



PRELIMINARY BANANA SECTOR MAPPING & RECOVERY ASSESSMENT – SOMALIA 2026

Conducted by LAILMAAA Global Holdings Inc.

In Coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation (MoAI)

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Executive Summary

The Somali banana sector remains one of the country’s most historically important agricultural and export industries, with strong potential for recovery, modernization, value addition, and regional export growth if approached through coordinated public-private collaboration and phased sector rehabilitation.

To support evidence-based sector assessment and strategic planning, LAILMAAA Global Holdings Inc., in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation (MoAI), initiated the LAILMAAA Banana Sector Mapping Survey – Somalia 2026. The survey was designed to collect preliminary information from banana farms, producers, agricultural stakeholders, and related sector participants regarding current production conditions, irrigation systems, infrastructure, export readiness, operational challenges, and future development opportunities.

Preliminary findings indicate that Somalia continues to possess significant agricultural potential for commercial banana production due to favorable climate conditions, fertile riverine areas, historical production experience, and growing private-sector interest in agricultural recovery and export-oriented investment.

At the same time, the survey identifies several major sector constraints affecting productivity, quality, and export competitiveness. These include deteriorated irrigation infrastructure, limited access to certified planting materials, shortage of modern packing and cold-chain facilities, logistical and transportation limitations, financing constraints, and weak coordination mechanisms across the value chain.

The assessment also indicates growing interest among local stakeholders in rebuilding the sector through gradual modernization, improved irrigation systems, stronger technical support, export



coordination, and private-sector-led investment initiatives. Preliminary observations suggest that phased rehabilitation and strategic partnerships may create opportunities not only for fresh banana exports, but also for value-added processing industries and broader agribusiness development.

This preliminary assessment is intended to serve as an initial technical and strategic reference document for stakeholders, policymakers, investors, development partners, cooperatives, and private-sector actors interested in the recovery and sustainable development of Somalia's banana industry.

As additional survey responses and field information continue to be collected and analyzed, future reports may provide more detailed statistical analysis, regional mapping, infrastructure assessments, production estimates, and investment-oriented sector recommendations.

LAILMAAA Global Holdings Inc. remains committed to supporting practical, evidence-based, and collaborative approaches toward the long-term recovery and modernization of Somalia's banana sector, Insha Allah.

1. Introduction & Background

Somalia’s banana industry was once among the country’s leading agricultural export sectors and an important source of employment, foreign exchange generation, and rural economic activity. Historically, Somali bananas were exported to international markets and were recognized for their quality and commercial potential.

Over the past several decades, however, the sector experienced significant decline due to prolonged instability, deterioration of irrigation systems, infrastructure damage, market disruptions, weak investment, logistical constraints, and limited technical rehabilitation.

Despite these challenges, large areas within Somalia’s fertile riverine regions continue to possess substantial agricultural potential suitable for commercial banana production and export-oriented agribusiness development.



Recognizing the importance of evidence-based planning and private-sector engagement, LAILMAAA Global Holdings Inc., in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation (MoAI), initiated a preliminary sector mapping survey to better understand current production realities, infrastructure conditions, operational challenges, and future recovery opportunities within the Somali banana sector.

This report presents preliminary findings gathered through the ongoing LAILMAAA Banana Sector Mapping Survey – Somalia 2026.



2. Survey Methodology

The LAILMAAA Banana Sector Mapping Survey – Somalia 2026 was conducted through a structured online survey process using Google Forms, combined with stakeholder engagement and direct communication with sector participants.

The survey targeted:

- Banana farms and plantation operators
- Agricultural producers and cooperatives
- Export-oriented stakeholders
- Agribusiness operators
- Sector representatives and related stakeholders

The survey collected preliminary information regarding:

- Farm size and cultivation area
- Number of banana plants
- Irrigation systems
- Estimated annual production
- Infrastructure availability
- Packing and cold storage access
- Export readiness and export history
- Logistics and transportation access
- Major sector challenges
- Future investment and coordination interests

At the time of this preliminary assessment, the survey had received multiple responses from key production regions.

