

Weekly Uganda Agriculture, Food Market, And Farming Weather Report

13 - 20 April 2026

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Executive Summary

Uganda starts this week with a clear moisture split from north to south. Karamoja and much of the north stay hot and fairly dry, with only light rain expected before isolated storms late in the week. Western Uganda is likely to get the most rain, while central, eastern, and Lake Victoria Crescent areas should see regular storms. This pattern supports planting and early crop growth in wetter areas, but it also increases the risk of poor drainage, nutrient loss, leaf diseases, and slow drying after harvest. The FAO crop calendar shows that maize, beans, sorghum, and millet are mostly in planting, sprouting, or early growth stages across most annual crop areas, while bananas still need regular care, including cleaning, mulch, and moisture control. Current April 2026 urban retail prices are still strong, especially for beans, sorghum, millet, and bananas, even though the attached WFP city file still shows lower regional average prices for several staples. This means farmers who protect crops, avoid fertilizer loss, and keep grain in good condition should be well placed to benefit from better sales later in the season. Over the next seven days, the best management steps are likely to be timely weeding, split fertilizer use, keeping drainage open, close pest and disease checks, and careful protection of seed, grain, and poultry housing from moisture.

Price Trend

Current April retail prices are still strong, especially for beans, sorghum, millet, and bananas. The attached WFP file is better used as a regional average benchmark than as the main current price signal.

