



Somali Agriculture Women Association

Empowering Women for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Somalia

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Message from the Chairlady



Faduma Sheikh Ali

Chairwoman, SAWA

It is my privilege to present this organizational profile of the Somali Agricultural Women Association (SAWA). For too long, Somali women have sustained our food systems while facing limited access to land, finance, training, and formal decision-making spaces.

SAWA was formed by women leaders from across our federal member states to change this reality equipping women with practical skills, connecting them to markets and services, and ensuring their voices shape agricultural policy and investment. Our work is grounded in community priorities, Islamic values of dignity and fairness, and a strong belief that when women thrive, households, markets, and the environment become stronger and more resilient.

Through SAWA, mothers, farmers, processors, traders, and youth are advancing climate-smart farming, organizing cooperatives, and building safe, inclusive workplaces. We collaborate closely with government ministries, financial institutions, UN agencies, and civil society so that women are not beneficiaries at the margins but leaders at the center of Somalia's transformation. We invite partners to join us in scaling these efforts expanding opportunities for women to access land and finance, to innovate, and to lead. Together, we can secure a future where Somali women are fully recognized as drivers of food security, economic growth, and environmental stewardship.

01.

ABOUT SAWA

The Somali Agricultural Women Association (SAWA) is a national, women-led non-profit organization that advances the economic empowerment, rights, and leadership of women across Somalia's agriculture and livestock value chains. SAWA brings a holistic model that combines field-based training, gender-responsive extension services, access to inputs and technology, linkages to microfinance and banks (including Sharia-compliant providers), and evidence-based advocacy.

Our approach is deliberately practical grounded in the realities of small-holder production and informal trade while aligned with national development frameworks and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SAWA is formally registered as a local NGO and recognized by Federal Government ministries for its credible community reach and high-quality programs.

We operate through state chapters in Banadir, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Jubaland, South West State, and Puntland. Each chapter adapts national programs to local agro-ecological contexts and coordinates with authorities, producers, and private sector actors. This decentralized structure ensures last-mile delivery, inclusive participation, and a continuous flow of learning between communities and policymakers.

SAWA is a united platform that brings together cooperatives, women entrepreneurs, and young women working across agricultural and livestock sectors, fostering collaboration, innovation, and shared growth

02.

OUR VISION AND MISION

Our vision is a prosperous and food-secure Somalia where women drive agricultural innovation, economic growth, and social change. We envision vibrant rural economies where women's knowledge and entrepreneurship are recognized and rewarded, and where families benefit from nutritious food, resilient livelihoods, and a healthier environment.

Our mission is to empower Somali women in agriculture and livestock by improving access to training, resources, finance, protection, and leadership opportunities. SAWA promotes equality and climate resilience while building sustainable market systems that enable women to compete and succeed.

03. OUR VALUES

SAWA is guided by seven values that define how we work and partner. Empowerment and Agency: women's voices shape priorities and decisions at every level. Integrity and Transparency: we steward resources responsibly, comply with regulations, and report openly. Inclusion and Equality: no woman is left behind, including young women, displaced women, and persons with disabilities. Innovation and Sustainability: we champion climate-smart practices and market-led solutions. Community and Collaboration: we co-create with local leaders, producers, and institutions. Learning and Knowledge Sharing: evidence and reflection guide improvement. Protection and Safeguarding: we maintain zero tolerance for GBV and exploitation, with confidential, survivor-centered procedures

04. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

SAWA pursues seven strategic objectives

- 1** strengthen women technical and leadership capacities across crops, livestock, and agribusiness;
- 2** expand access to productive resources, extension services, and gender-responsive finance;
- 3** advance women representation in governance and policy processes;
- 4** enhance household food security and nutrition through improved production and post-harvest practices;
- 5** mainstream climate resilience and environmental stewardship;
- 6** catalyze rural enterprise development and fair market participation; and
- 7** embed safeguarding, accountability, and participatory learning across all programs.

05.

