

Uganda Weekly Agriculture, Market, and Weather Report (April 11–18, 2025)

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security.



Uganda's first rainy season is now in full swing with above-average rainfall improving water and pasture conditions nationwide, though causing localized flooding in vulnerable areas. Farmers are actively weeding and fertilizing March-planted crops, while planting continues in Karamoja and northern regions where rains arrived later. Livestock conditions are improving with better grazing, but authorities are addressing a Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreak through vaccination campaigns. Food prices remain relatively stable with modest increases for some staples, and annual food inflation has eased to 3.1%. This report provides regional weather conditions, agricultural activities and advice, livestock updates, market analysis, and key reminders for effective planning.

Weather Overview (April 11–18)

Uganda is experiencing widespread rainfall as the first season peaks. Most regions are receiving normal to above-normal rainfall through mid-April. The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) confirms that after a late start, rains have established countrywide. Expect frequent thunderstorms, occasional hail, and cooler temperatures than previous months.

Karamoja (Northeastern)

The rainy season here started in early April, later than elsewhere. Light to moderate rains are now falling, marking the onset of the unimodal season. Pasture and water sources are beginning to recover. Rainfall remains somewhat patchy. Farmers should plant sorghum and millet without delay. Flood risk is low, but continued rains are critical for germination. Temperatures have dropped from March highs, improving livestock conditions.

Northern Uganda

Steady rains have returned to the North after a delayed onset, intensifying through early April. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected to continue. Fields in Gulu and Lira are moist, aiding crop emergence. West Nile areas report frequent storms. No major flooding reported, but waterlogging is possible in low-lying fields. This marks the effective start of the growing season, with rains likely to peak in May. Lightning incidents have been noted; follow safety precautions. Temperatures range between 28–30°C on rainy days.

Eastern & Elgon Region

Heavy rainfall prevails in the East. Mt. Elgon districts have experienced intense downpours, elevating landslide and flash flood risks. Local authorities warn residents in vulnerable areas to be vigilant. Lowland Eastern districts are also getting regular rains, with some hail and strong winds reported. Soil moisture is excellent for crop growth. Farmers should monitor for waterborne crop diseases in this wet spell. Above-average rainfall is expected to continue, maintaining flood and landslide threats.

Central and Lake Victoria Crescent

Frequent thunderstorms characterize the Lake Victoria region. Rains that began mid-March are now at peak intensity, with heavy afternoon and evening showers accompanied by thunder and occasional hail. Urban areas like Kampala have seen intermittent street flooding. Rainfall has been more than sufficient; some low-lying gardens are waterlogged. Above-normal rainfall is expected to continue. Temperatures range from 18°C at night to 27°C during the day. The humid conditions favor both plant growth and fungal diseases. No immediate dry spell is forecast.

Western Regions


Western Uganda is experiencing variable but generally steady rainfall. Southwestern districts have moderate rains with occasional heavy falls, while mid-west areas are catching up after an earlier deficit. Most areas receive regular showers adequate for crops. Rivers in flood-prone districts are being monitored, but no serious flooding has occurred. The region's highlands have cooler temperatures (daytime ~22°C) with misty mornings. Moderate rains (50–100 mm) are forecast for south-western Uganda next week. Overall rainfall is sufficient without being excessive.

Outlook

The IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre (ICPAC) forecasts "more than usual rainfall over most parts of Uganda" through mid-April, continuing into May, especially in northern Uganda. No dry spells are expected in the coming week. Farmers should prepare for possible weather extremes (floods, hail, strong winds). UNMA advises clearing drainage systems and reinforcing soil conservation measures. The well-established rainy season benefits agriculture but requires vigilance against weather hazards.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages (Mid–April 2025)

General Season Progress: The first cropping season (March–June) is underway across all bimodal regions. By mid-April, early-planted crops are in vegetative growth while late-planted fields are germinating. Planting is largely complete in central, eastern, and western Uganda, while ongoing in northern regions and Karamoja. April is critical for weeding, fertilizer application, and pest control, with some early harvests beginning in select areas.

