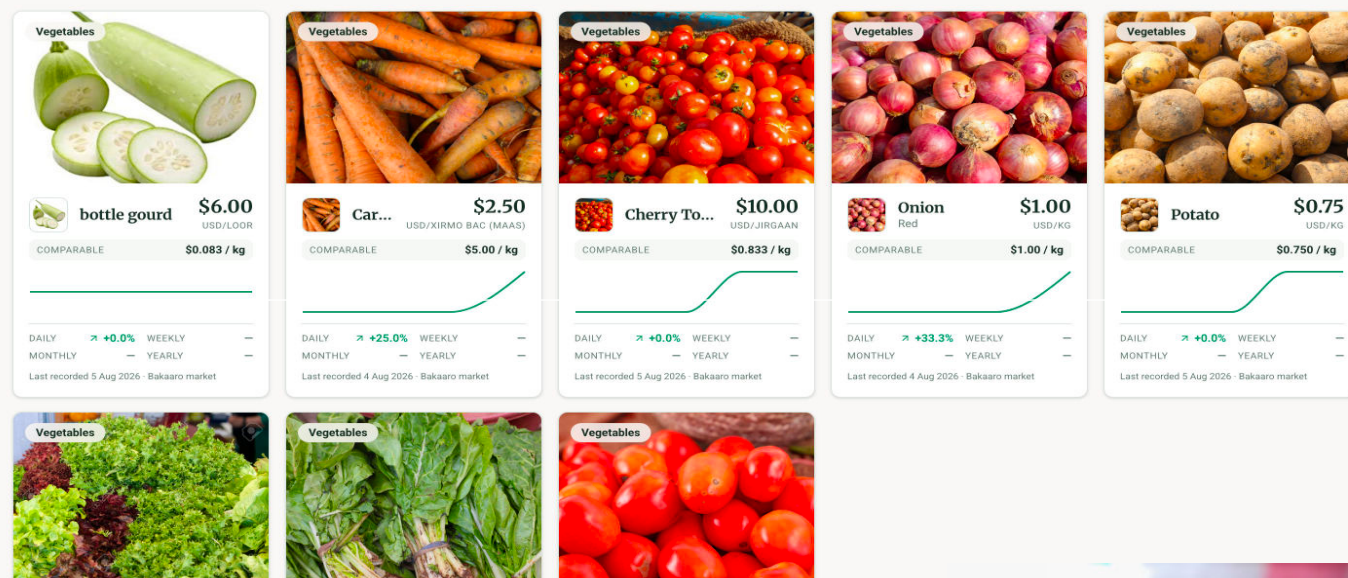


Vegetables 8 crops



Period	Market	Price record	Collection	Days Missed	Next Issue
I–13 Aug 2026	3	326	Daily	0	28 Aug

A jerry can of tomatoes in Bakaaro cost **\$12** on 4 August and **\$4** on 12 August.
The same jerry can in Baidoa never left **\$2 – \$3**.

Every price in this bulletin is quoted in the measure the market actually trades in — the Loor, the Koombo, the Jirgaan, the Xirmo bac. These are the measures farmers and traders buy and sell in every day, and prices quoted in them compare directly across markets.

“When the Gu harvest arrives, the price announces it before anyone does. On 12 August it took \$13 off a Loor of Afgooye maize in a single day.”

Start Here!

Common Markets Measures (Bakaara, Afgooye & Baidoa Market)

MEASURE	BASIS	HOLDS / CAPACITY	TYPICALLY USED FOR	VISUAL GUIDE
Loor (Sack)	Weight	72 or 75 kg	Sack – cereals, onions, lemon, bottle gourd	Cereals, Onions, Lemon, Bottle gourd
Koombo (Cup)	Weight	1 kg	Cup – grain and pulses at retail	Grain, Pulses
Jirgaan (Tanag)	Weight	12 or 15 kg	20-litre jerry can – tomatoes	Tomatoes (20-litre jerry can)
Xirmo bac (Maas)	Weight	1 kg	Bagged bundle – salad, spinach, carrot	Salad, Spinach, Carrot
Maas (Bundle)	Weight	0.5 kg	Basket bundle – leafy vegetables	Leafy vegetables bundle
Sakeel / Baaldi (Bucket)	Weight	7.5 kg	Bucket – bell pepper, chilli	Bell pepper (1 Sakeel / Baaldi), Chilli (1 Sakeel / Baaldi)
Butacow (Small cup)	Weight	0.25 kg	Small cup measure	Small cup measure





