Weekly Ugandan Agriculture, Food Market, and Farming Weather Report

20–27 October 2025

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the **I**nternational **D**evelopment **E**xtension **A**gency.
We specialize in empowering farmers, Ministries of Agriculture, and INGOs throughout the world with field-proven and impact-driven strategies that improve food security.

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Executive Summary

Market Snapshot

Cereal prices remain relatively affordable following harvest season, with maize averaging UGX 800–1,300 per kilogram across regions. However, beans continue to command elevated prices of UGX 3,000–3,800 per kilogram, reflecting persistent supply constraints. Urban retail prices for bananas show unusual volatility, ranging from UGX 3,700–7,400 per kilogram—a situation driven by wet-field harvest difficulties and transport bottlenecks that should normalise as field access improves in the coming weeks.

Weather Conditions

Above-average rainfall persists in Northern, Western (particularly south-western highlands), Central, and the Lake Victoria Crescent regions. While this sustains excellent soil moisture for crop development, it simultaneously increases risks of flash flooding, waterlogging, and localised landslides, especially on the slopes of Mount Elgon and the Rwenzori Mountains. Meanwhile, Karamoja is transitioning toward its characteristic dry season, with only lingering light showers.

Crops

Complete top-dressing in late-vegetative maize; maintain drainage in bananas and potatoes; accelerate harvest and drying when weather windows open.

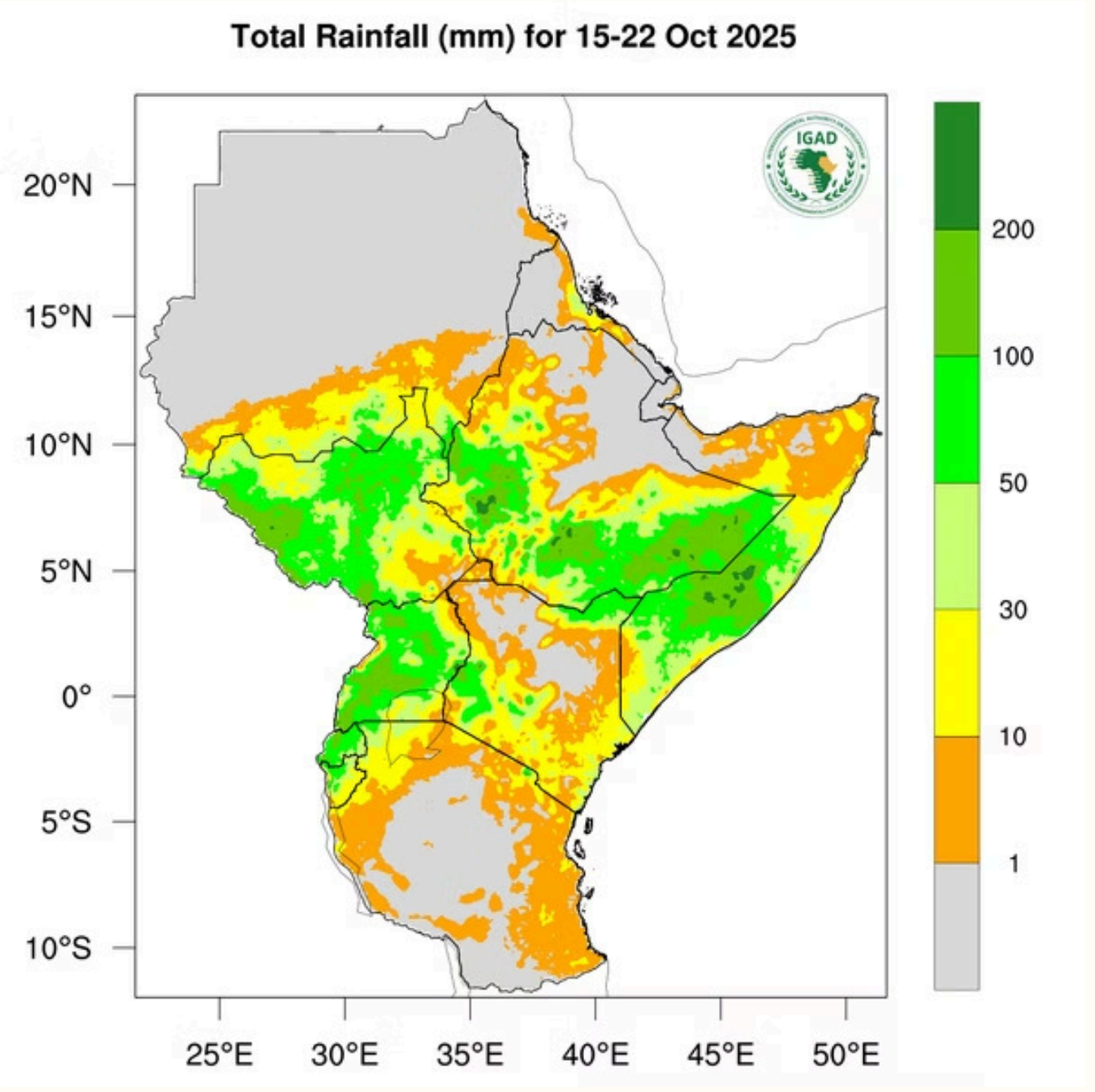
Pest Management

Keep flowering beans undisturbed and intensify pest scouting for thrips, aphids, and fall armyworm. Reinforce erosion control on slopes.

Livestock

Maintain rigorous tick control, deworm animals before long treks, and participate in ongoing anthrax ring-vaccination campaigns where applicable.

Weather Forecast



Weather Outlook — Karamoja

7-Day Precipitation

Expected rainfall: 30–50 millimetres across the region.

Temperature Range

Daily temperatures will range from 17–32 degrees Celsius.

Weather Alerts

No significant hazards forecast. Isolated showers will aid pasture regeneration and water availability before the dry season fully establishes.

