

Highlighting the Achievements of the Farmers' Cooperatives Production of Quality Maize

Years of conflict, combined with cyclical droughts and seasonal floods have undermined the capacity of Somali farmers. According to food production data, farmers in Somalia produce up to 40 percent of the country's domestic cereal demand, with the rest being commercially imported. The project 'Support to Somali farmers: achieving quality farm produce for better market access', implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), with support from the European Union is changing that. In addition, Italy and Canada's contributions to WFP have allowed WFP to purchase the locally produced maize which meets international quality standards.

The two UN food agencies and the Ministry of Agriculture have partnered with cooperatives of smallholder farmers belonging to ten cooperatives located in Afgooye and Awdheegle in Lower Shabelle—the area worst affected by the famine in 2011 – with the dual objectives of supporting farmers to produce maize that meets international quality standards and to link them to domestic and international markets.

This event will give partners an opportunity to view the various activities that the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and WFP carry out in support of farmers.