THE TWO-WEEK READ

-67%

TOMATO, BAKAARO

\$12.00 to \$4.00 per Jirgaan,
4 to 12 August.

-26%

SORGHUM, AFGOOYE

\$35.00 to \$26.00 per Loor as
the Gu harvest arrived.

x2.2

LEMON, BOTH MARKETS

Bakaaro and Baidoa lemon
jumped on 9 August, in step.

16

CROPS TRACKED DAILY

Across cereals, pulses,
vegetables and fruit in three
markets.

PRICES THIS PERIOD

First and latest observation, plus the full range inside the period. Never a period average – a fortnightly mean would have erased the Afgooye harvest drop entirely.

AFGOOYE — SUUQA BADARKA AFGOOYE · CEREALS & PULSES · 1-13 AUGUST

CROP	MEASURE	FIRST	LATEST	CHANGE	RANGE IN PERIOD
Maize (Galeey), white	Loor	55.00	50.00	▼ -9.1%	50.00 - 65.00
Sorghum (Moordi), red	Loor	32.00	26.00	▼ -18.8%	26.00 - 35.00
Cowpea (Digir)	Koombo	0.60	0.75	▲ +25.0%	0.60 - 0.75
Wheat (Qamadi)	Koombo	0.60	0.60	0.0%	0.60 - 0.75
Sesame (Sisin)	kg	1.30	1.50	▲ +15.4%	1.30 - 1.60
Mung bean (Salbuko)	Koombo	1.00	0.50	▼ -50.0%	0.50 - 1.60

BAKAARO MARKET — VEGETABLES & FRUIT · 1-12 AUGUST

CROP	MEASURE	FIRST	LATEST	CHANGE	RANGE IN PERIOD
Tomato (Yaanyo)	Jirgaan	5.00	4.00	▼ -20.0%	3.50 - 12.00
Lemon (Liin)	Loor	7.25	15.00	▲ +106.9%	6.50 - 15.00
Bottle gourd (Bocor)	Loor	6.00	12.00	▲ +100.0%	4.00 - 12.50
Carrot (Karooto)	Xirmo bac	2.25	1.13	▼ -50.0%	0.75 - 4.00
Salad (Ansalaato)	Xirmo bac	2.75	2.75	0.0%	2.50 - 3.00
Spinach (Koosto)	Xirmo bac	3.50	1.25	▼ -64.3%	1.00 - 4.00
Onion (Basal), red	kg	0.75	0.75	0.0%	0.75 - 1.50
Potato (Baradho)	kg	0.50	0.75	▲ +50.0%	0.50 - 1.00
Watermelon (Qare)	piece	4.00	4.00	0.0%	3.00 - 7.00
Banana (Moos), local	piece	0.10	0.08	▼ -20.0%	0.08 - 0.10



