



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

وزارة الزراعة والري



NEWS
LETTER

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JUNE 2026

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OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE NEW MODERN HEADQUARTERS OF

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION BY
H.E. PRIME MINISTER HAMZA ABDI BARRE

Mogadishu, Sunday, June 29, 2026 — His Excellency **Hamza Abdi Barre, Prime Minister** of the Federal Republic of Somalia, today officially inaugurated the newly constructed Headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI).

The construction of the Ministry reflects the dedicated efforts of Minister **Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye)** and the Ministry's staff, who remain committed to strengthening the Ministry's infrastructure and facilities in alignment with the broader national agenda of modernizing government institutions.

The grand opening ceremony took place at the main MoAI compound in Mogadishu.



The Minister, **H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye)**, was highly commended for leading the construction of this modern facility, which is designed to meet the Ministry's operational needs, enhance efficiency, and improve the services provided to Somali farmers. The building features green landscaping, open spaces, and grand conference areas that elevate the working environment and reflect the Ministry's commitment to excellence.



The high level inauguration brought together ministers, representatives from development partners, diplomats, farmers, cooperatives, and other distinguished guests. **H.E. Prime Minister Hamza provided the Keynote address, stating:**

“

“Today, I had the honor of inaugurating the beautiful and modern Headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

I am deeply pleased to witness the transformation taking place in Somalia’s agriculture, made possible by the remarkable peace that has enabled the construction of this outstanding facility.

The beauty and modern design of this new Headquarters stand as a testament to the strong cooperation between our people and our security forces. I urge Somali business leaders and investors to invest in our agriculture sector so that we can achieve food security and food sovereignty in Somalia.”



H.E. Prime Minister Hamza, together with H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), Eng. Mohamed Hassan Abdulle, Director General of Agriculture and Irrigation, ministers, and other honoured guests, conducted a tour of the offices and conference rooms within the premises. They admired the high quality decoration and outstanding architectural design throughout the facility.



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

“

“It is a great pleasure to welcome H.E. Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre to the grand opening of the new Headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

This modern facility, together with the ongoing construction of the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), reflects our strong national commitment to transforming Somalia's agriculture.

Our goal is to guide and inspire our people to engage in agriculture with clarity, confidence, and a forward looking mindset. These investments demonstrate that Somalia is entering a new era of agricultural development driven by peace, stability, and collective effort”



The construction of the new Headquarters of the MoAI is being financed through the World Bank Group–funded Somalia Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) through the Rural Livelihood and Resilience Programme (RLRP).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation plays a central role in Somalia's economy, food security, and the livelihoods of millions of families. Achieving this mandate requires strong institutions and a modern working environment.

In the last two years, the Ministry has made notable progress by strengthening its institutional capacity, shaping national food security policy, expanding support to farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses, and deepening collaboration with Federal Member States and development partners.

