COMMUNIQUÉ

2nd NATIONAL AGRI-FOOD INVESTMENT SUMMIT (NAFIS 2026)

THEME

"From Commitments to Action: Accelerating Investment to Transform Somalia's Agri-Food Systems for a Sustainable and Resilient Future"

Mogadishu, Somalia | 11–12 August 2026
Venue: Jazeera Palace Hotel, Mogadishu

1. PREAMBLE

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) of the Federal Government of Somalia convened the 2nd National Agri-Food Investment Summit (NAFIS 2026) at the Jazeera Palace Hotel in Mogadishu from 11 to 12 August 2026, under the theme ***"From Commitments to Action: Accelerating Investment to Transform Somalia's Agri-Food Systems for a Sustainable and Resilient Future."***

NAFIS 2026 was convened as a national platform to translate political commitments, investor interest and development priorities into concrete, bankable and scalable investments across Somalia's agricultural and food systems. Building on the inaugural Summit held in May 2025, this second edition deliberately shifted the national conversation from the identification of opportunities to the delivery of transactions.

The Summit brought together more than 400 participants, including representatives of the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member States, development partners, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, commercial banks, microfinance institutions, insurance and Takaful providers, private-sector companies, investors, academia, research institutions, farmers and producer organisations, civil society, women entrepreneurs and youth.
Over two days, participants examined investment opportunities and constraints across agricultural production, irrigation and water infrastructure, agricultural finance, value chains, agro-processing, food safety and quality standards, post-harvest management and logistics, mechanisation, digital agriculture, climate resilience, innovation, research, and domestic and international market access.

The Summit was officially opened by H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, who commended the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for its leadership and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening national food sovereignty during a period of global food insecurity. The Prime Minister highlighted Somalia's considerable agricultural potential, including its arable land, river systems and groundwater resources, and underscored both the scale of the country's food-import burden and the corresponding domestic market opportunity for competitive Somali production.

He stated:
"I commend the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for its leadership in advancing this national agenda and mobilising investment in our food systems. Somalia spent more than US$2.2 billion on food imports in 2025. I urge Somali businesses and investors to redirect more capital into domestic agriculture and food production, reduce dependence on imported food, and retain more foreign currency within our economy. We are committed to securing markets for Somalia's agri-food products, including China and several African countries, under favourable tariff arrangements."

H.E. Mohamed Abdi Hayir (Maareeye), Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, delivered the keynote address and high-level remarks during both the opening and closing sessions, alongside the Ministers of Commerce and Industry and of Environment and Climate Change. The Minister emphasised that NAFIS is a flagship national platform for mobilising Somali businesses, investors and financial institutions to modernise the country's agri-food systems and to build commercially viable agricultural production, processing and agribusiness enterprises.

He stated:
"I extend my sincere appreciation to H.E. Prime Minister Hamza for his continued support and strong national commitment to advancing investment in Somalia's agri-food systems. Today, I call upon Somali business leaders and domestic financial institutions to invest in and transform our agri-food systems into modern, sustainable and commercially competitive agricultural production, led by efficient food-processing and agribusiness companies."

Eng. Mohamed Hassan Abdulle, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, delivered the welcome remarks and expressed the Ministry's appreciation to its staff and to development partners — in particular the Rural Livelihoods Resilience Programme (RLRP–IFAD), the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP–World Bank), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) — for their collective contributions, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening Somalia's agricultural sector.

2. THE INVESTMENT IMPERATIVE

The Summit recognised that Somalia possesses substantial agricultural potential which remains significantly underdeveloped. Somalia has an estimated 8.9 million hectares of cultivable land and three major river systems, yet only a small fraction of this endowment is currently in productive, commercially organised use. Transforming the sector will require a fundamental shift from predominantly subsistence-oriented production toward productive, market-oriented, climate-resilient and commercially viable agri-food systems.

Participants agreed that agriculture represents one of Somalia's most immediate and credible opportunities to:

- strengthen national food security and food sovereignty;
- reduce dependence on imported food and retain foreign exchange within the Somali economy;
- create employment and income opportunities, particularly for youth and women;
- raise rural incomes and reduce poverty;
- promote import substitution in staple and processed foods;
- expand exports and deepen regional market integration;
- develop agro-processing, value addition and agro-industry;
- diversify the national economy beyond its traditional base; and
- build resilience to climate, market and other shocks.