The survey remains active, and additional responses are expected as sector engagement continues.

3. Preliminary Findings

3.1 Regional Participation

Preliminary survey responses indicate that the majority of participating farms are located in Lower Shabelle, historically recognized as Somalia’s principal banana-producing region.

Additional responses were also recorded from Middle Shabelle and related agricultural areas.

Preliminary regional participation included:

- Lower Shabelle: approximately 85.7%
- Middle Shabelle: approximately 14.3%

This confirms the continuing importance of riverine agricultural zones for banana cultivation and export recovery efforts.

3.2 Farm Size & Cultivation Capacity

The survey indicates significant variation in farm sizes among participating respondents.

Reported farm sizes ranged from approximately:

- 30 hectares
- 60 hectares
- 89 hectares
- 100 hectares
- 250 hectares
- and larger agricultural holdings exceeding 4,000 hectares.

Area currently under banana cultivation also varied substantially among respondents, with reported cultivation areas ranging from smaller operational farms to large-scale plantation holdings.

Preliminary responses indicate that several farms continue to maintain substantial banana cultivation capacity despite operational and infrastructure challenges.

3.3 Banana Tree Population

Reported banana tree populations among respondents varied considerably.

Some participating farms reported:

- 14,000 banana trees
- 30,000 banana plants
- 50,000 banana plants
- and larger plantation estimates.

These figures indicate that parts of the sector continue to retain meaningful production capacity that may support future rehabilitation and export-oriented recovery initiatives.

3.4 Irrigation Systems

The survey findings confirm that irrigation remains a critical operational component within Somalia's banana sector.

Participating farms reported using:

- River irrigation systems
- Pump irrigation systems
- Combined river and pump irrigation systems

Preliminary findings indicate:

- Approximately 42.9% of respondents rely on combined river and pump irrigation
- Approximately 28.6% utilize river irrigation
- Approximately 28.6% utilize pump-based irrigation

The findings demonstrate the continuing dependence of banana cultivation on functioning irrigation systems and water management infrastructure.

3.5 Production Levels

Survey responses indicate varying levels of annual banana production among participating farms.

Preliminary estimates suggest:

- 57.1% of respondents produce less than 500 tons annually
- 14.3% produce between 500–1,000 tons annually
- 28.6% reported production levels exceeding 5,000 tons annually

These findings suggest that while many operators currently function below full production capacity, larger-scale commercial production remains achievable under improved operational conditions.

3.6 Infrastructure Conditions

Infrastructure limitations remain a major challenge affecting sector competitiveness and export readiness.

Packing Facilities

Preliminary findings indicate:

- Approximately 42.9% of respondents have access to packing facilities
- Approximately 57.1% do not currently possess packing facilities

Cold Storage Access

Cold-chain limitations remain significant.

Survey findings indicate:

- Approximately 71.4% of respondents lack access to cold storage infrastructure
- Only 28.6% reported access to cold storage systems

Transportation & Logistics

Transport access to major roads and ports also presents operational challenges.

Survey responses indicate:

- Only 14.3% reported good transport access
- 42.9% reported limited access
- 42.9% reported difficult access conditions

These findings highlight the importance of infrastructure rehabilitation, logistics improvement, and export facilitation support.

3.7 Export Readiness & Interest

Despite current constraints, the survey indicates strong export interest among participating stakeholders.

Export Experience

Preliminary findings show:

- Approximately 71.4% of respondents reported previous banana export experience
- Approximately 28.6% had not previously exported bananas

Interest in Export Expansion

Survey responses indicate strong interest in future export activities:

- Approximately 85.7% expressed interest in banana exports
- Only 14.3% indicated no current export interest

Estimated Monthly Export Capacity

Preliminary export capacity estimates among respondents included:

- Less than one container per month
- 1–2 containers monthly
- 3–5 containers monthly
- More than five containers monthly

These findings indicate the existence of preliminary export-oriented capacity that may be strengthened through phased rehabilitation and coordinated sector support.