BAIDOA CITY MARKET — BOTH SECTIONS · 5-13 AUGUST

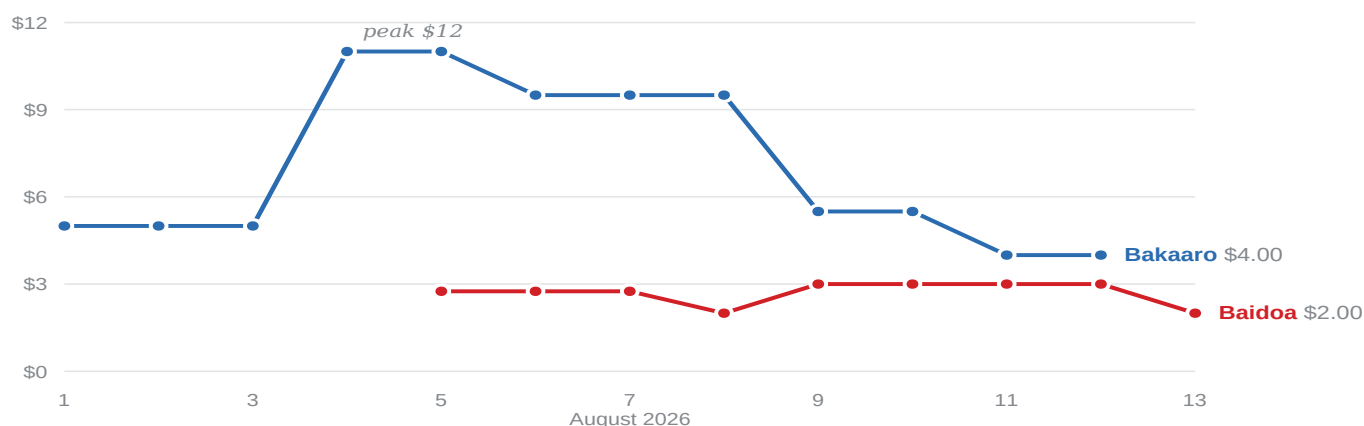
CROP	MEASURE	FIRST	LATEST	CHANGE	RANGE IN PERIOD
Maize (Galeey), white	Loor	18.00	36.00	▲ +100.0%	18.00 - 36.00
Sorghum (Moordi), red	Loor	14.40	18.00	▲ +25.0%	14.40 - 18.00
Cowpea (Digir)	Koombo	0.75	0.80	▲ +6.7%	0.75 - 0.90
Mung bean (Salbuko)	Koombo	0.80	1.00	▲ +25.0%	0.80 - 1.00
Wheat (Qamadi)	Koombo	1.00	0.95	▼ -5.0%	0.95 - 1.00
Sesame (Sisin)	kg	2.00	2.00	0.0%	2.00 (from 8 Aug)
Tomato (Yaanyo)	Jirgaan	2.75	2.00	▼ -27.3%	2.00 - 3.00
Lemon (Liin)	Loor	15.00	37.50	▲ +150.0%	15.00 - 40.00
Bottle gourd (Bocor)	Loor	6.00	11.00	▲ +83.3%	6.00 - 12.50
Carrot (Karooto)	Xirmo bac	3.00	1.25	▼ -58.3%	1.25 - 3.50
Salad (Ansalaato)	Xirmo bac	0.70	1.25	▲ +78.6%	0.50 - 1.25
Spinach (Koosto)	Xirmo bac	0.90	1.00	▲ +11.1%	0.90 - 1.01
Onion (Basal), red	kg	0.50	0.80	▲ +60.0%	0.50 - 1.00
Potato (Baradho)	kg	1.00	1.00	0.0%	0.50 - 1.00

All prices US\$ in the measure shown, as recorded on the M-tacab platform. price rose, price fell — whether that is good news depends on whether you are selling or buying, so we do not colour it. Where the recorder gave a low-high range, First and Latest use the midpoint and Range uses the outer bounds.

THE TOMATO LINE

Two markets, one crop, the same container, completely different lives

Both markets quote tomatoes in the same object – the 20-litre jerry can – so the two lines below compare directly. Bakaaro ran from \$5.00 up to \$12.00 and back down to \$4.00 inside twelve days. Baidoa moved between \$2.00 and \$3.00 and stayed there.





Daily price per Jirgaan, US\$. Bakaaro 1–12 August, Baidoa 5–13 August. Where the recorder gave a range, the midpoint is plotted. Portal item name: Cherry Tomato.

Why this matters to a farmer, not a trader

A tomato grower cannot wait out a falling price. FAO puts the shelf life of a ripe tomato at two to six days, and there is no cold chain between Afgooye and Bakaaro. When the price falls by two thirds in a week, the crop still has to move. The farmer is a forced seller by the biology of the crop and the physics of the container it travels in — which is the subject of this issue's feature story below.

