



WASAARADDA BEERAHA IYO WARAABKA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION: (MOAI)

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STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION:

SOMALIA AND OIC ADVANCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN RIYADH

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E. Mohamed Abdi Xayir (Maareeye), held a meeting in Riyadh with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa.

During the meeting, Minister Maareeye presented an overview of the current situation in Somalia, highlighting the key challenges facing the Somali people, particularly in the areas of food security and agricultural sustainability.

He expressed his sincere appreciation to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for its continued support to vulnerable communities, especially through ongoing humanitarian and relief initiatives across Somalia.

The discussions also focused on strengthening cooperation between Somalia and the OIC in advancing the agricultural sector.

Minister Maareeye proposed a number of strategic programs aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, rebuilding agricultural infrastructure, promoting modern farming systems, and creating sustainable employment opportunities for Somali youth.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to deepen collaboration and implement impactful development projects that will contribute to Somalia's economic growth and resilience.





MEETING BETWEEN

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION & TIKA

“ The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, **H.E. Minister Mohamed Abdi Xayir**, received at the Ministry's headquarters **Mr. Zafer Eşki**, Director of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and TIKA, particularly in areas aimed at increasing agricultural production, empowering youth participation in agriculture, and introducing modern agricultural technologies to enhance productivity across the country.



Both sides emphasized the importance of implementing sustainable development projects that will boost agricultural output, create employment opportunities for Somali youth, and contribute to improving food security nationwide.

The discussions reaffirmed the strong partnership between Somalia and TIKA, highlighting a shared commitment to advancing the agricultural sector as a key driver of economic growth and resilience.





2. How do you ensure that the conversation remains respectful and focused on resolving the issue?
3. What communication tools can you provide to help them discuss their concerns more effectively?

2 TRAINING DAYS

A TWO-DAY TRAINING ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY AT THE WORKPLACE

THROUGH STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE, COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

INTRODUCTION

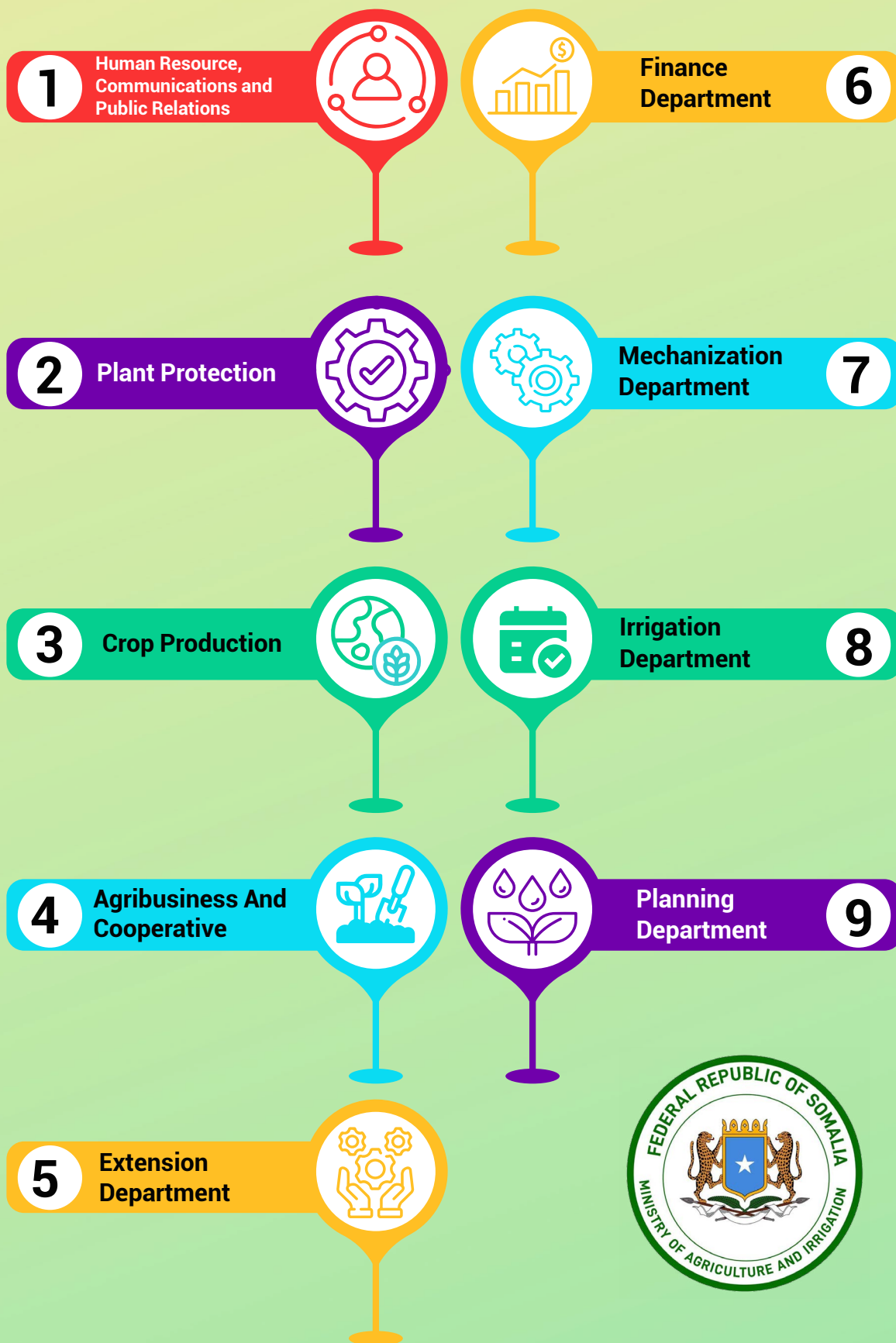
In today's dynamic workplace, the concepts of accountability and transparency are essential for fostering trust, collaboration, and high performance among employees. Recognizing this necessity, Human Resource Department conducted a two-day training program aimed at enhancing participants' understanding of individual and collective responsibilities.

