

Uganda Weekly Agriculture, Food Market, and Farming Weather Report

09–16 May 2025

Brought to you by **IDEA**, the International Development Extension Agency. We specialize in empowering farmers, Ministries of Agriculture, and INGOs throughout the world with field-proven and impact-driven strategies that improve food security.



Uganda's first rainy season is well underway, bringing generally moderate rainfall across most regions. Eastern and southern areas have experienced above-normal showers this week, boosting crop growth. Farmers are busy with mid-season activities: weeding maize and sorghum fields, managing pests in legumes, and tending banana plantations.

Executive Summary

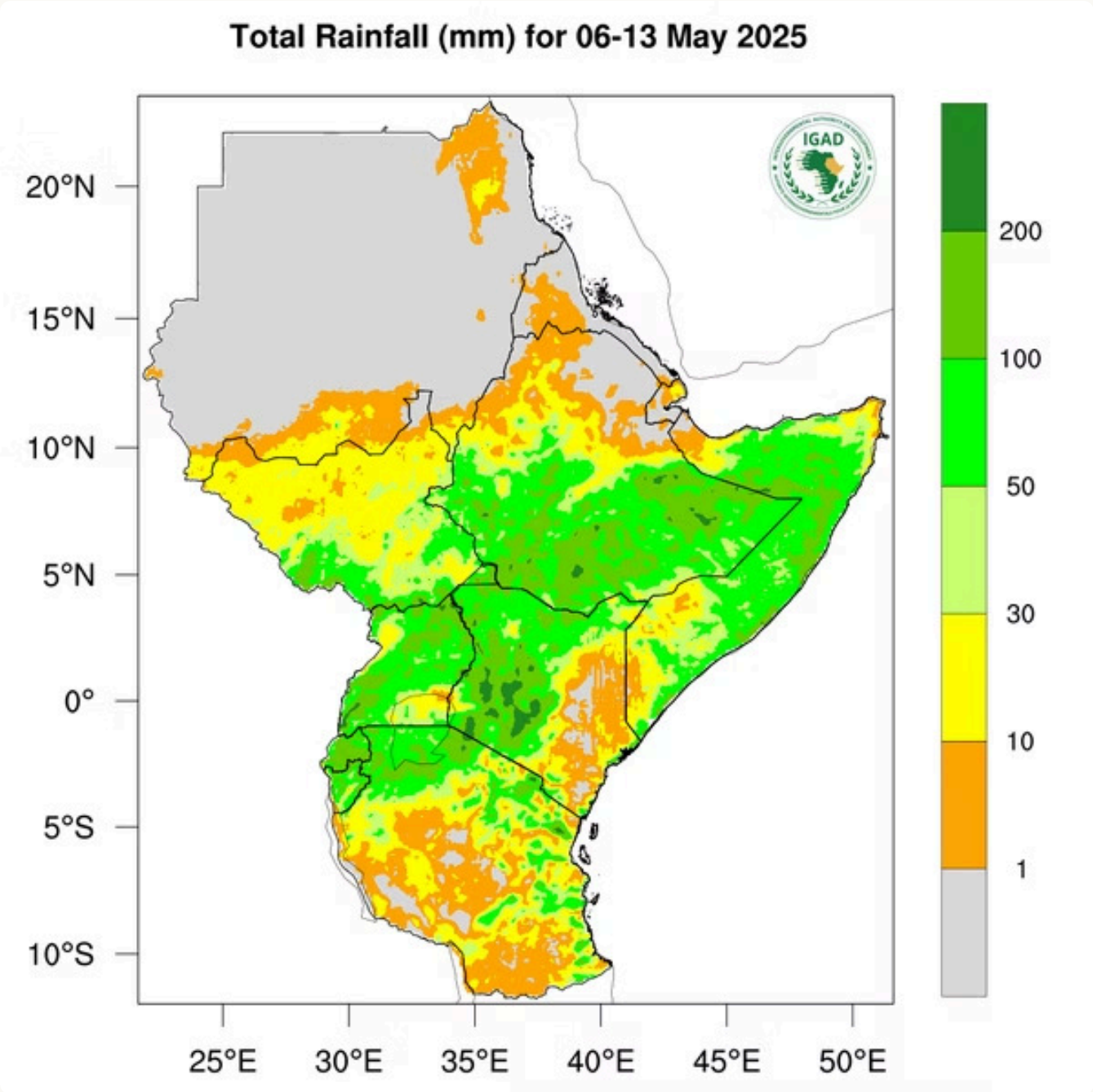
Uganda's first rainy season continues with moderate rainfall across most regions, with eastern and southern areas receiving above-normal precipitation. Farmers are engaged in mid-season activities including weeding, pest management, and plantation maintenance. Livestock conditions are improving as pastures regenerate, with some quarantine measures lifted following successful vaccination campaigns. Staple food prices remain stable overall, though urban prices exceed those in producing regions. Maize, sorghum, and bean prices show slight increases since January but remain below last year's peak. Government agencies continue providing input support and climate advisories, while addressing funding shortfalls in refugee food assistance. Farmers are encouraged to complete critical field operations promptly to maximize yields before seasonal rains conclude in late May/early June.

