

Weekly Uganda Agriculture, Farming Weather, & Food Market Report

4 - 11 MAY 2026


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Executive Summary

 Uganda enters the week of May 4–11, 2026 with generally good crop moisture, but food access is uneven across regions.

Key Signals This Week

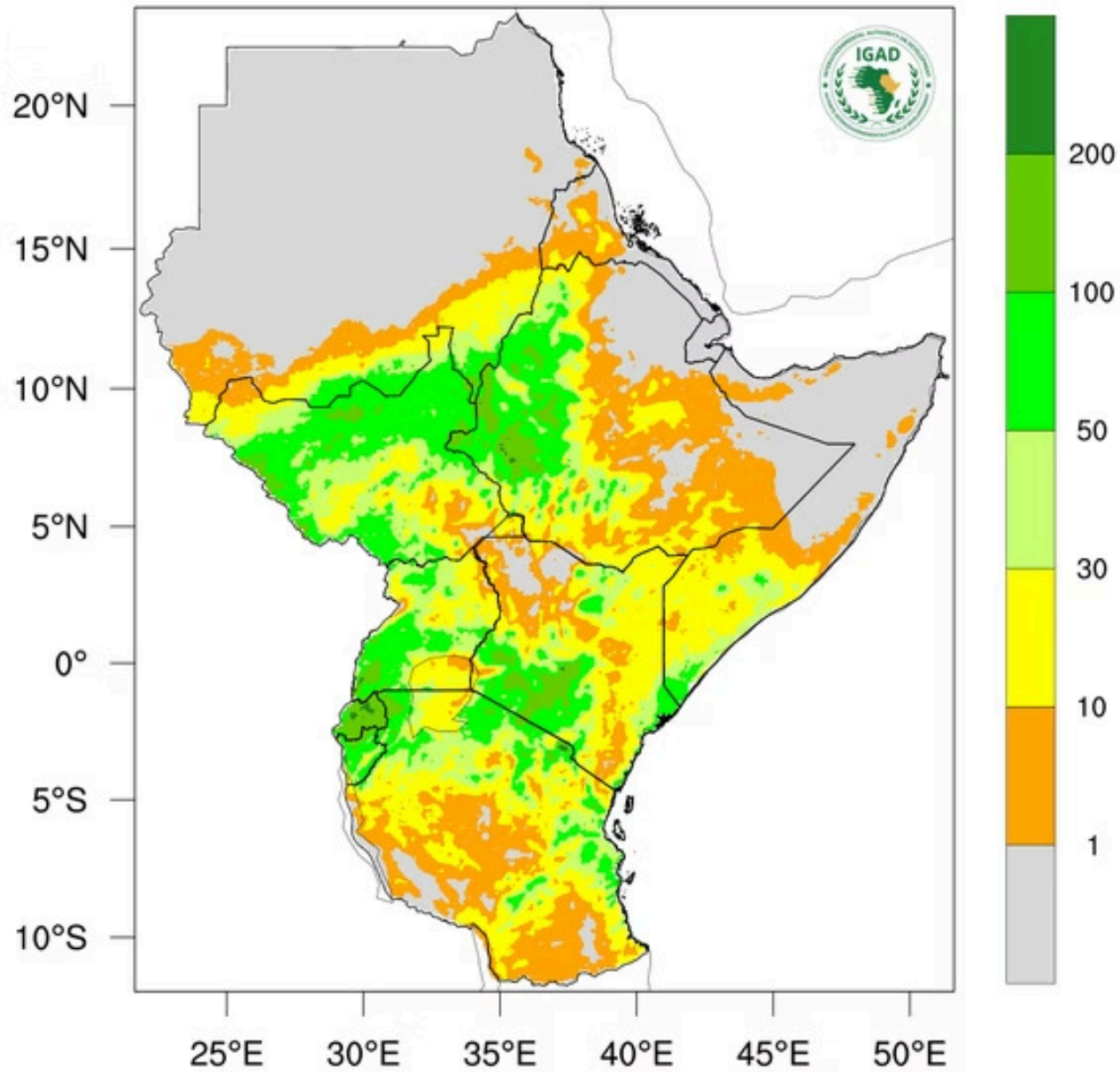
- **Price trend:** Maize rose ~4.5% month-over-month in April estimates, while beans remained ~19% below April 2025.
- **Rainfall hazard:** Widespread showers and thundershowers raise the risk of local flooding, erosion, and poor road access.
- **Farmer action:** Focus on drainage, first weeding, timely top-dressing on moist but not waterlogged soils, and close pest and disease checks.

