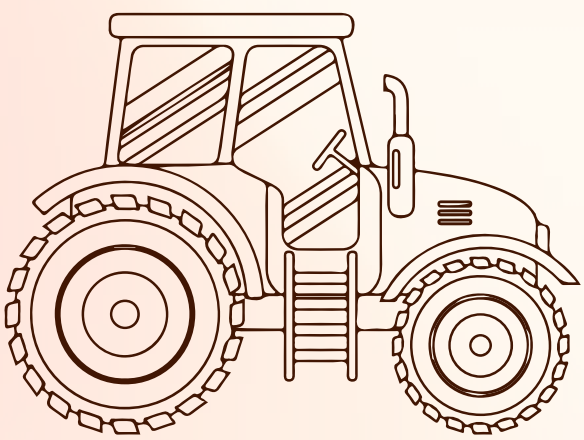
Outcomes of the Conference

- Enhanced integration of Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) into regional and national agricultural development policies and strategies.
- Strengthened regional collaboration on SAM, aligned with the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA) and the Global Agricultural Mechanization Conference (GAMC) Call to Action.
- Actionable recommendations and capacity development programmes identified to support the scaling of SAM across Africa.
- A shared vision among financing institutions and key stakeholders to advance enabling policies and scalable business models that stimulate investment in sustainable agricultural mechanization

One Key Message from the Conference:

Sustainable agricultural mechanization is not only about providing machines; it requires a complete ecosystem that includes appropriate technologies, skilled operators and technicians, access to financing, reliable supply chains, after-sales service and maintenance systems, quality standards and regulation, and strong institutional support.

Without this integrated approach, mechanization investments are unlikely to be sustainable or impactful.



Key Achievements – Somalia's Participation in the African Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ACSAM 2026)

- Somalia joined the network of Directors of Agricultural Mechanization and Engineering Services in Africa, enhancing peer learning, coordination, and policy exchange.
- Somalia was effectively represented at the Africa Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ACSAM 2026), strengthening the country's visibility and engagement in regional and continental dialogue on sustainable agricultural mechanization.
- JICA indicated that Somalia will be considered among the countries to join the African Field Innovation Centre for Agricultural Technology (AFICAT), creating opportunities for innovation, training, and South–South learning.
- Somalia advanced engagement in FAO-facilitated South–South and Triangular Cooperation, opening opportunities for knowledge exchange, technology transfer, and institutional capacity development.
- Ten (10) trainees from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the private sector, and farmer cooperatives will participate in a virtual capacity-building programme on sustainable agricultural mechanization, facilitated through FAO South–South Cooperation and commencing on 11 March 2026, contributing to national skills development and institutional capacity strengthening.
- Somalia benefited from exposure to regional and international best practices in mechanization policy, service delivery models, financing mechanisms, digitalization, and climate-smart mechanization.
- High-level engagements with FAO, JICA, ACT and other partners reinforced collaboration on mechanization policy implementation, capacity building, and pilot initiatives.

SIDE MEETINGS AND NETWORKING SUMMARY

Eng. Dirie Abdi Mohamed, Director of the Department of Agricultural Technology and Innovation at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, held a series of high-level side meetings and networking engagements during the conference to strengthen partnerships and mobilize support for Somalia's agricultural mechanization agenda.

A key meeting was held with senior leadership of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including Ms. Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General; Dr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa; Dr. Yurdi Yasmi, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, and Eng. Josef Kienzle, FAO Lead on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization.

During the meeting, updates were provided on Somalia's mechanization progress, particularly the successful validation of the National Agricultural Mechanization Policy in January 2026.

The discussions reaffirmed strong collaboration between FAO and the Government of Somalia and emphasized continued technical cooperation to advance sustainable and climate-smart mechanization.

The discussions focused on technical assistance, capacity development, pilot mechanization initiatives, and private sector partnerships, while also exploring Somalia's potential engagement with the African Field Innovation Centre for Agricultural Technology as a platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and enhanced cooperation.

Additional meetings were held with officials from several Asian countries, including Vietnam, India, the Philippines, and China, focusing on strengthening South–South Cooperation through knowledge transfer, technical training, study tours, and institutional capacity development in agricultural mechanization.