Table of contents

- [Weather Forecast \(09–16 May 2025\)](#)
- [Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Maize](#)
- [Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Millet & Sorghum](#)
- [Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Legumes](#)
- [Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Bananas](#)
- [Input Recommendations & Technical Advisory](#)
- [Pest Management](#)
- [Disease Management](#)
- [Livestock & Ranching: Pasture and Water](#)
- [Livestock & Ranching: Disease Control](#)
- [Livestock & Ranching: Small Ruminants and Poultry](#)
- [Market Analysis \(Early May 2025\)](#)
- [Market Analysis: Beans, Sorghum, Millet, and Bananas \(Matooke\)](#)
- [Market Analysis: Livestock](#)
- [Government & NGO Updates](#)
- [NGO and Donor Projects](#)
- [Looking Ahead & Reminders](#)
- [About IDEA](#)

Weather Forecast (09–16 May 2025)

Figure: ICPAC forecast showing Uganda's rainfall (50–150 mm) for 06–13 May 2025, predominantly in green (moderate rainfall).



Karamoja (Northeastern)

Expect light to moderate rains across Karamoja with scattered showers delivering 30–60 mm weekly. This seasonal average rainfall will support pastures and crops with no flooding anticipated. Temperatures: mild days (mid-20s °C) with cool nights. Soil moisture remains adequate for sorghum and millet.

Northern Region

Acholi, Lango, and West Nile areas forecast for moderate rainfall (50–100 mm), with well-distributed precipitation and occasional heavy downpours in West Nile. Conditions normal for May. Farmers in low-lying areas should monitor for waterlogging after intense rains. Temperatures in high 20s°C with high humidity during rainy days. No severe weather expected.

Eastern Region

Eastern Uganda (Teso, Bugisu, Busoga) expects above-normal rainfall with weekly accumulations of 80-100mm in Teso and Elgon foothills. Farmers should prepare for possible localized flooding and soil erosion, particularly in the Lake Kyoga basin. These rains will benefit late-planted crops but may delay drying of early crops. Clear drainage channels to prevent waterlogging.

Western Region

Western districts will receive moderate rains of 50-80mm with sunny intervals. Rwenzori areas may experience heavier rainfall, while most farming communities will have manageable conditions. This rainfall benefits perennial crops and improves pasture in southwestern rangelands. Low flood risk exists, though riverbank farmers should remain alert. Temperatures will range from 17-27°C, cooler in highlands.

Central and Lake Victoria Crescent

Central region and Lake Victoria areas will receive frequent showers totaling 70-120mm, above normal for mid-May. Urban residents should expect water pooling and traffic disruptions during afternoon storms. Farmers should utilize rainfall for crops while monitoring for fungal diseases due to high humidity. Daytime temperatures will average 25°C. These wet conditions mark the peak of the first rainy season, which typically eases by late May.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Maize

In bimodal farming zones (Central, Eastern, Northern Uganda), first-season maize planted from late February through April is now in vegetative to early reproductive stages. **Early maize in Central and Eastern regions (February planting) is beginning to tassel and silk, with green cobs potentially ready by late May.** In other bimodal areas (March planting), maize stands knee-high to waist-high.