BETWEEN MARKETS

What the same measure buys, market by market

Baidoa sits in Bay region, a production zone; Bakaaro and Afgooye serve Mogadishu, a consumption corridor. The tables below put the same measure side by side in each pair of markets.

BAKAARO AND BAIDOA – VEGETABLES & FRUIT • LATEST OBSERVATION

CROP	MEASURE	BAKAARO	BAIDOA	READ
Tomato (Yaanyo)	per Jirgaan	4.00	2.00	Bakaaro 2.0x
Lemon (Liin)	per Loor	15.00	37.50	Baidoa 2.5x
Bottle gourd (Bocor)	per Loor	12.00	11.00	close
Salad (Ansalaato)	per Xirmo bac	2.75	1.25	Bakaaro 2.2x
Spinach (Koosto)	per Xirmo bac	1.25	1.00	Bakaaro 1.3x
Carrot (Karooto)	per Xirmo bac	1.13	1.25	close
Onion (Basal), red	per kg	0.75	0.80	close
Potato (Baradho)	per kg	0.75	1.00	Baidoa 1.3x

AFGOOYE AND BAIDOA – CEREALS & PULSES • LATEST OBSERVATION

CROP	MEASURE	AFGOOYE	BAIDOA	READ
Maize (Galeey)	per Loor	50.00	36.00	Afgooye 1.4x
Sorghum (Moordi)	per Loor	26.00	18.00	Afgooye 1.4x
Cowpea (Digir)	per Koombo	0.75	0.80	close
Wheat (Qamadi)	per Koombo	0.60	0.95	Baidoa 1.6x
Mung bean (Salbuko)	per Koombo	0.50	1.00	Baidoa 2.0x
Sesame (Sisin)	per kg	1.50	2.00	Baidoa 1.3x



How to read the spreads

Sack cereals — maize and sorghum by the Loor — are about 1.4× dearer in Afgooye than in Baidoa, the classic gap between a producing region and the corridor that feeds Mogadishu. Fresh produce mostly runs the other way: a jerry can of tomatoes and a Xirmo bac of salad each cost roughly twice as much in Bakaaro as in Baidoa. Sesame is the exception among cereals and oilseeds — dearer in Baidoa, where it moves toward aggregation for export rather than toward the capital's kitchens. Lemon is this fortnight's outlier: Baidoa jumped to 2.5× Bakaaro after both markets moved sharply on 9 August.

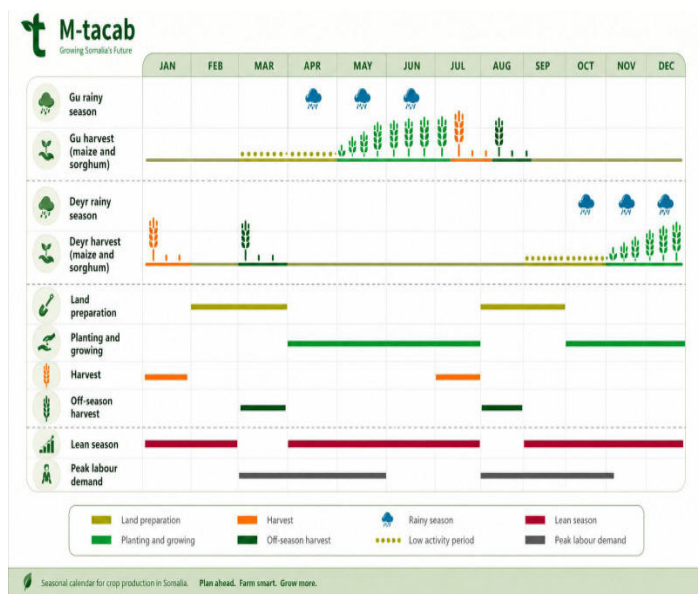
A note on last year

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's weekly bulletin for August 2025 recorded a production-to-consumption spread in maize of roughly 2.2× between Baidoa and Mogadishu. The direction and rough scale of the spread in this issue is consistent with the Ministry's own series a year earlier.