Karamoja's transition to drier conditions presents an excellent opportunity to complete harvest operations and begin strategic preparations for the upcoming dry season. Farmers should prioritise grain drying, secure storage, and planning grazing routes whilst residual moisture still benefits late-season activities. The relatively light rainfall expected this week will support pastoral activities without creating waterlogging challenges that affect other regions.

Weather Outlook — Northern

80–110

Millimetres Expected

Seven-day precipitation forecast

20–30

Degrees Celsius

Temperature range

High Alert: Waterlogging Risk

Lowland areas face significant waterlogging and flash-flood risks due to saturated soils. Farmers should prioritise drainage maintenance and avoid heavy machinery in vulnerable fields.

The Northern region continues to experience above-average rainfall, with cumulative totals reaching 80–110 millimetres over the coming week. Whilst this moisture supports crop development, saturated soils in lowland areas create substantial challenges for field operations and increase the likelihood of waterlogging-related crop stress. Temperature conditions remain moderate at 20–30 degrees Celsius, providing comfortable working conditions during breaks in the rain.

Farmers must remain vigilant about drainage systems, as even brief intense downpours can overwhelm inadequate channels and cause rapid flooding in low-lying fields. Root diseases become more prevalent under these conditions, making prompt harvest and proper field drainage essential management priorities.

*From one of IDEA's partners

petros network

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Weather Outlook — Eastern

Precipitation & Temperature

The Eastern region expects 60–90 millimetres of rainfall over the next seven days, with temperatures ranging from 18–29 degrees Celsius. These conditions are generally near-seasonal norms, supporting healthy crop development without excessive moisture stress.

Terrain-Specific Concerns

Whilst most of the region experiences manageable rainfall levels, the slopes of Mount Elgon require particular attention. Localised landslide and runoff risks increase on steep terrain, especially where vegetation cover is inadequate or soil conservation structures are poorly maintained. Farmers cultivating on slopes should inspect and reinforce erosion control measures immediately.

Alert Level

Moderate

Localised landslide and runoff risks on Elgon slopes require immediate attention to erosion control structures.

Overall, the Eastern region benefits from relatively balanced weather conditions this week. The moderate rainfall supports crop water requirements without creating the widespread waterlogging challenges affecting other regions. However, farmers on hillsides must remain proactive about soil conservation to prevent erosion and potential landslides during intense rainfall events.

Weather Outlook — Western

Heavy Rainfall

80–120 millimetres expected, with higher totals in south-western highlands reaching up to 150 millimetres in localised areas.

Variable Temperatures

15–30 degrees Celsius depending on elevation, with cooler conditions in highland areas and warmer valleys.

Flood & Landslide Risk

Localised flooding and landslide hazards in Rwenzori and Kigezi foothills require immediate erosion control reinforcement.

The Western region, particularly the south-western highlands, faces the most intense rainfall of any region this week. These elevated precipitation levels sustain excellent crop growth but simultaneously create significant hazards in mountainous terrain. The Rwenzori and Kigezi foothills are especially vulnerable to landslides and localised flooding where slopes are steep and soil conservation measures are inadequate.

Farmers must prioritise reinforcing contour bunds, drainage trenches, and mulch layers to prevent soil erosion. The substantial rainfall also increases late blight pressure on potatoes, requiring preventive fungicide applications. Temperature variations across different elevations mean farmers must tailor their management practices to their specific microclimates, with highland farmers experiencing cooler, wetter conditions than their counterparts in warmer valley locations.

Weather Outlook — Central

Rainfall Pattern

Recurrent heavy showers delivering 80–100 millimetres over seven days

1

Urban Hazards

Flash-flood potential in urban areas and along roadways due to intense downpours

3

2

Temperature Range

Comfortable conditions at 19–28 degrees Celsius throughout the week

Central Uganda continues experiencing recurrent heavy showers characteristic of the current rainy season. These consistent rainfall events maintain excellent soil moisture for crop development but create challenges for urban and peri-urban agriculture where drainage infrastructure may be inadequate. Flash flooding along roadways and in low-lying urban areas can disrupt market access and post-harvest operations.

The relatively warm temperatures combined with high humidity create ideal conditions for fungal diseases in crops and promote rapid vegetative growth. Farmers should take advantage of brief sunny intervals to complete time-sensitive operations such as fertiliser application, weeding, and harvest activities. Solar drying of harvested produce becomes particularly challenging under these conditions, requiring covered drying areas or alternative preservation methods.

Weather Outlook — Lake Victoria Crescent

Highest Rainfall Region

The Lake Victoria Crescent receives the most intense precipitation of any region this week, with near-daily thunderstorms delivering 100–120 millimetres.

Weather Characteristics

- Near-daily thunderstorms with short-duration torrential downpours
- Temperature range: 20–29 degrees Celsius
- High humidity levels throughout the day and night
- Limited sunny intervals for drying operations

Primary Hazards

- Urban flooding hotspots in low-lying settlements
- Sudden storm development over the lake
- Soil saturation affecting field operations
- Lightning risk during afternoon thunderstorms

The Lake Victoria Crescent's characteristic afternoon and evening thunderstorms intensify this week, creating challenging conditions for both crop and livestock management. The short-duration but intense rainfall events can deliver several centimetres of rain in under an hour, overwhelming drainage systems and creating flash-flood conditions in urban areas. Fishers should monitor weather forecasts closely and avoid lake travel during storm build-up periods, typically occurring in mid-to-late afternoon. The consistent moisture and warm temperatures accelerate crop growth but also favour disease development, requiring vigilant monitoring and preventive management strategies.

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Practical Implications — Karamoja

01

Complete Field Harvests

Finalise all remaining harvest operations whilst weather conditions remain favourable. Focus on efficient threshing and initial cleaning of grain.

02

Proper Grain Drying

Dry all grain to approximately 13% moisture content using sun-drying on clean tarpaulins or concrete surfaces. Test moisture levels before storage.

