



# Emergency Agricultural Technical Working Group (ATG) - Somalia

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## DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. RATIONAL /BACK GROUND:

The impact of the continuous natural and manmade disasters in Somalia appears to have had significant impact on agriculture livelihoods, putting unprepared and often vulnerable communities on the brink of catastrophe. While the onset of a natural hazard cannot be avoided, a lot can be done to mitigate the adversity of the disasters with enough preparedness and disaster management strategies put in place.

The Emergency Agriculture Technical Working Group initiated under the Food Security Cluster is initiated against this backdrop to facilitate the “scaling up” of on-going responses and “rapidity” of agriculture interventions targeting farming communities. The Agriculture Emergency Technical Working Group will serve as a platform to coordinate and exchange information between the key actors and stakeholders at the policy level as well as on technical issues related to the implementation of emergency agriculture support.

### 2. PURPOSE

The Emergency Agriculture Technical Working Group’s main purpose is to develop mechanisms and provide a platform for cooperation among humanitarian partners and Ministry of Agriculture to improve the quality and timeliness of emergency agriculture intervention targeting farming communities. The working group will also provide a mechanism for the coordination as well as provide guidance on monitoring and evaluation of agriculture projects in the country and facilitate the exchange of information among stakeholders.

### 3. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Emergency Agriculture Technical Working Group is to improve emergency agricultural related interventions in Somalia through developing appropriate guidelines and suitable agricultural livelihood interventions. In addition, the working group will pave the way for Ministry of Agriculture and all stakeholders to have one platform that provides shared information on Livelihood Seasonal inputs and best practices informed by field based evidence.

### 4. KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To share on-going and planned emergency agriculture-based responses by the humanitarian actors, maximize impact, coverage, and avoid duplications of efforts.
- Facilitate discussion and build consensus on appropriate emergency agriculture activities in context of natural and manmade disaster such as floods and drought.
- Develop technical approaches and guidelines for livelihood seasonal inputs (e.g seed pack, tool kits, farming services, good agriculture practices, management and crop protection etc.) with the key agriculture actors for the delivery for emergency agriculture activities.
- Identify issues and challenges that contribute to the limited, slow pace of the emergency agriculture-based responses and put in appropriate measures to address them.



- Develop joint communication and advocacy messages to inform key stakeholders on strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the agriculture based responses.
- Provide a platform that serves as a “help desk” to disseminate technical knowledge/ best practices related to emergency agriculture based response by the actors in Somalia.
- Guide formulation of work plans with a set of realistic and achievable targets that take into consideration relevant cross-sectoral priorities and goals relating to agricultural production.

## **5. GOVERNANCE**

### **Membership:**

- Membership shall include technical representation from FAO, donors, NGOs implementing agriculture emergency interventions, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture research and training institutes..
- Criteria of participants of the ATWG will be staff of organizations that have programme experience in emergency agriculture response specific to crops, and are in a position to contribute technically with agronomic background.
- Membership is on voluntary basis and ATWG related cost will be taken up by the member’s organisation.

### **Chair and Co-chair:**

- The technical working group will be led by Co-Chairs ( Federal Ministry of Agriculture and FAO), and supported by a Secretariat comprising one or two individuals from other members.
- The Secretariat, will be identified or endorsed to the working group membership and will ideally comprise of a representative from a UN agency, the Ministry of Agriculture in Somalia and an NGO.

### **Method of Work:**The work of the ATWG will be implemented through:

- Work-plan development and follow up
- Regular e-mail correspondence, including updates on agriculture emergency partners’ activities, events, knowledge
- Sharing and learning activities in agriculture interventions in Somalia
- Meeting to develop guideline documents
- Webinars on specific thematic areas of interest;

### The working group will have regular Meetings:

- Meetings to be held regularly (monthly) and more frequently if and when it’s necessary. The venue, date, and time of meetings shall be communicated by the Chair.
- Participatory approaches to be observed in all activities and decision making processes.
- Agenda for meetings established in a participatory manner with input from all members.

### **Documentation and Information Sharing:**

- The Working Group will have its dedicated and appropriately staffed secretariat to (i) organize meetings in consultation with the FSC; (ii) draft minutes, (iii) compile reports, plans, data, etc.
- Minutes will be made available to all members and stakeholders through FSC website.



- The results of the work of the technical working group will be more broadly disseminated within the Food Security Cluster so that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the technical working group

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