Current key activities include **completing the second weeding (5-6 weeks after planting) and applying nitrogen fertilizer at knee-height stage to boost growth.** Farmers who haven't applied fertilizer should do so immediately.

In unimodal zones (Karamoja, Western Highlands), April/May-planted maize is still in seedling stage. Farmers should **focus on first weeding and thinning**, utilizing moist soil conditions.

Main harvests are expected from late June through August for first-season maize. Farmers should **monitor for fall armyworm**, which thrives during rainy seasons, and apply recommended treatments early to prevent crop damage.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Millet & Sorghum

These traditional cereals are primarily cultivated in northern, northeastern Uganda and parts of the Eastern region. In these areas, millet and sorghum were planted during March-April rains and are now in advanced vegetative stages.

Sorghum in Karamoja is approximately knee-high, with head formation expected in June for local varieties. Millet in Teso and Karamoja is tillering and approaching the booting stage. Farmers should complete second weeding now to eliminate competition before flowering.

For areas with adequate rainfall, **applying light nitrogen top-dressing or manure can benefit millet at the tillering stage.**

Monitor for stem borers in sorghum, particularly in Teso and Lango where scattered infestations have been reported. Extension officers recommend pheromone traps or targeted pesticides for severe cases.

Prepare for bird scaring as millet heads emerge, with Quelea bird flocks already spotted in parts of Soroti and Amuria. In Eastern bimodal regions, farmers are harvesting dry-season millet planted last year, with no new planting until next season.

Overall, cereal crops are progressing well thanks to sufficient May rains, which offset April's early-season dryness in Karamoja. However, Karamoja farmers should prepare for potentially early rain cessation by late June, which could affect late-maturing sorghum.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Legumes

First-season legumes across Uganda are now flowering to podding. Common beans planted in March are flowering and forming pods in central, eastern, and northern districts. The recent rains benefit growth but increase risk of bean rust and anthracnose.

Farmers should inspect bean leaves for disease signs and apply fungicides or remove affected plants as needed. **Climbing bean varieties in highland areas require immediate staking.** Early-maturing beans in central Uganda may be ready for harvest by early June.

Groundnuts planted in late March are flowering and pegging in eastern and northern regions. Careful weeding is essential to avoid disturbing pegs. Earthing-up soil around plants after weeding improves pod development. Watch for leaf spot disease and treat if necessary.

Cowpeas and green gram in Karamoja and Teso are in pod-filling stages. These hardier crops still need protection from aphids and pod borers – neem-based sprays are recommended for aphid control.

The legume outlook remains positive with good flowering supported by timely rains. Eastern farmers report robust bean pod formation but should prepare to harvest promptly if unusually long rains threaten mature pods.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Bananas

Bananas grow year-round in Central and Western Uganda. Current rains provide optimal soil moisture for growth of banana mats and fruiting stalks. This is an ideal time for key plantation management tasks.



Weeding and mulching

Remove weeds around banana *stools* (underground part of the plant) to reduce competition. Apply mulch (dry grass, banana leaves) to conserve moisture and add organic matter. Rains will help decompose mulch into nutrients.



De-suckering

Maintain 1-2 healthy *suckers* (new shoots) per mat (one maiden, one follower) and remove excess suckers every 6-8 weeks. This focuses nutrients on main plants, improving bunch size.



Debudding and pruning

Remove the male bud 10-14 days after fruit set from flowering bananas. This prevents bacterial wilt transmission and redirects energy to fruit development.



Fertilization

Apply decomposed manure or compost around each banana stool. Bananas are heavy feeders and benefit from nutrients during peak growth.

Given good management and favorable rains since late 2024, bunch weights should exceed average this season. Markets in Kampala currently price an average cooking banana bunch at UGX 20,000-30,000, with slightly higher prices in the North due to transport costs.

