

THE SOMALI ECONOMIC MONITOR

LAILMAAA – The Somali Economic Monitor

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English:

Beyond Banana Farming: Does Somalia Need a National Banana Development Framework?

For more than three decades, Somalia's commercial banana industry has struggled to regain its former position despite repeated public and private sector initiatives. While many efforts have focused on production, irrigation and infrastructure, an important question remains: Is the missing ingredient institutional rather than technical?



Figure 1 - Banana farm in Jambalul, Afgoiye - 2026

Perhaps the missing ingredient is not technical—but institutional. Around the world, countries such as Ecuador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Columbia, the Philippines and New Zealand have demonstrated the value of strong producer organizations.

This article looks at:

- ❖ Why has Somalia not developed its own institutional model? And what role should the government of Somalia, farmer association, cooperatives, Somali financial institutions, universities, and the private sector play?
- ❖ What institutional model best suits Somalia's legal and economic environment?
- ❖ How can Somali-owned institutions be strengthened before large-scale international investment arrives?

We invite constructive discussion.

Conclusion:

The ideas presented here are intended to stimulate discussion. They do not represent a final proposal. LAILMAAA welcomes constructive contributions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, producer organizations, financial institutions, universities, development partners, and the Somali private sector as we collectively explore practical pathways for revitalizing Somalia's banana industry.

The initial institutional concept that inspired this discussion was shared by a Somali agribusiness professional with extensive international food industry experience. He asked a challenging

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question that demands an answer: “why Somalia has repeatedly failed to revive its banana industry despite technical knowledge and multiple attempts”?

We are grateful for his contribution to this important national conversation.

We invite discussion on strategic questions, such as:

- Should Somalia establish a National Banana Development Framework?
- How should agricultural finance be structured?
- Is irrigation or governance the bigger bottleneck?
- Can Islamic finance transform agriculture?
- What role should the Somali diaspora play?

The current investment environment also presents an opportunity for Somali stakeholders to strengthen national institutions and prepare bankable investment frameworks before larger international capital returns to the region.

While the answers to these questions will require broad national consultation, one observation is becoming increasingly clear: no single institution, investor, development project, or government program can revive Somalia's commercial banana industry on its own. Success will require coordinated action among government, producer organizations, cooperatives, financial institutions, universities, research institutions, and the private sector. The challenge before Somalia is therefore not simply agricultural – it is institutional.

This period provides Somalia with a unique opportunity to build strong Somali-owned institutions, strengthen national capacity, and develop investment-ready projects before significant international capital begins seeking opportunities in the sector.

Suggested Way Forward

The revival of Somalia's commercial banana industry will require more than increased production or infrastructure investment. It will require strong, credible, and professionally managed institutions capable of coordinating production, quality assurance, marketing, finance, research, logistics, and international market access. These institutions should be independent, transparent, professionally managed, and accountable to both producers and the public interest.

To begin this process, the Federal Government of Somalia, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, may consider establishing or authorizing a multi-stakeholder technical working group comprising experienced Somali industry professionals, producer representatives, financial institutions, legal experts, universities, and development partners.

The mandate of this group would be to develop a practical institutional blueprint for the long-term revival of Somalia's commercial banana industry, drawing upon international best practices while adapting them to Somalia's unique legal, economic, and social environment.

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Rather than importing institutional models, Somalia has an opportunity to design its own farmer-centered system that reflects national priorities, encourages private sector leadership, strengthens producer ownership, and attracts responsible long-term investment.

The road to revival will not be built overnight. It will be built one institution, one partnership, one investment and one practical step at a time.

Call for Contributions

LAILMAAA-The Somali Economic Monitor invites constructive ideas from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, universities, producer organizations, financial institutions, development partners, and Somali professionals worldwide. Selected contributions may be summarized in future editions of *The Somali Economic Monitor* to encourage evidence-based dialogue on rebuilding Somalia's agricultural economy.

NATIONAL AGRI-FOOD INVESTMENT SUMMIT (NAFIS 2026)



The **Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation** will host the **National Agri-Food Investment Summit (NAFIS 2026)** on **11–12 August 2026**, bringing together government institutions, investors, financial institutions, development partners, universities, producers, and private sector stakeholders to explore investment opportunities and practical strategies for advancing Somalia's agricultural sector.

The Summit represents an important opportunity to strengthen dialogue, promote public-private partnerships, encourage innovation, and support the commercialization and sustainable transformation of Somalia's agriculture.