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

SAWA is a membership-based association with clear lines of accountability. The General Assembly sets overall direction and elects the Board of Directors. The Board provides strategic oversight, approves policies, and appoints the National Secretariat, which manages programs, partnerships, finance, and compliance. State Chapter Committees implement activities, collect data, and represent community priorities. Democratic elections are held every four years, governed by a code of conduct, transparent eligibility criteria, independent oversight, and grievance redress procedures to ensure fair transitions and institutional continuity.

Leadership roles include a Chair-lady (President), Deputy Chair-lady, Secretary General, Treasurer, Finance Officer, Training and Outreach Officer, Public Relations and Partnerships Officer, Marketing and Agribusiness Officer, Irrigation and Water Management Officer, and Policy and Planning Officer. This structure reflects SAWA's dual focus on high-quality program delivery and sustained policy engagement.

06.

REGIONAL PRESENCE PROGRAM FOCUS

SAWA's chapter model enables tailored programming. In Banadir (Mogadishu), we support urban and per-urban farming, safe food processing, and market linkages for traders. Hirshabelle focuses on riverine agriculture, irrigation efficiency, and horticulture value chains. In Galmudug, we emphasize dryland agronomy, rangeland management, and small ruminants. Jubaland prioritizes cash crops, cross-border trade, and fisheries linkages; South West State advances staple crop production, storage, and aggregation hubs; and Puntland supports pastoralist systems, fodder production, and community water management. Across all regions, SAWA mobilizes women's groups and cooperatives and brokers relationships with buyers and service providers.

07. STRATEGIC PILLARS

Panel Discussion Knowledge Sharing

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Agricultural Training and Capacity Building

Practical training is delivered through Farmer Field Schools, demonstrations, and peer-to-peer learning. Women acquire skills in soil health, seed selection, integrated pest management, animal health, and safe post-harvest handling. We complement technical modules with entrepreneurship, record-keeping, and quality assurance to prepare women for competitive markets and certification schemes.



Access to Resources and Agrifinance

To overcome financial exclusion, SAWA organizes Village Savings and Loan Associations, builds savings discipline, and offers credit-readiness coaching compatible with Sharia principles. We facilitate linkages to microfinance institutions and banks and create de-risking mechanisms such as purchase agreements with off-takers. Access to improved seeds, tools, and appropriate technology is brokered through trusted agro-dealers.

Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

Women are at the forefront of climate adaptation. SAWA promotes drought-tolerant crops, mulching, composting, and water-efficient techniques such as rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation. Community risk mapping and seasonal planning strengthen preparedness, while tree nurseries and farmer-managed natural regeneration restore degraded landscapes.

Agribusiness Development and Market Access

SAWA helps women move from subsistence to enterprise. We support product development, hygiene standards, packaging and labeling, barcoding, and branding. Collective marketing and aggregation reduce transaction costs and improve bargaining power. Buyer-seller forums and trade fairs connect women-led SMEs to consistent markets, including e-commerce channels where feasible.

Advocacy, Leadership, and Policy Influence

Evidence from chapters is translated into policy briefs and used in dialogues with ministries, parliamentarians, and sector working groups. We advocate gender-responsive budgeting, fair labor policies, and financial products that reflect women's realities. SAWA builds alliances with civil society and private sector champions to sustain reforms.

Women's Rights and GBV Prevention

Dignity and safety are non-negotiable. SAWA implements confidential reporting and referral pathways, trains staff and partners on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and works with protection actors to ensure survivor-centered response. Workplace policies reinforce zero-tolerance standards across farms, processing units, and markets.

Community Engagement and Networking

Change is collective. SAWA mobilizes women's groups, youth, traditional leaders, and religious figures to champion inclusion and responsible resource management. Inter-chapter exchanges accelerate learning and adaptation, while public communication campaigns celebrate women's contributions to food security.



08. | PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



Training and Capacity Building:

Evidence from chapters is translated into policy briefs and used in dialogues with ministries, parliamentarians, and sector working groups. We advocate gender-responsive budgeting, fair labor policies, and financial products that reflect women's realities. SAWA builds alliances with civil society and private sector champions to sustain reforms.