Input Recommendations & Technical Advisory

Fertilizer Application

Now is the optimal time for top-dressing fertilizers. For maize or sorghum fields with basal fertilizer already applied, add nitrogen top-dress using Urea or CAN at 50 kg per hectare (1 sachet/3 handfuls per 10 m²) around each plant when crops reach knee-height. Apply to 4-6 week old maize fields this week, incorporating lightly into soil before rain to minimize losses.

Legumes need minimal nitrogen but benefit from phosphorus (bone meal or low-N NPK blends) for pod development.

While fertilizer prices remain high, the government's Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) is distributing subsidized supplies to registered farmer groups in select districts – check with local officials for availability.

If supplies are limited, prioritize nutrient-demanding crops like maize and bananas, and consider micro-dosing techniques to maximize efficiency.

Pest Management

Mid-season requires vigilant pest scouting. Fall Armyworm (FAW) is a major threat to maize in Uganda; larvae hide in the whorl causing extensive defoliation.

Tech Tip: Fall Army Worm (FAW) Bucket Trap

Use pheromone bucket traps to monitor fall army worm moths. Extension agents provide these in some areas, or improvise by mixing molasses, water and yeast in a bucket to attract and drown moths. Place one trap per acre for **early warning of moth presence**, allowing timely insecticide application when larvae hatch.

Bean Pest Management

Inspect podding bean fields for black thrips and aphids that reduce yields. If pods are aborting or deformed, consider insecticide. Alternatively, **garlic or chili pepper spray can repel aphids** on beans and cowpeas as an eco-friendly solution.

Sorghum and Millet Pests

Monitor for sorghum shoot fly and midge early. If deadheart symptoms appear (central shoot drying), **remove affected plants and replant if time permits.**

Apply recommended insecticides (emamectin benzoate or lambda-cyhalothrin per MAAIF guidelines) at first sign of FAW damage, typically 3-4 weeks after emergence. Set traps around bean and groundnut fields approaching maturity to control rodents attracted to maturing pods.

Disease Management

Current humid conditions favor crop diseases. Watch for Northern Corn Leaf Blight and Maize Gray Leaf Spot on lower maize leaves—look for spreading gray or brown lesions. Apply fungicide (mancozeb or propiconazole) only for valuable or seed maize when necessary.



Banana Diseases

Black Sigatoka thrives in rain. Prioritize pruning and proper spacing; use approved fungicides only for commercial plantations.



Coffee Diseases

Coffee Leaf Rust increases during rains. UCDA recommends 0.5% Bordeaux mixture spray during dry breaks, especially in banana-coffee intercropping.



Integrated Pest Management

Follow IPM principles: use chemical controls only after exhausting cultural and biological methods.



New Biocontrol Programs

MAAIF and NARO are distributing desiccant fungus for striga and egg parasitoids for FAW. Contact your sub-county agriculture office to participate.

Watch for nutrient deficiencies—yellowing in maize (nitrogen), purple tinges (phosphorus)—and plan fertility improvements for next season.

Livestock & Ranching: Pasture and Water

The rains have improved pasture growth and water availability across the cattle corridor. **Practice rotational grazing to allow pasture recovery.**

To prevent bloat in cattle feeding on lush grass, **provide dry roughage** for 30 minutes before grazing and ensure access to salt licks.