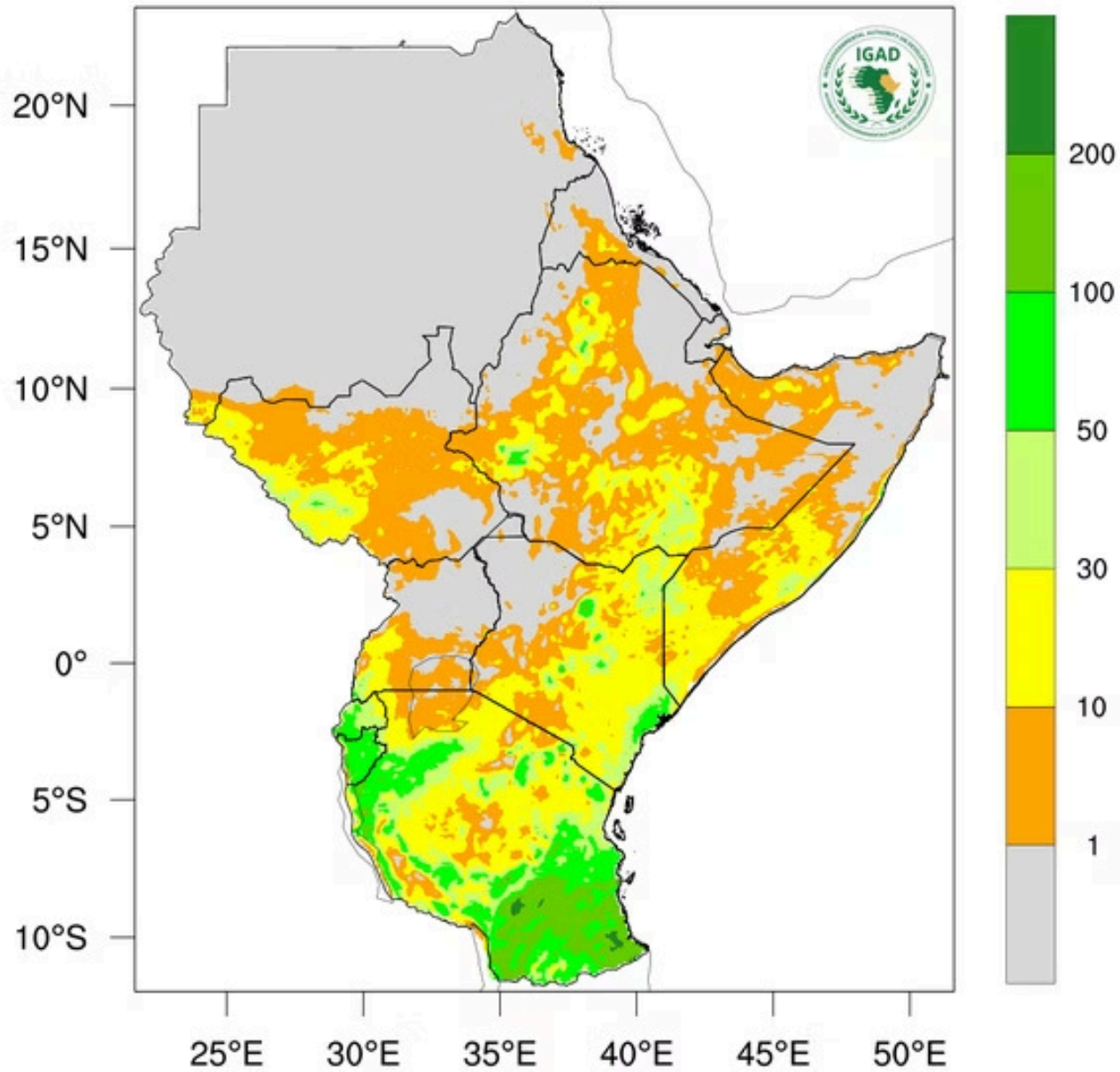
Rainfall Anomaly Or Hazard

Western, central, eastern, and Lake Victoria Crescent areas face repeated storms and high humidity. Karamoja and the north face dry conditions, heat, and uneven germination risk.

Farmer Action

Plant only when the soil has enough moisture, keep drainage open in wet areas, split nitrogen instead of applying it all at once, and watch closely for fall armyworm, bean diseases, banana bacterial wilt, ticks, and wet-litter problems in poultry.

Total Rainfall (mm) for 14-21 Apr 2026



Weather: Karamoja

7-Day Rainfall Total

About **0.5 mm** using Moroto as the regional rainfall proxy. This is almost a dry week, with only a small chance of thunderstorms late in the week.

Temperature Range

18°C to 33°C. Afternoon heat will keep water loss high and will shorten the time available for planting after a light shower.

Alert & Implication

Uneven moisture is still the main risk. Sow only in fields that already got enough planting rain, and focus on tied ridges, basins, mulch, and quick gap checks after any storm.

Weather: Northern

7-Day Rainfall Total

About **4.5 mm** using Gulu as the regional proxy. Most of the week will stay dry or only a little wet, with storms more likely from Thursday to Friday.

Temperature Range

18°C to 34°C. Heat stress is highest in the first half of the week, especially on light soils and in newly planted fields.

Alert & Implication

Establishment conditions are still uneven. Farmers should use early-week field access for land preparation and only expand planting where soil moisture can support germination through a short dry spell.

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Weather: Eastern

7-Day Rainfall Total

About **35.2 mm** using Mbale as the regional proxy. Showers and storms are likely on most days, with only short dry breaks.

Temperature Range

19°C to 32°C. Warm, humid mornings followed by storms will help crops grow, but also increase disease risk.

Alert & Implication

Standing water, nutrient loss, and wet root zones are the main risks in low-lying fields. Good drainage and split fertilizer use matter more than irrigation this week.

Weather: Western

7-Day Rainfall Total

About **64.6 mm** using Mbarara as the regional proxy. This is the wettest area for the week, with several stormy afternoons.

Temperature Range

15°C to 28°C. Cooler nights and regular cloud cover should help pasture recover and support steady plant growth.

Alert & Implication

Heavy rain can cause waterlogging, more ticks, and drying problems for harvested crops. Keep drains open, avoid driving on wet soil, and protect grain and hay from damp air.

Weather: Central

7-Day Rainfall Total

About **33.7 mm** using Kampala as the regional proxy. Showers or thunderstorms are likely on most days in the period.

Temperature Range

18°C to 29°C. Warm, humid weather should help crops grow quickly, but leaves will stay wet for longer.

Alert & Implication

Fertilizer may wash away, bean leaf disease may spread, and grain may dry slowly. Plan field work in short dry periods and keep drying areas raised and covered.

Weather: Lake Victoria Crescent

7-Day Rainfall Total

About **31.2 mm** using Jinja as the local guide. Storms are common, and the lake keeps the air humid all week.

Temperature Range

16°C to 30°C. Cloudy, humid mornings and afternoon storms help plants grow, but they also help disease spread in thick crop cover.

Alert & Implication

Bananas and beans will do well with the rain, but bacteria and fungi can spread fast in these conditions. Keep tools clean, improve drainage, and remove sick plants regularly.



