

Uganda Weekly Agriculture, Food Market, and Farming Weather Report

01 – 08 August 2025

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Executive Summary

Uganda's agricultural conditions continue to show a stark north-south contrast this week. Northern and Northeastern regions are experiencing ample mid-season rainfall, supporting crop growth and rangelands. Conversely, Central, Western, and Lake Victoria Crescent zones remain in a typical dry season, with farmers focused on harvesting first-season crops and conserving moisture until rains expected later in August.

In southern bimodal areas, the first-season harvest is largely complete with average to good yields; farmers are now preparing for the second planting season. In northern unimodal zones, crops like maize, sorghum, and millet are at flowering to grain-filling, with some early green harvests underway.

Staple food prices are beginning to ease as fresh harvest supplies enter local markets. Maize and bean prices have modestly dipped or are holding steady, reflecting improved availability, though still slightly above last year's levels. Strong regional demand continues to support farmgate prices.

Livestock in the north are thriving on abundant pasture. In drier southern districts, farmers are implementing dry-season strategies like fodder conservation and supplementing feeds. Nationwide, an intensified Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccination campaign is ongoing, with no major crop pest or disease outbreaks reported this week.

New agricultural support initiatives are rolling out, including a large Climate Smart Agriculture project and a pivot by relief agencies (WFP, FAO) towards resilience-building programs. As the first season concludes, farmers are advised to capitalize on current conditions: northern farmers should secure good yields, while southern farmers finalize harvests, safeguard produce, and prepare for timely second-season planting.

A smiling woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue patterned top and a red cloth tied around her waist, stands in a lush green field. She is holding a basket filled with various vegetables, including purple eggplants and green leafy plants. The background is a soft-focus view of a rural landscape with trees and a clear sky.

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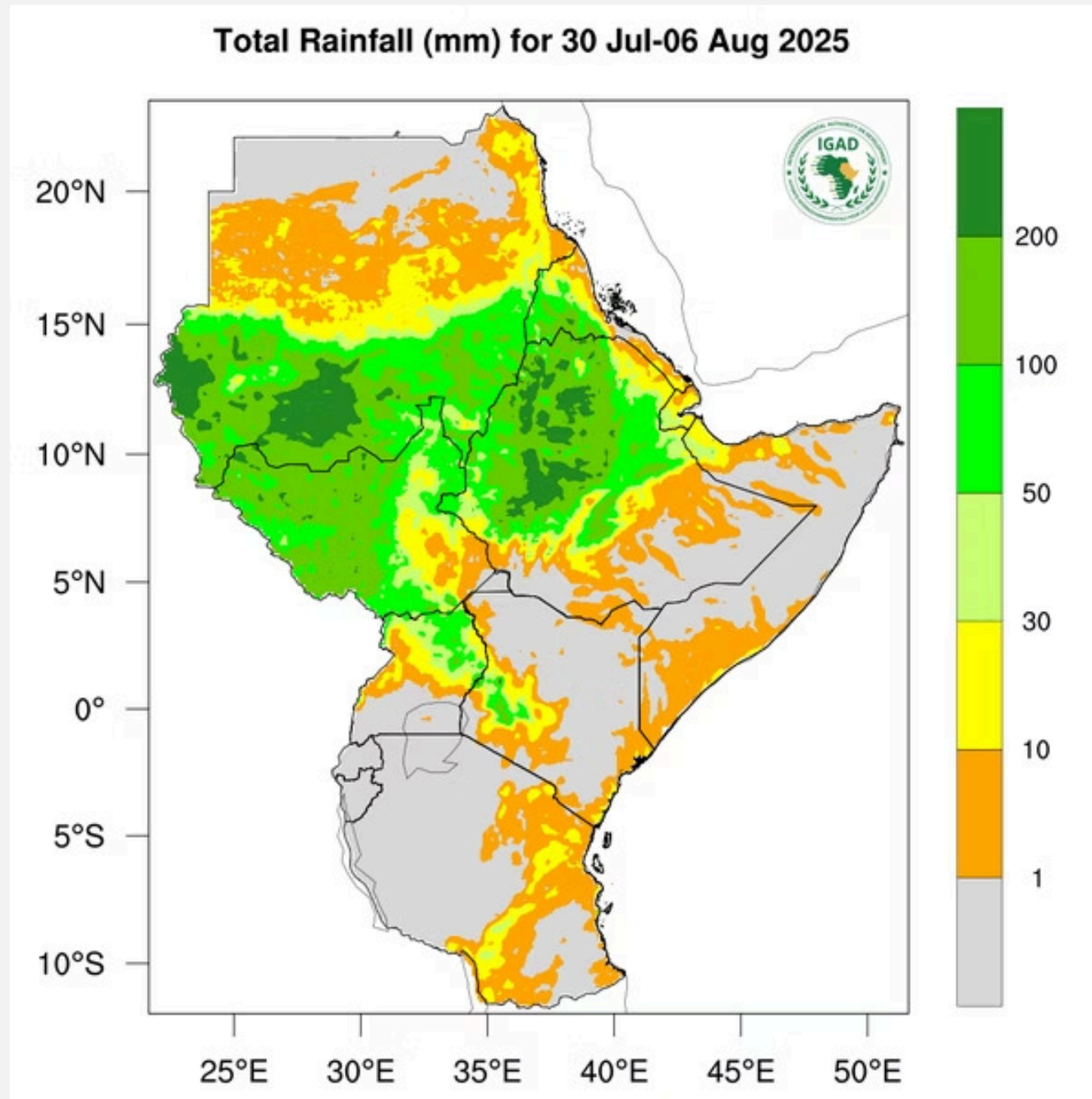
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Weather Outlook (1–8 August)