The transformation envisioned through NAFIS is one in which Somali farmers become commercially connected producers; entrepreneurs establish competitive food and agribusiness companies; women and youth participate as investors and business leaders; financial institutions provide appropriate and affordable capital; development partners catalyse private investment; and government creates the conditions necessary for sustainable investment and growth.

The Summit therefore calls for a national shift:

1) **From Subsistence to Commercial Agriculture**
2) **From Imports to Competitive Domestic Production**

3) **From Raw Commodities to Value Addition**
4) **From Short-Term Credit to Value-Chain Finance**
5) **From Risk Avoidance to Risk Sharing and De-Risking**
6) **From Commitments to Bankable Investments**
7) **From Fragmented Interventions to Coordinated Transformation**

3. KEY CHALLENGES TO AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT IN SOMALIA

The Summit recognised that mobilising investment into Somali agriculture requires an honest assessment of the structural constraints that raise the cost, risk and complexity of doing business in the sector. Participants grouped these under six priority headings.

1. **Access to finance and investment risk.** Somali agriculture faces limited access to appropriate finance, with low lending volumes, high collateral requirements, short tenors and financial products misaligned with production cycles. Investment risk remains high and concentrated on farmers, agribusinesses and lenders, driven by climate variability, weak data, limited collateral and the absence of risk-transfer mechanisms.
2. **Irrigation, water infrastructure and land tenure.** Decades of conflict and underinvestment have left irrigation and water infrastructure severely degraded, forcing most production to rely on erratic rainfall. Land tenure insecurity and weak contract enforcement constrain long-term investment, limit the use of land as collateral and complicate commercial-scale projects.
3. **Productivity, technology and post-harvest losses.** Productivity is held back by low mechanisation, limited access to modern technology, and weak seed systems and input supply, alongside a research and extension system that has not operated at scale for decades. Post-harvest losses remain high owing to inadequate storage, cold chains, processing and logistics, reducing marketable supply and the scope for value addition.
4. **Standards, market access and import competition.** Somali producers struggle to meet food safety, quality and phytosanitary standards, restricting access to high-value markets. They also face established import competition and market distortions, compounded by fragmented domestic markets, high transport and energy costs, and limited aggregation.
5. **Climate risk and investment readiness.** Climate change intensifies production risk through drought, flooding, land degradation and pest outbreaks, further deterring investment. At enterprise level, few agribusinesses are investment-ready, with gaps in business planning, governance, financial literacy and market linkages.
6. **Women and youth inclusion, data and institutional capacity.** Women and youth remain underrepresented in agricultural investment because of disparities in access to finance, land, skills and technology. Weak data systems, limited coordination and constrained institutional capacity undermine planning, market intelligence and the alignment of public and private investment.

4. SUMMIT COMMITMENTS AND KEY RESOLUTIONS

Following two days of presentations, technical discussions, panel sessions, investor engagement, business-to-business networking and the high-level ministerial roundtable, participants adopted the following commitments.

4.1 From commitments to implementation

Participants committed to move decisively from declarations and expressions of interest to measurable implementation by:

1. translating Summit commitments into concrete and time-bound investment actions;
2. identifying responsible institutions and private-sector partners for each agreed action;

3. developing bankable investment proposals and structured investment pipelines;
4. tracking financing commitments, business-to-business agreements and investment transactions initiated through NAFIS; and
5. strengthening the annual NAFIS platform as a mechanism for investment mobilisation and public accountability.

4.2 Establish a national agricultural investment and finance ecosystem

Participants called for stronger and more systematic coordination among the Federal Government and Federal Member States, commercial banks, microfinance institutions, development finance institutions, insurance and Takaful providers, development partners, investors, farmer organisations, agribusinesses, women- and youth-led enterprises, and domestic and international markets. The objective is a coordinated system capable of developing investment pipelines, mobilising capital, sharing risk, improving agricultural data and credit information, and connecting finance directly to viable enterprises, off-takers and markets.