Regional Overview

The main sign this week is continued rainfall across most farming areas. The wettest conditions are expected in **Eastern Uganda, the Lake Victoria Crescent, Central Uganda**, and parts of the western highlands. These rains help maize, bean, sorghum, millet, and banana production, but they also raise the risk of erosion, nitrogen loss, seedling disease, fungal problems, poor post-harvest drying, and damaged feeder roads.

Karamoja and Northern Uganda are still more vulnerable because much of the crop is still at the early growth stage. This means many households still depend on markets before harvest helps ease pressure.

Total Rainfall (mm) for 28 Apr-05 May 2026



Weather: Karamoja

Rainfall Estimate

25 to 45 mm over 7 days, with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the northeastern dryland belt.

Temperature Range

17 to 30°C, with warm afternoons and sticky weather after storms.

Alerts & Anomalies

Early rain helps crops get established, but runoff can damage seedbeds in hard or sloping fields.



This week is good for filling gaps in maize, sorghum, millet, and bean fields where plants have not come up evenly, but farmers should avoid planting in wet valley bottoms.

Weather: Northern Uganda

Rainfall Estimate

35 to 50 mm over 7 days, with showers and thunderstorms around Gulu, Arua, Lira, Moyo, and nearby farming areas.

Temperature Range

18 to 31°C, with warm days and cool nights.

Alerts & Anomalies

Frequent showers can slow field work, cause disease in young crops, and make produce dry more slowly on the farm.



Moisture is enough for planting and early crop growth, but fields need drainage checks, early weed control, and protection from soil crusting after heavy showers.

*From one of IDEA's partners



petros network

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Weather: Eastern Uganda

Rainfall Estimate

55 to 75 mm over 7 days, with more rain likely near Mt. Elgon, Mbale, Tororo, Jinja, and the eastern Lake Victoria area — the wettest region this week.

Temperature Range

15 to 31°C, with cooler nights in the highlands and warmer afternoons in the lowlands.

Alerts & Anomalies

Heavy showers and thunderstorms may cause erosion, flash runoff, and unstable slopes in highland and foothill fields.



Maize and flowering beans should do well with the rain, but top-dressing should wait until after rain when the soil is wet and no heavy storm is expected.

Weather: Western Uganda

Rainfall Estimate

25 to 45 mm over 7 days, with light to moderate showers around Mbarara, Kasese, Masindi, Kabale, and Rwenzori-adjacent zones.

Temperature Range

14 to 30°C, with cooler highlands and warmer lowland production areas.

Alerts & Anomalies

Slope erosion, banana leaf disease pressure, livestock foot problems, and poor road passability remain the main weather-linked risks.



Weather should support banana care and active Lake Albert Crescent cropping. In the dry cereal areas of the southwest, focus on land preparation and soil conservation.

Weather: Central Uganda

Rainfall Estimate

35 to 55 mm over 7 days, with showers likely around Kampala, Masaka, Mukono, and Wakiso.

Temperature Range

18 to 27°C, with humid weather during and after rain across the week.

Alerts & Anomalies

Drainage problems in towns and nearby areas can slow market travel and cause more drying losses for grains and beans.



First-season crops are doing well; focus on drainage, protect crops while drying after harvest, and check dense fields for fungal disease.

Weather: Lake Victoria Crescent

Rainfall Estimate

45 to 70 mm over 7 days, with showers and storms likely around Entebbe, Jinja, Masaka, Mukono, Wakiso, and nearby lake-belt farms.

Temperature Range

20 to 27°C, with high humidity and cloudy skies.

Alerts & Anomalies

Some areas on Lake Victoria have marine caution alerts, and local storms may affect produce transport, drying, and fishing market movement.



Moisture helps maize, beans, and bananas, but farmers should keep drying produce off bare ground, protect stored seed, and avoid field traffic when soils are wet.

A smiling woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue patterned top and a red shawl, 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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Practical Implications: Karamoja

Stand Assessment

Check crop stands in maize, sorghum, millet, and beans. Fill gaps only where soil moisture is steady and the season still has enough time.

Drainage

Make shallow channels above seedbeds to cut down runoff damage, especially on hard or packed soils.

Weeding

Do the first weeding early, before weeds take too much water and nutrients from young crops.

Fertilizer Timing

Wait to apply nitrogen until soils are moist but not waterlogged. Do not broadcast it before heavy rain.