Karamoja (Northeastern Uganda)

Karamoja's single rainy season continues with scattered showers and thunderstorms, expecting 30–50 mm rainfall. Temperatures will be warm (29–32°C days, 18°C nights). This rain benefits crops (maize, sorghum, millet in reproductive stages) and pasture. Farmers should use dry intervals for weeding and top-dress fertilizer application. Crucially, practice soil moisture conservation by maintaining mulch cover and constructing earth bunds. Though no flood warnings are active, ensure drainage is clear to prevent temporary waterlogging. Overall, the week is seasonally wet and favorable for agriculture.



Farmer Advisory

- Use dry intervals for weeding and fertilizer application
- Maintain mulch cover for soil moisture conservation
- Construct bunds/trenches to retain rainwater
- Keep drainage channels clear to prevent waterlogging

30-50mm

Weekly Rainfall

Expected precipitation

29-32°C

Daytime Highs

Warm conditions

18°C

Nighttime Lows

Comfortably cool

Northern Region (Acholi, Lango, West Nile)

The Northern Region anticipates steady moderate rains (50–80 mm weekly), with mild temperatures (27–30°C days, 19–20°C nights). These favorable conditions support crop growth (maize, millet, beans, groundnuts) and pasture, refilling water sources. Farmers should ensure proper drainage to prevent waterlogging and vigilantly monitor for and manage potential foliar fungal diseases.

⊗ Alerts/Advice

Scout maize for fall armyworm and treat early. For livestock, supplement lush pastures with minerals to prevent deficiencies and introduce stock gradually to avoid bloat. Leverage this productive weather for field tasks and crop protection.



50-80mm

Weekly Rainfall

Well-distributed showers

27-30°C

Daytime Highs

Mild temperatures

*From one of IDEA's partners



petros network

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In Uganda, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, Petros Network empowers local church planters to fight hunger through the F.A.I.T.H. Gardens initiative ("Food Always In The Home"). These leaders receive seeds, tools, and training, then pass on proven farming techniques to their communities.

Throughout Uganda, Pastors and Church planters are empowered by Petros Network to cultivate F.A.I.T.H gardens that will provide for their families, equip their Church congregations to be food secure, and bless their communities with increased agricultural development. Petros Network's community of Churches train others, sell their surplus produce, and grow stronger communities.

Petros Network's Redemptive Lift model combines spiritual outreach with practical impact, launching gardens, nourishing children, and empowering women. From maize to beans, families now grow food that feeds households and supports market income.

Every garden multiplies. Every donation changes lives. Join the movement to bring food security, dignity, and hope to East Africa. Visit www.petrosnetwork.org to learn more.

Eastern Region (Teso, Bukedi, Busoga, Mt. Elgon zone)



40-60mm

Mountain Areas

Weekly rainfall in highlands

20-40mm

Lowland Areas

Intermittent light showers

Eastern Uganda expects mixed rainfall. Mountainous areas (Mt. Elgon, Bugisu/Bukedi) will see moderate rains (~40–60 mm), with localized afternoon showers. Eastern lowlands (Teso, Busoga) will be drier, with intermittent light showers totaling 20–40 mm and some areas having only one or two rainy days. Temperatures will be warm: 28–30°C in lowlands (22–25°C in highlands) and lows around 17–19°C.

With the first harvest nearly complete, the weather is favorable for post-harvest activities. Farmers should utilize sunny spells to thoroughly dry produce like millet and groundnuts, using tarpaulins and covering crops if rain threatens. In Elgon foothills, be aware of sudden thunderstorms; maintain soil conservation structures on steep slopes to prevent erosion.