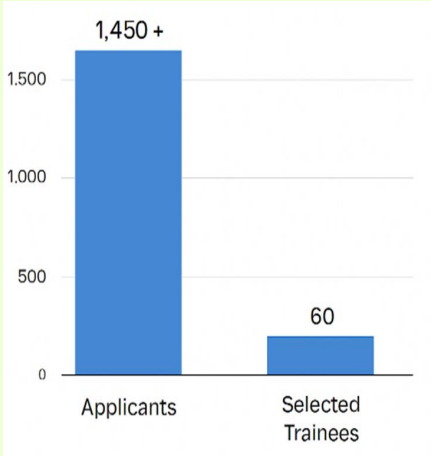
Furthermore, Eng. Dirie Abdi Mohamed participated in high-level networking engagements with private sector agricultural machinery manufacturers, including Lovol (China) and Mzuri (Poland).

The discussions highlighted Africa's growing demand for mechanization and identified significant opportunities for Somalia in affordable machinery supply, local assembly and servicing facilities, spare parts distribution, and private sector investment partnerships.

YOUTH AGRIBUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

Overview

The Department of Agribusiness, Investment, and Cooperatives Development at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation successfully organized a two-week youth-focused training program aimed at strengthening participation in agribusiness and enterprise development. This initiative reflects the Ministry's strategic commitment to empowering Somali youth and fostering inclusive, innovation-driven agricultural growth.



The training brought together **60 young** participants selected from a pool of over **1,450** applicants, demonstrating the high level of interest and demand among Somali youth for agribusiness knowledge and entrepreneurial skills engagement.

The overwhelming number of applications highlights the growing awareness of agriculture's potential as a viable economic pathway and the need for structured capacity-building programs to support youth.

Throughout the two-week program, participants benefited from intensive sessions delivered by seasoned professionals with expertise in agribusiness, entrepreneurship, and cooperative development. The training was designed to equip youth with practical tools, strategic insights, and confidence to lead and grow sustainable agribusiness ventures across Somalia.

THE CURRICULUM WAS STRUCTURED AROUND 9 CORE MODULES, EACH TAILORED TO ADDRESS:

- Training Modules.
- Business Plan Development.
- Financial Literacy & Business Management.
- Pitching & Access to Finance.
- Agricultural Value Chains & Market Linkages.
- Digital Tools for Agribusiness.
- Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices.
- Cooperative Formation & Governance.
- Investment Readiness & Risk Management.

These modules provided a holistic learning experience, blending technical knowledge with entrepreneurial mindset development. Participants explored how to design viable business plans, navigate financial systems, access investment opportunities, and apply digital tools to enhance productivity and market reach. The inclusion of climate-smart practices and cooperative governance also ensured alignment with national priorities and sustainable development goals.

National Workshop on Strengthening

Fabrication and Assembly of Agricultural Mechanization Technologies, Equipment, and Localization of Technology

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia convened a National Workshop on Strengthening Fabrication and Assembly of Agricultural Mechanization Technologies, Equipment, and Localization of Technology on 16 February 2026 at the Ministry's Headquarters in Mogadishu, as part of its broader strategic efforts to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization, strengthen domestic manufacturing capacity, and reduce reliance on imported agricultural machinery.

The workshop brought together a diverse range of key stakeholders, including agricultural machinery companies, universities through their Departments of Mechanical Engineering, professional mechanical engineers, technical and vocational training institutions, farmers and cooperatives, private sector mechanization service providers, and local fabrication and assembly workshops.

The primary objective of the workshop was to provide a collaborative platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange to identify practical pathways for enhancing local production capabilities, improving engineering design and technical standards, promoting innovation and applied research, strengthening skills development, and building a coordinated national ecosystem to support the fabrication, assembly, and sustainable utilization of agricultural machinery suited to Somalia's farming systems

The workshop was officially opened by the State Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, **H.E. Asad Abdirizak Mohamed**, who emphasized that the development of local fabrication capacity is a strategic national priority aligned with Somalia's agricultural transformation agenda.

He highlighted that strengthening domestic production of agricultural tools and equipment will not only reduce reliance on costly imports but also stimulate job creation, promote entrepreneurship, support youth employment in technical trades, and improve farmers' access to affordable and appropriate mechanization solutions.

The State Minister further noted that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has recently developed the National Agricultural Mechanization Policy, which was successfully validated in January 2026, and underscored that one of the key priority areas of the policy is the promotion of local fabrication and assembly of agricultural machinery and equipment as a pathway to achieving sustainable, inclusive, and self-reliant mechanization development in Somalia.

Eng. Dirie Abdi Mohamed, Director of the Department of Agricultural Technology and Innovation, presented the objectives of the workshop and outlined the Ministry's ongoing initiatives to promote local fabrication and assembly of agricultural equipment. He emphasized the importance of developing context-specific mechanization technologies tailored to Somalia's diverse agro-ecological zones, farming systems, and the needs of smallholder farmers.