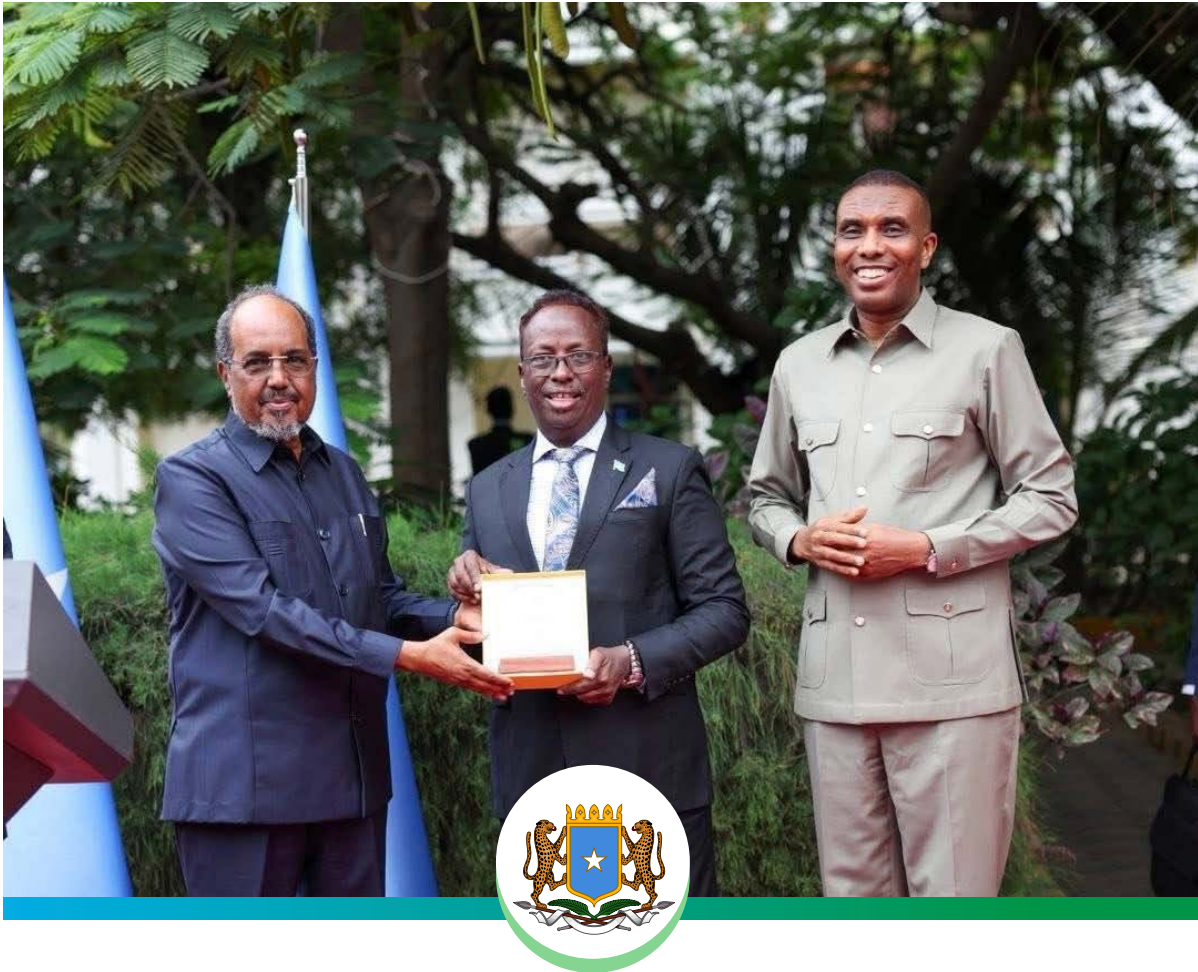


OTHER PHOTOS



OTHER PHOTOS





MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

SECURES FIRST PLACE IN GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been ranked first among all ministries for effectively engaging and utilizing its workforce, while demonstrating outstanding institutional performance and continuous improvement. We have previously distinguished ourselves as the leading ministry in the successful implementation of the National Transformation Plan (NTP), aligned with the country's Vision 2060. We also led the implementation of the Dan Qaran Government's Performance Exhibition, held at Royal Hotel. These achievements reflect our unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and public service. We lead—others follow." Hon Maareeye. jun 10 2026



JUMHUURIYADA FEDERAALKA SOOMAALIYA
XAFIISKA RA'IISUL WASAARAHA
GUDDIGA QARANKA EE SHAQAALAH RAYIDKA
WASAARADDA BEERAHA IYO WARAABKA



WARBIXINTA QIIMAYNTA

SHAQOGALKA SHAQAALAH DOWLADDA

01 April 2026 - 31 May 2026



TIRADA WASAARADHA LA QIIMEYAY

24

WASAARADDOOD



SHANTA WASAARADDOOD EE UGU SAREEYA SHAQOGALKA

1	Wasaaradda Beeraha iyo Waraabka	87.53%
2	Wasaaradda Arrimaha Dibadda	87.07%
3	Wasaaradda Isgaarsiinta iyo Teknolojiyadda	86.39%
4	Wasaaradda Ganacsiga iyo Warshadaha	84.48%
5	Wasaaradda Gaashaandhigga	84.27%



WASAARADHA UGU HOOSEYA SHAQOGALKA

1	Wasaaradda Awaqafata iyo Arrimaha Islaamka	69.91%
2	Wasaaradda Warfaafinta, Dhaqanka iyo Dalxiiska	69.56%
3	Wasaaradda Shaqada iyo Arrimaha Bulshada	69.37%
4	Wasaaradda Maaliyadda	67.43%
5	Wasaaradda Qoyska iyo Horumarinta Xuquuqda Aadanaha	67.10%



CELCELISKA SHAQOGALKA DOWLADDA

76%



HEER SARE (80% - 90%) SHAQOGAL AAD U SAREEYO

	APRIL	MAY	CELCELIS	
1	Wasaaradda Beeraha iyo Waraabka	88.10%	86.96%	87.53%
2	Wasaaradda Arrimaha Dibadda iyo Iskaashiga Caalamiga	86.75%	87.39%	87.07%
3	Wasaaradda Isgaarsiinta iyo Teknolojiyadda	85.62%	87.17%	86.39%
4	Wasaaradda Ganacsiga iyo Warshadaha	84.05%	84.91%	84.48%
5	Wasaaradda Gaashaandhigga	83.61%	84.93%	84.27%
6	Wasaaradda Qorshaynta, Maalgashiga iyo Horumarinta Dhaqaalaha	82.45%	83.09%	82.77%
7	Wasaaradda Arrimaha Gudaha, Federaalka iyo Dib-u-heshiisiinta	80.98%	81.43%	81.21%