LAILMAAA Global Holdings welcomes this important national initiative and looks forward to contributing to discussions on commercial agricultural development, institutional strengthening, and agricultural value chain

investment.

As part of its planned participation, LAILMAAA intends to introduce **Growing Gold: A Practical Guide to Commercial Banana Farming in Somalia**, a practical publication prepared to support commercial banana production, knowledge sharing, and investment in Somalia's banana industry.

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The book is intended to serve as a practical reference for farmers, investors, financial institutions, universities, development partners, and other stakeholders interested in the revival of Somalia's commercial banana sector.

LAILMAAA congratulates the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for organizing this important national Summit and wishes the organizers, participants, and partners every success in advancing Somalia's agricultural transformation.

From Vision to Implementation

The revival of Somalia's banana industry will require partnerships, strong institutions, committed producers, and long-term investment. These photographs reflect years of commitment by Somali commercial farmers, exporters, and agricultural professionals whose efforts continue to lay the foundation for the industry's revival.



Beyond Fishing Rights: Building Human Capital and Sustainable Institutions:

The recent fisheries cooperation agreement between Somalia and China presents an opportunity to look beyond access to marine resources. While fishing rights and export revenues are important, the long-term success of such partnerships should be measured by what they leave behind for Somalia: skilled people, strong institutions, modern technology, and nationally owned enterprises capable of sustainably managing one of Africa's richest marine resources.

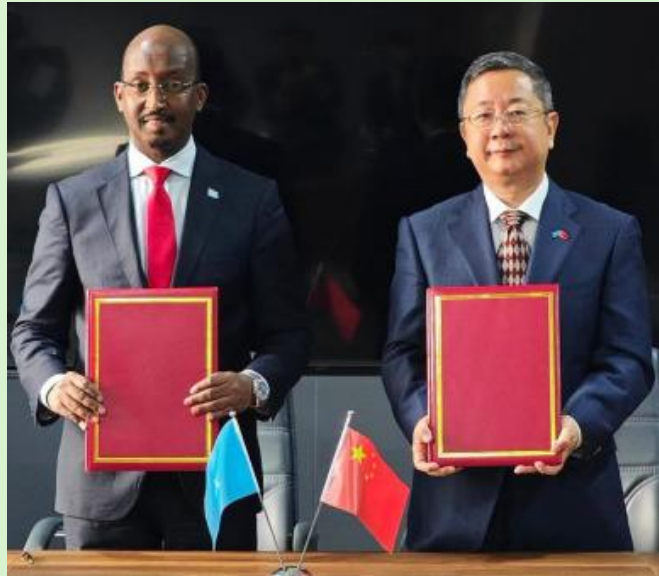


Figure 2 - photo of China & Somalia sign a 'fishing agreement'

Natural resources alone do not create prosperity. **Institutions and people do.** Therefore, every major fisheries partnership should contribute to developing Somalia's long-term capacity through investments in the following areas:

1. Training and Skills Transfer

Every foreign fisheries agreement should include clear commitments to train Somali professionals, including:

- ✓ Fishermen
- ✓ Marine engineers
- ✓ Vessel captains
- ✓ Seafood processing technicians
- ✓ Quality inspectors
- ✓ Fisheries managers

2. Technology Transfer

Technology transfer should form an integral part of every agreement, including:

- ✓ Modern navigation systems
- ✓ Cold-chain technology
- ✓ Fish processing equipment
- ✓ Quality assurance systems
- ✓ Vessel operation and maintenance

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3. Joint Ventures

Partnerships between foreign companies and Somali private enterprises should be emphasized, if not already, and strongly encouraged so that Somali companies gradually become owners, operators, and exporters rather than remaining suppliers of raw resources.

4. Local Value Addition

China's advanced small industries must be mobilized / introduced in the Somali fishing industries as value added and transfer of technical know-how. Instead of exporting whole fish, Somalia should progressively develop domestic industries for:

- ✓ Filleting
- ✓ Freezing
- ✓ Canning
- ✓ Fish meal
- ✓ Fish oil
- ✓ Packaging and branding

These activities will create employment, increase export earnings, and retain more value within the national economy.

International fisheries agreements should therefore be viewed not only as commercial arrangements but also as long-term investments in Somalia's economic future. Their success should not be measured solely by access fees or export revenues, but by their contribution to building national capacity.

Somalia's greatest development challenge is not a shortage of natural resources—it is the need to strengthen the institutions and human capital capable of transforming those resources into sustainable national prosperity.