WHERE WE ARE IN THE SEASON

The Gu harvest showed up in the Afgooye price on 12 August

Our recorder wrote the reason directly onto the sheet: "it's Fasal season arrived, Gu season — meaning it's harvest time." That day a Loor of white maize dropped from \$63 to \$50. Red sorghum fell from \$35 on 4 August to \$26 by the 12th, a 26% fall across the fortnight.



A seasonal calendar is only useful if it predicts something. This is the first issue in which we can check one against our own measurements — and the Gu harvest arrived inside the window.

What to do with this, if you farm.

- **Cereal growers:** the main Gu harvest is landing and prices normally fall through it. If you can store safely, storing is usually worth more than selling into the arrival week.
- **Cereal buyers:** this is the cheapest window of the cereal year. Baidoa sorghum at \$14.40 a Loor was the lowest cereal price we recorded anywhere this fortnight.
- **Tomato growers:** you have no storage option. Your only lever is what happens to the crop between your field and the stall. See the feature below.

Based on price observation only. Not agronomic advice; not reviewed by an agronomist.



THE MEASURES

A short guide to how Somali markets count

Somali produce markets trade in a family of traditional measures, and every price in this bulletin is quoted in them. The register below is how the M-tacab platform holds each one.

MEASURE	BASIS	HOLDS	TYPICALLY USED FOR
Loor	Weight	72 kg	Sack – cereals, onions, lemon, bottle gourd
Koombo	Weight	1 kg	Cup – grain and pulses at retail
Jirgaan	Weight	12 kg	20-litre jerry can – tomatoes
Xirmo bac (Maas)	Weight	1 kg	Bagged bundle – salad, spinach, carrot
Maas	Weight	0.5 kg	Basket bundle – leafy vegetables
Sakeel / Baaldi	Weight	7.5 kg	Bucket – bell pepper, chilli
Butacow	Weight	0.25 kg	Small cup measure

These measures are not a quirk to be converted away – they are how the market itself thinks. A trader quotes a Loor of maize, a farmer budgets in Koombo, and a tomato wholesaler's whole day is priced in jerry cans. Publishing prices in the same measures keeps the bulletin readable to the people who set them.

In September, M-tacab is running a field measurement study across all three markets – weighing each measure crop by crop, with repeated samples from different traders – so that every price series can also be published with a verified kilogram equivalent from October onward.

Coming in September

The measurement study: every container weighed in Afgooye, Bakaaro and Baidoa, plus trader interviews on where each measure comes from – the story of the Loor, told properly, in a future issue.

Note!

Lack of Standardized Measurement.

One of the main challenges in local markets is the absence of a universal measurement system. Although traders commonly use traditional measurement units, the actual weight in kilograms can vary considerably between markets and even between individual traders.

Variations in Sack “Loor” Sizes.

Sack sizes are not standardized across the markets. In Baidoa, the 72 kg sack is the most commonly used, while 75 kg and 130 kg sacks are more prevalent in Afgooye and Bakaara markets. These differences should be considered when comparing prices across locations.

Informal Estimation of Vegetable Quantities.

Some vegetables are sold using traders' own estimated quantities rather than standardized weights. For example, measurements such as “Xirmo Bac”—a plastic bag or bundle used for vegetables—can vary in size and quantity, making it difficult to determine the exact weight and accurately compare prices.

Delayed Market Price Reporting.

Lengthy security checks and queues along the Afgooye–Mogadishu route can delay the arrival of fresh vegetables into the market. As a result, reliable daily vegetable prices are often established later in the morning, typically between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, once sufficient produce has reached the market and trading activity has stabilized.



Photo: Khalif Mohamed / M-tacab



Photo: Khalif Mohamed / M-tacab

The Yellow Can Carrying Somalia's Red Harvest

A one-dollar oil container is quietly running Somalia's tomato trade. It's also the same object women carry for water across the drought belt. That overlap is the story.