4. Key Sector Challenges

The survey identified several recurring challenges affecting productivity, competitiveness, and export readiness within the Somali banana sector.

Sector / Qeybta)	Percentage boqolkiiba
Irrigation (waraab)	42.9%
Input (fertilizers, seedling) – (banana abuurka iwm)	71%
Pests (dawada iyo sunta)	57%
Market access (suuq-geynta)	57%
Transportation (Gaadiid)	42%
Financing (Maalgelin)	85%
Road Blocks (isbaarooyinka)	85%

Major reported challenges include:

Financing Constraints

Approximately 85.7% of respondents identified financing limitations as a major challenge affecting farm operations, infrastructure development, and production expansion.

Road Blocks & Transportation Barriers

Approximately 85.7% identified transportation barriers and road access difficulties as significant operational obstacles.

Agricultural Inputs

Approximately 71.4% identified shortages of agricultural inputs, including fertilizers and planting materials.

Pests & Diseases

Approximately 57.1% reported pest and disease management challenges affecting production quality and productivity.

Market Access Limitations

Approximately 57.1% identified market access and export coordination limitations.

Irrigation Challenges

Approximately 42.9% reported irrigation-related operational constraints.

Logistics Constraints

Approximately 42.9% identified transport and logistics challenges.

These findings demonstrate the need for coordinated rehabilitation, investment support, infrastructure improvement, and technical modernization.

5. Strategic Opportunities & Recovery Potential

Despite current constraints, preliminary findings indicate that Somalia's banana sector retains substantial long-term recovery potential if approached through phased modernization, coordinated investment, and practical public-private collaboration.

Key opportunities include:

- Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure
- Modernization of packing and cold-chain systems
- Expansion of export-oriented production
- Development of value-added processing industries
- Strengthening farmer coordination mechanisms
- Introduction of improved planting materials
- Improvement of logistics and transportation systems
- Private-sector-led investment initiatives
- Gradual export market re-engagement

The assessment also suggests potential opportunities for broader agribusiness diversification linked to banana sector recovery, including:

- Banana chips and food processing



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- Agricultural packaging industries
 - Cold-chain logistics development
 - Integrated agribusiness and export platforms

The findings indicate growing stakeholder willingness to participate in coordinated sector recovery initiatives and future commercial partnerships.

6. Strategic Recommendations

Based on preliminary survey findings, the following strategic recommendations are proposed:

1. Irrigation Rehabilitation

Priority should be given to rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation systems supporting banana-producing regions.

2. Infrastructure Development

Investment in packing facilities, cold storage systems, transport infrastructure, and export logistics should be strengthened.

3. Technical Support & Planting Materials

Support mechanisms for improved planting materials, disease management, and technical agricultural training should be expanded.

4. Private-Sector Coordination

Greater coordination between producers, exporters, cooperatives, financial institutions, and government stakeholders is recommended.

5. Financing Access

Specialized agricultural financing mechanisms and investment partnerships should be explored to support sector recovery.



6. Export Facilitation

Practical export facilitation measures, quality standards, packaging improvement, and market coordination mechanisms should be strengthened.

7. Phased Sector Recovery

Sector recovery should follow a realistic phased approach emphasizing gradual operational improvement, sustainability, and scalable growth.

7. Conclusion

The preliminary findings of the LAILMAAA Banana Sector Mapping Survey – Somalia 2026 indicate that Somalia’s banana industry continues to retain significant agricultural, commercial, and export-oriented potential despite longstanding operational and infrastructure challenges.

The survey confirms that many stakeholders remain interested in sector recovery, export development, and coordinated rehabilitation efforts. At the same time, major structural challenges related to financing, infrastructure, irrigation, logistics, and technical support continue to affect productivity and competitiveness.

Nevertheless, the findings suggest that practical and phased recovery initiatives supported through coordinated public-private collaboration may contribute significantly toward rebuilding Somalia’s banana sector and broader agribusiness economy.