	<p>Maize</p> <p>In bimodal zones, March-sown maize is now 3–4 weeks old (knee-high). Farmers are completing first and second weeding, with the first typically done two weeks after planting and the second by 4–5 weeks. April is optimal for nitrogen top-dressing with Urea or CAN when maize is knee-high. The standard recommendation is 50 kg Urea per acre applied in bands alongside rows, with organic alternatives like manure being used where mineral fertilizers are unavailable.</p> <p>In the Lake Victoria crescent, extra-early planted maize (January-February) is already tasseling, while most fields will tassel in May with grain filling in June.</p>
	<p>Beans</p> <p>First-season beans planted from late February through March are now in vegetative to early flowering stages. Common beans have a 60–90 day cycle, with early-planted fields in central Uganda beginning to flower. Weeding is being conducted 2–3 weeks after planting, and staking of climbing varieties is underway in southwestern highlands.</p> <p>Current wet conditions increase risk of fungal diseases like anthracnose and bean rust, requiring field monitoring and preventive measures. Early-planted beans in warmer areas may reach pod formation by late April, with main harvesting expected in late May or June.</p>
	<p>Sorghum & Millet</p> <p>In Teso, Lango, and Karamoja, sorghum and millet are key cereals. March-sown fields are now emerging or in early vegetative stages. Farmers are thinning densely-sown sorghum and conducting first weeding approximately 3 weeks after seeding.</p> <p>Karamoja's sorghum planting continues through April, coinciding with the region's single long growing season. Many agro-pastoralists are currently planting, with some sowing just before expected rains. Most sorghum and millet planting in Karamoja should complete by mid-April, with March-planted crops already sprouting in wetter zones.</p>
	<p>Root Crops & Bananas</p> <p>Sweet potatoes planted at the season's start are establishing vines, with farmers weeding and earthing-up mounds. Bananas are benefiting from improved soil moisture, with April bringing heavy bunch development. Farmers are applying manure and debelling (removing male flower buds) on developing bunches.</p> <p>Matooke harvesting continues with stable supply and prices. While banana production is continuous, the current rainy season offers optimal conditions for planting new suckers when expanding gardens.</p>

Other Crops

Groundnuts are germinating and require imminent weeding. Upland rice sown in March is emerging in Eastern regions, while lowland rice planting continues in schemes like Doho. April brings coffee flowering induced by rains, requiring garden sanitation and harvest preparation. Horticultural crops are being widely planted with water now available, though damp conditions increase pest risks.

Key Field Activities in April

Weeding dominates current activities across all regions, with experts recommending at least two weedings in the first month. Other critical tasks include fertilizer top-dressing for cereals, targeted pesticide application, and management of intercrops. Extension officers emphasize adherence to recommended timing of operations for optimal results.

Overall, crops are in good condition mid-season. Weeding, gap filling, thinning, and fertilizing are in full swing countrywide alongside crucial pest surveillance. By late April, planting should complete even in the latest areas, with focus shifting to pest/disease control and harvest preparations for fast-maturing varieties.

Technical Advisory – Inputs & Pest Management

Technical guidance on agronomic inputs, pest and soil management for current growth stages.

Crop Nutrition and Soil Amendments:

Key nutritional interventions needed during this growth phase:



Top-Dress Cereals

Apply nitrogen to 3-4 week-old maize and sorghum. Use Urea or CAN (50 kg/acre) alongside plants when soil is moist. For sandy soils, split application - half now, half in 2 weeks. With organic sources, apply well-rotted manure around root zones. Place fertilizer in soil, not on leaves, to prevent burning.



Phosphorus for Late Planters

Recent planters should have used phosphorus fertilizer (DAP/TSP) at planting. If missed, consider dissolving DAP in water for careful side dressing or use foliar feeds if available.



Soil pH and Lime

In acidic soil regions, apply agricultural lime (1-2 tons/ha) during April rains, especially for acid-sensitive crops like beans and groundnuts. This improves nutrient availability.



Green Manures and Mulch

Plant green manure cover crops (Mucuna/lablab) in fallow plots for next season's fertility. Apply weed-free mulch around bananas, coffee, and vegetables to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and prevent erosion.



Foliar Fertilizers

For crops showing nutrient deficiencies (yellowing leaves) where soil application isn't feasible, use liquid foliar fertilizers to quickly correct minor nutrient issues.