4.3 Expand affordable, accessible and Sharia-compliant agricultural finance

Financial institutions and investors are encouraged to develop products aligned to agricultural cash flows and production cycles, rather than applying conventional short-term lending structures to agricultural businesses. The Summit encouraged the application of appropriate Islamic finance instruments — including Salam, Murabaha, Ijarah and Musharakah — matched to the relevant stage of the value chain, alongside other suitable financing mechanisms.

4.4 De-risk agricultural investment

The Summit called for the strategic use of public and development finance to crowd in private capital through credit guarantees, portfolio risk-sharing facilities, blended and concessional finance, agricultural insurance and Takaful, public-private partnerships, technical assistance and other appropriate risk-sharing mechanisms. Participants noted evidence presented at the Summit that well-designed agricultural insurance can directly catalyse lending at significant scale, protecting farmers against climatic shocks while reducing lenders' exposure to weather-related default.

4.5 Invest in irrigation and water infrastructure

Participants committed to accelerate investment in river irrigation; boreholes, wells and springs; rainwater harvesting; spate irrigation; dams and water storage; efficient on-farm irrigation technologies; and climate-resilient water infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of canals, barrages and flood-protection works. These investments are essential to increase year-round production, reduce climate-related risk and improve the profitability of farming.

4.6 Scale agricultural mechanisation and technology

The Summit called for increased private and public investment in the purchase, leasing, distribution, maintenance and servicing of tractors, harvesters, irrigation equipment and processing machinery, together with digital agriculture solutions and smart, climate-resilient farming technologies, supported by the development of local technical skills and after-sales service capacity.

4.7 Develop competitive agricultural value chains

Participants identified strategic investment opportunities in staple food crops and high-potential commercial commodities — including maize, sorghum, cowpea, rice, sesame, bananas, lemon, date, mungbea, and fodder, alongside horticulture and other commercially viable value chains — and supported investment across commercial and contract farming, improved seeds and farm inputs, aggregation, warehousing, drying, milling, cold-chain systems, transport and logistics, processing, packaging and market distribution.

4.8 Promote agro-industrialisation and value addition

The Summit called for investment in agro-industrial infrastructure, including Agro-Industrial Business Parks developed through public-private partnership models. The proposed Mogadishu Agro-Industrial Business Park (MABP) was recognised as an important model for providing integrated services such as aggregation, cold and dry storage, washing and sorting, processing, packaging and direct marketing, in alignment with the Somalia National Transformation Plan.

4.9 Strengthen food safety, quality assurance and agricultural trade

The Summit called for strengthened regulatory and certification systems to ensure that Somali agricultural products meet national, regional and international standards. Participants supported the strengthening of the Somali Agricultural Regulatory and Inspection Service (SARIS) as Somalia's National Plant Protection Organisation, including its core services in phytosanitary regulation and plant quarantine, seed testing, certification and variety protection, pesticide and fertiliser regulation, and laboratory testing and analysis. Participants further stressed the importance of aligning national food safety measures with international standards, including the Codex Alimentarius, and of building national capacity to prevent, manage and communicate food safety emergencies, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

4.10 Improve fertiliser and farm input management

Participants committed to improve fertiliser management by promoting the FAO Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilisers and by applying practices for sustainable nutrient management adapted to local conditions, as part of integrated soil fertility management that increases efficiency, reduces nutrient losses and closes nutrient cycles. The Summit further stressed the need to improve the availability, affordability and accessibility of quality inputs, including through local production, and to promote their efficient and responsible use.

Participants further welcomed the deployment of FertiTrack, the official fertiliser distribution management system developed by SARIS to regulate and trace fertiliser importation and distribution nationwide, as a practical example of digital regulatory infrastructure that improves transparency, quality assurance and market confidence.

4.11 Promote import substitution and export development

The Summit recognised Somalia's substantial food import bill as both a national challenge and a major domestic market opportunity. Participants called for increased domestic production and value addition to substitute imports, while strengthening exports of competitive Somali commodities. Existing exports — including sesame, gums, resins and dried lemon — provide a foundation for moving from predominantly raw commodity exports toward higher-value processed, packaged and branded products. Somalia should maximise opportunities arising from regional and international market arrangements, including IGAD, the East African Community, COMESA, the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and WTO-related market opportunities, subject to applicable agreements and standards.