He also highlighted the Ministry's commitment to supporting local fabricators through technical training, the development of quality standards, policy support, strengthened partnerships with universities, and the establishment of enabling mechanisms to scale up innovation and commercialization of locally developed machinery.

Furthermore, Eng. Dirie noted that the Ministry is actively advancing sustainable agricultural mechanization (SAM) and encouraging greater private sector investment in mechanization as a pathway to long-term sector sustainability.

He stated that the Ministry plans to support capacity-building programmes for private sector representatives on mechanization investment, machinery operation, maintenance and repair, and fabrication technologies, including through South–South Cooperation initiatives facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

During the workshop, Eng. Abulkadir Omar Abdullahi, CEO of Hiber Engineering and Research, delivered a technical presentation showcasing a range of locally developed agricultural tools and machinery prototypes designed for Somali farming conditions.

The presentation demonstrated practical examples of locally engineered solutions, including tillage implements, planters, trail, and cost-effective farm tools, while highlighting the significant potential for Somalia to establish a viable domestic fabrication industry capable of meeting the mechanization needs of smallholder farmers.

In addition to the presentation, Eng. Abulkadir organized a live exhibition of tools and equipment fabricated by Hiber Engineering and Research, allowing participants to directly observe and assess the quality, design, and functionality of locally manufactured machinery.

The exhibition generated strong interest among stakeholders and demonstrated the feasibility of scaling up local production to support sustainable agricultural mechanization in Somalia. Participants actively engaged in discussions, sharing experiences, challenges, and recommendations related to financing constraints, technical skills gaps, access to quality materials, standardization needs, and market linkages for locally produced machinery.

The workshop concluded with strong consensus and support for the Ministry's initiative, emphasizing the importance of strengthening collaboration among government institutions, the private sector, academia, research organizations, and farmer groups to advance localized, affordable, climate-smart, and sustainable agricultural mechanization solutions across Somalia.

SEED SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT (2025)

The Seed System Security Assessment (SSSA) 2025 evaluates Somalia's seed systems' functionality and resilience for farming households, analyzing formal and informal systems' performance across key regions like Hirshabelle, Southwest State, Jubaland, and Mogadishu.

The assessment conducted between October and December 2025 highlights constraints and opportunities to enhance seed security in the short, medium, and long term, gathering data from various stakeholders to provide a comprehensive overview of seed system performance under current conditions.

Concept of Seed Security

Seed security in Somalia is a complex issue influenced by various factors such as market access, institutional capacity, climatic variability, and household resilience. It involves five dimensions: availability, access, quality, suitability, and resilience.

While absolute seed shortages are rare, access constraints, declining seed quality, and limited availability of suitable varieties shape seed insecurity. Farmers in different regions face varying challenges, with proximity to markets affecting affordability and access to quality seed.

The dominance of informal seed systems alongside humanitarian assistance plays a significant role, impacting seed quality, yield potential, and farmer behavior.

Understanding seed security in Somalia requires considering the interactions between informal systems, formal markets, and humanitarian interventions across different locations and seasons.

Food Security Situation

In 2025, Somalia's food security is precarious due to climatic variability, reduced agricultural output, high food prices, and limited coping mechanisms. Despite average Gu rainfall, inadequate Deyr rains in southern and central Somalia severely impacted crop recovery, particularly in rain-fed and agropastoral regions like Jowhar, Balcad, and Afgoye, leading to water scarcity, reduced cultivation, delayed planting, and diminished food availability.

Table 1:

Seasonal Rainfall Performance and Implications for Food & Seed Security (2025)

Season	Rainfall Performance (2025)	Observed Impact on Production	Food Security Implication	Seed System Implication
Gu (Apr–Jun)	Average in most southern & central regions	Moderate crop establishment in riverine and rain-fed areas	Partial seasonal food availability	Seed demand met mainly through informal sources
Deyr (Oct–Dec)	Very low to near-failure rainfall	Reduced or abandoned second-season planting	Early lean season, increased market dependence	Limited replanting, loss of seed saving potential

Institutional and Policy Context

Somalia's seed sector is transitioning with renewed government commitment to governance and regulation after years of conflict and weak oversight. The establishment of SARIS marks a pivotal step towards seed regulation, but challenges persist due to limited operational capacity. Efforts include reforms embedded in national development plans to enhance agricultural productivity and address critical bottlenecks like the lack of a fully operational EGS system.