Pest and Disease Management

Mid-season pests are emerging with lush growth. Regular scouting and early control are essential:

Fall Armyworm (FAW) & African Armyworm

These caterpillars threaten young maize, sorghum, and millet, especially after dry spells followed by rain.

Scout maize fields twice weekly for FAW

"windowpane" holes and frass in whorls. Check grassy borders for African armyworm at dawn. If detected:

- **Mechanical Control:** For light infestations, handpick and destroy caterpillars. Apply ash or sand mixed with chili powder into maize whorls as a deterrent.
- **Chemical Control:** If >5% of plants are infested, use lambda-cyhalothrin or chlorantraniliprole for FAW, or Cypermethrin 5EC for African armyworm. Spray in evening targeting the whorl area.
- **Community Action:** Coordinate with neighbors to prevent re-infestation. Report outbreaks to extension agents for area-wide control.

Banana Bacterial Wilt (BBW)

Rainfall increases BBW spread via farm tools. Disinfect cutting tools between plants, remove infected plants immediately, and use a forked stick to remove male buds instead of cutting.

Fall Armyworm Tech Tool

Extension agents should promote the FAO's FAMEWS mobile app for monitoring and early warning of Fall Armyworm infestations.

Locusts/Unusual Pests

No current reports of desert locusts or quelea birds. Uganda remains vigilant though regional rains contribute to locust breeding conditions elsewhere in East Africa.

Storage Pests

Begin planning for post-harvest storage. Ensure proper ventilation and periodically sun-dry stored grains to prevent mold. Inspect seed stocks for weevils and treat with diatomaceous earth or appropriate insecticides if needed.

Other Crop Pests

Stem Borers: Watch for deadheart in young plants or stem holes. Apply granular insecticides in whorls or spray systemic insecticides. Use pheromone traps to monitor moth populations.

Cutworms: These cut seedlings at ground level nightly. Apply soil insecticides at plant bases or spray pyrethroids on soil surfaces in evenings. Keep fields weed-free to reduce incidence.

Bean Pests & Diseases: Monitor for bean fly maggots, aphids, and foliar diseases. Dress seeds and hill soil around stems to prevent bean fly. Control aphids with soapy water or botanical sprays for small colonies, or insecticides if severe.

Tech Tip of the Week: Managing Excess Rainfall and Flood Risks in Crops

With Uganda's above-average rainfall, managing excess water in crop fields is vital. Prolonged wet conditions can cause root rot, fungal diseases, nutrient leaching, and erosion. Here's how to manage excess rainfall:

Improve Field Drainage

- Dig shallow, gently sloping drainage channels to direct excess water away from fields.
- Clear existing drains of debris to maintain flow.

Raised Beds or Ridges

- Plant beans, vegetables, and sweet potatoes on raised beds or ridges to keep roots above saturated zones.
- This reduces root disease risk and improves soil aeration.

Mulching

- Apply mulches to protect soil from heavy rainfall, reducing erosion and runoff.
- Mulch preserves soil structure and promotes water infiltration into deeper layers.

Monitoring and Early Action

- Check fields for waterlogging signs: yellowing leaves, stunted growth, or standing water.
- Address issues promptly by improving drainage or gently hoeing to break compacted surfaces.

These methods can protect crops from excess rainfall damage, maintaining healthy growth and ensuring a productive harvest.

Livestock Section (Cattle, Goats, Poultry)

The recent rains bring both benefits and challenges for livestock. While pastures regenerate and water sources refill, farmers must manage increased disease risks. This section covers essential updates on feeding, current outbreaks, vaccination campaigns, and best practices for cattle, goats, and poultry.



Cattle

The rains bring welcome relief for cattle keepers after the harsh dry spell. Rangeland grasses are regenerating, helping cattle recover body condition, though the wet-dry transition requires careful health management:

Feeding & Pasture

Pasture availability is improving across the cattle corridor. Allow time for grass establishment before full grazing – use controlled or rotational grazing where possible. Continue supplementary feeding for a few weeks, especially for lactating cows, until pastures fully recover. Provide mineral licks to replace nutrients leached by rainfall and improve appetite and health.

Water

As ponds and tanks refill, increase watering frequency. Ensure access to clean water; let stirred sediment settle or use alternative sources initially. Clean any dry-season algae or debris from water troughs.