The greatest value of an international fisheries agreement is not measured solely by the quantity of fish harvested or the revenue generated today. Its lasting success should be measured by the number of skilled Somali professionals it produces, the institutions it strengthens, and the nationally owned enterprises it helps create.

Human capital is the most valuable resource any agreement can leave behind.

Every major fisheries agreement should therefore include measurable commitments for skills transfer, technology transfer, institutional strengthening, support for local processing industries, and the gradual development of Somali-owned fishing enterprises.

The greatest legacy of today's fisheries agreements should not only be fish landed at Somalia's ports, but also the human capital, institutions, and nationally owned enterprises that will enable future generations of Somalis to manage, protect, and sustainably benefit from their own Blue Economy.

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Editorial Feature

The Somali Economic Monitor is intended to serve as a platform for informed discussion on sustainable agricultural development, investment and food security in Somalia. The publication seeks to encourage dialogue among government institutions, the private sector, universities, financial institutions and development partners in support of long-term economic growth.

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Af-Soomaaliga (kooban):

Dib-u-soo-nooleynta Beeraha Muuska Soomaaliya

Muddo ka badan 30 sano waxaa la isku dayayay in dib loo soo nooleeyo wax-soo-saarka muuska Soomaaliya, balse guul waarta lama gaarin. Dhibaataadu ma aha oo keliya wax-soo-saarka ama waraabka, ee waa in la helo **hay'ado Soomaaliyeed oo awood leh** kuwaas oo hoggaamiya, isku dubbarida, isla markaana maamula horumarinta ganacsiga muuska.

Si arrintaasi u hirgasho, **Dowladda Federaalka, beeraleyda, iskaashatooyinka, jaamacadaha, hay'adaha maaliyadda iyo ganacsiga gaarka loo leeyahay** waa inay si wadajir ah u dhisaan hay'ad ama hannaan qaran oo hagaya wax-soo-saarka, tayada, suuq-geynta, cilmi-baarista iyo maalgashiga.

Soomaaliya looma baahna inay si toos ah u koobiyeeyso waddamo kale. Waxay fursad u leedahay inay samaysato **hannaan u gaar ah** oo ku salaysan duruufaheeda, kana faa'iidayanaya khibradaha caalamiga ah si loo kobciyo khayraadkeeda iyo awooddeeda gudaha.

Ujeeddadu waa in la abuuro **maalgashi waara, hay'ado Soomaaliyeed oo xooggan, iyo ganacsi xooggan oo beeraha ku dhisan** kuwaas oo horseeda koboc dhaqaale iyo dakhli waara. Dib-u-soo-nooleynta beeraha muusku kama bilaabanayso beer keliya, balse waxay ka bilaabanaysaa dhismaha hay'ado adag iyo iskaashi qaran.

Shirweynaha Qaran ee Maalgashiga Beeraha iyo Cuntada (NAFIS 2026)



Wasaaradda Beeraha iyo Waraabka ayaa qaban doonta **Shirweynaha Qaran ee Maalgashiga Beeraha iyo Cuntada (NAFIS 2026)** oo dhici doona **11–12 Agoosto 2026**. Shirkan wuxuu isu keeni doonaa hay'adaha dowladda, maalgashadayaasha, bangiyada iyo hay'adaha maaliyadda, jaamacadaha, beeraleyda, ganacsiga gaarka loo leeyahay iyo saaxiibbada horumarinta si ay uga wada hadlaan horumarinta beeraha iyo maalgashiga Soomaaliya.

Shirku wuxuu fursad muhiim ah u yahay in la xoojiyo iskaashiga, la dhiirrigeliyo hal-abuurka, lana abuuro iskaashi u dhexeeya dowladda iyo ganacsiga gaarka loo leeyahay si loo horumariyo wax-soo-saarka beeraha iyo maalgashiga dalka.

LAILMAAA Global Holdings waxay soo dhoweynaysaa shirkan muhiimka ah, waxayna rajaynaysaa inay ka qayb qaadata doodaha ku

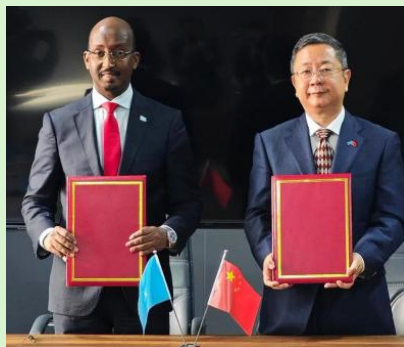
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saabsan horumarinta beeraha ganacsiga, dhismaha hay'adaha, iyo kobcinta silsiladaha qiimaha ee wax-soo-saarka beeraha.