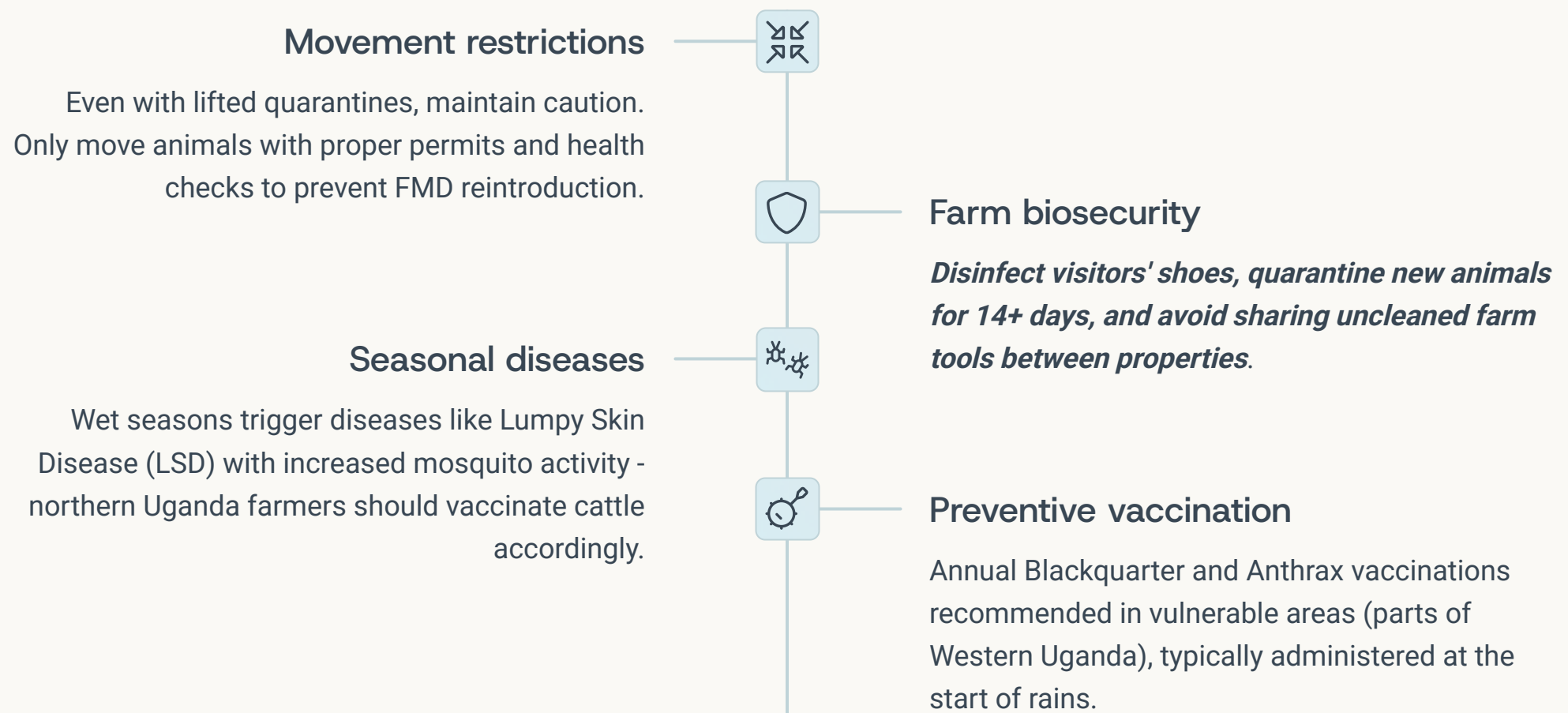
Water sources are now refilled – protect them from contamination to sustain livestock through the next dry season.

Take advantage of surplus vegetation to prepare for future needs: **make silage or hay from excess grass, and consider ensiling maize stalks after harvest to preserve fodder.**

Livestock & Ranching: Disease Control

Veterinary authorities have been addressing Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks, with 32 districts under quarantine over the past year. Vaccination campaigns have shown success - Kazo District achieved 95.9% coverage, containing the outbreak and lifting quarantine by mid-March.

While markets are reopening in previously restricted areas, FMD threats remain in neighboring districts like Kiruhura and Sembabule. MAAIF provides vaccines in high-risk areas and plans additional vaccinations in June for remaining at-risk districts.



Livestock & Ranching: Small Ruminants and Poultry

Small Ruminants (Goats/Sheep)

Goats and sheep are thriving with new grass growth, but remain vigilant for Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). Uganda's ongoing campaign to eradicate PPR by 2027 offers free vaccinations in Karamoja and West Nile sub-regions.