Disease Alerts

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks continue in parts of Uganda, particularly the "cattle corridor." The government has implemented a cost-sharing vaccination plan and received 3 million vaccine doses from Egypt. Farmers should vaccinate cattle when services become available and restrict animal movements, especially in quarantine zones. FMD causes mouth and hoof lesions, drooling, and lameness – report any symptoms immediately. Though the new policy requires farmers to share vaccination costs, prevention is far less expensive than losses from disease or sales restrictions.



Tick-Borne Diseases

Tick populations surge after rains, increasing risk of East Coast Fever, Anaplasmosis, and Babesiosis. Increase spraying frequency to every 1-2 weeks. Rotate acaricide types to prevent resistance. For calves, supplement with handpicking ticks around ears/under tails.

Uganda plans to roll out a new anti-tick vaccine in early 2025, targeting major tick species after successful trials. This development aims to reduce chemical dependency and combat tick resistance. Until available, maintain current control methods and keep kraals clean.



Other Cattle Diseases

Monitor for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), which increases with wet conditions and biting flies. Isolate cattle with skin nodules and consult a vet. Annual vaccination before rains provides prevention. Watch for Trypanosomiasis signs (anemia/emaciation) in tsetse-prone areas. Deworm young stock now to reduce parasites brought up by rains, repeating as advised.



Vaccinations

Beyond FMD, ensure routine vaccinations are current. Black Quarter and Anthrax vaccinations are crucial in endemic areas at the onset of rains. If in regions like Karamoja, participate in ongoing PPR (goat plague) and CBPP (lung plague) vaccination campaigns.

General Care

Expect improved milk production as forage quality increases. Maintain tick control even for zero-grazed dairy cows. Report unusual sickness promptly to prevent epidemics. Adhere to quarantine restrictions in FMD-affected districts. President Museveni has directed increased vaccine availability, with local manufacturing being pursued to improve disease control long-term.

Goats & Sheep

Small ruminants are crucial for many households and face specific challenges this season:

Feeding

The new growth after rains provides ample nutrition for browsers like goats and sheep, improving their body condition. However, early rainy season plants can cause bloat. Allow gradual diet adjustment, provide mineral licks for nutrient deficiencies, and supplement with dry fodder in evenings to balance moist forage and reduce bloat risk.

Disease – PPR ("Goat Plague")

Peste des Petits Ruminants causes fever, mouth sores, diarrhea, and high mortality in goats and sheep. After confirmed outbreaks in Uganda last year, extensive vaccination campaigns are ongoing. Vaccinate goats/sheep if not done in the past year – the government has procured 1.5 million doses. Check with your District Veterinary Officer about local campaigns. Vaccination is the only reliable prevention; ensure animals over 3 months get their shot, even in areas not currently reporting cases.



Other Goat Diseases

Watch for Contagious Caprine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CCPP) during cold rains. Provide shelter and isolate goats showing respiratory symptoms. Consider CCPP vaccination in high-risk areas. Deworm at the beginning and mid-rainy season, especially for young goats susceptible to roundworms. Use broad-spectrum dewormers as recommended and check fecal egg counts if possible.



Goat Reproduction

Improved nutrition will bring goats into heat. Many will conceive now, resulting in births around September-October when second rains begin. If practicing controlled breeding, this is an optimal time to service does.



Foot Rot

Wet conditions can cause bacterial foot rot. Provide dry areas if grazing land is waterlogged, trim overgrown hooves, treat lameness early with antiseptic or copper sulfate solution footbaths, and maintain clean pens with dry bedding.



Goat Market

Market prices for goats are currently high (mature goats in Karamoja fetch around UGX 300k, up significantly from last year). Consider selling castrated males or older stock rather than breeding females to maintain herd size, and reinvest profits in housing or feed reserves.

Poultry (Chickens)

Poultry requires special attention during the rainy season:

Housing & Health

Protect chickens from cold nights and dampness by ensuring coops are dry and draft-free. Repair leaking roofs, add extra dry bedding, and maintain proper heat for chicks. Good ventilation is essential, but shield birds from direct cold winds.