Pest Scouting

Check maize whorls twice this week for fall armyworm damage, especially fresh windowing, frass, and ragged leaves.

Storage

Keep harvested or bought grain on pallets, tarpaulins, or raised platforms so it does not take up moisture during storms.

Practical Implications: Northern Uganda

Planting

Keep planting or replanting maize, beans, sorghum, and millet where early rains were missed and the soil now has enough moisture.

Weeding

Weed maize and millet about three weeks after they come up. Early weeding works better than waiting too long.

Top-Dressing

Apply maize fertilizer three to four weeks after it comes up, where plants are healthy and the soil is moist.

Bean Scouting

Check beans for leaf spot, anthracnose, bean fly, aphids, and water stress after repeated rain.

Drainage Repair

Fix field drains, terrace outlets, and road-side culverts around low-lying plots to protect young roots.

Livestock

Keep poultry houses dry and well aired because wet bedding raises the risk of coccidiosis and breathing problems.

Practical Implications: Eastern Uganda

Maize Top-Dressing

Apply maize top-dressing right after light rain. Cover the fertilizer lightly to help stop loss from runoff and air.

Erosion Control

Keep contour grass strips, trash lines, and barriers on Mt. Elgon and foothill slopes to slow soil loss.

Bean Management

Check beans during flowering and pod set. Remove badly diseased plants, avoid working in wet fields, and open up the crop where possible.

Sorghum & Millet

Check sorghum and millet for shoot fly, stem borer, and early leaf disease, especially in thick stands.

Post-Harvest Drying

Keep drying beans and grain under movable covers, airy stores, or raised tarpaulins because sudden rain is likely.

Livestock

Do not graze livestock on wet slopes or near flood-prone drainage lines to reduce injury and foot problems.

Practical Implications: Western Uganda

Maize (Lake Albert Crescent)

Weed and top-dress maize by crop age, but do not top-dress before heavy storms.

Banana Systems

Remove extra suckers, keep the best follower, mulch well, and support plants with heavy bunches.

Highland Fields

Fix grass waterways and check terraces before heavy rain washes runoff downhill.

Storage

Keep beans and grain in dry, airy rooms. Check sacks for dampness because high humidity can cause mold.

Banana Scouting

Check bananas for black Sigatoka, banana weevil damage, nematode signs, and bacterial wilt.

Cereal Preparation

Prepare southwestern cereal fields by saving residues, compost, and manure before the later planting time.

Practical Implications: Central Uganda

Drainage First

Keep water draining well around maize and bean fields.
Repeated rain can harm roots and wash away nitrogen.

Top-Dress Carefully

Top-dress maize only when plants are growing well and the soil is not too wet.

Bean Disease Scouting

Check beans for disease during flowering, especially after cool, wet nights and thick growth.

Drying Protocols

For early bean harvests, dry pods on tarpaulins, raised racks, or clean mats. Do not put them on wet ground.

Banana Maintenance

In banana plots, clean the mats, remove sick leaves, keep mulch in place, and protect bunches from wind damage.

Market Transport

Plan produce transport early in the day, when roads are easier to use and storms are less likely to interrupt travel.

Practical Implications: Lake Victoria Crescent

Maize Top-Dressing

Use the wet week for the last maize top-dressing in late-growing fields, but split the fertilizer if heavy rain is likely.

Bean Protection

Protect flowering and pod-filling beans from stepping on them, wet handling, and late drying.

Banana Care

Keep banana mats clean, remove extra suckers from crowded stools, and keep mulch away from the pseudostem.

Road Checks

Check lake-belt feeder roads before moving perishable produce, especially bananas and freshly picked beans.

Pest & Disease Scouting

Increase scouting for fall armyworm, bean leaf diseases, black Sigatoka, and bacterial wilt after repeated showers.

Storage

Keep grain, seed, and beans on raised platforms because lake-belt humidity can damage storage.