This training also focused on encouraging open communication among teams.

The event successfully engaged staff across various levels, with the goal of teaching a culture of accountability and transparency throughout the Ministry.

PARTICIPANTS

The training targeted the following nine departments respectively



Day 1: Understanding Responsibilities

- Participants learned the significance of accountability in improving performance and trust.
- Engaged in the "Personal Responsibility Mapping" activity to reflect on their roles.
- Discussions centered on collective responsibilities and teamwork.
- Teams analyzed case studies of successful collaboration and developed actionable accountability plans.



Day 2: Promoting Open Communication

- Explored transparency's role in building trust and addressing communication barriers.
- Role-playing exercises allowed participants to practice effective communication techniques.
- Participants developed communication norms tailored to their teams.
- Engaged in group exercises to identify and brainstorm solutions for transparency barriers.



Outcome and impact

- The two-day training resulted in several important outcomes for the participants and the institution as a whole. Participants gained a better understanding of the principles of accountability and transparency in the workplace and the importance of maintaining professionalism in public service.
- The program also strengthened communication and collaboration among staff members from different departments through the exchange of ideas, experiences, and participants were able to identify practical solutions to common workplace challenges.

Additionally, the training helped increase staff motivation and awareness of their roles and responsibilities in promoting transparency, accountability, and effective service delivery within the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.





Conclusion

The training on Accountability and Transparency was successful in enhancing participants' understanding of their individual and collective responsibilities.

The emphasis on open communication laid a foundation for a culture of trust within the workplace.





SOMALI GAP TOT TRAINING FOR DISTRICT EXTENSION OFFICERS (DEOS) OF SOMALIA

The Training of Trainers (ToT) on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Somali key grain crops, held from March 23 to March 27, 2026, represented a landmark collaborative effort by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) Federal, organized in technical partnership with the Somali National University (SNU).

Officially inaugurated by the Director General of MoAI, the program underscored the indispensable role of District Extension Officers (DEOs) as the primary drivers of national food security and the essential link between academic research and field-level implementation. Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the SomReP Consortium, the five-day intensive workshop utilized newly developed Standardized Agriculture Training Manuals to ensure that all extension staff—including those from Federal Member States (FMS) and various partner agencies—delivered consistent, high-quality technical advice.

The theoretical sessions were conducted at the Jowhara Hotel in Mogadishu, providing a professional environment for in-depth lectures and strategy discussions, while the practical sessions were held both at the Jowhara Hotel and on-site at the Somali National University, allowing participants to engage in hands-on field demonstrations.





Throughout the week, participants engaged in detailed classroom modules and field-based applications that covered the entire value chain, from climate-smart land preparation and variety selection to integrated pest management (IPM) and post-harvest handling for maize, sorghum, sunflower, sesame, and cowpeas. The involvement of **Somali National University** experts allowed for a deeper technical dive into the GAP requirements for each crop, ensuring that District Extension Officers (DEOs) mastered the specific botanical and environmental needs of Somalia's key grains. The dual-location practical sessions provided a platform for trainers to demonstrate precise sowing techniques and soil fertility management, effectively preparing a cohort of dedicated officers to return to their respective regions.

By the conclusion of the training on **March 27**, the staff were equipped with both the standardized manuals and the pedagogical skills necessary to cascade this knowledge to local farmers, thereby strengthening the resilience of Somali agriculture through a unified, evidence-based approach to extension services.