TIRADA GUUD: 7 WASAARADDOOD



HEER DHEXDHEXAAD (70% - 79.9%) SHAQOGAL DHEXDHEXAAD

	APRIL	MAY	CELCELIS	
1	Wasaaradda Batroolka iyo Khayraadka Macdanta	79.21%	80.22%	79.72%
2	Wasaaradda Caafimaadka	78.93%	80.11%	79.52%
3	Wasaaradda Waxbarashada, Hiddaha iyo Tacliinta Sare	77.35%	78.03%	77.69%
4	Wasaaradda Hawlaha Guud iyo Guryeynta	76.81%	78.03%	77.42%
5	Wasaaradda Dekedaha iyo Gaadiidka Badda	74.67%	75.69%	75.18%
6	Wasaaradda Deegaanka iyo Isbedelka Cimilada	74.56%	75.44%	75.00%
7	Wasaaradda Caddaaladda iyo Arrimaha Dastuurka	72.15%	73.49%	72.82%
8	Wasaaradda Caddaaladda iyo Arrimaha Dastuurka	72.15%	73.49%	72.82%
9	Wasaaradda Xanaana Xoolaha, Dhirta iyo Daaqa	71.93%	73.10%	72.52%
10	Wasaaradda Amniga Gudaha	71.00%	71.47%	71.23%
11	Wasaaradda Tamarta iyo Khayraadka Biyaha	70.32%	70.90%	70.61%
12	Wasaaradda Dhallinyarada iyo Ciyaaraha	70.52%	70.52%	70.52%

TIRADA GUUD: 11 WASAARADDOOD



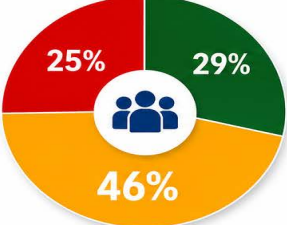
HEER HOOSE (KA HOOSEYA 70%) SHAQOGAL HOOSE

	APRIL	MAY	CELCELIS	
1	Wasaaradda Awaqafata iyo Arrimaha Islaamka	69.32%	70.50%	69.91%
2	Wasaaradda Warfaafinta, Dhaqanka iyo Dalxiiska	68.92%	70.20%	69.56%
3	Wasaaradda Shaqada iyo Arrimaha Bulshada	68.71%	70.03%	69.37%
4	Wasaaradda Maaliyadda	66.85%	68.02%	67.43%
5	Wasaaradda Qoyska iyo Horumarinta Xuquuqda Aadanaha	66.10%	68.11%	67.10%
6	Wasaaradda Gaadiidka iyo Daulista Hawada	65.22%	67.26%	66.24%

TIRADA GUUD: 6 WASAARADDOOD



HEERARKA SHAQOGALKA EE WASAARADHA



- Heer Sare (80% – 90%) 7 Wasaaradood (29%)
- Heer Dhexdhexaad (70% – 79.9%) 11 Wasaaradood (46%)
- Heer Hoose (Ka Hooseeya 70%) 6 Wasaaradood (25%)

WADAR GUUD: 100% (24 WASAARADDOOD)



FIIRO GAAR AH

Wasaaradda Kalluumaysiga iyo Dhaqaalaha Buluugga

Xogta shaqogalka lama helin muddadan sabab la xiriirta dib-u-dayactir iyo raritaan xafiis.





FARIIN MUHIIM AH

Sida ku cad Sharciga Shaqaalaha Rayidka Dowladda Lr.11 Qodobkiisa 26aad, Xeer nidaamiyaha 8aad, Qodobkiisa 3aad iyo Hagaha Shaqo-galka, Shaqagalka shaqaalaha waa cabbir muhiim u ah **hufnaanta, isla xisaabtanka** iyo shaqogalka hay'adaha dowladda. Wasaaradda ay hooseeyaan shaqagalka shaqaaltahooda waxaa la farayaa inay qaadaan tallaabooyin wax ku ool ah si loo xoojiyo shaqada iyo tayada **Adeeg bixinta Shaqaalaha**.





MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

WELCOMES NEW WFP SOMALIA HEAD OF CLIMATE-SMART FOOD SYSTEMS AND BIDS FAREWELL TO THE OUTGOING HEAD

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somalia, **H.E. Mohamed Abdi Khayr (Maareeye)**, received **Mr. Javed Yousifi**, the newly appointed Head of Food Systems at the World Food Programme (WFP) Somalia, at the Ministry's Headquarters.