LAILMAAA Global Holdings Inc. remains committed to supporting constructive, evidence-based, and collaborative approaches toward long-term sector recovery, modernization, and sustainable export development in coordination with relevant stakeholders and institutions, Insha Allah.

8. Summary Charts & Key Indicators

Preliminary Sector Snapshot

Indicator	Preliminary Finding
Main Production Region	Lower Shabelle (85.7%)
Farms Interested in Export	85.7%
Farms with Previous Export Experience	71.4%
Farms Without Cold Storage	71.4%
Farms Without Packing Facilities	57.1%
Farms Reporting Financing Challenges	85.7%
Farms Reporting Road/Transport Barriers	85.7%
Farms Using Combined Irrigation Systems	42.9%

Key Findings Overview

Sector Strengths

- Strong stakeholder interest in export recovery
- Existing commercial farming capacity remains active
- Historical export experience still exists within the sector
- Fertile riverine agricultural regions remain productive
- Growing private-sector interest in rehabilitation and investment

Major Sector Constraints

- Limited financing access
- Weak transport and logistics infrastructure
- Cold storage shortages
- Inadequate packing facilities
- Irrigation rehabilitation needs
- Limited agricultural inputs and technical support

Strategic Recovery Priorities

1. Irrigation modernization and rehabilitation
2. Export logistics and road access improvement
3. Cold-chain and packing infrastructure development
4. Access to financing and agricultural investment
5. Improved planting materials and technical support
6. Public-private coordination and phased export recovery

9. Executive Sector Dashboard

Somalia Banana Sector – Preliminary Survey Dashboard (2026)

Key Indicator	Preliminary Result	Strategic Observation
Main Production Region	Lower Shabelle – 85.7%	Confirms Lower Shabelle remains Somalia’s principal banana production zone
Export Interest	85.7% interested in export activities	Strong commercial interest exists for export recovery and expansion
Previous Export Experience	71.4% previously exported bananas	Significant operational and historical export knowledge remains within the sector
Cold Storage Access	71.4% lack cold storage access	Major cold-chain investment and infrastructure gap exists
Packing Facilities	57.1% lack packing facilities	Modern packing and handling systems require rehabilitation
Financing Constraints	85.7% identified financing as a major challenge	Agricultural financing remains a critical sector bottleneck
Transport & Road Barriers	85.7% identified transport difficulties	Logistics and infrastructure rehabilitation are essential for export recovery
Irrigation Systems	42.9% use combined river & pump irrigation	Water access remains central to commercial banana production sustainability
Estimated Production Capacity	28.6% reported production exceeding 5,000 tons annually	Large-scale commercial production potential still exists in some areas
Export Capacity	Multiple farms reported container export capacity	Preliminary export-oriented capacity already exists within the sector

Key Strategic Conclusions

Sector Strengths

- Strong stakeholder willingness to re-engage in export markets
- Existing commercial farming experience remains active
- Historical export knowledge still exists among operators
- Fertile riverine agricultural areas continue to support banana cultivation
- Private-sector interest in rehabilitation and investment is growing

Priority Constraints

- Limited financing access
- Weak transport and logistics infrastructure



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- Cold-chain shortages
 - Inadequate packing facilities
 - Irrigation rehabilitation requirements
 - Agricultural input shortages
 - Technical support limitations

Strategic Recovery Priorities

1. Irrigation modernization and rehabilitation
2. Export logistics and road access improvement
3. Cold-chain and packing infrastructure development
4. Agricultural financing and investment mobilization
5. Improved planting materials and technical support
6. Public-private coordination and phased export recovery
7. Development of value-added agribusiness opportunities

Disclaimer

This document represents a preliminary assessment based on initial survey responses and stakeholder engagement conducted under the LAILMAAA Banana Sector Mapping Survey – Somalia 2026.

Additional data collection, field validation, and analytical updates may be incorporated into future expanded technical reports.

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