PROMOTING CASSAVA

AS A STRATEGIC CROP FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN SOMALIA



Introduction

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) convened a stakeholder workshop to discuss the strategic importance of cassava for strengthening food security and climate resilience in Somalia.

The event brought together representatives from farmer cooperatives, universities, financial institutions, and agricultural experts to examine the potential of cassava as a resilient and economically viable crop.





The workshop was officially opened by the State Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

who highlighted the growing challenges facing Somalia's agricultural sector, particularly the increasing frequency of climate shocks such as droughts and irregular rainfall patterns.

State Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation,
H.E. Asad Abdirizak Mohamed

In his remarks, the State Minister noted that cassava has been identified as one of the ten priority crops targeted by the Ministry to strengthen national food security. He emphasized the urgent need for crop diversification and the promotion of climate-resilient farming systems that can help farmers withstand these challenges. In his remarks, the State Minister noted that cassava has been identified as one of the ten priority crops targeted by the Ministry to strengthen national food security. He emphasized that cassava's resilience and adaptability make it a promising crop for addressing the country's recurrent food security challenges.

The Director of the Department of Crop Production and Food Security welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of exploring underutilized crops that are well suited to Somalia's agro-ecological conditions. He noted that although cassava is cultivated in some parts of the country, its potential remains largely untapped due to limited awareness, traditional farming practices, and weak value chain development.

During the workshop, a presentation was delivered outlining the current status of cassava production in Somalia, its importance for food security and climate resilience, and opportunities for strengthening production through research, farmer training, and investment in value addition.

Objectives of the Workshop

The main objective of the workshop was to raise stakeholders' awareness of the strategic importance of cassava and to explore opportunities to strengthen its production and value chain in Somalia.

- Highlight the role of cassava as a climate-resilient crop suitable for Somalia's agricultural conditions.
- Present the current status of cassava production in Somalia.
- Discuss the contribution of cassava to food security and rural livelihoods.
- Share experiences from other countries where cassava has supported agricultural development.
- Encourage collaboration among farmers, financial institutions, researchers, and development partners.

Importance of Cassava for Somalia

Cassava is widely recognised as one of the most resilient staple crops in tropical agriculture. Globally, it is the fourth most important staple crop after rice, wheat, and maize, providing food for more than 1 billion people.

In many African countries, cassava plays a critical role in ensuring household food security and supporting rural economies.





In the Somali context, cassava presents a promising opportunity to strengthen agricultural resilience and diversify the national food system. The crop is particularly well-suited to Somalia's environmental conditions due to its adaptability to poor soils and its tolerance of drought and irregular rainfall.

Suitability of Somalia's Soils

Cassava can grow successfully across a wide range of soil types, including those less suitable for other staple crops.

Many agricultural areas in Somalia face soil fertility challenges and limited access to agricultural inputs.

Cassava's ability to produce yields

under such conditions makes it an attractive option for smallholder farmers. Unlike some cereals that require high soil fertility and stable rainfall patterns, cassava can maintain production even under difficult environmental conditions.

This adaptability allows farmers to secure harvests even when other crops fail.



Role in Climate Resilience

Somalia's agriculture sector remains highly vulnerable to climate change. Recurrent droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and land degradation continue to threaten crop production and rural livelihoods.



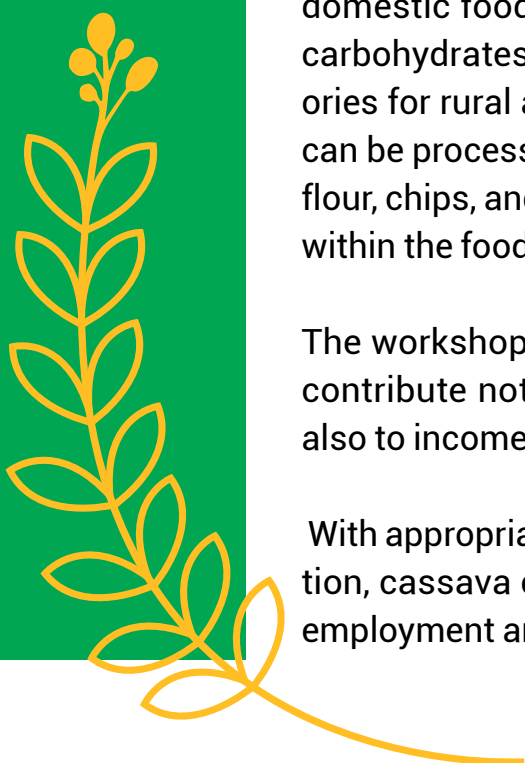
The Director of the Department of Crop Production and Food Security also highlighted that cassava could act as a “**buffer crop**” during periods of climate stress. While many crops fail during drought conditions, cassava can survive and continue producing, providing an important safety net for farming households.