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Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Karamoja

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Establishment to early vegetative	Check that plants have come up well and fill any gaps in weak spots before planting time ends. Weed early and keep rows open to save soil moisture.
Beans	Establishment to early vegetative	Avoid planting in waterlogged valley bottoms. Watch for bean fly, aphids, damping-off, and early leaf disease.
Sorghum	Establishment to early vegetative	Thin plants so they stand evenly after they emerge. Weed before the crop gets too dense and use a light mulch where available to keep moisture in the soil.
Millet	Early vegetative to tillering	Do the first weeding about three weeks after emergence. Keep the rows spaced well and remove extra volunteer plants that crowd young millet.
Bananas	Perennial maintenance	Keep mulch in place and use household greywater only where it is safe and not salty. Remove sick leaves and keep only well-spaced suckers.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Northern Uganda

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Planting, establishment, and early vegetative	Apply fertilizer or compost at planting if late sowing is still going on; top-dress strong plants three to four weeks after germination.
Beans	Vegetative to flowering (March plantings); later fields establishing	Weed before flowering; check for angular leaf spot, anthracnose, aphids, and bean fly after wet periods.
Sorghum	Establishment to early vegetative	Thin to the right spacing after emergence; keep fields weed-free during the first month to protect yield.
Millet	Vegetative growth and tillering	Do the first weeding about three weeks after planting; get ready for a second weeding before flowering.
Bananas	Perennial vegetative, bunch filling, and harvest	Support heavy bunches and remove extra suckers; keep mulch on the soil and remove leaves with serious disease spots.

i Northern Uganda's March-to-April sowing dates mean most crops are at early stages — weeding and drainage are the top jobs this week.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Eastern Uganda

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Vegetative growth; some fields toward tasseling	Top-dress at three to four weeks after germination; check the whorls for fall armyworm and spray only when field levels are reached.
Beans	Flowering, pod set, and pod filling	Avoid working in the field when leaves are wet; remove sick plants and improve air flow to slow the spread of fungus.
Sorghum	Vegetative growth	Weed early and thin crowded stands; check for shoot fly, stem borer, leaf diseases, and damage from lodging after storms.
Millet	Vegetative to booting or early heading	Finish the second weeding before flowering; protect shallow roots from soil loss on sloping fields.
Bananas	Perennial vegetative, bunch filling, and harvest	Remove extra suckers and keep one bearing stem, one follower, and one young sucker; mulch and support bunches before windstorms.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Western Uganda

Crop	Stage & Key Tasks
Maize	Maize is growing in the Lake Albert Crescent; land is being prepared in later southwestern windows. Top-dress active maize only on moist, well-drained soil.
Beans	Beans are moving from vegetative growth to flowering in the Lake Albert Crescent; land is being prepared in later highland windows. Weed before flowering; avoid working in wet fields.
Sorghum	Sorghum is mostly off-season or at the land preparation stage. Prepare seed and row layout before later sowing windows; keep soil moisture by leaving crop residue on the ground.
Millet	Millet is mostly off-season or at the land preparation stage. Prepare clean seedbeds and manure sources; plan the first weeding about three weeks after planting.
Bananas	Bananas are in their growing stage, bunch filling, and ongoing harvest. Apply well-rotted manure or compost during rains; remove diseased leaves, support bunches, and keep mats clean.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Central Uganda

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Late vegetative to tasseling and silking; first harvest beginning late May	Finish the last top-dressing before tasseling; protect silking fields from dry spells and fall armyworm damage.
Beans	Pod filling to early harvest (early plantings); later fields flowering	Dry harvested pods on clean raised surfaces; check flowering fields for aphids, rust, anthracnose, and angular leaf spot.
Sorghum	Vegetative to booting in suitable pockets	Weed and thin stands before booting; check for stem borer and plants falling over after thunderstorms.
Millet	Vegetative to heading in suitable pockets	Finish the second weeding before flowering; protect heads from birds as grain starts to form.
Bananas	Perennial vegetative, bunch filling, and harvest	Keep mats clean and remove extra suckers; mulch, support heavy bunches, and remove diseased leaves.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages: Lake Victoria Crescent

Crop	Stage	Key Tasks
Maize	Late vegetative to tasseling, silking, and early harvest	Finish nitrogen top-dressing before tasseling; check whorls and tasseling plants for fall armyworm and weak stalks.
Beans	Pod filling to early harvest; later plantings still flowering	Harvest only when pods are mature and dry enough; use tarpaulins, raised racks, or ventilated drying shelters during showers.
Sorghum	Vegetative to booting where grown	Weed before booting; check for stem borer, leaf disease, and lodging after heavy rain.
Millet	Vegetative to heading in localized fields	Do final weeding before flowering; watch for birds and protect heads as grain begins filling.
Bananas	Perennial vegetative, bunch filling, and harvest	Keep mulch and manure around mats; de-sucker, prop bunches, and remove leaves with severe black Sigatoka symptoms.

