



**24th September 2009**

**EU and FAO to boost agriculture in Somalia  
Assistance to 78,100 Somali farmers and urban households**

The **European Commission** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Somalia** launch the *Integrated Support to Rural Livelihood*, in a bid to mitigating the effects of soaring food prices in Southern Somalia.

The project targets 78,100 households in South and Central Somalia with particular focus on the agricultural areas along the Shabelle and Juba rivers. Vulnerable rural smallholders will benefit from income generating activities, increased levels of production and increased availability of agricultural products in the local markets.

In partnership with local and international NGOs working in Shabelle and Juba Regions and Somali authorities, FAO Somalia is aiming at enhancing agricultural production and rehabilitating infrastructure through cash for work programmes. The interventions involve distribution of packaged seed kits, tools and fertilizers as well as the rehabilitation of canals, market places and roads.

The project also targets urban poor, who will benefit from increased employment opportunities enhancing their purchasing power.

This operation is part of the EU Food Facility, a two years global initiative with an overall budget of 1 Billion Euro in response to soaring food prices, aimed to help countries move towards long term food security.

The framework contract was signed on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 and the first activities in Somalia started in September 2009.

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