Director Of Crop Production and Food Security
Mr. Mohamed Muse Adam

During the workshop, the state minister emphasised that promoting climate-resilient crops, such as cassava, is essential to reducing farmers' vulnerability to climate shocks. He noted that cassava's tolerance to drought and harsh environmental conditions makes it an important crop for strengthening the resilience of Somalia's farming systems.



Contribution to Food Security



Food insecurity remains a major concern in Somalia due to climatic variability, limited agricultural productivity, and reliance on imported food commodities.

Cassava offers an important opportunity to improve domestic food production. As a high-energy crop rich in carbohydrates, cassava provides a reliable source of calories for rural and urban populations. In addition, cassava can be processed into a variety of food products, including flour, chips, and other food items, making it a versatile crop within the food system.

The workshop discussions highlighted that cassava can contribute not only to household food consumption but also to income generation.

With appropriate investment in processing and value addition, cassava could become an important source of rural employment and market activity.



Current Status of Cassava Production in Somalia

Although cassava is cultivated in several parts of Somalia, particularly in riverine agricultural areas, its production remains relatively limited compared to its potential.

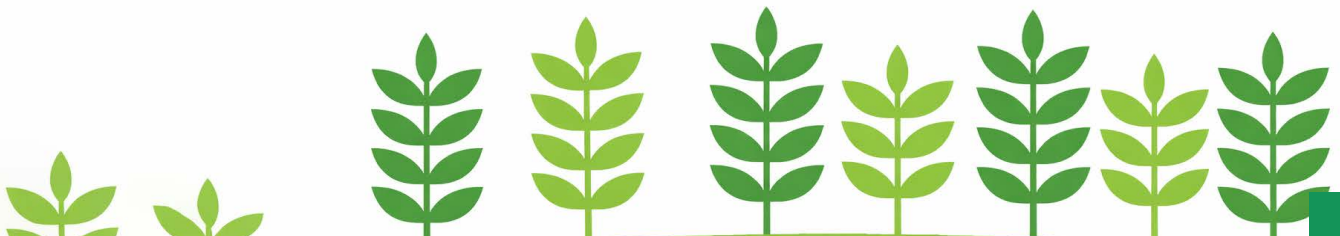
Current estimates indicate that Somalia produces approximately 106,000 tonnes of cassava annually from about 17,500 hectares of cultivated land.

Production is largely concentrated in areas with access to irrigation and favorable growing conditions. Despite this production, the cassava sector remains characterized

by small-scale traditional farming practices.

Farmers typically use local planting materials and rely on low-input cultivation methods. As a result, the national average yield is approximately 6.1 tonnes per hectare, which is significantly lower than the potential yield of 25–30 tonnes per hectare achievable with improved varieties and better agronomic practices.

This large yield gap represents a major opportunity for improving national cassava production without expanding cultivated land.





Through improved planting materials, farmer training, and better agricultural management practices, cassava production could increase significantly. Another important observation discussed during the workshop was the limited level of cassava processing and value addition in Somalia. At present, most cassava is consumed locally with minimal industrial processing. However, experiences from other countries show that cassava can support industries such as flour production, starch processing, livestock feed manufacturing, and bioenergy.

Conclusion

The workshop highlighted the significant potential of cassava to contribute to food security, climate resilience, and rural development in Somalia.

Given the country's vulnerability to climate variability and the increasing pressure on traditional staple crops, cassava offers a practical and resilient alternative that can strengthen agricultural systems and support farming communities.

Participants agreed that expanding cassava production will require coordinated efforts among government institutions, research organizations, farmers, and private sector actors. Investments in improved varieties, farmer training, infrastructure development, and value chain strengthening will be essential to unlock the full potential of cassava in Somalia.

The workshop marked an important step in raising awareness about cassava and positioning it as a strategic crop within Somalia's agricultural development agenda.





BBS SMART FARMS FOR DROUGHT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Overview

Somalia faces severe climate challenges including prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, and declining agricultural productivity, threatening food security and livelihoods. The BBS Program aims to transform agriculture through climate-smart, resilient farming systems while promoting youth-led agribusiness and sustainable rural development.

The Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS) Program, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, aims to strengthen Somalia's agricultural resilience to climate change through climate-smart farming, youth engagement, and sustainable agribusiness.

With increasing droughts, erratic rainfall, and land degradation threatening food security and rural livelihoods, the program promotes a transition from traditional pastoral systems to diversified, technology-driven farming models.