The occasion also served as a farewell ceremony for **Ms. Andreia Fausto**, the outgoing Head of Food Systems at WFP Somalia.

The welcoming and farewell event was attended by senior officials and staff of the Ministry, who expressed their sincere appreciation to **Ms. Andreia Fausto** for her valuable contribution to strengthening the partnership between the Ministry and WFP. They also extended their best wishes to **Mr. Javed Yousifi** for success in his new role and expressed confidence in continued collaboration.



Alongside the ceremony, the Ministry held a coordination and information-sharing meeting with the leadership and technical staff of the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP). The discussions focused on accelerating the implementation of project activities, enhancing coordination, and ensuring the efficient achievement of the program's objectives and targets.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation with WFP and development partners to promote sustainable agricultural development, enhance food systems, and improve food security across Somalia. 17 June 2026.



MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION Holds Meeting With

The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs to Strengthen Youth Employment in the Agricultural Sector



The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somalia, **H.E. Mohamed Abdi Khayr (Maareeye)**, today welcomed the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, **Prof. Salim Aliyow Ibrow**, at the Ministry's headquarters, where the two ministers held a productive meeting aimed at strengthening collaboration between their respective ministries.

The discussions focused on creating sustainable employment and economic opportunities for Somali youth, particularly those interested in working in and advancing the agricultural sector.



Both ministers emphasized that agriculture remains the backbone of Somalia's economy and highlighted the importance of encouraging young people to actively participate in agricultural production.

The meeting also explored the development of programs designed to equip young people with practical skills, promote entrepreneurship, create employment opportunities, and facilitate investment in agriculture.

In addition, the ministers discussed ways to improve youth access to financial services and bank financing to enable them to establish and expand agricultural projects and related businesses.

The two ministries agreed to develop a joint action plan to identify, mobilize, and support young people with the interest and potential to contribute to agricultural development.

The initiative aims to increase employment, boost agricultural productivity, stimulate economic growth, and help Somalia achieve greater food self-sufficiency.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthening cooperation between the two ministries to implement impactful programs that empower Somali youth and promote the sustainable development of the agricultural sector. 17 Jun 2026



ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY BASED IRRIGATION COMMITTEES

UNDER THE JOWHAR OFF-STREAM STORAGE PROGRAMME (JOSP)



The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture of Hirshabelle and South-West States and with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the Jowhar Off-Stream Storage Programme (JOSP), continued to strengthen participatory irrigation governance through the establishment of Community-Based Irrigation Committees in targeted irrigation command areas.

This initiative follows the successful completion of the Irrigation Governance Assessment and the community capacity-building programme on Transforming Traditional Irrigation Practices and Strengthening Community-Based Irrigation Governance.

The programme aims to establish transparent, representative, and community-owned irrigation governance structures that promote equitable water allocation, improve operation and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure, strengthen conflict resolution mechanisms, and enhance collaboration between irrigation users and government institutions.



The Ministry successfully completed the establishment of Community-Based Irrigation Committees in Balcad District (9–11 June 2026) and Afgooye District (13–15 June 2026) through a standardized three-day participatory consultation process. Each consultation brought together 25 representatives, including farmers, irrigation water users, traditional elders, women and youth representatives, village leaders, district authorities, State Ministry officials, and technical staff from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The consultations resulted in the establishment of two representative Irrigation Committees through transparent, community-led decision-making processes. In Balcad District, an 18-member Irrigation Committee was established to represent approximately 40 irrigated villages, while in Afgooye District, a 25-member Irrigation Committee was established to represent approximately 90 irrigated villages across four irrigation zones along both banks of the Shabelle River. The committees comprise executive leadership and specialized technical committees responsible for water allocation and scheduling, operation and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure, conflict resolution, and community coordination.



The programme has significantly strengthened institutional arrangements for Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM), enhanced community ownership of irrigation infrastructure, and laid the foundation for sustainable irrigation governance in the JOSP command areas.

The establishment process is currently underway in Jowhar District and Janaale District. Upon completion, all JOSP intervention districts will have functional Community-Based Irrigation Committees supporting improved irrigation governance, efficient water management, and climate-resilient agricultural development.





OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF CROP BASED AGRICULTURAL TRAINING MANUALS

On 18th June 2026, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) of the Federal Republic of Somalia officially launched a series of Crop-Based Agricultural Training Manuals aimed at improving farmers' knowledge, skills, and adoption of modern agricultural practices.

The launch ceremony was held at the Ministry's headquarters in Mogadishu and was presided over by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, **Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir Mareye**.

The agricultural training manuals were developed through a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Somali National University (SNU), and the Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP), a consortium comprising several international organizations working in agricultural development and resilience-building across Somalia.