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Practical Implications: Karamoja

- Finish planting maize, sorghum, and millet only in fields that already have enough moisture for good seed depth.
- Replant bare spots only after rain is confirmed. Do not replant whole fields unless most of the crop failed to come up.
- Wait to add nitrogen fertilizer until plants are established and rain is likely within one to three days.
- Use tied ridges, planting basins, contour lines, crop residue, and spot mulching to keep limited water in the root zone.
- Check every two to three days for termites, cutworms, bird damage, and weak sprouting in sandy or crusted soils.

Practical Implications: Northern

- Use the drier first half of the week to finish seedbed prep, set rows, and plant before late-week storms.
- Start first weeding early in maize and beans, especially where plants already came up after earlier rains.
- Thin crowded sorghum and millet plants before they start to compete too much for light and moisture.
- Wait to spread nitrogen until rain is likely enough to carry nutrients into the root zone without stressing seedlings.
- Check maize whorls for fresh fall armyworm feeding, egg masses, and frass, and remove or treat infestations before tasseling.

Practical Implications: Eastern

- Finish planting where the soil is ready, but avoid fields that are too wet and may be damaged by compaction or smearing.
- Open drainage channels around beans, nursery beds, and low-lying maize fields before the next storms.
- Split nitrogen applications in maize and place fertilizer close to, but not touching, the root zone after rain has made the soil moist enough.
- Weed early while fields are still easy to access, because another wet week can make the work much harder and more expensive.
- Watch closely for bean leaf diseases, bean stem maggot, banana bacterial wilt, and plants falling over in exposed fields.

Practical Implications: Western

- Use short dry breaks for weeding, staking, mulching, manure spreading, and harvesting ripe produce that cannot stay safely in the field.
- Keep drainage channels open around banana plants, low-lying areas, and hard-packed field edges to stop water from pooling.
- Apply nitrogen to maize only after the soil is damp but not soaked, and avoid putting on a heavy dose before strong rain.
- Dry grain, seed, and hay on raised surfaces under cover, because drying them on the ground will be too slow in this humidity.
- Check for ticks, hoof problems, and dirty housing more often because wet conditions increase parasite pressure and foot issues.

Practical Implications: Central

→ Weed maize and beans early so they can use the extra moisture before weeds take over.

→ Apply manure or compost around banana mats, then cover it lightly with mulch or soil to reduce nutrient loss and keep flies away.

→ Split fertilizer use in maize, and do not apply the full amount just before heavy rain.

→ Only spray or feed crops through their leaves during dry weather, and only when the crop cover is enough to make it worth the cost.

→ Keep harvested grain, seed, and feed dry by using covered, well-aired, raised drying and storage areas.

Practical Implications: Lake Victoria Crescent

- Keep banana fields weeded, drained, and cleaned up by removing extra shoots and leaves to help limit disease in humid weather.
- In beans, weed early and remove sick plants right away instead of waiting until the crop closes up.
- Replace missing plants only in well-drained pits that already have organic matter. Do not replant in waterlogged spots.
- Protect shelling, threshing, and household storage areas from damp mornings and afternoon storms with tarpaulins and raised platforms.
- Check for stem borers, bunch rot, banana wilt, and leaf spots after each wet spell, and act before the problem spreads.

A smiling woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue patterned top and a red sash, stands in a lush green field. She is holding several purple eggplants and a green pepper. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting with trees and a clear sky.

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Crop Calendar And Growth Stages: Karamoja

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Sowing to emergence	Put seed into soil that still has moisture, at a steady depth. Replant only clear gaps after rain has been confirmed.
Beans	Sowing to very early growth in wetter areas	Use clean seed in a fine seedbed. Start weeding early before plants lose moisture to weeds.
Sorghum	Sowing to emergence	Keep planting shallow and even. Protect young plants from termites, birds, and soil crusting after light rain.
Millet	Emergence to early growth	Thin crowded patches quickly, and keep the field free of weeds during the first three to four weeks.
Bananas	Local perennial care and limited establishment	Plant only where mulch and steady moisture are available. Keep basins mulched and the area around existing mats clean.

Crop Calendar And Growth Stages: Northern

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Sowing to early vegetative	Finish planting while the soil still has enough moisture, and start checking weekly for fall armyworm from the three- to five-leaf stage.
Beans	Emergence to early vegetative	Do the first weeding quickly, and replace missing plants while the crop is still young enough to stay even.
Sorghum	Sowing to early establishment	Plant in rows to make thinning and weeding easier, and control grasses before they take nutrients and water from the seedlings.
Millet	Early establishment	Thin thick stands to the right number of plants, and keep weeds down without disturbing moisture near the roots.
Bananas	Vegetative growth and new planting window	Use plenty of mulch around newly planted stools, and remove suckers plus clean tools between mats.