Case Study: Nasri Cooperative Farm

Nasri Cooperative Farm, a youth-led initiative in Afgoye, demonstrates a successful model of climate-smart agriculture. Operating on 60 hectares, the farm integrates crop production, livestock (about 700 goats and sheep), and water purification services.

Despite drought conditions, the farm has maintained partial productivity due to:

- Diversified mixed farming systems
- Access to underground water sources
- Adoption of improved agricultural practices

The farm also supports five displaced pastoralist families by hosting their livestock and provides clean drinking water to nearby communities, strengthening both economic and social resilience.



Key Findings

- About 50% of farmland affected by drought.
 - Heavy reliance on costly fuel-powered irrigation.
 - Strong market access and stable security conditions.
- Dual role as a production hub and community support system.



Main Challenges

- Water shortages and high irrigation costs
- Limited access to drought resistant seeds
- Pest and disease pressures Low mechanization and outdated equipment
- Lack of storage and cold-chain facilities



Opportunities

- Strong youth leadership and innovation
- Strategic location near Mogadishu market
- Potential as a national model and training center
- Diversified income (agriculture, livestock, water production)



Recommended Interventions

- Solar-powered irrigation and water storage systems
- Access to improved seeds and pest management training
- Farm mechanization and expansion
- Storage and cold-chain infrastructure
- Establishment of a youth agricultural training center
- Development of demonstration plots for climate-smart practices

Conclusion

Nasri Cooperative Farm highlights the potential of smart farming to build resilience against climate shocks. With targeted support from the BBS Program, it can become a national model for climate-smart agriculture, enhancing food security, creating jobs, and strengthening rural economies in Somalia.



Somalia's

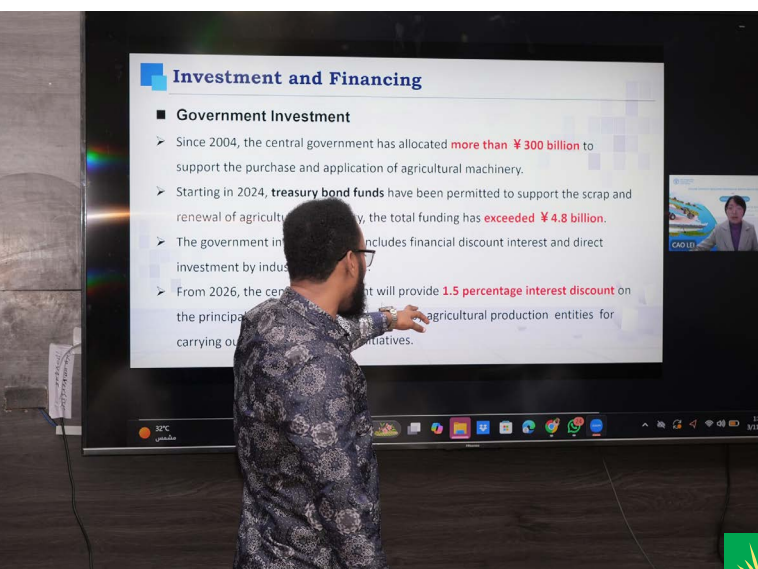
Participation in the Online Capacity Building Program and South-South Exchange Series on Agricultural Mechanization



Introduction

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), of the Federal Republic of Somalia is actively participating in the online Capacity Building Program and South-South Exchange Series on Agricultural Mechanization, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

This important capacity-building initiative brings together African and Asian countries to strengthen knowledge exchange, enhance technical capacity, and promote collaborative approaches toward advancing sustainable agricultural mechanization. Somalia's engagement in this program reflects its strong commitment to transforming the agricultural sector through institutional strengthening, policy development, and regional cooperation.



Somalia is actively participating in this online program through a broad range of stakeholders across the agricultural mechanization ecosystem, including:

- Technical teams from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI)
- Representatives from FMS Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- Agricultural machinery dealers and private sector actors
- Academic and research institutions
- Farmer cooperatives and producer organizations

This inclusive participation ensures a comprehensive and coordinated approach to agricultural mechanization development, integrating policy, private sector engagement, research, and farmer-level implementation.