Vaccinate for PPR if not done this year, especially in communal grazing areas. With increased moisture, plan to deworm by June using broad-spectrum anthelmintics, rotating dewormers annually to prevent resistance.

Poultry

Rainy seasons increase disease threats to village chickens. Newcastle Disease (NCD) poses the greatest risk and can devastate flocks rapidly. Vaccinate chickens with Lasota or I-2 vaccines 2-3 times yearly, often scheduled at the start of rainy seasons.

For coccidiosis prevention, maintain dry poultry housing by adding fresh bedding to replace damp material. Consider anticoccidial treatment if bloody droppings appear in chicks.

Market Analysis (Early May 2025)

Staple food prices across Uganda show mixed regional trends:

Region	Northern	Eastern	Western	Central
Maize Grain (UGX/kg)	1,400	1,350	1,260	1,870
Sorghum (UGX/kg)	1,220	1,875	2,300	3,380
Millet (UGX/kg)	2,510	2,870	3,114	4,180
Beans (dry, UGX/kg)	3,930	3,775	3,490	4,440
Bananas (matooke, UGX/kg)	~800	~1,000	~700	~1,200

Table: Average retail prices per kilogram (first week of May 2025). Banana prices estimated (typical bunch: 20–30 kg).

Key insights from the market:

Maize: Prices remain relatively low due to carry-over stocks and the approaching harvest. Western region: UGX 1,200–1,300/kg; Kampala: UGX 1,800/kg; Northern markets: UGX 1,400/kg. Current prices show a 5–10% increase since March but remain 20–30% lower than last year's rates when supplies were limited.

Market Analysis: Beans, Sorghum, Millet, and Bananas (Matooke)

Beans

Dry bean prices vary significantly by region:

- Central (~UGX 4,400/kg)
- Western (UGX 3,300-3,500/kg)
- Eastern (~UGX 3,800/kg)
- Northern (~UGX 3,900/kg)

*Regional differences reflect transport costs and local demand patterns.

Prices spiked 15% in January 2025 due to poor second-season harvest and high regional demand. **Prices are expected to drop by approximately 20% in late June** when fresh stocks become available, contingent on good harvest conditions.

Strong export demand from Kenya and Rwanda may prevent steep price drops, as traders are already securing contracts with large farmers for the June crop.

Sorghum and Millet

Sorghum prices show significant regional variation:

- Northern (lowest at ~UGX 1,200/kg in Kitgum) to Central (highest at UGX 3,300+/kg in Kampala).

Kampala breweries currently offer UGX 1,000/kg farmgate for white sorghum under contract farming.

Millet consistently commands higher prices than sorghum nationwide due to lower production volumes. Current demand is particularly high in Karamoja during the lean season, with prices reaching ~UGX 2,500/kg in Moroto markets and likely to increase before the new harvest.

Bananas

Cooking banana (matooke) prices vary by region.

- In central areas (Masaka), farmgate prices range from UGX 15,000–20,000 per medium bunch,.
- Kampala retail markets sell at UGX 25,000–30,000 (roughly UGX 800–1,200/kg).
- Western Uganda (Isingiro) has surplus production with prices as low as UGX 10,000 per bunch during peak supply.

Traders actively transport matooke from Western and Central regions to meet Kampala's demand.

Market Analysis: Livestock

Livestock

Animal prices have rebounded after the dry-season decline. In northern and eastern regions, prices are improving as animals regain health and cross-regional buyers return. An average mature goat now fetches UGX 150k+ in Karamoja, up from UGX 100k in February.

Cattle prices vary significantly by breed and location. Central region commands premium prices due to improved breeds and urban demand (mature bulls reaching UGX 2.5m+ in Kampala's Kawempe market), while Northern regions with indigenous Zebu cattle see lower prices (around UGX 1.2m for mature bulls).