Crop Calendar And Growth Stages: Eastern

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Emergence to early vegetative	Split nitrogen into two or more applications in wet conditions, and check often for fall armyworm and stem borer damage.
Beans	Early vegetative to branching	Do the first weeding now, and watch closely for angular leaf spot, anthracnose, and root problems in wet soil.
Sorghum	Sowing to establishment	Keep the right spacing as seedlings settle, and remove volunteer grasses before tillering starts.
Millet	Early vegetative	Keep fields clean during the first month after emergence, and fix uneven stands while replanting is still affordable.
Bananas	Active vegetative growth and bunch initiation	Apply manure or compost around mats, and remove plants that may have wilt while disinfecting cutting tools after each plant.

Crop Calendar And Growth Stages: Western

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Sowing to early growth in lowland west, with later calendars still guiding some highland areas	Plant and feed early where the season has started, and use local altitude timing instead of planting in the wrong conditions.
Beans	Emergence to vegetative growth	Weed early while you can still get into the field, and keep drainage good so roots do not stay in wet soil for long.
Sorghum	Mostly grown in some areas or planted outside the main season	Keep planted fields weed-free, and avoid too much nitrogen on shallow or weak soils.
Millet	Mostly off-season in much of the west	Focus on land prep and having seed ready where later planting windows apply, and keep stored seed safe from moisture and pests.
Bananas	Strong vegetative growth, bunch filling, and harvest	Mulch and add manure around productive mats, and remove extra suckers while keeping drainage around the plant stool.

Crop Calendar And Growth Stages: Central

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Early growth stage	Only apply top dressing after the crop is established and after rain has given enough moisture. Keep fields weed-free before the crop closes over.
Beans	Early growth to flowering in earlier fields, and emergence in later fields	Weed young fields right away, and watch more closely for disease as humidity rises.
Sorghum	Planting to establishment in local production areas	Plant only on well-drained land, and thin early while controlling grassy weeds.
Millet	Planting to early growth in local production areas	Use light weeding to protect soil structure, and stop crusting or runoff around seedlings.
Bananas	Active growth, bunch start, bunch filling, and harvest	Weed around the plants and mulch often, and remove infected material right away when wilt signs are confirmed.

Crop Calendar And Growth Stages: Lake Victoria Crescent

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Early vegetative, with some earlier plots nearing rapid stem growth	Top-dress in split doses after rain has softened the soil, and watch for stem borers and signs of nutrient shortage.
Beans	Vegetative to early flowering in earlier plantings and emergence in later plantings	Focus on early weed control, and watch for leaf disease after several wet mornings.
Sorghum	Sowing to establishment in localized fields	Use only well-drained fields, and thin to the target number while removing grassy weeds early.
Millet	Sowing to early vegetative in localized fields	Weed lightly and early, and reduce seedling losses from runoff or soil crusting.
Bananas	Active perennial production	Apply manure and add mulch around mats, and keep tools clean while removing any sick-looking material right away.

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Input And Technical Advisory

Fertility

Maize. Use a phosphorus-based starter fertilizer at planting if it is available. Then give about 50 to 90 kg of nitrogen per hectare in one or two split doses during early growth. In wetter eastern, central, western, and Lake Victoria Crescent fields, split the dose instead of applying it all at once to reduce loss from leaching and runoff.

Beans. Focus on phosphorus, a little potassium where soils are low, and inoculation where improved seed and inoculant are available. In acidic, high-rainfall fields, lime is more useful than extra nitrogen, especially where beans have poor nodules and weak early growth.

Sorghum And Millet. Use moderate fertilizer rates, not high ones. A practical range is about 30 to 60 kg of nitrogen per hectare, split between planting and tillering only where rainfall can support uptake.

Bananas. Focus first on organic matter. Apply one to two basins of well-rotted manure or compost per productive mat where available, add mulch again, and do not leave nutrients exposed before heavy rains.

Integrated Pest Management

Maize. Check for fall armyworm every week. Take action when about 20 percent or more of young plants show fresh whorl feeding, droppings, or live larvae, because waiting too long quickly increases yield loss.

Beans. Watch for bean stem maggot, angular leaf spot, anthracnose, and root rots. Improve drainage first, remove badly affected plants early, and avoid spraying during wet, windy periods that reduce coverage and waste spray.