Fun Fact! M-tacab bought the yellow Jerry Can from Bakara Market (Mogadishu) priced \$1.5 for just this story.

"A can that costs a dollar looks cheap at the point of purchase. It looks far more expensive once you count what doesn't survive the trip."

In the tomato trade linking the farms of Afgooye with the busy stalls of Bakaara Market, one object is as familiar as the crop itself: the yellow, 20-litre plastic jerry can.

Locally known as the "Jargaan Yaanyo," or "tomato jerry can," it was never designed for agriculture. It begins its life carrying imported cooking oil. Once emptied, wholesalers and shopkeepers resell the containers. Their tops are cut open, they are washed, and they are quickly absorbed into a new role transporting tomatoes from rural farms to urban markets.

But the story of the yellow jerry can in Somalia is not just about tomatoes. It is about **survival**.

Across Somalia, especially in rural and drought-prone areas, the same jerry can is carried on the back of women walking long distances to fetch water. In many humanitarian organization's images, women are seen balancing two or even three yellow jerry cans at a time—walking across dry landscapes where water points are far apart and unreliable.

This is where the jerry can becomes more than a container. It becomes a lifeline object.

It carries water for households. It carries tomatoes for trade. It carries income, food, and dignity. In many communities, it has become part of daily identity—an ordinary object that quietly supports extraordinary survival.

For farmers and vendors operating with very limited cash, the economics are simple.

A used jerry can costs around US \$0.50 to US \$1, depending on availability. It is strong, widely available, and already embedded in local supply chains.

The Jargaan Yaanyo is therefore not just packaging. It is a symbol of Somali resourcefulness—an object designed for one purpose that has been adapted to serve many.

But this raises a difficult question: When a survival tool becomes a transport tool, what compromises are being made along the way?



Photo: OUNOCHA / Ayub



Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC



Photo: Khalif Mohamed - Mtacab

A fragile crop in a rigid container

Tomatoes are among the most delicate crops in the market system. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations notes that ripe tomatoes may last only two to six days depending on temperature and handling conditions. Poor packaging and rough transport can shorten this even further.

Inside a jerry can, tomatoes are stacked vertically. Those at the bottom carry the weight of those above them. During transport over rough roads, pressure increases. Bruising, splitting, and overheating become common risks. Limited ventilation can also trap heat inside the container, especially when multiple jerry cans are tightly packed in transport vehicles.

FAO guidance recommends that harvesting containers be smooth, clean, ventilated, and designed to prevent crushing. It also suggests the use of rigid plastic crates that limit load weight and allow airflow.

The numbers from Somalia's own farms back this up. A 2022 field study of 109 tomato growers in Bal'ad district, Middle Shabelle — one of the country's key tomato belts, roughly 36 kilometres from Mogadishu — found that off-farm losses were driven overwhelmingly by handling and transport failures.

Nearly all respondents linked bad roads to internal bruising from vehicle vibration. More than four in five pointed to inadequate ventilation during transport as a major cause of spoilage. And roughly nine in ten cited long delays at inspection checkpoints as a direct trigger for decay before the produce ever reached a buyer.

None of that is about the tomato. It's about the container and the road. The Bal'ad data makes the mechanism explicit: Somalia is not losing tomatoes to bad farming. It is losing them between the farm gate and the market stall — inside a container that was never engineered for the job it now performs.

A can that costs a dollar looks cheap at the point of purchase. It looks far more expensive once you count what doesn't survive the trip.

The waste problem hiding inside the solution.

There's a second cost, and it's environmental. Reusing an oil container before it becomes agricultural packaging is, in effect, informal recycling — extending the life of plastic that would otherwise be discarded after a single use. That's a genuine efficiency.

But every jerry can eventually cracks, degrades, or becomes unhygienic. And Somalia has no formal system to catch it when it does. UNDP has flagged plastic waste as a rising risk as urbanization accelerates and collection infrastructure lags behind — with no structured path from production to disposal to recycling.