Disease – Newcastle Disease (ND)

Newcastle Disease is the main killer of village chickens in Uganda, especially during rainy periods. This viral disease can devastate entire flocks, causing respiratory distress, twisted necks, greenish diarrhea, and sudden death. Vaccination is the only prevention—no cure exists. Vaccinate at least 3 times yearly (every ~4 months) using Newcastle vaccine, preferably the thermostable I-2 vaccine. Only vaccinate healthy birds. Check with local vets for vaccine availability, as it's inexpensive and can reduce mortality from 90% to 10%. Consider additional vaccines for Infectious Bursal Disease and Fowl Pox in high-risk areas.



Parasites & Hygiene

Deworm free-range chickens twice yearly as wet ground increases worm exposure. Administer piperazine in drinking water per vet instructions. Monitor for external parasites like mites and ticks in coop cracks. Keep litter dry to prevent coccidiosis, and treat bloody diarrhea in chicks immediately with anti-coccidial drugs.



Feeding

While chickens find more natural feed (insects, worms) during rainy seasons, continue providing daily supplements of maize bran or food scraps. Store feed properly to prevent spoilage. Commercial flocks may need slightly more feed as temperatures drop.



Breeding

This is an ideal time for hatching as hens often go broody after dry season laying. Provide secure nests for broody hens or use incubators now that power may be more stable with rainfall.



Market and Biosecurity

With local chicken prices high (UGX 25,000-30,000 in Kampala), maintain basic biosecurity: limit visitors to chicken houses, disinfect equipment, and avoid mixing birds from different sources. Report unusual mass deaths to authorities.

In summary: for cattle, utilize new grass while preventing FMD and tick diseases; for goats, leverage browse but vaccinate against PPR and deworm; for poultry, protect from dampness and vaccinate against Newcastle Disease.

Market Analysis (April 2025)

Agricultural commodity prices remain stable or slightly lower than last year due to improved harvests and reduced inflation (3.4% headline, 3.1% food crops in March 2025). Regional variations reflect local supply and demand conditions across Uganda.

Commodity	Northern (UGX)	Eastern (UGX)	Western (UGX)	Central (UGX)
Maize Grain (per kg)	1,800 UGX/kg	1,600 UGX/kg	1,500 UGX/kg	2,000 UGX/kg
Beans (Nambale, per kg)	4,000 UGX/kg	4,500 UGX/kg	4,300 UGX/kg	4,500 UGX/kg
Sorghum (per kg)	1,300 UGX/kg	1,200 UGX/kg	2,200 UGX/kg	~3,800 UGX/kg
Millet (per kg)	2,500 UGX/kg	2,900 UGX/kg	3,100 UGX/kg	4,500 UGX/kg
Bananas (Matooke, per kg)*	~900 UGX/kg	~800 UGX/kg	~600 UGX/kg	~1,000 UGX/kg
Cattle (medium bull, per head)	1,500,000 UGX	1,200,000 UGX	1,800,000 UGX	2,000,000 UGX
Goat (mature, per head)	300,000 UGX	220,000 UGX	250,000 UGX	280,000 UGX
Chicken (local hen, each)	20,000 UGX	18,000 UGX	25,000 UGX	25,000–30,000 UGX

*Banana prices converted to per kg for comparison. Typical bunch (15–20 kg) costs 10,000–15,000 UGX in Western region.

Sources: WFP market monitors (Feb–Mar 2025), local market reports, and field observations. Karamoja goat prices have tripled from 120k to 300k UGX over the past year.

Staple Foods

Maize

Maize prices vary regionally: Central (Kampala) at 2,000 UGX/kg, Western (Bunyoro) lowest at ~1,500 UGX/kg, with Northern and Eastern regions at 1,600-1,800 UGX/kg. Current prices are lower than last year, with only minor inflation in central regions. With June's first season harvest approaching, prices should remain stable unless weather disruptions occur. Ongoing exports to South Sudan and DRC continue with adequate domestic supply.

Sorghum & Millet

Sorghum prices show high variability: Central Uganda (low consumption) at ~3,800 UGX/kg, surplus Eastern regions (Teso) at ~1,200 UGX/kg, and Western at 2,200 UGX/kg (brewing demand). Millet prices are consistently higher: 4,500 UGX/kg in Central, ~2,500 UGX/kg in Northern (good output areas). Both grains show tightening stocks with prices likely remaining high until July harvest. Farmers with stored millet could benefit from selling at current favorable rates.