4.12 Empower women and youth in agriculture

Participants agreed to mobilise investment to implement the Strategy and Five-Year Costed Action Plan (2026 – 2030) for empowering Somali women and youth in agriculture. Their commitments focus on five priority areas:

1. *Strengthening Capacity and Skills:* Expanding agricultural education, practical training and vocational skills, including climate-smart practices, entrepreneurship and modern farm-management tools.
2. *Enhancing Production and Access to Resources:* Improving access to finance, land, inputs, tools, irrigation, greenhouses, solar energy, mechanisation and climate-resilient technologies, supported by cooperatives, community leasing models, microcredit and Sharia-compliant financing.
3. *Promoting Market Access, Innovation and Digital Solutions*: Building market linkages, supporting incubation and acceleration of women- and youth-led enterprises, expanding agritech and innovation hubs, and deploying digital platforms for market information, payments and e-commerce.
4. *Advancing Inclusive Policies and Institutional Support*: Developing gender- and youth-responsive policies, strengthening coordination and multi-stakeholder platforms, and increasing women's and youth's leadership and participation in agricultural governance.
5. *Developing Value Chains, Agro-Industrial Capacity and Rural Infrastructure:* Expanding aggregation, processing, packaging, storage, cold chains, logistics, quality standards and rural infrastructure such as feeder roads, storage facilities and community markets

Participants further affirmed their commitment to strengthening Somali Agriculture Women Association (SAWA) and Somali Agricultural Youth Association (SAYA) as national platforms that promote women's and youth's participation, leadership and influence in agricultural development and economic growth

4.13 Invest in research, innovation and agricultural data

Participants called for greater investment in agricultural research and development, improved varieties and genetic resources, seed systems, agricultural data and statistics, digital agriculture, innovation hubs, climate-smart technologies, and knowledge and technology transfer. Research and innovation should be closely linked to commercial investment opportunities and to the practical needs of farmers and agribusinesses.

4.14 Strengthen climate resilience and environmental sustainability

The Summit called for climate risk to be systematically integrated into agricultural investment planning, with priority action on climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, water harvesting, drought- and flood-resilient production systems, early-warning systems, climate-risk insurance, sustainable soil fertility management and environmentally responsible agricultural technologies. Participants further supported the mobilisation of resources for agroecology, including research, knowledge-sharing dialogues from local to continental level, and dedicated support to youth and women engaged in agroecology supply chains.

4.15 Strengthening Somali Agribusinesses for Investment Readiness and Inclusive Growth

The Summit called for stronger support to prepare Somali agribusinesses to attract and effectively use investment. This includes improving business management, financial records, business planning, market linkages, governance, risk management, and investment proposals, while connecting viable businesses with financial institutions and investors. Attention should be given to women- and youth-led enterprises, cooperatives, and rural MSMEs to develop a strong pipeline of bankable and investment-ready agribusinesses.

5. A NEW APPROACH TO AGRICULTURAL FINANCING

The Summit emphasised that Somalia does not simply need more agricultural credit; it needs the right capital, at the right stage of the value chain, for the right investment opportunity. Somalia's agricultural transformation will depend not only on increasing the volume of finance available, but on changing how capital is mobilised, structured, de-risked and connected to viable investment opportunities.

Agricultural finance should follow the economics and cash flows of the value chain:

Production → Aggregation → Processing → Storage → Logistics → Marketing → Export

Accordingly:

- farmers require seasonal working capital for seeds, fertiliser, irrigation and other inputs;
- commercial farms require medium- and long-term capital for mechanisation, irrigation and technology;
- aggregators require working capital to purchase and consolidate production;
- processors require investment finance for equipment and facilities;
- logistics operators require infrastructure finance; and
- markets require investment in storage, cold chains, distribution and marketing.

6. PUBLIC–PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Summit recognised that the scale of investment required for Somalia's agricultural transformation cannot be delivered by government or development partners alone. Strong political commitment remains a necessary condition for transforming agri-food systems, and the Federal Government reaffirmed its dedication to creating an enabling environment for agricultural investment through policy reform, institutional strengthening and coordinated national effort in pursuit of food sovereignty and economic self-reliance.

The Government will continue to create this enabling environment through policy and regulatory reform; improved investment facilitation; agricultural standards and certification; market information systems; infrastructure development; sector coordination; targeted public investment; investment promotion; and risk-sharing mechanisms.