03

Hermetic Storage

Store dried grain in hermetically sealed containers, PICS bags, or metal silos to prevent pest infestation and moisture re-absorption during storage.

04

Land Preparation

Utilise residual soil moisture for land preparation activities and incorporate crop residues to improve soil organic matter for the next season.

Livestock Management

Harvest and properly store hay whilst vegetation remains available. Secure water supplies in tanks, drums, or valley ponds before the dry season fully establishes. Begin planning dry-season grazing routes and identify water points along migration paths. Service boreholes and repair pumps now to avoid mechanical failures during critical dry periods.

Strategic Preparation

The transition to drier conditions provides a narrow window for completing essential preparations that will determine livelihood security over the coming months. Farmers who act decisively now—ensuring proper grain storage, securing adequate water supplies, and planning livestock movements—will be far better positioned to weather the dry season successfully than those who delay these critical activities.

Practical Implications — Northern

1

Drainage Management

Open new drainage channels and maintain existing ones to prevent waterlogging. Clear any blockages from trash, vegetation, or sediment that reduce flow capacity.

2

Timely Harvest

Harvest ready crops promptly during breaks in rainfall. Delay increases the risk of pre-harvest sprouting, lodging, and quality deterioration.

3

Grain Drying

Sun-dry stored grain during any sunny intervals to maintain proper moisture levels and prevent mould development in storage structures.

4

Disease Prevention

Hill soil around young plants to improve drainage around root zones and reduce root disease incidence. Monitor stored grain for re-wetting.

The Northern region's persistent heavy rainfall creates a delicate balance between maintaining crop health and preventing waterlogging damage. Saturated soils reduce oxygen availability to roots, creating stress that makes plants more susceptible to fungal and bacterial diseases. Farmers must be proactive rather than reactive—waiting until crops show visible stress often means significant yield losses have already occurred.

Post-harvest management becomes equally critical under these wet conditions. Even properly dried grain can re-absorb moisture from humid air or leaking storage structures, leading to mould growth and aflatoxin contamination. Regular inspection of granaries for roof leaks, rodent damage, or condensation is essential. Consider using moisture-proof storage bags or mixing diatomaceous earth with grain to provide additional protection against both moisture and insect pests.

Practical Implications — Eastern

Crop Management Priorities

Complete timely weeding operations to prevent competition for nutrients, water, and light during this critical growth phase. Apply nitrogen top-dressing to maize during breaks in rainfall, taking care to place fertiliser near plant bases and lightly incorporate it to reduce volatilisation losses. Proper timing and placement of this application significantly impacts final grain yields.

Dig micro-drainage channels in areas where water tends to puddle, especially in fields with heavy clay soils or compacted areas where machinery has operated. These small interventions prevent localised waterlogging that can create dead spots in otherwise healthy fields.

Special Crop Considerations

Protect groundnut fields from waterlogging, as this crop is particularly sensitive to saturated soil conditions. Raised beds or ridges help maintain adequate drainage around developing pods.

Exercise particular caution with flowering beans—suspend all field operations including weeding during the flowering period to avoid flower drop and reduced pod set. This is one of the most critical growth stages, and any disturbance can result in significant yield reductions.

- ### Intensify Pest Scouting

  Scout fields at least twice weekly for aphids, thrips, and other sucking pests. Use botanical pesticides such as neem or chilli preparations if pest populations exceed economic thresholds.

- ### Monitor Soil Moisture

  Whilst most areas receive adequate rainfall, monitor soil moisture in sandy or well-drained soils that may dry out quickly during brief sunny periods.

Practical Implications — Western

Erosion Control

Reinforce erosion control structures immediately—repair damaged contour bunds, clear drainage trenches, and add mulch layers to protect bare soil from raindrop impact. On steep slopes, consider planting vegetative barriers of Napier grass or other deep-rooted species to stabilise soil.

Potato Management

Earth-up potato plants to prevent tuber exposure and greening. Monitor closely for late blight symptoms (dark lesions on leaves and stems) and apply preventive fungicides based on disease forecasts and field conditions. The wet, cool conditions in highland areas create ideal environments for this devastating disease.

Fodder Conservation

Cut and conserve fodder as hay or silage between rain showers. This strategic activity takes advantage of current abundant vegetation to build feed reserves for livestock during drier periods. Proper curing and storage prevent mould development that reduces nutritional value and can harm livestock.

The Western region's intense rainfall demands proactive management of both crops and landscape. Farmers on slopes face the dual challenge of maintaining crop productivity whilst preventing soil loss that permanently degrades the resource base. Every rainfall event that causes visible erosion removes the most fertile topsoil layer, reducing long-term productivity. Investment in erosion control structures pays dividends not just this season but for years to come, protecting both individual farms and downstream areas from sedimentation.

Practical Implications — Central

Early Harvest Strategy

Harvest short-cycle crops early to avoid losses from prolonged field exposure to wet conditions. Even slight delays can result in quality deterioration, pre-harvest sprouting, or increased pest damage.

Rainwater Capture

Maximise rainwater capture through clean gutters directing flow to storage tanks, ponds, or lined basins. This abundant resource will become invaluable during dry periods and reduces dependence on municipal water supplies.

Livestock Housing

Repair livestock housing to keep bedding dry and reduce disease pressure. Wet bedding promotes hoof problems and respiratory diseases whilst increasing parasite survival in the immediate environment.

Solar Drying

Prioritise solar-drying of vegetables and other perishables during short sunny windows. Consider constructing simple covered drying racks that protect produce from sudden showers whilst allowing air circulation.

Central Uganda's peri-urban and urban farmers face unique challenges managing agriculture alongside infrastructure constraints. Heavy rainfall overwhelms many urban drainage systems, creating localised flooding that can destroy market gardens and disrupt access to markets. Farmers in these areas must be particularly strategic about rainwater harvesting, as captured water can be used for high-value vegetable production during drier periods when municipal water supplies may be restricted or expensive.