Inta lagu jiro shirka, LAILMAAA waxay qorshaynaysaa inay soo bandhigto buugga **Growing Gold: A Practical Guide to Commercial Banana Farming in Somalia**, oo ah buug wax-ku-ool ah oo loogu talagalay inuu taageero beeraha muuska ganacsiga, kobcinta aqoonta, iyo dhiirrigelinta maalgashiga qaybta muuska ee Soomaaliya.

LAILMAAA waxay hambalyaynaysaa Wasaaradda Beeraha iyo Waraabka qabanqaabada shirkan muhiimka ah, waxayna u rajaynaysaa qabanqaabiyeyaasha iyo ka qaybgalayaasha guul iyo miro-dhal ay ka gaaraan horumarinta beeraha Soomaaliya.

Kalluumaysiga: WAX ka badan KALLUUNKA



Heshiisyada kalluumaysigu waa in aan lagu qiimeyn oo keliya dakhliga ama xuquuqda kalluumaysiga ee maanta, balse sidoo kale waa in laga dhaxlaa wax Soomaaliya u haraaya berrito. Guusha dhabta ahi waa in heshiisyadu ay ku jiraan qodobbo lagu dhisaayo **aqoon, xirfad, tiknoolajiyad iyo hay'ado awood u leh horumarinta dhaqaalaha buluugga ah.**

Heshiis kasta waa inuu ka qayb qaataa **tababarka kalluumaysatada Soomaaliyeed, injineerrada badda, farsamayaqaannada, kormeerayaasha tayada iyo maareeyayaasha kalluumaysiga**, si dalka u yeesho khubaro u horseeda horumar waara. Sidoo kale waa inuu fududeeyaa wareejinta tiknoolajiyadda casriga ah (technology transfer) iyo kobcinta aqoonta gudaha.

Waxaa kale oo muhiim ah in la dhiirrigeliyo qalabka iyo **warshadaha kalluunka ee gudaha**, sida qaboojinta, qasacadeynta, baakadaynta iyo farsamaynta kalluunka, si shaqooyin loo abuuro loona kordhiyo qiimaha lagu daro wax-soo-saarka gudaha. Waxaa sidoo kale mudan in la xoojiyo iskaashi dhex mara shirkadaha shisheeye iyo shirkadaha Soomaaliyeed, si ganacsatada Soomaaliyeed ay mustaqbalka u noqdaan milkiilayaal iyo hawl-wadeenno buuxa.

Gunaanad:

Hantida ugu qiimaha badan ee heshiis kasta uga tagi karo Soomaaliya ma aha kalluunka oo keliya, balse waa **dad aqoon leh, hay'ado xooggan iyo shirkado Soomaaliyeed oo awood u leh inay si waarta u maamulaan una horumariyaan khayraadka badda.**

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Fariinta Tifaftiraha

The Somali Economic Monitor waa madal loogu talagalay in lagu dhiirrigeliyo dood cilmi ku dhisan oo ku saabsan horumarinta beeraha, maalgashiga iyo sugnaanta cuntada ee Soomaaliya. Warsidahan wuxuu ujeedkiisu yahay inuu kobciyo wada-shaqeyn iyo is-weydaarsi fikradeed oo dhex mara hay'adaha dowladda, ganacsiga gaarka loo leeyahay, jaamacadaha, hay'adaha maaliyadda iyo saaxiibbada horumarinta, si wadajir loogu taageero koboc dhaqaale oo waara.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Somali Economic Monitor will continue to present practical ideas that encourage investment, strengthen institutions, and support sustainable agricultural transformation in Somalia.

The road ahead will be built through knowledge, partnership, innovation, and practical actions that lead to sustainable agricultural transformation.

TUBTA HORE

The Somali Economic Monitor wuxuu sii wadi doonaa soo bandhigidda fikrado wax-ku-ool ah oo dhiirrigeliya maalgashiga, xoojiya hay'adaha, isla markaana taageera horumarinta beeraha ee waarta ee Soomaaliya.

Tubta hore waxaa lagu gaari karaa aqoon, iskaashi, hal-abuur iyo tallaabooyin wax-ku-ool ah oo horseeda isbeddel waara oo beeraha Soomaaliya ah.