Other staples

Sweet potatoes: ~1,000 UGX/kg in most towns. Rice (local Kibimba): 3,500-4,000 UGX/kg in Kampala. Cooking oil: 7,000-8,000 UGX/L. Sugar: ~4,000 UGX/kg.

Beans

Off-season bean prices are elevated: 4,500 UGX/kg in East and Central regions, 4,000 UGX/kg in Northern (benefiting from recent harvests), and 4,200-4,300 UGX/kg in Western production areas (Kabarole, Kabale). Prices mirror last year's levels and should hold or decrease by June with new crop availability. Green gram trades at ~3,800 UGX/kg in eastern regions, while soybeans average ~3,000 UGX/kg in most markets.

Bananas (Matooke)

Matooke prices remain low following peak production: Western region (primary growing area) at ~600 UGX/kg farm-gate (10,000 UGX/bunch), while Central (Kampala) retails at ~1,000 UGX/kg (15,000-20,000 UGX/bunch). Current rains support continuous production, maintaining supply. Stable fuel costs have kept transport-related price increases minimal. Premium varieties command higher prices: export-quality Bogoya at ~1,400 UGX/kg.

Livestock Prices

Cattle

Cattle prices have risen significantly due to restocking demand and input cost inflation. In Karamoja and Teso, security issues and previous losses have limited supply, doubling prices from 1.1M to 2.2M UGX for bulls. Regional averages for medium-sized Zebu bulls: Northern (including West Nile and Karamoja) ~1.5M UGX, with Karamoja fetching above 2M. Eastern regions average around 1.2M UGX due to local supply and fewer traders.



Western Uganda's Ankole cattle command premium prices, with large long-horned bulls selling for 2M+ UGX. Central markets see the highest prices, with bulls (~350kg live weight) selling for upwards of 2M UGX. Farmers should note that FMD quarantines can restrict sales in affected areas, but overall, cattle prices remain strong due to regional export demand and government restocking programs.

For those looking to sell market-ready animals in quarantine-free areas, it's currently a seller's market. Buyers should budget for these higher acquisition costs.

Goats

Goat prices have reached record levels nationwide. In Karamoja, mature goats previously costing 80-120k UGX now sell for around 300k UGX – a 150%+ increase due to reduced numbers and high demand. Regional averages: Northern ~300k (reflecting Karamoja's extreme prices), West Nile and other northern areas 200-250k, Eastern ~200k (Mbale/Soroti around 180k), Western 200-250k (premium stall-fed goats in Fort Portal reaching 300k), and Central (Kampala) ~280k.

Wholesale prices range from 7,400-11,000 UGX/kg, making a 30kg goat worth 222k-330k UGX. Goats now function as valuable "walking bank accounts," though fewer households can afford to slaughter them for home consumption. Sheep prices have similarly increased but remain less in demand, averaging around 150k UGX in most areas.

Poultry (Indigenous Chickens)

Local chicken prices are stable, selling for 15k-25k UGX in rural markets. Northern/eastern rural areas average 15k-20k, while central urban markets fetch 25k-30k. UBOS data shows Kampala prices at approximately 28,000 UGX per bird, aligning with our Central range. Western birds, often larger improved varieties like Kuroilers, sell for ~25k.

Demand remains strong from consumers preferring local chicken taste over cheaper broilers (12k-15k for a 1.5kg bird in Kampala). Egg prices have stabilized at about 10,000 UGX per tray in Kampala, down from 12k last year. Local eggs command a premium in health-food markets but are produced in smaller quantities.

Implications and Tips

Farmers with grain reserves should consider the balance between selling now at decent prices versus waiting for potential May price increases. For livestock, it's favorable to sell mature animals, but high purchase prices should be factored when restocking. Consider breeding your own herd given the high acquisition costs. Poultry keepers can profit from current prices while expanding flocks, as Newcastle vaccination makes larger-scale production more viable.