Written in the Somali language, the manuals serve as a unified national reference for farmers, agricultural extension workers, trainers, and development practitioners. They provide practical guidance on modern farming practices, crop management, and sustainable agricultural production techniques.

The manuals cover key crops that form the backbone of Somalia's agricultural sector, including maize, sorghum, rice, cowpea, sesame, groundnuts, and other important crops.

Their development is expected to contribute significantly to:

- Enhancing farmers' knowledge and technical skills.
- Promoting Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).
- Standardizing agricultural training and extension approaches nationwide.
- Strengthening agricultural extension and advisory services.
- Improving food security and nutrition across Somalia.
- Increasing agricultural productivity and crop yields.

The launch event brought together a wide range of stakeholders from the agricultural sector, including representatives from the European Union (EU), SomReP, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), private sector organizations, Somali National University (SNU), development partners, and other key institutions involved in agricultural development.

During the event, participants emphasized the importance of harmonized agricultural extension materials in supporting farmers and strengthening Somalia's agricultural transformation agenda.

The manuals are expected to play a critical role in building the capacity of extension agents and farmers while supporting sustainable agricultural development and resilience.

The successful launch of these manuals marks an important milestone in Somalia's efforts to modernize agricultural extension services and improve the livelihoods of farming communities throughout the country.





BEERO OO BARWAAQEE

SOOMAALIYA (BBS) PROGRAM

Introduction

As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening agricultural productivity and resilience, the Beero oo Barwaaqee Soomaaliya (BBS) team conducted its monthly field survey and assessment activities in Bal'ad District.

The purpose of the visits was to monitor farming activities, assess challenges faced by farmers, provide technical guidance, and promote the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

Activities Conducted

During the reporting period, the BBS team visited farmers at their farms and conducted consultations, discussions, and practical awareness sessions. The activities focused on enhancing farmers' knowledge and capacity in sustainable agricultural production.



Key topics discussed included:



Modern farming techniques and innovations.



Climate-resilient farming practices.



Integrated farming systems for improved productivity and sustainability.



Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

The team also conducted mini-workshops and practical awareness sessions aimed at improving farm management and increasing farmers' resilience to climate-related challenges.

Key Findings from Field Assessments

The field visits provided an opportunity for farmers to share their experiences and concerns regarding agricultural production. The major challenges identified include:

Climate and Environmental Challenges

- ✓ Recurrent drought affecting crop production and water availability.
- ✓ Unpredictable rainfall patterns linked to climate change.
- ✓ Increased vulnerability of farming systems to extreme weather conditions.



Agricultural Challenges

- Crop diseases and pest infestations reducing productivity.
- Limited access to agricultural inputs and improved technologies.
- Inadequate irrigation facilities in some farming areas.



Logistical and Market Constraints

- Transportation challenges affecting access to markets.
- High costs associated with agricultural inputs and farm operations.
- Limited storage and post-harvest handling facilities

Technical Guidance Provided

The BBS team provided practical recommendations and technical support to farmers, including:

- Adoption of drought-tolerant crop varieties.
- Efficient water management and irrigation practices.
- Integrated farming approaches combining crop production, livestock, and natural resource management.
- Early identification and management of crop diseases and pests.
- Improved soil fertility and land management techniques.
- Application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to increase productivity and product quality.



Outcomes

As a result of the field engagement activities:

- Farmers increased their awareness of climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Participants gained practical knowledge on integrated farming systems.
- Farmers received guidance on mitigating drought impacts and managing agricultural risks.
- Enhanced communication and collaboration were established between farmers and the BBS team.
- Key field-level challenges were documented for future interventions and support.

Recommendations

To further strengthen agricultural production and resilience in Bal'ad District, the following actions are recommended:

- ✓ Expand farmer training programs on climate-smart agriculture and GAP.
- ✓ Support access to drought-resistant seeds and improved farming inputs.
- ✓ Strengthen disease surveillance and agricultural extension services.
- ✓ Improve irrigation infrastructure and water harvesting systems.
- ✓ Facilitate market linkages and improve transportation logistics for farmers.
- ✓ Continue regular field monitoring visits to ensure sustained technical support.

Finally

The monthly field survey and assessment mission successfully strengthened engagement with farmers in Afgoye District.

Through consultations, technical guidance, and GAP awareness sessions, the BBS team contributed to improving farmers' knowledge and resilience. Continued support and follow-up interventions will be essential to address the

challenges identified and enhance agricultural productivity and food security in the district.





HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY PEST PREPAREDNESS IN EASTERN AFRICA

The High-Level Regional Wrap-Up and Forward-Looking Workshop on Strengthening Transboundary Pest Preparedness in Eastern Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 28–29 May 2026.