Livestock Type	Northern	Eastern	Western	Central
Goat (medium, UGX/head)	130,000 – 180,000	150,000 – 200,000	180,000 – 250,000	180,000 – 250,000
Cattle (bull, UGX/head)	1,000,000 – 1,500,000	1,200,000 – 1,600,000	1,500,000 – 2,000,000	1,800,000 – 2,500,000
Chicken (hen, UGX/head)	20,000 – 25,000	20,000 – 30,000	25,000 – 30,000	30,000 – 40,000

Government & NGO Updates

MAAIF Programs

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) launched the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) for 2024/25 in March, providing fertilizer and improved seed subsidies to smallholders in 12 pilot districts. By late April, 88% of the targeted 35,000 farmers had received 50% fertilizer subsidy vouchers, with plans to expand next year pending budget approval.

In early April, the Ministry initiated nationwide vaccinations against major livestock diseases, including FMD and PPR. A collaborative effort with the Ministry of Health employs a One Health approach, exemplified by joint vaccination campaigns against rabies in dogs and brucellosis in cattle launched in select districts in May.

Agricultural Extension and Training

MAAIF's Directorate of Agricultural Extension conducted regional farmer training with emphasis on climate-smart agriculture. In early May, water conservation and small-scale irrigation training took place in Karamoja (Moroto) in partnership with FAO.

The Agricultural Mechanization Department distributed 20 tractors with implements to farmer groups in Northern Uganda (Lira, Adjumani, Oyam) through an African Development Bank grant. These tractors aim to facilitate land preparation and reduce labor, with farmer groups expected to partially repay costs over time.

NGO and Donor Projects

Key agricultural and livelihood support initiatives currently active:

FAO & WFP Climate Resilience Project

Norway-funded project targeting 8,000 farming households in Teso sub-region. FAO provided drought-tolerant seeds and post-harvest training, while WFP initiated cash transfers for community asset development including granaries and irrigation ponds.

World Bank – Agriculture Cluster Development Project

ACDP's final phase delivered 120 storage facilities across various districts. Approximately 30,000 farmers accessed input e-vouchers throughout the project's duration.

NAADS/Operation Wealth Creation

NAADS continues distributing clonal robusta coffee seedlings in central and mid-western regions. Plans include nationwide distribution of over 10 million seedlings in 2025.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFAD's PRODEMA project concluded in April after developing 5,000 hectares of new rice schemes in Kamunge and Kibimba. Farmer training on improved cultivation techniques resulted in 30% yield increases.

Food Security and Humanitarian

Food security concerns persist in Karamoja and refugee-hosting districts. Recent IPC analysis identified 401,000 people (30% of Karamoja's population) facing Crisis or Emergency food insecurity.

WFP Uganda suspended food rations for 1 million refugees in late April due to funding shortages. The Ugandan Government is collaborating with UNHCR and WFP to secure urgent donations for partial ration reinstatement.

Looking Ahead & Reminders

Key projections and reminders for late May and early June:

Weather Trends

First rainy season typically tapers off by late May/early June. Forecasts predict reduced rainfall towards May's end, especially in southwest and central regions.

Marketing Planning

For surplus crops, consider collective marketing through cooperatives to increase bargaining power.



Harvest Preparation

Early-planted crop harvesting begins by early June in bimodal areas, including beans, groundnuts, early maize, potatoes and vegetables.

Pest Monitoring

Pre-harvest period is critical for pest monitoring. May-June are prime months for potential African Armyworm outbreaks.

Next week: preliminary harvest reports, end-of-May weather outlook, and storage pest management guidance. Current actions shape future results. Good luck with your upcoming harvest!

About IDEA



IDEA

INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
EXTENSION
AGENCY

**IMPROVING GLOBAL FOOD
SECURITY THROUGH
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

www.IDEA.ag

The International Development Extension Agency (IDEA) serves one purpose: to empower the world with food security and agricultural development that enables improved sustainability. IDEA leverages field proven and impact-driven strategies for transformational development. We accomplish this by empowering your organization with rigorous program design, field-tested surveys and assessments, regular coaching and consultations, and the sharing of relevant educational resources that will best serve your beneficiaries and stakeholders. [Contract IDEA to increase your impact.](#)