Sorghum And Millet. Watch for shoot fly, stem borer, early bird damage, and strong grass weeds. Action works best during early growth, not after the crop has tillered heavily.

Bananas. Treat the first plant with clear wilt or bacterial ooze as an urgent clean-up case. Clean tools between plants, cut and destroy infected material quickly, and keep movement from infected mats away from clean areas.

Soil Amendments

- Acidic bean and maize soils in wetter areas benefit from agricultural lime where available, especially before or during land preparation.
- Sandy soils or soils with low organic matter in Karamoja and Northern regions respond better to compost, manure, crop residue retention, and mulch than to large single fertilizer doses.
- In wetter eastern, central, western, and Lake Victoria Crescent zones this week, improving drainage is just as important as adding nutrients.

Tech Tip Of The Week: Use a split fertilizer plan that matches rain for maize and bananas this week. Apply only part of the planned nutrients before a wet spell, then add the rest after the soil drains and the crop starts growing again. This saves money, reduces loss, and usually gives a clearer crop response than one large application.

Livestock And Ranching

Heat Stress — Karamoja & Northern

Heat stress is the biggest concern right now. Keep cattle, goats, and sheep near safe water, cut back on long afternoon walks, and do handling, vaccination, or dipping in the cooler morning hours.

Wet-Zone Disease Pressure

Repeated rain in Western, Central, Eastern, and Lake Victoria Crescent is increasing ticks, soft hooves, mastitis risk, worm pressure, and wet-litter disease in poultry. Improve drainage around animal pens, clean water troughs often, and keep poultry houses dry and well aired.

Pasture Management

Use pasture carefully. Grass growth in wet areas should improve this week, but grazing should still be rotated to avoid damaging wet paddocks and dirtying water points.

Disease Surveillance

Stay alert for disease. Sudden fever, abortions, bloody diarrhea, high poultry deaths, and unusual breathing problems should be reported at once through local veterinary channels, especially as FAO and national partners are strengthening disease watch at the frontline.

Preventive Husbandry

Keep up simple prevention. Check body condition each week, provide shade at midday, separate sick animals early, and keep calf, kid, and chick housing clean.

Small Ruminants & Poultry

For small ruminants and poultry, the biggest losses this week are likely to come from wet housing, dirty water, and late treatment rather than feed shortages alone. Dry bedding, clean drinkers, and quick separation of sick animals are high-value actions.

- ❏ **Current Urban Reference Bands (Kampala-Jinja style retail references):** Live cattle are trading around **UGX 7,484 to UGX 18,710 per kg**, live goats around **UGX 7,397 to UGX 11,095 per kg**, and live chicken around **UGX 7,335 to UGX 11,003 per kg**. Current urban reference bands remain useful for commercial awareness even though they are not district spot prices.

Market Analysis

Commodity	Karamoja	Northern	Eastern	Western	Central	Lake Victoria Crescent
Maize	UGX 1,185	UGX 1,483	UGX 1,395	UGX 1,335	UGX 1,924	UGX 2,024
Beans	UGX 3,500	UGX 3,707	UGX 3,205	UGX 2,870	UGX 4,060	UGX 4,285
Sorghum	UGX 1,115	UGX 1,654	UGX 1,763	UGX 2,600	UGX 3,568	UGX 3,084
Millet	UGX 2,928	UGX 2,773	UGX 3,083	UGX 3,976	UGX 4,391	UGX 3,891
Bananas	UGX 3,757– 7,513	UGX 3,757– 7,513	UGX 3,757– 7,513	UGX 3,757– 7,513	UGX 3,757– 7,513	UGX 3,757– 7,513

Market Insights

- The main market sign this week is the current April retail range from Selina Wamucii. The attached WFP city file shows the regional price pattern under that range. So, the regional averages below are best for comparing regions, not as the only current retail price.
- Maize and sorghum are still much cheaper in Karamoja and Northern than in Central and Lake Victoria Crescent. Western is still the lowest bean area in the attached regional file. This gap supports grain movement toward central and lake-belt demand areas.
- Millet pressure is strongest in Central and Western in the latest regional averages. The current April retail ranges for sorghum and millet are also much firmer than the older regional pattern. Traders and farmers should treat dry grain quality, moisture control, and sale timing as important this week.
- For bananas, current city-market data is not available in the attached file. So the report uses the current Uganda urban retail range across regions instead of an old market-by-market figure.