The private sector is encouraged to invest in commercially viable agricultural enterprises, infrastructure, processing, logistics, technology and markets. Development partners and financial institutions are encouraged to deploy concessional and catalytic capital strategically to crowd in private investment rather than to substitute for it.

Somali financial institutions and private-sector actors announced concrete commitments at the Summit to expand financing for farmers, cooperatives and agribusiness ventures, and several companies expressed interest in establishing new processing facilities, commercial farms and supply-chain partnerships.

7. FOLLOW-UP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

To ensure that the Summit does not conclude with commitments alone, participants called for the establishment and strengthening of a NAFIS Post-Summit Investment Follow-Up Mechanism under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The mechanism should:

1) maintain a national register of NAFIS investment commitments;
2) track business-to-business agreements and investment partnerships;
3) monitor financing commitments and their conversion into disbursement;
4) develop and regularly update a national agricultural investment pipeline;
5) identify barriers preventing commitments from reaching financial close;
6) facilitate coordination between investors, government and financial institutions;
7) report progress on priority investments; and
8) present an annual progress report at the subsequent NAFIS.

The Summit reaffirmed that NAFIS shall convene annually, and that each edition will open by reporting publicly against the commitments recorded at the previous Summit.

8. CALL ACTION

The participants of NAFIS 2026 call upon the following actors to translate the commitments of this Summit into measurable results.

The Federal Government of Somalia

To maintain strong political leadership, strengthen the enabling environment for investment, improve coordination across ministries and with Federal Member States, develop critical infrastructure, and deploy public resources strategically to de-risk agricultural investment.

Federal Member States

To facilitate agricultural investment within their jurisdictions, support land and water development and local infrastructure, strengthen coordination with federal institutions, and promote investment-ready agricultural opportunities.

Financial Institutions

To convert the financing commitments announced at this Summit into disbursed capital, and to build the sector expertise, appraisal capacity and product design required to lend to agriculture with confidence.

Development Partners

To align development finance and technical assistance with Somalia's national agricultural investment priorities, and to use catalytic and concessional resources deliberately to crowd in private capital.

Private Sector and Investors

To move from expressed interest to actual investment in commercial agriculture, processing, infrastructure, technology, logistics and value addition.

Farmers and Producer Organisations

To strengthen organisation, production quality, business planning, aggregation and market participation, so that farmers become stronger and more credible partners in commercial value chains.

Women and Youth

To seize emerging opportunities across agribusiness, processing, technology, innovation and services, and to participate fully as entrepreneurs, producers, investors and leaders.

Research and Academic Institutions

To strengthen research, innovation, technology transfer, agricultural data and evidence-based investment planning in support of national priorities.

9. CONCLUSION

The 2nd National Agri-Food Investment Summit (NAFIS 2026) concluded with a strong consensus that Somalia's agricultural transformation is both an urgent national necessity and a major investment opportunity.

Participants recognised that Somalia's large food-import market, agricultural resources, strategic location, growing domestic demand, entrepreneurial private sector and emerging institutional reforms together provide a strong foundation for investment. At the same time, persistent constraints in finance, infrastructure, land governance, climate resilience, market systems, regulation, technology, data and investment readiness must be addressed collectively and deliberately.

Participants reaffirmed that these constraints are solvable, and that the measures set out in this Communiqué are the means by which they will be addressed.

The central message of NAFIS 2026 is clear:

The time for commitments alone has passed. Somalia must now convert agricultural potential into investment, investment into productive enterprises, and productive enterprises into food security, jobs, exports and sustainable economic growth.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to work together to make this transformation a reality.

10. ADOPTION OF THE COMMUNIQUÉ

This Communiqué was adopted on 12 August 2026 in Mogadishu, Somalia, by representatives of the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member States, the private sector, financial institutions, development partners, investors, farmers and producer organisations, women and youth, academia and other stakeholders participating in the 2nd National Agri-Food Investment Summit.

Issued in Mogadishu, Somalia, by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on behalf of the participants of the 2nd National Agri-Food Investment Summit (NAFIS 2026).

For the 2nd National Agri-Food Investment Summit (NAFIS 2026)

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Mogadishu, Somalia
12 August 2026