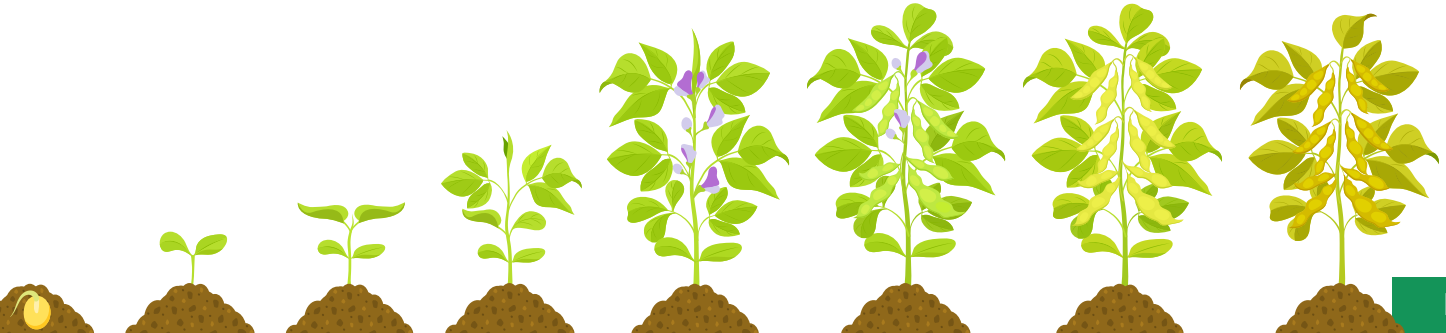


Table 2:
Key Seed Sector Institutions and Mandates in Somalia

Institution	Core Mandate	Current Status (2025)	Key Constraints
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI)	Policy, strategy, coordination	Active, reform-oriented	Limited budget, weak research capacity, lack of facilities
Somali Agricultural Regulatory and Inspection Services (SARIS	Seed regulation, certification, inspection	Operational but limited reach	Few inspectors, weak labs, limited staff capacity, lack of facilities
Federal Member State MoAs	Sub-national implementation	Uneven across states	Capacity and coordination gaps
Universities & Research Institutes	Training, applied research	Limited engagement	Weak funding, no breeding programs
NGOs & Development Partners	Seed aid, system support	Highly active	Market distortion risk
Private Seed Companies	Seed production & marketing	Growing but fragile	Below investment, EGS access, low to zero local breeding program

Research and Breeding Systems

Somalia's research and plant breeding systems have historically been among the weakest components of the national seed sector, following decades of conflict that led to the collapse of public research infrastructure, loss of skilled human resources, and discontinuation of structured breeding programs. As a result, the country has lacked a sustained pipeline for the development and maintenance of early generation seed (EGS),

Table 3:
Status of Research and Breeding Systems in Somalia (2025)

Component	Current Status	Recent Progress	Remaining Gaps
National research institution	Under construction (MoAI HQ)	Infrastructure investment underway	Staffing, operationalization
Breeding programs	Not yet operational	Variety trials ongoing	No local breeding pipeline
Early generation seed (EGS)	Very limited	Planning stage	Foundation seed supply
Varietal trials	Active in multiple states	MoAI–FAO–SSG collaboration	Scaling & release linkage
Universities & research	Limited capacity	Training & trials support	Sustainable funding

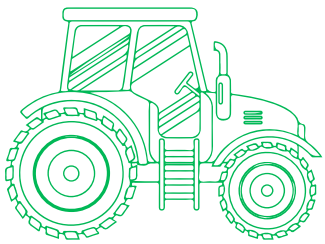
The 2025 Seed System Security Assessment in Somalia reveals persistent challenges in accessing quality seed, primarily through informal channels.

While formal seed supply is progressing with registered companies and regulatory frameworks, certified seed availability remains limited for rural households due to various constraints.

Acute seed security issues stem from access, affordability, quality, and timing challenges rather than absolute shortages, exacerbated by climatic shocks and rising production costs. Chronic seed insecurity is rooted in structural factors like limited varietal development and weak extension services, impacting productivity and resilience.

Humanitarian seed aid remains crucial, but a shift towards long-term solutions is needed to enhance household seed security and resilience effectively.

Addressing seed security comprehensively in Somalia demands integrated efforts at household, community, institutional, and policy levels to strengthen the entire seed system in alignment with national priorities.



DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm during February 2026. No surveys were conducted, however reports from district DL focal persons, scouts, and regional extension officers indicated that no locusts were seen in the coastal, sub-coastal, and inland areas of the locust breeding areas in the northwest and northeast regions Light to moderate rains that fell during the biggening of the month in the breeding areas may create favorable ecological conditions. vegetation is beginning to green, and the soil has become moist.

Forecasting

Ecological conditions in Somalia may become favorable for Desert Locust breeding in March 2026, particularly in northern coastal and sub-coastal areas such as Zaila, Lughaya, and Berbera districts. Light to moderate rains, influenced by the Deyr rainy season, are expected in the northwest and northeast regions, increasing soil moisture and vegetation growth, which could create suitable conditions for locust breeding.

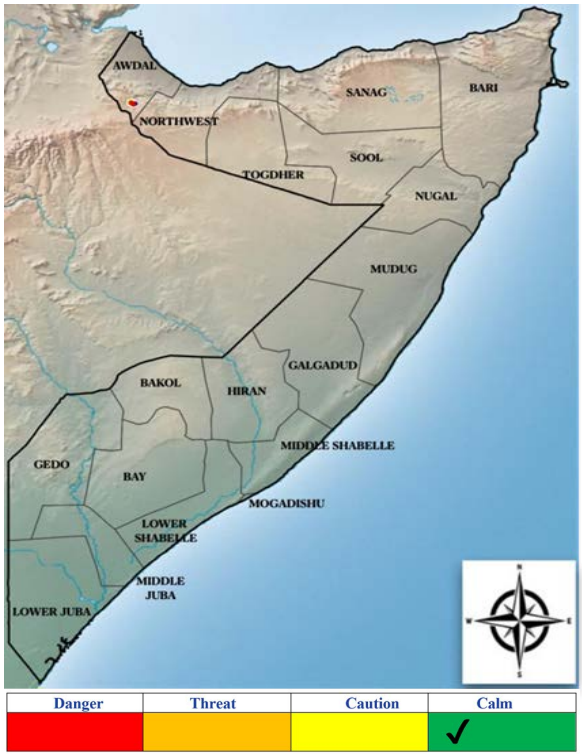


Figure 1: Desert Locust Situation during February 2026

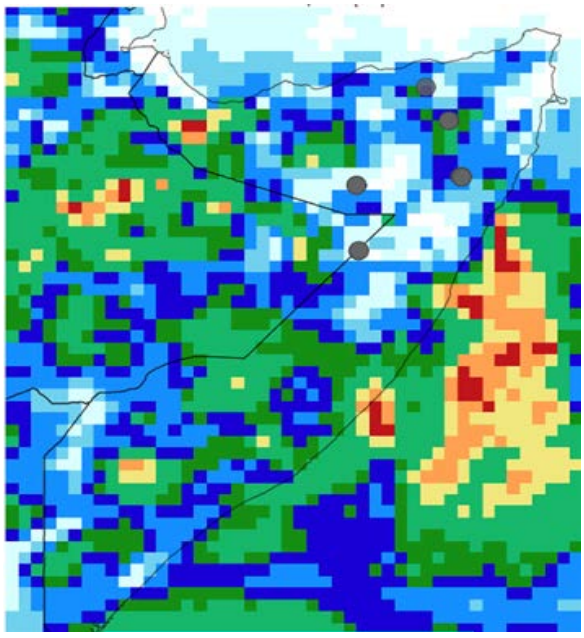


Figure 2: Rainfall Estimation February 2026

Figure3: Group photo of the workshop

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DESERT LOCUST SURVEY AND EARLY WARNING

From February 16th to 21st, 2026, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, particularly Plant Protection Department participated in a Regional Workshop on Desert Locust Survey and Early Warning in Tanzania, organized by Desert Locust Control Organazation- East Africa (DLCO-EA).

The meeting was hosted by the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticide Authority (TPHPA) and brought together Plant Protection Experts from Somalia and other Horn of Africa countries, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and DLCO-EA.

The program was structured to strengthen technical capacity in desert locust survey, monitoring, and early warning systems through technical presentations and field visits to irrigation schemes and pest breeding areas. Key areas covered included surveillance and reporting systems, outbreak mapping, community-based monitoring, and integrated management of migratory pests such as desert locust and Quelea birds.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Communication & Media Office
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation – FGS

Communicationdpt@moa.gov.so

www.moa.gov.so

Address: Hodan, Km4, Benadir, Muqdisho-Soomaaliya

MoAI