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Looking Ahead And Reminders

National

- Expect the wettest field conditions to stay in Western, Central, Eastern, and the Lake Victoria Crescent. Karamoja and much of Northern should keep using moisture-saving decisions, not a big increase in planted area.
- Keep first-season crop stands clean and well spaced. The next two weeks will reward early weeding and careful nutrient timing more than late planting in dry spots.
- Store seed, grain, and livestock feed as if humidity will stay high. Protecting them from moisture is a market and food security step, not just a storage detail.

Karamoja

- Finish sowing only where moisture is enough.
- Check for emergence and replant small gaps after any good shower.
- Wait to top-dress until more rain is likely.

Northern

- Finish land preparation and any remaining sowing during open field windows.
- Weed the earliest maize and bean fields before the next storm period.
- Check maize for fall armyworm at least once this week.

Western

- Keep drainage clear around bananas, lowlands, kraals, and farm roads.
- Protect grain, hay, and feed from damp storage conditions.
- Step up tick control and hoof checks after rain.

Central

- Time manure and fertilizer with soil moisture, not with convenience.
- Remove weeds before the crop closes over in maize and beans.
- Keep drying and storage areas raised, aired, and covered.

Eastern

- Keep drains open before each new round of storms.
- Split fertilizer use and avoid putting on one large dose at once.
- Watch beans and bananas closely for disease spread.

Lake Victoria Crescent

- Focus on banana cleaning and tool cleaning.
- Watch beans for leaf disease after wet mornings.
- Keep shelling, threshing, and storage areas safe from humidity and afternoon storms.

Government And NGO Updates

MAAIF — Coffee & Cocoa Farm Registration

MAAIF and the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project are moving ahead with phase-two registration and mapping of about **1.2 million coffee farms** and **200,000 cocoa farms**. This is to improve traceability and meet the European Union Deforestation Regulation. *Relevance: farmer profiling, location data, and compliance systems remain important national priorities that can affect extension support and market access.*

Tractors & Implements Procurement

A separate Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project procurement notice issued on 23 March 2026 sets a pre-bid meeting for **17 April 2026** for tractors and implements. *Relevance: mechanization support and field service capacity remain active implementation issues this month.*

FAO Field Vehicles — Disease Surveillance

FAO in Uganda handed over **eight field vehicles** on 9 April 2026 to improve disease surveillance in the Greater Virunga Landscape. *Relevance: livestock and zoonotic disease monitoring is being strengthened now, which should help with faster reporting and response.*

WFP — Funding Shortfalls

WFP continues to warn that funding shortfalls are pushing refugee and host-community households deeper into food stress. *Relevance: this remains a direct market and food-security issue for northern and western settlement-hosting districts.*

WFP Country Strategic Plan 2026–2030

Uganda's new World Food Programme country strategic plan for **2026 to 2030** is now the active national humanitarian plan. *Relevance: partnerships, resilience work, and food aid operations should now be viewed through this updated plan.*

Recent Publications And Links

Uganda Weather Forecasts — Ministry of Water And Environment, 13 April 2026

Daily weather advice for the country says there will be thunderstorms in many areas, especially central and western Uganda, with no major dry spell expected over the next three days.

<https://www.mwe.go.ug/weather>

CPI Press Release March 2026 — Uganda Bureau Of Statistics, 31 March 2026

Says yearly headline inflation is **2.8 percent**, and food crop inflation is still fairly low at the national level.

https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/03_2026CPI_Press_Release_March_2026.pdf

Key Economic Indicators 140th Issue — Uganda Bureau Of Statistics, 1 April 2026

Shows agriculture sector growth of **8.8 percent** in Q2 of FY 2025/26, which is useful for broader agriculture economic context.

https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/04_2026KEI-140th-Issue-Q4-2025-26-Oct-Dec.pdf

Food And Nutrition Security Update 121 — World Bank, 27 March 2026

Notes that several staple food prices have started to level off or fall after the better 2025 harvest.

<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/40ebbf38f5a6b68bfc11e5273e1405d4-0090012022/related/Food-and-Nutrition-Security-Update-121-March-27-2026v2.pdf>

New Field Vehicles To Boost Frontline Disease Surveillance — FAO Uganda, 9 April 2026

Gives the latest update on animal health systems linked to livestock monitoring and response.

<https://www.fao.org/uganda/news/detail/new-field-vehicles-to-boost-frontline-disease-surveillance-in-the-greater-virunga-landscape/en>

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