Recent rains have damaged feeder roads in some Eastern areas and Kasese, potentially affecting market access. Regional export demand from South Sudan, Kenya, and Rwanda provides a price floor for Ugandan staples, despite slight reductions in cross-border prices due to Kenya shilling depreciation.

Government & NGO Updates

Several important announcements and programs from the government and development partners have emerged recently in the agriculture sector:



National FMD Control Policy

The Ugandan government launched a policy to eradicate Foot-and-Mouth Disease with a cost-sharing mechanism for nationwide vaccination. This shifts from emergency response to prevention, with farmers contributing part of the cost and government covering the rest. The goal is full FMD eradication to eliminate quarantines and losses. Extension workers must adhere to standardized shared costs only, and farmers should prepare to vaccinate cattle regularly.



Emergency FMD Vaccine Supply

Uganda received 3 million doses of FMD vaccine from Egypt on April 10th, the first batch of an expected 6 million dose support. The quadrivalent vaccine (covering common FMD serotypes) is being deployed in outbreak hotspots in the cattle corridor and Northern Uganda. Discussions are underway for possible future vaccine production in Uganda. Vaccination teams are prioritizing areas with active FMD cases for these Egyptian-funded vaccines.



Anti-Tick Vaccine Rollout

NARO confirmed its anti-tick vaccine will roll out in early 2025. Developed in Uganda, it targets three major tick species and addresses the increasing problem of acaricide resistance. The vaccine requires multiple inoculations and may need minimal supplementary spraying. Extension agents should begin sensitizing farmers about this potential game-changer, with dosing schedule, distribution, and pricing details expected from MAAIF soon.

NGO Project Launches

- **ADRA Uganda – STRENGTH Project:** ADRA launched a climate resilience initiative in Karamoja focusing on sustainable agriculture, water access, and nutrition. The project introduces drought-tolerant crops, water harvesting, and income diversification methods. Farmers should inquire with local sub-counties about participation eligibility.
- **World Bank Climate Smart Program:** A Climate Smart Agriculture initiative is beginning in Eastern Uganda (Mbale, Tororo, and nearby districts), providing matching grants for farmer groups adopting irrigation, improved storage, or agroforestry practices. Information is available at district agricultural offices.
- **NAADS Input Distribution:** NAADS continues distributing planting materials to selected farmer groups, with current emphasis on coffee seedlings in Western and Central regions and tea seedlings in growing areas like Bushenyi and Kyenjojo. Beneficiaries should ensure timely planting, while others can communicate needs through parish chiefs.

Research and Innovation

Makerere University and NARO released a new drought-tolerant maize variety (Bazooka 2) that some farmers are testing this season. Additionally, a bio-pesticide for Fall Armyworm using local *Bacillus thuringiensis* strains is under development. While not yet widely available, these innovations demonstrate active local research addressing agricultural challenges.

WFP Market Monitor & Purchase for Progress

WFP plans to procure 40,000 MT of maize and beans for regional food assistance. Farmer cooperatives with quality surplus should explore WFP's procurement tenders for stable market access. The Q1 2025 Market Monitor noted stable or declining staple prices, consistent with current market conditions.

Policy Announcements

Uganda is recruiting more parish-level extension workers and enforcing regulations against counterfeit veterinary drugs and fake seeds. Recent inspections and seizures of fake livestock medicines highlight the government's commitment to ensuring quality inputs. Farmers should purchase only from licensed dealers to avoid counterfeits.

Overall, government initiatives are addressing animal disease control and agricultural productivity, complemented by NGO and international agency support. Farmers should utilize vaccination programs, input distributions, and training opportunities in their areas, while extension agents should ensure farmers receive timely information about these resources.

Relevant Publications & Useful Links

Access these resources for informed farming decisions:

Weather & Climate Resources

- [UNMA Weather Bulletin \(March 2025\)](#) – 10-day summary of rainfall distribution with farm advisories for areas with excess or deficit rain.
- [ICPAC Climate Outlook – April 2025](#) – Regional forecast predicting "wetter than normal conditions in eastern Uganda" with drier pockets in the west.

Crop Management Guides

- FAO Uganda Crop Calendar – Reference outlining sowing and harvest periods for key crops across different regions.
- Beans and Maize Training Manuals (MAAIF) – Comprehensive guides covering best practices from land preparation to post-harvest.
- ["How to Manage Common Maize Pests" – Harvest Money](#) – Practical guide for identifying and controlling maize pests including armyworms, cutworms and termites.