The workshop brought together representatives from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Kenya, as well as regional and international partners, to review progress in desert locust surveillance, early warning systems, and regional preparedness.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Somalia participated in the workshop, contributing to discussions on lessons learned, digital surveillance tools, regional coordination, and future strategies for strengthening transboundary pest preparedness and resilience across Eastern Africa.





INVESTMENT AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT; ASAL MICROFINANCE INSTITUTION (MFI)

Overview

The Department of Agribusiness, Investment and Cooperative Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) convened a strategic meeting with ASAL Microfinance Institution (MFI) to explore collaborative opportunities for strengthening agricultural cooperatives and expanding access to Islamic financing products for Somalia's farming and livestock communities.

Asal MFI Sharia-Compliant Financing Products

Discussions highlighted ASAL MFI's portfolio of Sharia-compliant financial instruments designed to educate and support farmers and livestock producers. These products were recognized by both parties as vital mechanisms for expanding financial inclusion in rural communities while upholding cultural and religious values. The portfolio includes:



BAY' SALAM

Forward-Sale Financing Suited To Seasonal Agricultural Production Cycles



MUDARABA:

Profit-Sharing Partnership Financing Between Investor And Entrepreneur



DECLINING PARTNERSHIP (MUSHARAKA MUTANAQISA):

Diminishing Co-Ownership Financing For Productive Assets



IJARA

Lease-Based Financing For Equipment And Productive Assets

Investment Potential of Agricultural Cooperatives

A central focus of the meeting was the investment potential of Somali agricultural cooperatives. Both parties agreed that cooperatives, when empowered with appropriate financing, can serve as engines of productivity, innovation, and market competitiveness. The Ministry committed to preparing entrepreneurs and cooperative members for financing readiness, while ASAL MFI pledged to provide tailored credit facilities under the following terms:



Institutional Collaboration

The meeting underscored the importance of formal institutional collaboration. Both parties agreed to the following joint actions:

- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize cooperation between MOAI and ASAL MFI
- Co-facilitate exhibitions of agricultural products to strengthen market visibility for cooperatives
- Jointly build the capacity of cooperatives in financial literacy, governance, and market readiness

This partnership is expected to strengthen cooperative governance, expand market linkages, and enhance the resilience of Somalia's agri-food systems.



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The scope of work will prioritize key agricultural regions to maximize impact on food security, rural employment, and cooperative investment, namely:

- 📍 **Lower Shabelle**
- 📍 **Middle Shabelle**
- 📍 **Banadir**
- 📍 **Lower Jubba**



CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The meeting reaffirmed that Somali agricultural cooperatives are central to national agricultural transformation.

Through the partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and ASAL Microfinance Institution, cooperatives will gain access to innovative financing, capacity building, and market opportunities laying the foundation for sustainable growth and inclusive economic development.

As an immediate next step, both parties will proceed with the drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the partnership outlined above.





BACKGROUND:

The Department of Crop Production and Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) held a Strategic Consultation Meeting with UNICEF Somalia to strengthen collaboration on food security, nutrition, and sustainable food systems development in Somalia.

The meeting brought together senior representatives from both institutions, including Mr. Mohamed Muse Adan, Director of Crop Production and Food Security at MoAI, and Ms. Ruth Situma, Head of Nutrition at UNICEF Somalia. The consultation comes at a time when Somalia continues to face significant challenges related to food insecurity, malnutrition, climate change, displacement, and limited dietary diversity.



Recognizing the strong linkages between agriculture, food systems, and nutrition outcomes, both parties discussed opportunities to establish a new chapter of collaboration aimed at improving the well-being of Somali children, women, and vulnerable communities.



The Ministry highlighted its mandate as the lead government institution responsible for agricultural development, food systems, food security, crop production, irrigation development, and agricultural transformation.

UNICEF Somalia presented its mandate and ongoing efforts to support children and families through nutrition, health, education, water and sanitation, child protection, and social protection programmes while strengthening resilience and sustainable development outcomes.

Objective/Purpose of the Meeting

The overall purpose of the meeting was to strengthen institutional collaboration between UNICEF Somalia and the Department of Crop Production and Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The main objectives of the consultation were:

- To identify priority areas for joint action on food security and nutrition.
- To promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture and sustainable food systems approaches.
- To explore opportunities for collaboration on dietary diversity, food safety, and post-harvest loss reduction.
- To align departmental priorities and initiatives with UNICEF's strategic programmes and work plan.
- To establish mechanisms for continued coordination and partnership in support of national food security and nutrition objectives.



Key Discussions

Department of Crop Production & Food Security of (MoAI) Presentation and Mandate

Mr. Mohamed Muse, the director of Crop production & Food Security, extended his thanks to UNICEF for its enduring support in Somalia, notably throughout the past years of civil conflict.