Program Structure and Thematic Areas

The four-week program is designed around key thematic areas critical to the development of sustainable and inclusive mechanization systems:

March 11, 2026

Financing and investment in agricultural mechanization

1

2

March 25, 2026

Mechanization service provision models

3

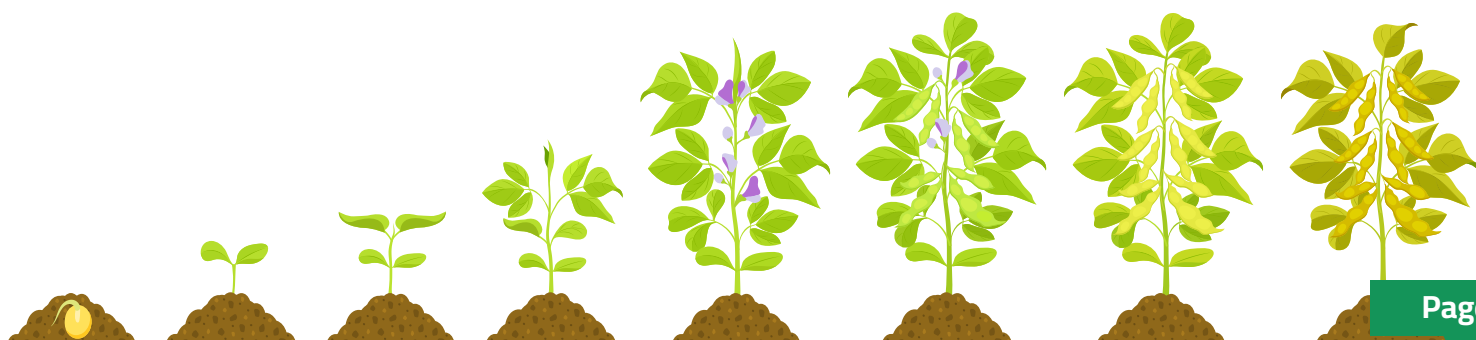
April 8, 2026

Climate-smart agricultural mechanization

4

April 22, 2026

Policy and regulatory frameworks





The Director of the Department of Agricultural Technology and Innovation, **Eng. Dirie Abdi Mohamed**, emphasized that Somalia's participation in this program represents a strategic opportunity to:

- ◆ Strengthen national capacity in agricultural mechanization
- ◆ Learn from best practices and experiences across African and Asian countries
- ◆ Promote South-South cooperation and strategic partnerships
- ◆ Support the implementation of Somalia's National Agricultural Mechanization Policy (2026)



He further highlighted that the program plays a critical role in equipping Somali stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and institutional frameworks required to scale sustainable and inclusive mechanization solutions across the country.

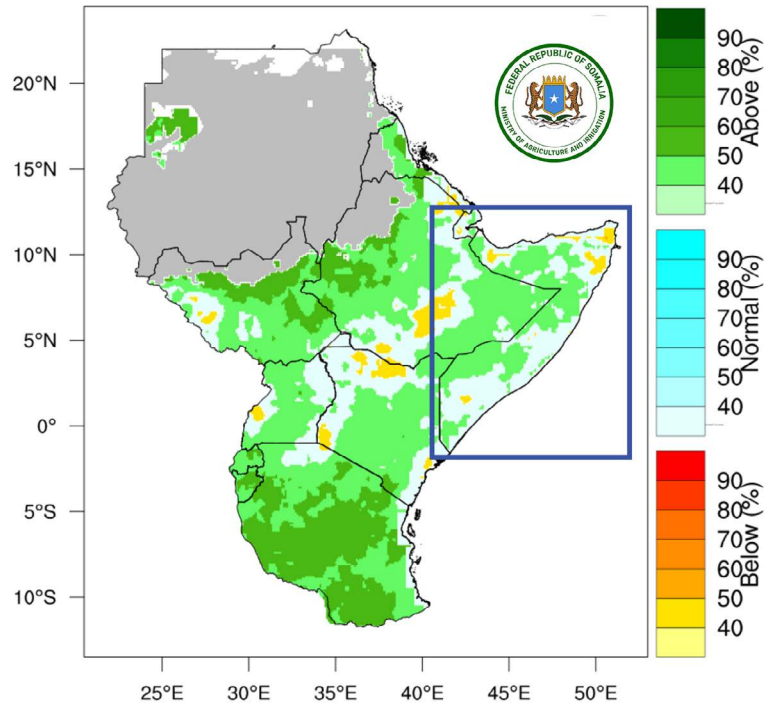
Conclusion

Somalia's engagement in the Online Capacity Building Program and South-South Exchange Series on Agricultural Mechanization demonstrates a strong commitment to transforming its agricultural sector through knowledge-driven and collaborative approaches. By leveraging regional experiences and global expertise, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is well-positioned to accelerate the adoption of sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient mechanization systems.



DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION USE LAND AND METROLOGY

OUTLOOK IN LIGHT OF THE GU' (MAM) 2026 SEASONAL FORECAST



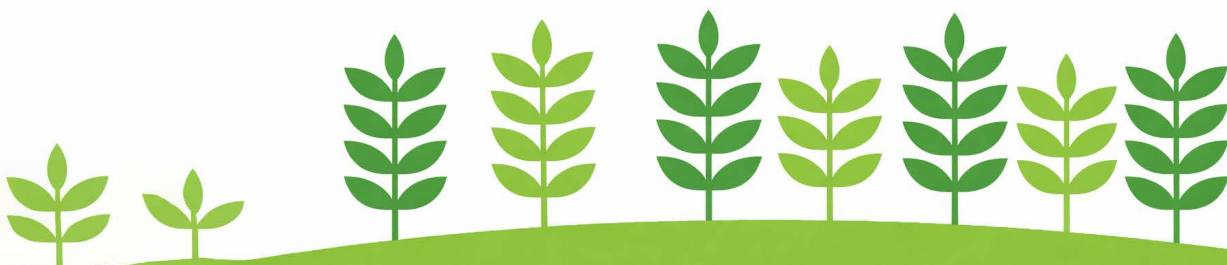
The Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation presents this technical outlook in response to the Gu' (March–May) 2026 seasonal climate forecast for Somalia.

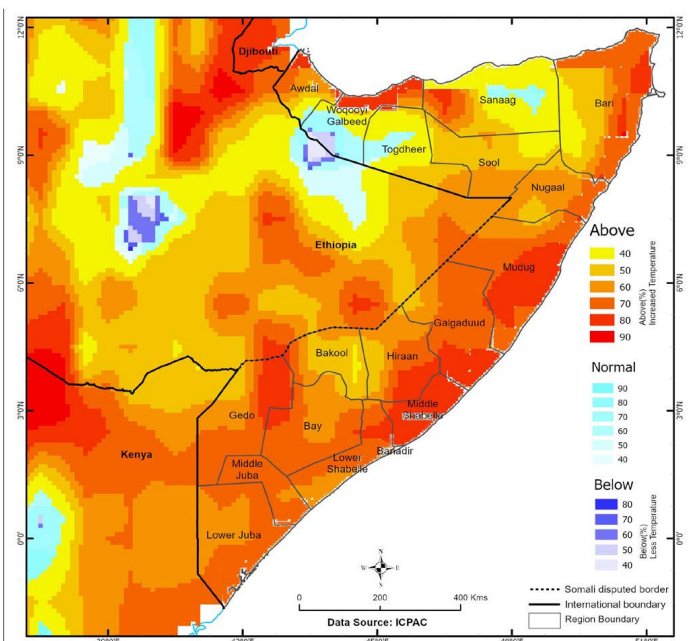
According to the regional outlook issued by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre, much of the country is expected to experience near-normal to above-normal rainfall during the Gu' season, with localized probabilities of below-normal rainfall in some coastal and eastern areas. At the same time, above-average temperatures are projected nationwide.

These combined conditions present both opportunities and risks for the national irrigation sub-sector, particularly in the riverine agricultural corridors.

Somalia's irrigated agriculture is predominantly concentrated along the Shabelle River and Jubba River, where gravity-fed canal systems and pump-based schemes support the production of staple crops, fruits, and vegetables that are vital to national food security and rural livelihoods.

Under a near- to above-normal rainfall scenario, river discharge is expected to improve, increasing surface water availability for irrigation and potentially supporting higher cropping intensity during and after the Gu' season. Improved water flows may also contribute to groundwater recharge in adjacent agricultural zones.





However, heavy rainfall within domestic and upstream catchments could elevate the risk of flooding, riverbank overtopping, sediment deposition, and damage to diversion structures, canals, and pump stations. Such impacts would disrupt irrigation schedules, reduce conveyance efficiency, and increase maintenance costs at a critical time in the cropping calendar.

Conversely, the probability of below-normal rainfall in certain regions highlights the need for cautious water allocation planning. Spatial variability in rainfall distribution may result in uneven river flow patterns, localized water shortages, and increased competition among irrigation users.

In addition, projected above-average temperatures during **MAM 2026** are likely to increase evapotranspiration rates, accelerate soil moisture depletion, and raise crop water requirements.

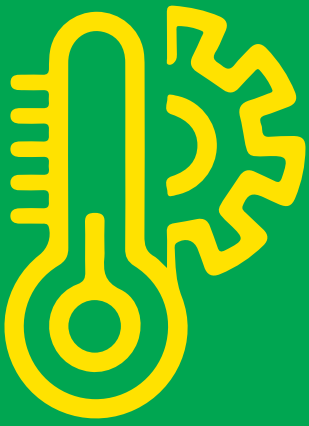
Even in areas receiving adequate rainfall, supplementary irrigation may be required at shorter intervals, increasing operational costs and placing additional strain on pumping systems and fuel-dependent irrigation schemes.