Livestock Resources

- ["Making Protein Blocks for Cattle" – Harvest Money \(April 11, 2025\)](#) – Instructions for formulating molasses-urea blocks as cattle feed supplements.
- UBOS Monthly CPI Report (March 2025) – Inflation figures providing insight into food price trends.
- Selina Wamucii – Uganda Market Prices Portal – Daily updated wholesale commodity prices.

Food Security & Research

- FAO/FEWS NET Food Security Outlooks – Analysis of Uganda's food security situation including weather impacts on crop prospects.
- Research on Climate and Crop Yields – Study examining weather impacts on maize yields in Uganda (2021).
- FARMIS Uganda – MAAIF Farm Information System publishing market data and extension tips via SMS and online.

Extension workers are encouraged to share these resources with farmer groups and follow platforms like Harvest Money or agricultural radio programs for weekly updates.

Looking Ahead & Reminders

As we move beyond April 18 into the rest of the first season, here are key trends and actionable reminders:

Weather Outlook (Late April into May)

Above-normal rainfall is expected to persist through late April, possibly easing by early May. Northern Uganda's rains will peak in May, benefiting crops but potentially causing floods along Rivers Nile and Pager. A mild El Niño may develop mid-year, primarily affecting the second season. Action: Continue agronomic activities as weather remains favorable; maintain erosion control measures in saturated soils.

Pest Outlook

Fall Armyworm threat typically declines after April as maize matures, but monitor for stem borers. Prepare early protection against birds and wildlife for ripening crops (May/June) using scarecrows, bird tape, or netting for orchards.

Crop Development Milestones

In the next 2–3 weeks, crops will transition to reproductive stages:

- Maize: Tasseling and silking begins in central/east regions. Complete final weeding before tasseling.
- Beans: Pod filling begins. Apply preventative fungicide if your area is very wet to protect against rust or anthracnose.
- Groundnuts: Pegging and pod formation. Keep fields weed-free and avoid stepping on plants.
- Coffee: Cherry formation after flowering. Ensure mulching and consider coffee berry borer control.
- Pastures: Will be tall by May. Plan to make hay during brief dry windows for better nutrition value.

Flood Preparedness

Given high rainfall, prepare for potential flash floods or waterlogging. Clear drainage ditches, strengthen terrace bunds on slopes, and create channels to divert flood water. Identify higher ground for livestock safety and store feed/seed in elevated areas. Community leaders should keep disaster response contacts ready.

Post-Harvest Planning

Prepare now for harvests beginning in late May. Secure tarpaulins for sun-drying grain before prices increase. Collect storage bags (treated Purdue bags work well for beans to prevent weevils). Clean and prepare storage spaces ensuring they're waterproof and rodent-proof. Arrange for threshing or shelling equipment if needed. Proper post-harvest handling preserves quality and allows selling when prices are better.

Input Planning for Second Season

Reserve income from first harvest for quality seed purchases for the August-September planting season. Consider buying fertilizers now when prices are lower. For cost savings, multiply your own seed by leaving select healthy plants to fully mature. Forward planning ensures readiness when next rains arrive.

Livestock Health Calendar

Maintain vaccination schedules: Newcastle Disease every 4 months (next in August after April dose), deworm cattle and small ruminants at start and end of rainy season (plan for June), and spray against ticks every 1-2 weeks. Conserve fodder for the potential dry spell in June-July. Monitor for any Ministry-issued pest alerts, though none are currently expected.

Community and Extension Engagement

Participate in farmer group meetings and field schools while crops are visible for effective demonstrations. Attend extension trainings and share pest management experiences with fellow farmers. Keep group records organized to access post-harvest PDM grants or loans. Stay informed through local radio programs, particularly UNMA's May-June forecast updates coming in early May.

The outlook remains positive: rains are plentiful, crops are growing well, and markets are stable. With good practices and proactive risk management, Season A harvest in June should be successful. Implement these recommendations, stay informed through credible sources, and collaborate at the community level for optimal results.

Until the next update, we wish you favorable weather and fruitful farming!



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