The relatively short distance to urban markets provides opportunities for fresh produce sales, but successful marketing requires careful timing of harvests and reliable drying facilities to maintain product quality during transport and storage.

Practical Implications — Lake Victoria Crescent

Drainage Infrastructure

Clear urban and rural drains of accumulated debris. Cut diversion channels around gardens to redirect runoff away from crop areas and prevent localised flooding.

Nursery Protection

Protect nurseries with simple covers constructed from local materials. These structures shield young seedlings from heavy rain damage whilst maintaining adequate light and air circulation.

Lake Safety

Avoid lake travel during afternoon and evening hours when thunderstorms typically develop. Monitor weather forecasts and observe cloud formations for signs of storm development.

Planting Window

Establish tree seedlings and banana suckers now whilst soil moisture is abundant. Strong root establishment during this period ensures better survival during subsequent drier periods.

The Lake Victoria Crescent's intense and frequent rainfall creates both opportunities and challenges for farmers. The consistent moisture supports year-round production of perennial crops such as bananas and coffee, but the same conditions that favour crop growth also promote rapid disease spread and create logistical challenges for harvest and post-harvest operations.

Fisher communities must balance livelihood needs with safety considerations, as Lake Victoria's afternoon thunderstorms can develop rapidly with little warning. The combination of strong winds, lightning, and rough water creates dangerous conditions for small vessels. Modern mobile phone-based weather alert systems provide valuable advance warning, but traditional knowledge of cloud patterns and wind shifts remains important for safety decisions.

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Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Karamoja

Maize — Post-Harvest

Key tasks: Finish shelling operations using clean threshing floors or mechanised shellers. Dry grain to approximately 13% moisture content through sun-drying on tarpaulins or concrete. Store in hermetic bags or containers. Clean and fumigate granaries before introducing new harvest.

Beans — Post-Harvest

Key tasks: Secure dry storage conditions immediately after harvest. Inspect regularly for bruchid weevil infestation (small holes in seeds, powdery residue). Rotate stored beans using first-in, first-out principles to maintain quality.

Sorghum — Late Maturity

Key tasks: Guard remaining late-planted fields from bird damage using scare tactics or physical barriers. Harvest heads when grains are hard and difficult to dent with fingernail. Crib-dry heads off the ground for 2–3 weeks before threshing.

Millet Management

Late ripening continues in pockets that received better rainfall distribution. Implement staged harvest on dry days, cutting heads as they mature rather than waiting for uniform field maturity. Immediate drying on raised platforms or clean surfaces prevents mould development. Thresh promptly after adequate drying to reduce bird losses and maintain grain quality.

Banana Considerations

Production remains low due to seasonal moisture stress. Prune excess suckers to maintain optimal mat population (typically 3–5 stems per mat of varying ages). Apply heavy mulch layers around mats to conserve residual soil moisture and moderate soil temperature. Organic matter from crop residues serves dual purposes of moisture conservation and gradual nutrient release.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Northern

1

Maize — Tasseling to Grain-Fill

Late or second plantings reach reproductive stages. Finalise split nitrogen top-dressing applications before full tassel emergence. Scout intensively for fall armyworm and stemborers, treating when economic thresholds are exceeded. Minimise field traffic to prevent stalk breakage during this vulnerable growth stage.

2

Beans — Flowering to Pod-Set

Maintain weed-free conditions without disturbing flowering plants. Monitor for aphids and foliage beetles, which can cause significant damage during reproductive stages. Provide stakes or other support for climbing varieties to improve air circulation and facilitate harvest.

3

Sorghum — Hard Dough to Harvest

Cut and pile heads for field drying when grains reach physiological maturity. Plan timely threshing operations to avoid weather damage and quality deterioration during storage of unthreshed heads.

4

Millet — Ripening

Implement progressive harvest as heads mature. Dry thoroughly on raised platforms and store promptly in moisture-proof containers to prevent insect infestation and mould development.

Banana Production Alert

Production levels remain low to moderate. Remove diseased leaves showing bacterial wilt or fusarium symptoms immediately. Apply well-decomposed manure or compost around mats. Harvest heavy bunches before lodging occurs during storms, even if slightly immature.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Eastern

Maize Development

Early to mid-vegetative stage at 6–8 weeks after planting. Complete weeding operations promptly to reduce competition. Side-dress with nitrogen fertiliser (urea or calcium ammonium nitrate) at approximately 25–30 kilograms per acre, placing fertiliser in bands near plant bases. Alternatively, apply well-decomposed manure or compost, though nutrient concentrations are lower and release is slower compared to mineral fertilisers.

Bean Critical Stage

Early flowering represents the most sensitive growth period. Avoid any field disturbance that could cause flower drop or reduced pod set. Scout carefully for thrips and aphids, which can transmit viral diseases in addition to direct feeding damage. Use botanical pesticides (neem, chilli preparations) only if pest populations exceed economic thresholds. Complete staking of climbing varieties before full flowering to prevent yield losses.

Sorghum — Early Vegetative

Relay or staggered plantings enter early growth stages. Apply light nitrogen top-dressing if persistent rainfall continues and plants show signs of nutrient deficiency (yellowing lower leaves).

Millet — Tillering

Limited second-season plantings reach tillering stage. Thin overcrowded stands to optimal plant populations. Use thinnings as high-quality livestock fodder rather than discarding.

Bananas — Fruiting

Remove leaves with disease symptoms (black sigatoka, fusarium wilt) to reduce inoculum pressure. Maintain mulch layers to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. Prop heavy bunches with forked sticks to prevent premature toppling during storms.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Western

Maize — Late Vegetative to Tasseling

Complete nitrogen top-dressing before tassel emergence for maximum grain-filling benefit. Scout intensively for fall armyworm and stem borers, which cause significant damage during this period. Consider Bt-based biopesticides where pest pressure justifies treatment.