Women's Enterprise and Market Systems:

Evidence from chapters is translated into policy briefs and used in dialogues with ministries, parliamentarians, and sector working groups. We advocate gender-responsive budgeting, fair labor policies, and financial products that reflect women's realities. SAWA builds alliances with civil society and private sector champions to sustain reforms.



Climate and Water:

Evidence from chapters is translated into policy briefs and used in dialogues with ministries, parliamentarians, and sector working groups. We advocate gender-responsive budgeting, fair labor policies, and financial products that reflect women's realities. SAWA builds alliances with civil society and private sector champions to sustain reforms.



Rights, Protection, and GBV Prevention:

Evidence from chapters is translated into policy briefs and used in dialogues with ministries, parliamentarians, and sector working groups. We advocate gender-responsive budgeting, fair labor policies, and financial products that reflect women's realities. SAWA builds alliances with civil society and private sector champions to sustain reforms.



Advocacy and Governance:

women representatives participate in district planning forums and producer cooperatives. Annual communiqués consolidate chapter priorities for presentation at national and donor platforms.



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL):

logical frameworks and outcome indicators track adoption of practices, access to finance, market performance, and protection outcomes. Quarterly reviews and external evaluations inform adaptive management and accountability to communities.

09. | SELECT RESULT TO DATE

SAWA has trained hundreds of women in sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship, supported the creation of women-led cooperatives, expanded GBV awareness and safeguarding, and implemented coordinated programs across six federal member states. These achievements reflect strong partnerships with government and development actors and the leadership of women at community level.



11.

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

SAWA works alongside the Federal Government of Somalia and relevant state ministries, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, financial institutions, and private sector off-takers. Partnerships are designed to be practical and mutually accountable—aligning public policy, finance, inputs, and market demand so women's enterprises can scale sustainably.

11.

SAFEGUARDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Our safeguarding framework includes a Code of Conduct, PSEA standards, child and vulnerable-adult safeguarding, partner due diligence, data protection, and do-no-harm protocols. Community-based complaints and feedback mechanisms are in place in each chapter, and staff receive routine training. External audits and compliant procurement reinforce transparency and trust.

12.

SAWA NOTIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each year, SAWA convenes chapters, ministries, finance institutions, buyers, and development partners to review progress, exchange innovations, and agree joint priorities. The agenda typically features chapter reports, program showcases, policy roundtables, finance clinics, and recognition awards, culminating in a national communiqué to guide the year ahead.