- ✔ Lake Victoria Crescent is the most advanced region agronomically — early maize harvests are approaching, so drying and storage prep is very important.

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Input & Technical Advisory

FERTILITY

Maize

Apply DAP at ~50 kg/ha at planting or just after planting if soil fertility is low. Then apply urea at ~50 kg/ha three to four weeks after germination on moist, not waterlogged soil. Split the top-dressing if heavy rain is likely.

Beans

On poor soils, use manure where available, or apply NPK at ~40 kg/ha or DAP at ~40 kg/ha. Do not add too much nitrogen after flowering, because it can make the plant grow leaves instead of pods.

Sorghum

Use row planting at ~60 cm × 20 cm or 60 cm × 30 cm. Apply compost or a small basal fertilizer on poor soils, and weed early.

Millet

Use row spacing ~30–40 cm × 10 cm where row planting is possible. Weed at ~3 weeks after planting and again before flowering. Apply basal fertilizer or compost where soils are tired.

Bananas

Apply well-rotted manure or compost during the rainy season, and keep it away from the pseudostem. Focus on nitrogen and potassium based on soil test results or local extension advice.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Fall Armyworm (Maize)

Scout at least twice this week. Treat only when damage reaches action levels: ~20% of plants with fresh signs in early whorl stages or ~40% in late whorl stages.

Beans

Scout for bean fly, aphids, angular leaf spot, anthracnose, rust, and bacterial blight. Remove badly diseased plants, avoid touching wet plants, and improve airflow.

Sorghum & Millet

Scout for shoot fly, stem borer, bird pressure, leaf diseases, and lodging. Early weed control and even spacing help reduce pest shelter and competition for moisture.

Bananas

Watch for black Sigatoka, banana weevil, nematode stress, and bacterial wilt. Remove diseased leaves, clean cutting tools, and remove male buds with a forked stick where bacterial wilt is a problem.

SOIL AMENDMENTS

- Apply compost, manure, or crop residues where soils have little organic matter, especially on sloping fields, sandy soils, and fields that crust easily.
- Use lime only when soil testing shows acidity. Do not apply lime without testing, because it can make nutrient balance worse.
- Keep mulch in banana and perennial systems, but keep it away from stems to reduce places where pests and diseases can build up.

i Tech Tip of the Week: Put out a simple rain gauge at farm level and write down the rainfall each day at the same time. Use the record to plan fertilizer, drainage work, and irrigation instead of relying only on memory. For this wet week, apply nitrogen 24 to 48 hours after moderate rain when the soil is moist, and wait if heavy storms are expected or if the field is still waterlogged.

Livestock & Ranching



Tick-Borne Disease

Risk is higher in wet, warm weeks. Check cattle, goats, and sheep often, and follow district tick control advice.



Vaccination

Keep vaccines up to date through the District Veterinary Office, especially for FMD, lumpy skin disease, CBPP, PPR, and Newcastle disease where campaigns are active.



Water Requirements

Give cattle 30–50 liters/head/day; goats and sheep need 3–6 liters/head/day; poultry need clean water all the time.



Pasture Management

Move animals out of wet grazing areas to help prevent foot rot, fluke, injury, and pasture damage.




Poultry Health

Keep poultry litter dry, improve air flow, and keep young birds away from wet bedding because wet conditions increase coccidiosis and breathing problems.



Feed & Minerals

Save fresh grass, legume residues, and crop by-products as hay or silage; do not feed moldy grain or spoiled residues. Give mineral licks and keep troughs clean.

 In Karamoja and Northern Uganda, focus on clean water points and pasture rotation because crop harvest relief is still far away and livestock remain a key livelihood buffer.

Market Analysis

Commodity	Karamoja	Northern	Eastern	Western	Central	Lake Victoria Crescent
Maize	1,430	1,379	1,238	1,678	1,819	1,803
Beans	3,378	3,418	3,297	2,980	3,370	3,423
Sorghum	1,384	1,448	1,682	2,711	3,264	3,007
Millet	2,554	2,745	2,890	3,479	3,539	3,486
Bananas	3,757–7,513	3,757–7,513	3,757–7,513	3,757–7,513	3,757–7,513	3,757–7,513

Maize

The national average is about UGX 1,476/kg. That is up about 4.5% from March 2026, but about 3% below April 2025. Central and Lake Victoria Crescent markets are the strongest in the region.

Beans


The national average is about UGX 3,225/kg. That is a little above March, but about 19% below April 2025. Northern, Karamoja, Central, and Lake Victoria Crescent are still much higher than Western markets.

