



**AFRICAN WOMEN IN ANIMAL RESOURCES
FARMING AND AGRIBUSINESS NETWORK**

AWARFAN SOMALIA

PREPARED BY: AMIRA ISAK GEDOW

TITLE: AWARFAN SECRETARY

Date: 5th December 2024

**Workshop on the collaboration of AWARFAN in Somalia and
Somali Women Cooperatives in Agriculture and Livestock.**

1. Introduction

The African Women in Animal Resource Farming and Agribusiness Network (AWARFAN) is an organization dedicated to empowering Somali women through training and support in agriculture and livestock sectors. AWARFAN focuses on enhancing the skills and capabilities of women to foster sustainable development within their communities. Through capacity-building initiatives, AWARFA aims to create a network of empowered women who can significantly contribute to agricultural and livestock production.

2. Objectives

1. Empowerment: To empower women by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage agricultural and livestock operations effectively.
2. Collaboration: To promote collaboration among women's cooperatives, enhancing their ability to work together for mutual benefit.
3. Resource Access: To assist cooperatives in gaining access to essential resources, including quality seeds, livestock feed, and financial services.
4. Sustainability: To encourage sustainable agricultural practices and the responsible management of livestock.
5. Market Development: To help women cooperatives improve their market access and increase their economic opportunities.

3. Activities

The event focused on fostering collaboration among the cooperatives and sharing best practices in agriculture and livestock management.

Key Activities Included:

1. Training Sessions: Participants engaged in training sessions covering topics such as sustainable farming techniques, livestock management, and cooperative business practices. –

2. Networking Opportunities: The workshop provided a platform for women to network, share experiences, and build partnerships that can enhance their cooperative efforts. –

3. Expert Presentations: Experts in agriculture and livestock shared insights on market trends, resource management, and innovative practices that can improve productivity and profitability.

4. Group Discussions: Attendees participated in group discussions to identify common challenges and brainstorm collaborative solutions.

4. Challenges Facing by Somali Women Cooperatives:

- Insufficient access to essential resources hampers productivity and growth: Poor market access.
- Difficulties in reaching markets restrict the sale of our products and limit economic opportunities: Water challenges, drought, and flooding.
- Lack of high quality of feed and fodder.
- Poor road conditions and transit difficulties hinder effective distribution and access to markets: Lack of training in modern techniques to enhance our skills.
- Challenges related to drought and flooding compromise agricultural stability and food security: Difficulty in obtaining loans from banks and wealthy individuals.
- The need for high-quality vegetables necessitates greenhouse facilities, which are currently lacking.
- A lack of training in modern agricultural techniques limits our ability to improve practices and productivity.
- The high cost of equipment rentals poses a barrier to modernizing operations.
- Difficulty in obtaining loans from banks and investors restricts our capacity for growth and innovation.

- Broader economic difficulties impact our communities ability to thrive and sustain agricultural practices.
- Poor quality feed can lead to malnutrition , affecting the overall health and prouctivity of livestock.

5. Recommendations:

- Provide training in essential skills, financial literacy, and management practices to enhance operational effectiveness.
- Facilitate access to agricultural tools and machinery to modernize farming practices.- Agricultural tools (machinery and similar items).
- Ensure availability of high-quality seeds across various types to improve crop yields. - Support in medication and fertilization
- Establish collaboration between AWARFA and women's agricultural and livestock cooperatives to foster mutual growth. - Register and recognize women cooperatives.
- Encourage women farmers to dedicate 30% of their farmland to feed production to diversify and strengthen food security.
- Offer assistance in preparing land specifically for feed cultivation to optimize productivity- Support in preparing land for feed cultivation. - Create storage facilities for feed.
- Foster partnerships between women farmers and livestock keepers to enhance resource sharing and improve agricultural outcomes.
- Ensure access to tested and certified quality seeds to guarantee high agricultural standards and productivity.

6. Conclusion:

The workshop successfully strengthened the bonds among the cooperatives, with participants expressing a commitment to work together more closely. Many attendees reported gaining valuable knowledge that they could apply to their cooperative activities, ultimately aiming to enhance food security and economic stability within their communities. In conclusion, the workshop held by AWARFAN was a significant step toward fostering collaboration among Somali women's cooperatives in agriculture and livestock, addressing the issue of feed and fodder quality is crucial for enhancing livestock health and productivity, promoting women empowerment, and encouraging sustainable practices that benefit the entire community.

Annex: Photo evidence during the workshop