In light of these projected conditions, the Irrigation Department emphasizes the importance of proactive, climate-informed management.

Priority actions include pre-season inspection and reinforcement of diversion weirs and embankments, desilting and rehabilitation of primary and secondary canals, and the establishment of rapid-response maintenance teams to address potential flood damage.

Flexible water allocation and rotational distribution systems should be implemented to ensure equitable access among farming communities, particularly in periods of fluctuating river discharge.

Strengthening Water User Associations and improving coordination between local irrigation authorities and national hydrometeorological services will be essential for responsive decision-making.



The Department further underscores the need to expand small-scale water storage infrastructure, including retention basins and farm-level reservoirs, to capture excess runoff during peak rainfall events and store it for subsequent dry spells.

Promotion of efficient irrigation practices and climate-resilient cropping systems will enhance water productivity and reduce vulnerability to temperature-induced water stress.

Integrating seasonal and sub-seasonal climate updates into irrigation planning cycles will allow for timely adjustments in planting schedules, water releases, and maintenance operations.

The **Gu' 2026** outlook presents a dynamic hydrological environment characterized by potential water abundance in some areas and localized deficits in others, compounded by elevated temperatures.

Through strengthened infrastructure management, adaptive water governance, and systematic use of seasonal forecast information, Somalia's irrigation systems can mitigate flood risks, optimize water use, and sustain agricultural production.

The Irrigation Department reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding national irrigation assets and enhancing resilience within the framework of climate-responsive agricultural development.





DESERT LOCUST SITUATION

The Desert Locust (DL) situation remained calm during March 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 beginning of the month in the breeding areas may create favorable ecological conditions. Vegetation is beginning to green, and the soil has become moist.

Forecasting

Ecological conditions in Somalia may become favorable for Desert Locust breeding in April 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.

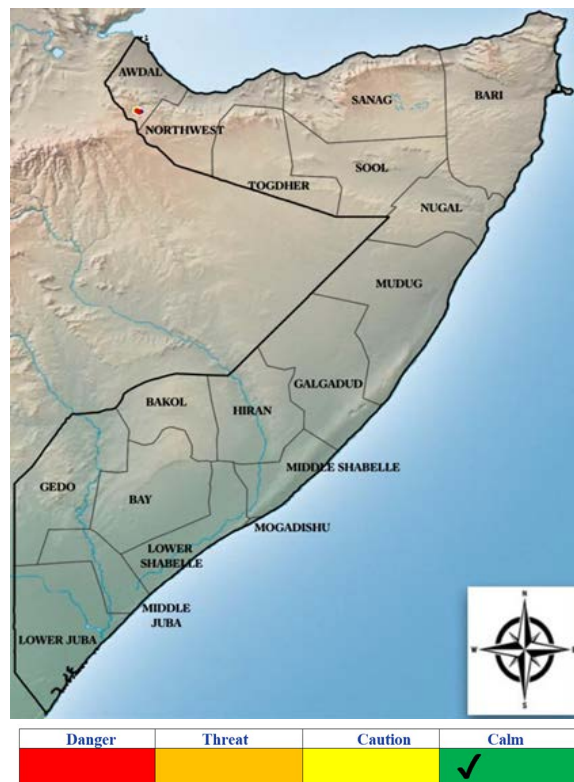


Figure 1: Desert Locust Situation during March 2026

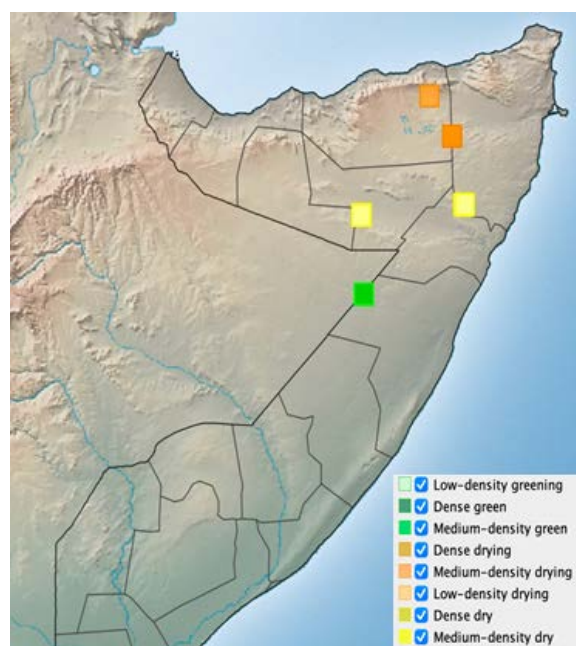


Figure 2: Vegetation Condition March 2026



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