Beans — Flowering to Pod-Fill

Improve airflow through crop canopy to reduce anthracnose and pod rot incidence. Keep developing pods off wet soil through proper plant spacing or mulching. Monitor disease development closely during wet weather.

Sorghum & Millet — Various Stages

Sorghum development varies across the region depending on planting dates. Maintain weed control throughout growth stages. Plan synchronized harvest where fields reach maturity simultaneously to optimize labour efficiency. Millet ripens in select zones—harvest during dry intervals and implement rapid drying protocols.

Bananas — Peak Production

De-sucker to maintain 2–3 productive stems per mat of different ages for continuous production. Prop heavy bunches with support structures before weight causes toppling. Harvest promptly when fingers begin to round out to avoid storm damage.

Western Uganda's diverse topography creates multiple microclimates supporting varied crop development stages. Farmers must tailor management practices to their specific elevation and slope position, as highland areas typically lag 2–3 weeks behind warmer valley locations in crop development. This spatial variation actually provides opportunities for staggered harvests that smooth labour demands and spread market supply over longer periods.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Central

1

Maize — Rapid Vegetative Growth

Finish nitrogen top-dressing during dry breaks in rainfall. Apply approximately 25–30 kilograms urea or CAN per acre, placing near plant bases and lightly incorporating. Avoid herbicide applications at this advanced vegetative stage, as crop tolerance decreases and weed control benefits diminish. Hand weeding remains the safest option if weed pressure warrants intervention.

2

Beans — Flowering/Early Pods

Often intercropped with maize in Central region systems. Drain standing water immediately, as even brief waterlogging during flowering can cause significant yield reductions. Manage thrips populations carefully, as these insects vector bean common mosaic virus. Minimize foot traffic and other field disturbances in wet field conditions to prevent soil compaction and root damage.

3

Sorghum — Vegetative-Booting

Staggered plantings create varied development stages across the region. Maintain consistent weeding schedules adapted to specific field conditions. Apply light nitrogen where soil conditions and rainfall patterns support effective nutrient uptake. Scout regularly for stemborers and armyworms.

Minor Crops

Millet production remains limited in second-season systems. Thin overcrowded stands and maintain weed control. Protect young plants from wash-outs in heavy rainfall using raised beds or ridges.

Banana Management

Production remains high across the region. Set pseudostem traps for banana weevils by cutting and placing sections near mats to attract and concentrate adult weevils for destruction. Prune dead and diseased leaves regularly to improve air circulation and reduce disease pressure. Maintain mulch layers despite abundant rainfall, as organic matter provides slow-release nutrients and improves soil structure over time.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Lake Victoria Crescent

Maize — Tasseling/Silking

Critical pollination period requiring minimal disturbance. Avoid trampling plants during rainfall events. Monitor for ear rots, which develop rapidly under humid conditions. Plan prompt harvest and immediate drying as grain reaches physiological maturity to minimize field exposure and quality loss.

Beans — Flowering to Pod-Set

Diverse cropping systems create varied bean development stages. Scout carefully for pest complexes including aphids, thrips, and pod borers. Ensure adequate drainage to prevent root diseases and pod rots that thrive in saturated soils.

Sorghum — Early Vegetative

Late plantings enter early growth phases. Apply light nitrogen top-dressing where warranted by plant appearance and soil conditions. Maintain effective weed control to reduce competition during establishment. Scout for armyworm and stemborer egg masses and young larvae.

Millet remains a minor crop in the Lake Victoria Crescent farming systems, with only occasional plantings on raised beds in areas prone to waterlogging. Where present, maintain plant stands through careful management of drainage and protection from wash-out during intense rainfall events.

Bananas dominate perennial crop production in the Lake Victoria Crescent, with most mats carrying heavy bunches during this period. De-sucker regularly to maintain optimal stem populations, removing excess shoots to concentrate resources in productive stems. Stake or prop heavy bunches before they reach full weight to prevent wind damage or premature toppling. Refresh mulch layers regularly despite abundant rainfall, as the rapid decomposition under warm, moist conditions means organic matter disappears quickly. This mulch provides continuous nutrient release and maintains excellent soil structure that supports the high productivity characteristic of the region.

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Input & Technical Advisory — Fertility

Mineral Fertiliser Application

For maize and sorghum at late-vegetative stages, complete top-dressing applications at approximately 25–30 kilograms urea per acre. Alternatively, use calcium ammonium nitrate where appropriate for soil conditions. Apply during dry intervals to prevent fertiliser wash-off and nutrient loss. Lightly incorporate fertiliser by shallow cultivation or manual mixing with soil near plant bases.

Organic Nutrient Sources

Well-decomposed manure or compost can side-dress crops as alternatives to mineral fertilisers. Expect lower nutrient density compared to manufactured products—organic sources typically contain 1–3% nitrogen compared to 46% for urea. Nutrient release occurs more slowly, providing gradual availability over weeks rather than immediate uptake. Apply larger volumes to achieve similar nutrient delivery—approximately 2–3 tonnes per hectare of well-decomposed manure replaces roughly 50 kilograms of urea.

Soil Amendments

In acidic soils characteristic of highland areas, apply agricultural lime now to allow rainfall to incorporate it into the soil profile before the next planting season. Lime application rates vary substantially based on current soil pH and texture. Typical guidance ranges from approximately 1–2 tonnes per hectare on mildly acidic soils (pH 5.5–6.0) up to 2–5 tonnes per hectare where acidity is severe (pH below 5.0). Professional soil testing provides the most accurate lime requirement calculations, accounting for buffering capacity and target pH levels.

Alternative Amendments

Wood ash supplies potassium and raises soil pH in moderation. Apply at 1–2 tonnes per hectare on soils requiring both K supplementation and pH adjustment. Excessive application can cause nutrient imbalances, particularly affecting micronutrient availability. Biochar incorporated at 2–5 tonnes per hectare improves water retention, enhances soil biology, and provides long-term carbon storage whilst slowly releasing nutrients.