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CONTACT

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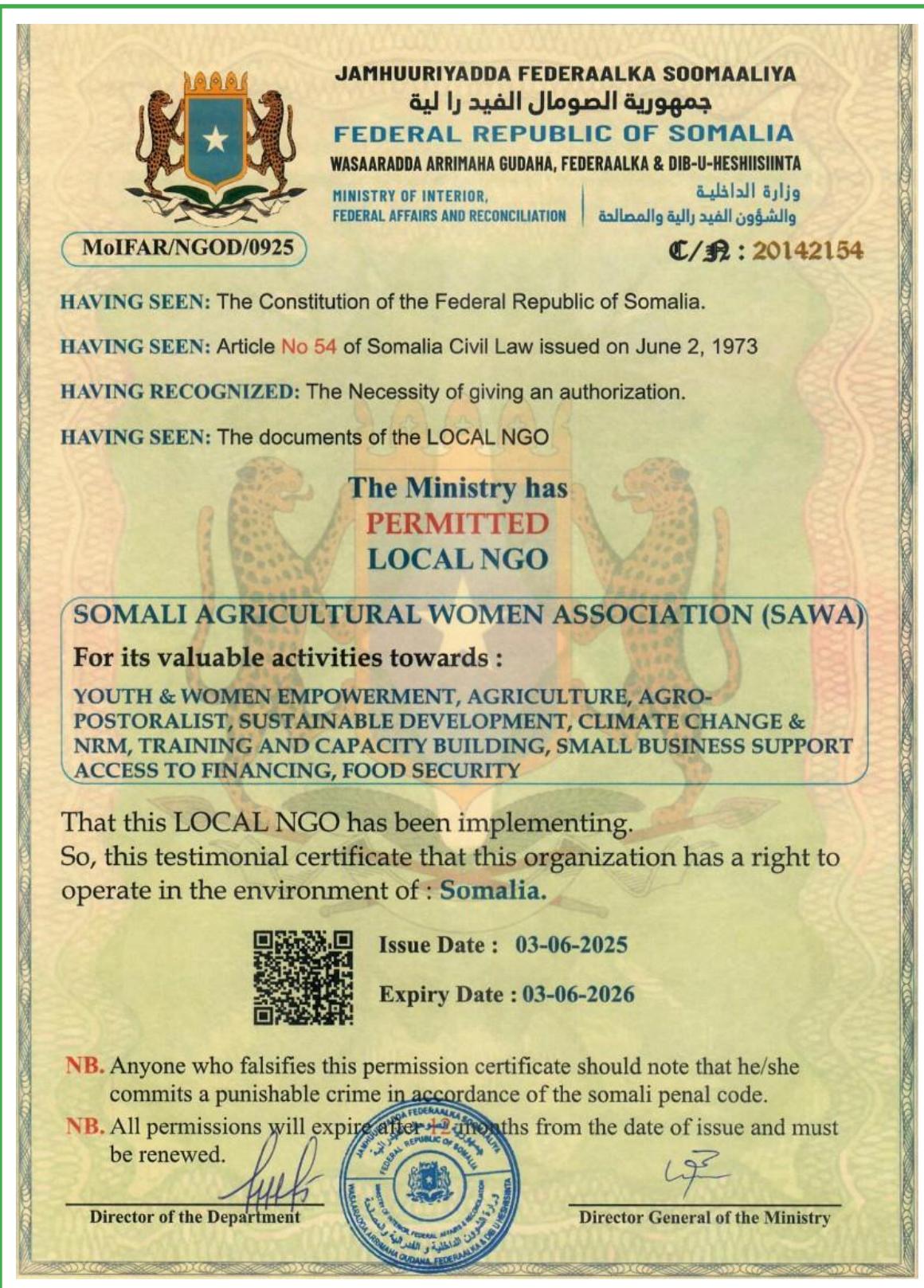
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Mugadishu Soomalia**



Legal and Government Endorsements



Legal and Government Endorsements

JAMHURIYADDA FEDERAALKA
SOOMAALIYA
WASAARADDA BEERAHA &
WARAABKA



جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية
وزارة الزراعة والري

XAFIISKA AGAASIMAH GUUD Federal Republic of Somalia
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation
Office of the Director General

مكتب المدير العام

SUMMAD: WB&W/XAG/427/2025

Date: 04/Jun/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for the Somali Agricultural Women Association (SAWA)

We are pleased to provide this letter of recommendation for the **Somali Agricultural Women Association (SAWA)**, a pioneering organization dedicated to empowering women in agriculture and fostering sustainable development in Somalia.

Under the visionary leadership of **Chairperson Faadumo Sheikh Gabyow**, SAWA has made remarkable strides in promoting gender equality, enhancing women's participation in agribusiness, and improving food security.

We commend the **Somali Agricultural Women Association (SAWA)**, for its unwavering commitment to **gender empowerment** through agriculture. By supporting initiatives like SAWA, the Ministry has demonstrated its recognition of women's critical role in Somalia's agricultural growth.

SAWA's collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has amplified its impact, enabling thousands of women to access land, credit, and modern farming techniques. We strongly recommend SAWA's work and encourage continued support for its initiatives, which align with national goals for **economic resilience, gender equity, and food sovereignty**.

Mohamud Mohamed Mohamud

Director General Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation FGS



Legal and Government Endorsements

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Xafiiska Agaasimaha Guud



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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Office of the Director General

SUMMAD: /XAG/WGW/246/2025

Date: 01/09/2025

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Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Osman
Director General, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
The Federal Republic of Somalia





Somali Agriculture
Women Association



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