Sorghum

Western, Central, and Lake Victoria Crescent markets have the highest average prices. Karamoja and Northern are lower. This suggests that transport, product form, and local demand matter more than national supply alone.

Millet

Central, Lake Victoria Crescent, and Western have the highest average prices. Karamoja has the lowest average price.

 Do not judge urban consumer stress from wholesale prices alone. Retail prices for sorghum, millet, and bananas are much higher than wholesale prices.



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Government & NGO Updates

Ministry of Water & Environment — Weather
Forecasts, May 4, 2026

Official forecasts show scattered rain and thunderstorms in many farming areas. Drainage, erosion control, and road access are now top priorities.

MAAIF Livestock Statistical Abstract, April 2026

The new livestock report can help districts plan for animal disease checks, herd care, market tracking, and vaccination.

UN Uganda Humanitarian Funding Update, April
29, 2026

A new U.S.-backed contribution to a UN humanitarian fund will help support refugees, host communities, and nutrition work. Refugee food access is still under pressure.

WFP Refugee Food Assistance Update, March 2026

Low funding is still reducing refugee rations, so market prices and local livelihood support matter a lot in refugee-hosting districts.

World Bank Uganda Urban & Municipal
Infrastructure Program, March 31, 2026

Better roads, drainage, and other climate-smart infrastructure can help market access in cities, municipalities, and refugee-hosting districts over time, but they will not solve this week's feeder-road problems.

Recent Publications & Links

FEWS NET Uganda Key Message Update, March–September 2026

Says refugees and poor households in Karamoja are the groups of greatest concern and expects food aid needs across the country to peak from April to June.

FEWS NET East Africa Seasonal Monitor, April 23, 2026

Reports early March–May rains in Uganda, but warns that rainfall may be below average in parts of the April–June period. This matters for Karamoja and northern areas that rely on one rainy season.

World Bank Commodity Markets Outlook, April 2026

Expects higher global commodity and fertilizer prices. This could make fertilizer harder to afford and may reduce second-season input use if local prices rise too.

IPC Uganda Analysis, April 2025–February 2026

Gives background on hunger and malnutrition risks for refugees and host communities, which helps explain current aid needs.

NARO Crop Production Manuals & Guides

Give simple guidance on planting rates, spacing, crop care, and pest control for maize, beans, millet, sorghum, and bananas.

Looking Ahead & Reminders

National Priorities

- Wet-season care will still be needed through May, with some flood, erosion, and road delays still possible.
- Plan for higher input costs before the next planting season, since global fertilizer prices are expected to stay high in 2026.
- Use market prices carefully: broad market means, retail prices, and farmgate prices are different and should not be mixed without clear labels.
- Food access is likely to stay most difficult in refugee-hosting districts and Karamoja until crops mature or extra help improves access.

Karamoja

- Finish filling gaps only where the soil still has enough moisture.
- Weed young maize, sorghum, millet, and bean fields.
- Check maize whorls for fall armyworm and beans for bean fly twice this week.
- Keep seed and grain in raised, airy storage.

Northern

- Keep planting or replanting where the season started late.
- Apply maize top-dressing 3–4 weeks after germination on moist, well-drained soils.
- Fix drainage and erosion-control structures before more storms.
- Watch refugee-hosting market areas for bean and maize price stress.

Eastern

- Keep contour barriers, trash lines, and drainage in place on sloping fields.
- Top-dress maize after light rain; do not apply before heavy storms.
- Check flowering beans for leaf disease; avoid handling them when wet.
- Keep drying grain and beans covered, raised, and airy.

Western

- Remove side shoots from bananas, support heavy bunches, and keep mulch in place.
- Fix terrace outlets and grass channels in highland fields.
- Prepare later-season cereal plots with manure, compost, and crop residues.
- Keep livestock off wet grazing areas and provide dry bedding.

Central

- Focus on drainage in maize, bean, and banana fields.
- Finish final maize top-dressing before tasseling in early-planted fields.
- Dry beans and grain on tarpaulins or raised racks, not on wet ground.
- Plan produce movement around storms and feeder-road access.

Lake Victoria Crescent

- Protect flowering beans and early harvests from repeated showers.
- Check bananas for bacterial wilt, black Sigatoka, weevil damage, and nematode stress.
- Watch lake-belt market transport routes after thunderstorms.
- Keep stored seed and grain raised, dry, and airy.

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