Application Timing

Current abundant rainfall creates ideal conditions for lime incorporation, as water movement through the soil profile distributes the amendment and initiates pH adjustment reactions. Applied lime requires 3–6 months to reach full effectiveness, making current applications valuable for the next major planting season. Surface applications without incorporation show much slower effects and benefit primarily shallow-rooted crops.

Input & Technical Advisory — Pest Management

Foundation: Twice-Weekly Scouting

Regular field inspection forms the basis of effective integrated pest management. Walk fields systematically, examining 10–20 plants in different areas. Record pest presence, densities, and damage levels to track trends and guide intervention decisions.

Maize Pest Management

Monitor for fall armyworm and stemborers by checking leaf whorls for frass (insect droppings), shot-holes, and larvae. Handpick and destroy larvae where feasible in small fields. Consider Bt-based biopesticides (Bacillus thuringiensis) when economic thresholds are exceeded—typically 20–30% of plants showing fresh damage. Apply during early morning or late afternoon when larvae are actively feeding.

Bean Pest Priorities

Monitor for aphids and thrips, which cause both direct feeding damage and disease transmission. Encourage natural predator populations (ladybirds, lacewings, parasitic wasps) through habitat conservation and avoiding broad-spectrum insecticide use. Apply neem oil or chilli-garlic botanical preparations when pest populations exceed 5–10 aphids per growing point or visible thrip damage on young leaves. These softer interventions preserve beneficial insect populations whilst managing pest pressures.

Vegetable Crop Challenges

Manage slugs and snails through barrier methods (ash rings around plants) and trapping (boards or leaves placed in gardens at dusk, collected and destroyed at dawn). These molluscs thrive in wet conditions and can devastate young vegetable crops overnight. Emphasize sanitation by removing crop debris and weeds that shelter pest populations. Practice crop rotation to break pest life cycles.

Safe Pesticide Use

Critical Safety Requirements

Correct pest identification precedes any pesticide use—treating the wrong pest wastes resources and may harm beneficial organisms. Follow label rates exactly; higher rates do not improve control and increase environmental contamination and resistance development risks. Apply during late afternoon when temperatures are cooler and beneficial insects less active. Never apply when rain is imminent—check forecasts and observe cloud development. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment: long-sleeved shirt, trousers, gloves, and face covering. Observe pre-harvest intervals listed on product labels before harvesting treated crops. Triple-rinse empty containers, puncture them to prevent re-use, and dispose through official collection programmes where available. Never reuse pesticide containers for water or food storage under any circumstances.

Tech Tip of the Week — Rainwater Harvesting

Maximise Water Capture Now

Rainwater harvesting payoffs reach their highest levels during the current abundant rainfall period. The infrastructure and preparation work you complete this week will provide benefits extending well into the dry season, supporting kitchen gardens, livestock watering, and household needs whilst reducing pressure on boreholes and municipal supplies.

Install or Repair Gutters

Attach gutters to roof edges using locally available materials—split bamboo, cut plastic pipes, or purchased metal guttering all work effectively. Ensure proper slope toward collection points (approximately 1 centimetre drop per 3 metres of length). Connect gutters to storage drums via downspouts, incorporating simple first-flush diverters that discard the initial contaminated runoff before filling clean storage.

Dig Collection Basins

Excavate basins or small ponds in locations that capture natural runoff from fields or compounds. Line with polythene sheets, clay, or cement to prevent seepage. Cover stored water with shade cloth or construct simple roofs to reduce evaporation and algae growth whilst preventing mosquito breeding. Add sand filters at inflow points to reduce sediment accumulation.

Strategic Benefits

Captured runoff supports kitchen gardens and livestock throughout dry spells, reducing purchase of expensive municipal water or long-distance hauling from wells. Rainwater harvesting reduces erosion by controlling runoff velocity and capturing sediment before it damages downstream areas. Water storage also provides fire-fighting reserves and emergency supplies during infrastructure failures. Start implementation this week whilst abundant rainfall continues and installation work remains practical.

Storage Capacity Planning

Calculate storage needs based on roof area, local rainfall patterns, and intended uses. A 100-square-metre roof area can collect approximately 80–100 litres per millimetre of rainfall. During heavy rainfall weeks delivering 80–100 millimetres, this roof could theoretically capture 6,400–10,000 litres. Practical systems capture 60–70% of this theoretical maximum due to losses from splashing, first-flush diversion, and overflow during intense bursts.

Maintenance Requirements

Clean gutters weekly during rainy periods to remove leaves and debris that block flow. Inspect storage containers for cracks or leaks. Drain and clean tanks every 3–6 months to remove accumulated sediment and prevent algae buildup. Screen all openings with fine mesh to exclude mosquitoes whilst allowing air circulation. These simple maintenance activities ensure water quality and system longevity.

Livestock & Ranching — Husbandry

Pastures and water supplies remain abundant across most regions this week, creating excellent conditions for livestock productivity. However, this period also demands strategic management to prepare for the inevitable dry season ahead whilst addressing immediate wet-season health challenges.

Fodder Conservation

Cut and conserve hay or silage now to buffer the coming dry season when natural pastures decline. Harvest Napier grass, Rhodes grass, or natural pasture during mid-morning after dew has dried but before afternoon rains begin. Wilt cut Napier for 4–8 hours before feeding fresh or ensiling to reduce moisture content and bloat risk. Properly dried hay should contain approximately 15% moisture—stems should snap cleanly rather than bend.

Mineral Supplementation

Provide mineral licks continuously to balance nutrient intake, as rapid pasture growth often contains suboptimal mineral ratios. Commercial mineral blocks or locally prepared mixtures (salt combined with bonemeal) support optimal health, reproduction, and productivity.

Housing Management

Keep kraals and housing dry using gravel bedding or raised slatted floors where practical. Wet bedding promotes footrot development, increases parasite survival, and creates uncomfortable conditions that reduce animal productivity. Remove and compost soiled bedding regularly, replacing with fresh dry material.