He confirmed the department's commitment to full collaboration with UNICEF to improve the country's Food security and Nutrition.

The Department of Crop Production and Food Security presented its mandate, organizational structure, and strategic priorities.

The presentation highlighted the Ministry's role in formulating policies, strategies, regulatory frameworks, and investment plans for agricultural transformation in Somalia.

The Department further outlined its responsibilities in crop production, food security, food systems development, climate resilience, agricultural value chains, irrigation development, and sustainable agricultural transformation.

UNICEF Somalia Programmes

Ms. Ruth Situma provided an overview of UNICEF's work in Somalia, highlighting its commitment to improving the wellbeing of children and vulnerable populations through nutrition, health, education, water and sanitation, child protection, and social protection programmes.

She emphasized UNICEF's continued efforts to strengthen resilience and support sustainable development solutions for communities affected by conflict, climate shocks, displacement, disease, and poverty.

The meeting focused on several priority areas, including:

Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

- Promotion of nutrient-rich crops, fruits, vegetables, and legumes
- Strengthening household food production and home gardening initiatives
- Improving access to diverse and nutritious foods

Food Security and Food Systems

- Enhancing food systems resilience against climate and economic shocks
- Supporting sustainable agricultural production and productivity
- Strengthening food availability and accessibility for vulnerable populations.

Food Safety and Post-Harvest Management

- Reducing post-harvest losses across agricultural value chains.
- Promoting food safety standards and improved handling practices.
- Enhancing food quality and market competitiveness.

Home-Grown School Feeding

- Exploring opportunities to link local farmers and cooperatives to school feeding programmes.
- Supporting local food procurement and nutrition outcomes for school children.



Data and Evidence Generation

- Strengthening food security and nutrition assessments.
- Improving data sharing and evidence-based planning.
- Enhancing collaboration on food security monitoring and analysis.

Outcomes and Results

The consultation resulted in several important outcomes:

Strengthened Partnership

Both UNICEF and the Ministry reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration in support of Somalia's food security and nutrition agenda.

Recognition of the Department's Strategic Role.

Ms. Ruth Situma commended the Department's comprehensive structure and technical mandate.

She noted that the Department of Crop Production and Food Security is one of the most critical departments within the Ministry, given its central role in enhancing agricultural productivity, strengthening food systems, and improving national food security outcomes.

She emphasized that increasing the productivity of both staple and high-value crops is essential for boosting national agricultural production, reducing food deficits, and strengthening Somalia's crop production balance sheet.

She further highlighted that improved agricultural productivity is fundamental to ensuring sustainable food security, improving rural livelihoods, and supporting the country's broader economic development.





Agreement on Priority Collaboration Areas

Both parties identified priority areas for future collaboration, including:

- ✓ Nutrition-sensitive agriculture programmes;
- ✓ Home gardening and household nutrition initiatives;
- ✓ School feeding and local food procurement systems;
- ✓ Food systems strengthening;
- ✓ Food safety and post-harvest management;
- ✓ Climate resilience and sustainable agriculture;
- ✓ Nutrition education and awareness creation.

Improved Institutional Coordination: The meeting enhanced mutual understanding of institutional mandates, programmes, and comparative advantages, providing a strong foundation for future joint planning and implementation.

Commitment to Joint Action: The Department confirmed its commitment to full collaboration with UNICEF in advancing food security, nutrition, agricultural development, and resilient food systems in Somalia.

Conclusion

The Strategic Consultation Meeting successfully established a foundation for stronger cooperation between UNICEF Somalia and the Department of Crop Production and Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The discussions highlighted the importance of integrating agriculture, food systems, and nutrition interventions to address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia.

Through this renewed partnership, both institutions will work together to support resilient communities, improve dietary diversity, strengthen food systems, and contribute to better nutrition outcomes for Somali children, women, families, and vulnerable populations across the country.

The meeting marks an important step toward building a more food-secure, nutrition-sensitive, and resilient Somalia





THE SECOND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE SOMALIA FOOD SYSTEMS, NUTRITION AND CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL (FSNCC)

Introduction

The Director of Crop Production and Food Security Department for the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) participated in the Second Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on the Operationalization of the Somalia Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Change Council (FSNCC), organized with the support of FAO Somalia and in collaboration with United Nations agencies and development partners.

The consultation brought together representatives from government institutions, UN agencies, development partners, academia, civil society organizations, private sector actors, and technical experts to advance the establishment and operationalization of the FSNCC.



The Council is envisioned as a national coordination platform that will strengthen policy coherence, multi-sectoral collaboration, and collective action across food systems, nutrition, climate change, agriculture, health, environment, and economic development sectors.