So the jerry can isn't the problem. The absence of a system around it is.

A tool of survival, not just transport

To understand why the jerry can remains dominant, it is important to see it through the eyes of those who use it.

For many Somali women, the yellow jerry can is not optional equipment. It is a daily survival tool. It is used to fetch water from distant sources, often carried on the back or balanced in pairs or threes. The same object is then reused for household storage, small trade, and agricultural transport.

This multipurpose nature is what makes it so valuable. In environments where resources are scarce and infrastructure is limited, tools must serve multiple roles. A single-purpose container is often a luxury.

Over time, the jerry can has become part of everyday life—so familiar that it is almost invisible. It is not just a container; it is part of how households function, how women move, and how small-scale trade survives.

Because of this deep integration, any discussion about replacing it must be realistic. Change will not happen quickly. Even if better alternatives exist, adoption will take time, trust, and affordability.



Photo: Abdulqadir Mohamed/NRC

Could reusable crates offer a better journey?

In other African agricultural systems, reusable plastic crates are increasingly used to reduce post-harvest losses. These crates are ventilated, stackable, and designed to protect produce from crushing.

FAO has reported cases where improved handling systems and crates significantly reduced tomato losses in transport. While these results cannot be directly transferred to Somalia, they show what is possible when packaging is designed specifically for fresh produce.

However, **cost remains** a major barrier. One reusable crate is \$3 in Mogadishu and \$4 in Lower Shabelle (Marka city) compared to Jerry Can which is \$0.5 - \$1.

What actually works elsewhere — and the model Somalia should study

Reusable plastic crates are not a hypothetical fix. In Ethiopia, a multi-year initiative called E-PLAN, run by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition with local partners, introduced reusable plastic crates as an alternative to wooden crates in the tomato supply chain. The results were not incremental — wholesalers using the crates reported a 50 to 75 percent reduction in post-harvest loss compared with wooden alternatives, along with materially longer shelf life once produce reached market.

The mechanism is straightforward: smoother surfaces reduce bruising, better stacking geometry reduces crush weight, and improved airflow slows spoilage. None of that requires new technology. It requires a different container — and a system to keep it circulating.

That's the model worth testing in Afgooye, not a container swap but a circulation system:

- ◇ Crate rental points at key farm-gate and market locations
- ◇ Refundable deposits to guarantee crates return rather than disappear
- ◇ Wholesaler-owned crate pools supplied to trusted farmer networks

- ◇ Cooperative crate-sharing among smallholder groups
- ◇ Return-trip logistics, so transport vehicles carry empty crates back to source
- ◇ Collection points for degraded jerry cans, linked to whatever recycling capacity exists

This isn't about telling Somali traders their solution was wrong. It's about giving them a second option good enough to out-compete the one they built out of necessity.

A small container with a big story

The journey of the Jargaan Yaanyo tells a larger story about adaptation in difficult environments.

It carries cooking oil before it carries tomatoes. It carries water across long distances on the backs of women.

It carries income from farms to cities. It carries survival in a context where alternatives are often out of reach.

At the same time, it carries hidden costs—damaged produce, hygiene challenges, and growing plastic waste.

The challenge ahead is not to dismiss the jerry can, but to understand it fully.

The next chapter should not begin with blame. It should begin with a question:

The real question

The Jargaan Yaanyo is not a design failure. It is a signal — of ingenuity operating in the absence of infrastructure, and of the hidden cost that ingenuity carries when nothing better is available.

The fix will not be a mandate. It will be an alternative that is cheap enough, available enough, and trusted enough that farmers choose it on their own — the same way they chose the oil can in the first place.

The question isn't why Somali traders are using an oil container to move tomatoes. It's why, a decade into conversations about post-harvest loss in East Africa, nobody has made it easy for them to choose something better.

Disclaimer!!!

The views expressed in this publication/bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Innovii Digital Services or any other partner Organization.

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