Livestock & Ranching — Health & Vaccination

Parasite Control

Maintain intensive tick control through dipping or spraying every 1–2 weeks depending on tick pressure. Rotate acaricides among different chemical classes to delay resistance development—don't use the same product continuously. Deworm small ruminants and cattle if not completed within the last 3 months. Wet season conditions favor internal parasite transmission, making regular deworming schedules essential for maintaining productivity.

Disease Prevention

Join district vaccination campaigns for contagious caprine pleuropneumonia and peste des petits ruminants in small ruminants. Confirm anthrax and foot-and-mouth disease vaccination schedules with district veterinary officers. Ring vaccination around disease outbreaks provides important protection even if your animals haven't yet been included in routine programmes.

Disease Surveillance Alert

A suspected anthrax event in Ibanda District triggered ring vaccination and quarantine measures. Report any sudden livestock deaths immediately to veterinary authorities—do not handle carcasses, as anthrax can transmit to humans through contact with infected animal tissues. Authorities are implementing ring vaccination in affected areas and providing guidance on carcass disposal to prevent further spread.

Mobility & Water Planning

In Karamoja and the cattle corridor, begin mapping dry-season grazing routes now whilst current conditions remain favorable for planning meetings and community coordination. Service boreholes and repair pumps before the dry season begins—mechanical failures during critical dry periods can devastate herds when no alternative water sources exist. Store water where possible using lined pits, tanks, or other containers. Complete pre-trek health checks including vaccination status, deworming, and body condition assessment to ensure animals can withstand the stresses of long-distance movement. These preparatory investments significantly reduce losses during dry-season migrations.

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Market Analysis

Cereal prices remain seasonally soft following recent harvests, with maize cheapest in traditional surplus zones. Karamoja shows unusually low maize prices given recent inflows from more productive neighbouring regions. Meanwhile, beans command tight and expensive prices reflecting limited supplies relative to demand. Bananas exhibit urban retail spikes due to wet-field harvest constraints and transport logistics challenges that should ease as field access improves and road conditions stabilize.

Regional Price Variations

Price discrepancies across regions primarily reflect transport conditions, local supply levels, and infrastructure quality. Values below synthesize World Food Programme market monitoring data and current retail indicators, selecting central estimates where multiple sources showed variation. Maize price levels align with recent WFP observations showing post-harvest abundance. Banana retail ranges mirror current retail tracking data showing weather-related logistics pressures. Where data sources differed, we prioritized recent observations consistent with both humanitarian datasets and direct trader quotations.

Data Sources

Price information synthesizes WFP market data, UBOS reports (where available), and retail market monitoring. Precise weekly bulletins for this specific period were not accessible at publication time, so estimates represent best available information.

Commodity Prices

Sorghum

- Karamoja: UGX 1,500
- Northern: UGX 2,500
- Eastern: UGX 2,000
- Western: UGX 3,000
- Central: UGX 4,000
- Lake Victoria: UGX 4,000

Millet

- Karamoja: UGX 1,800
- Northern: UGX 3,000
- Eastern: UGX 2,500
- Western: UGX 4,000
- Central: UGX 4,500
- Lake Victoria: UGX 4,500

Bananas (per kg)

- Karamoja: UGX 8,000
- Northern: UGX 6,000
- Eastern: UGX 4,000
- Western: UGX 2,500
- Central: UGX 6,000
- Lake Victoria: UGX 7,000

Sorghum and millet show substantial geographic price variation, reflecting their importance as staple crops in specific regions (particularly Karamoja and Northern areas where they're dietary staples) versus areas where they're minor crops commanding premium prices. Banana prices vary dramatically by region, with lowest prices in Western Uganda where production is concentrated and highest prices in Karamoja where transport distances and costs are greatest. Current elevated urban banana prices should normalize as harvest and transport conditions improve.

Detailed Commodity Price Matrix

Understanding the granular price variations across different regions for staple commodities is crucial for farmers planning sales and traders making procurement decisions. The following matrix provides an overview of current average retail prices, reflecting local supply, demand, and transport logistics. Prices are subject to daily fluctuations based on market dynamics.

	Karamoja	Northern	Eastern	Western	Central	Lake Victoria Crescent
Maize	UGX 800	UGX 1,000	UGX 1,200	UGX 1,000	UGX 1,300	UGX 1,200
Beans	UGX 3,800	UGX 3,300	UGX 3,000	UGX 3,000	UGX 3,200	UGX 3,500
Sorghum	UGX 1,500	UGX 2,500	UGX 2,000	UGX 3,000	UGX 4,000	UGX 4,000
Millet	UGX 1,800	UGX 3,000	UGX 2,500	UGX 4,000	UGX 4,500	UGX 4,500
Bananas	UGX 8,000	UGX 6,000	UGX 4,000	UGX 2,500	UGX 6,000	UGX 7,000

As observed, maize prices remain lowest in Karamoja and Western regions, indicative of recent harvests and efficient local supply chains. Conversely, beans maintain a higher price point across all regions, particularly in Karamoja, reflecting sustained demand against limited local stock. Sorghum and millet continue to command premium prices in Central and Lake Victoria Crescent, where they are less commonly cultivated as staple foods. Banana prices show significant disparity, with the Western region offering the most affordable rates due to high production, while transport costs drive prices up considerably in more distant areas like Karamoja.

These variations highlight the importance of strategic timing and logistical planning for both producers and consumers. Farmers in surplus regions might consider market opportunities in deficit areas, while consumers should be aware of regional price trends to inform their purchasing decisions.

Government & NGO Updates

Emergency Disease Response

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) activated emergency response protocols following a suspected anthrax outbreak in Rwambu Parish, Ibanda District. Authorities implemented ring vaccination around affected areas, established quarantine zones to prevent animal movement, and issued public advisories on safe carcass handling. Farmers in Ibanda and surrounding districts should contact district veterinary officers immediately if livestock show sudden death or illness symptoms. Avoid handling suspected anthrax carcasses without proper protective equipment and official supervision.