The consultation was held against the backdrop of increasing food insecurity, malnutrition, climate-related shocks, and growing challenges affecting the affordability and accessibility of nutritious diets in Somalia.

It provided an important opportunity to review progress made towards establishing the Council, discuss governance and coordination mechanisms, and explore evidence-based approaches to improving food systems and nutrition outcomes.

A key component of the consultation focused on the findings and objectives of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) 2026 Somalia process, which aims to identify barriers to accessing healthy and nutritious diets and support policy and investment decisions that improve nutrition outcomes and food systems resilience.



Objectives / Purpose of the Consultation

The main objectives of the consultation were:

- To review progress towards the establishment and operationalization of the Somalia Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Change Council (FSNCC).
- To strengthen government leadership and ownership of Somalia's food systems transformation agenda.
- To enhance coordination among government institutions, UN agencies, development partners, academia, civil society organizations, and the private sector.



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- To promote integrated approaches linking food systems, nutrition, climate resilience, agriculture, health, education, social protection, and environmental sustainability.
- To discuss governance structures, institutional arrangements, and operational mechanisms of the Council.
- To strengthen understanding of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analytical framework and its relevance to Somalia.
- To assess barriers affecting the availability, accessibility, affordability, and consumption of nutritious foods.
- To identify priority interventions that can improve food security, nutrition outcomes, and dietary diversity.
- To support evidence-based policy development, investment planning, and food systems transformation.
- To align national food systems initiatives with Somalia's development priorities and international commitments.





Key Discussion Areas

The consultation focused on several strategic themes, including:

- Operational framework and governance structure of the FSNCC;
- Strengthening multi-sectoral coordination and institutional collaboration;
- Food systems transformation and sustainable agricultural development;
- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and dietary diversity promotion;
- Findings and priorities emerging from the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) process;
- Availability, accessibility, affordability, and utilization of nutritious foods;
- Climate change adaptation and resilience-building interventions;
- Food security and nutrition policy coordination;
- School feeding and nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes;
- Food safety and post-harvest loss reduction;
- Evidence-based planning, research, and data systems;
- Resource mobilization and partnership development;

Outcomes / Results

The consultation achieved the following key outcomes:

Strengthened Stakeholder Commitment: Participants reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the operationalization of the Somalia Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Change Council as a national platform for coordinated action, policy dialogue, and food systems transformation.

Enhanced Government Leadership: The consultation reinforced the central role of the Government of Somalia in leading food systems transformation efforts and coordinating stakeholders across sectors.

Improved Institutional Coordination: Stakeholders agreed on the importance of strengthening collaboration among government institutions, UN agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector to address food systems challenges comprehensively.

Improved Understanding of Nutrition Challenges: Through the FNG process, participants gained a better understanding of the barriers affecting access to affordable and nutritious diets, including food availability, affordability, dietary diversity, and nutrient intake among vulnerable populations.

Consensus on Multi-Sectoral Approaches: Participants recognized that food security, nutrition, agriculture, climate resilience, health, education, water, sanitation, and social protection are interconnected and require integrated responses.

Identification of Strategic Priorities

Priority areas identified included:

- Food systems transformation;
- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture; Climate-resilient agricultural production;
- Food security and nutrition improvement;
- Sustainable livelihoods;
- Food safety and post-harvest management;
- Policy harmonization and institutional strengthening.



Enhanced Evidence-Based Planning: The consultation highlighted the value of the FNG analytical process in supporting evidence-based policymaking, programme design, and investment prioritization for food security and nutrition.

Strengthened Partnership with Development Partners: The consultation underscored the continued commitment and support of development partners in advancing the operationalization of the FSNCC, strengthening national leadership, institutional coordination, and capacities for effective

food systems governance and sustainable transformation in Somalia.

Roadmap for Operationalization: Stakeholders agreed to continue technical consultations and finalize institutional arrangements, governance mechanisms, and implementation modalities necessary for the full operationalization of the **FSNCC**.

Conclusion

The Second Multi-Stakeholder Consultation marked an important milestone in the establishment of the Somalia Food Systems, Nutrition and Climate Change Council. The meeting

strengthened stakeholder ownership, enhanced institutional collaboration, and reaffirmed the collective commitment to transforming Somalia's food systems.

The consultation also highlighted the importance of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) process in informing policies and investments that improve access to affordable and nutritious diets.

Together, the FSNCC and FNG initiatives provide a strong foundation for addressing food insecurity, malnutrition, climate vulnerability, and food systems challenges through coordinated multi-sectoral action.

The Department of Crop Production and Food Security under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) Federal Republic Of Somalia remains committed to working with government institutions, UN agencies, development partners, and other stakeholders to build resilient food systems, improve nutrition outcomes, and contribute to a food-secure and climate-resilient Somalia.





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