Misinformation Clarification

MAAIF officially clarified that alleged tractor-burning in Buvuma District was false information. An earlier mechanical fire incident was misrepresented on social media platforms, creating confusion about agricultural mechanization programmes. The Ministry confirmed that mechanization initiatives continue as planned without disruption, and urged the public to verify agricultural news through official channels before sharing on social media.

Coffee Sector Achievement

Uganda's coffee was showcased at the Specialty Coffee Association of Japan (SCAJ) exhibition in Tokyo, highlighting the sector's record export earnings and expanded market access. Authorities emphasized growing international recognition of Ugandan coffee quality and diversity. Export earnings reached $2.2 billion, demonstrating the sector's importance to national economic development and smallholder farmer livelihoods.

Ongoing Preparedness Initiatives

Early Warning Systems

Government and partner organizations continue locust and armyworm preparedness activities through distribution of pheromone traps and refreshing strategic pesticide stocks. Farmers should report any unusual insect swarms to agricultural extension officers immediately for rapid response coordination. These early warning systems have proven effective in preventing major outbreaks that devastated crops in previous years.

Storage Infrastructure

Government announced new produce aggregation and drying facilities designed to reduce post-harvest losses that currently consume 20–30% of production in some crops. Initial sites launched this month in selected districts, with expansion planned based on farmer uptake and demonstrated impact. These facilities provide access to quality drying and storage for farmers lacking individual infrastructure.

Recent Publications & Links

01

MAAIF Anthrax Response Statement

Official press statement detailing response actions, affected locations, and farmer guidance for the suspected anthrax outbreak in Ibanda District. Includes quarantine zones, vaccination schedules, and safe carcass disposal protocols.

02

Buvuma Tractor Clarification

MAAIF's official correction of misinformation regarding alleged tractor burning in Buvuma District. Confirms mechanization project continuity and provides accurate information about the actual mechanical fire incident that was misrepresented.

03

Uganda Coffee at SCAJ Tokyo

Coverage of Uganda's coffee showcase at Japan's specialty coffee exhibition, highlighting sector performance, record export earnings of $2.2 billion, and expanding market development in Asia and globally.

04

ICPAC Weekly Forecast

IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre weekly rainfall outlook for East Africa (15–22 October 2025), detailing expected intensities, distribution patterns, and hazard alerts across the Greater Horn of Africa region.

05

NOAA Global Weather Hazards

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Famine Early Warning Systems Network global weather hazards summary (16–22 October 2025), with flooding signals and other weather-related risks across East Africa and globally.

Additional valuable resources include Uganda's September-to-December 2025 seasonal rainfall outlook published by the Ministry of Water and Environment and Uganda National Meteorological Authority, FAO's crop calendar database providing planting and harvest timing guidance, WFP food price monitoring datasets available through the Humanitarian Data Exchange, and technical soil information from iSDAsoil and IISD publications on managing soil acidity in East African contexts. FAO's rainwater harvesting systems documentation provides practical implementation guidance relevant to current recommendations.

Accessing Resources

Most publications listed above are freely accessible online through official government websites, international organization portals, and humanitarian data platforms. Extension officers can assist farmers in accessing and interpreting technical information where internet connectivity or literacy constraints limit direct access.

Looking Ahead & Reminders

National Outlook

Rainfall will likely persist at above-average levels in southern and western highlands through November, then taper toward early December as seasonal transitions begin. Brief hot spells may follow in areas where skies clear and soil moisture decreases rapidly. Farmers should prepare for a busy late-November through December harvest period requiring rapid drying capacity and safe storage infrastructure to prevent post-harvest losses during this critical window.

Karamoja Priorities

Finish harvest and threshing operations completely. Secure all grain in hermetic storage using PICS bags, metal silos, or other proven technologies. Organize grazing plans identifying dry-season water points and pasture areas. Service boreholes and repair pumps before demand intensifies. Map livestock movement routes and coordinate with neighboring communities on shared resources.

Northern Region Focus

Prepare cribs and granaries for incoming sorghum and millet harvests. Mobilize labor for synchronized harvest operations that reduce field exposure time. Implement thorough sanitation of storage structures to reduce pest carryover from previous seasons. Consider quick-maturing vegetables or fodder crops on residual soil moisture before full dry season establishment.

Eastern Preparations

Time bean harvest for mid-November when pods are fully mature but before field weathering causes quality deterioration. Plan shelling and drying operations carefully to maintain market quality. Prepare irrigated vegetable plots for dry-season production where water sources are available. Stabilize contour structures and repair erosion damage to limit soil loss in final heavy rains.

Western Region Actions

Maintain drainage and erosion control structures through the final weeks of heavy rainfall. Schedule coffee and potato drying space to avoid bottlenecks during peak harvest. Begin hay and silage conservation during the tail-end of the rains whilst forage quality remains high. Plan end-of-year livestock vaccination campaigns with district veterinary officers before dry-season livestock movements begin.

Central & Lake Victoria

Harvest beans promptly once pods reach physiological maturity—even 1–2 weeks delay under wet conditions causes significant quality loss. Prepare or repair solar dryers for the intensive drying period ahead. Schedule banana garden clean-up activities during brief dry spells, removing diseased plants and refreshing mulch. Plan grain storage protection using hermetic bags or diatomaceous earth treatment to prevent storage pest damage that often reaches 20–30% in inadequate storage.

The coming 4–6 weeks represent a critical transition period requiring strategic preparation rather than reactive management. Farmers who invest effort now in infrastructure repair, storage preparation, and strategic planning will realize substantially better outcomes than those who wait until problems emerge. Extension officers should intensify farmer contact during this period, ensuring that advisory messages reach farming communities before weather transitions create new challenges.

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