These scattered rains are recharging soil moisture, which is good for second-season planting. Where soil moisture has built up, farmers can begin initial land preparation. In summary, the East will have a calm week ideal for finishing harvests, ensuring safe storage, and starting preparations for the next planting cycle.

Western Region (Ankole, Toro, Bunyoro, Rwenzori, Kigezi)

Western Uganda is now firmly in its long dry season, with **minimal to no rain expected this week** (typically <10–20 mm). Skies will be mostly clear. Daytime temperatures will range from 24–31°C (cooler in highlands), and nights will be cool (14–18°C).

This reliably dry weather is ideal for finalizing the harvest and post-harvest processing of any remaining first-season crops like late beans or maize. Farmers should complete harvesting quickly and thoroughly sun-dry grains to safe moisture levels (e.g., maize kernels should crack, not dent) to prevent mold and aflatoxin during storage.



After harvest, farmers should prioritize land preparation for the second season. Instead of burning crop residues, incorporate or compost them to improve soil fertility. The stable weather is also perfect for repairing on-farm infrastructure like terraces, soil bunds, drainage ditches, granaries, and drying racks.

For livestock keepers, pastures are drying. Plan for supplementary feeding and conserve hay from remaining green patches. Ensure water sources are cleaned and ready as natural water availability will decline. In summary, farmers should maximize this predictable dry period to consolidate harvest gains and prepare their farms for the upcoming rains.

Central Region (including Greater Kampala, Central districts)



Perennial Crop Care

- Mulch around banana stools
- Practice de-suckering on bananas
- Prune and fertilize coffee trees

Central Uganda continues to experience **predominantly dry conditions**. Despite limited moisture from Lake Victoria that may bring brief, isolated drizzles (under 10 mm weekly), significant rain is not expected until later in August. Daytime temperatures will be around 28–30°C, with mild nights at 18–20°C. This dry spell offers a valuable window for farm maintenance and preparation between the first and upcoming second planting seasons.

Farmers should use this stable, dry period for planning and preparations. Key actions include acquiring seeds and inputs early, repairing irrigation systems, and engaging in agricultural training. Proactive post-harvest management and readiness for Season B will be crucial once the rains resume.

Key Activities Now

- Complete post-harvest processing
- Clean and sun-dry storage facilities
- Service farm tools and machinery
- Control weeds on fallow fields

Lake Victoria Crescent (Lakeshore districts)

The Lake Victoria Crescent will experience **predominantly dry weather**, despite moderated micro-climates. Isolated light showers or morning drizzles may occur due to lake humidity, but rain will be localized and minimal. Expect sunny to partly cloudy skies, with daytime highs around 29°C and nights near 19°C, alongside some morning dew. These calm conditions favor fishing, though fishermen should remain vigilant for sudden gusty afternoon winds and prioritize safety (life jackets, avoiding overloaded boats).

For lakeshore farmers, this dry period is crucial downtime between cropping seasons. Similar to the broader central region, focus on finalizing harvest tasks and preparing for the next planting. A key advantage in this fringe area is slightly higher residual soil moisture from dew, enabling enterprising farmers to start nursery beds for vegetables or rice. Urban areas also benefit, with low flood risk allowing for infrastructure maintenance. Farmers and fishermen should utilize these stable conditions for safe storage, equipment repairs, and proactive planning for the upcoming rainy phase.

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Crop Calendar & Growth Stages



Karamoja & North-Eastern Unimodal Zone

This unimodal zone (April-September) sees cereals like **sorghum, millet, and maize** well into reproductive stages (flowering to grain-fill) thanks to adequate rainfall. Early pulse and green maize harvests have begun in some areas, but the main cereal harvest is expected from late August into September.

Farmers are focused on mid-season management, including ongoing weeding. Those with access to fertilizer are completing their **top-dressing of maize and sorghum with nitrogen**, usually 6–8 weeks after emergence. Care is needed when moving through flowering fields to avoid damaging tassels or panicles.

Fall armyworm incidence has been low, though farmers remain vigilant. Stemborers are managed by rouging infested stalks. Thinning overly dense plant stands is advised to reduce competition for moisture. Communities are in a lean period, actively guarding maturing crops from pests like birds and baboons.

If rains continue intermittently through August, an average to above-average yield is expected. Farmers anticipating harvest in September should start preparing and sun-drying storage facilities, such as hermetic bags and silos, in advance.

Northern & West Nile (Bimodal farming areas)

The bimodal farming areas of Northern and West Nile regions are concluding their first cropping season (March/April planting, July/August harvest). Many early-planted crops like **maize are maturing or already harvested**. Early **bean and groundnut crops were largely harvested in June/July**, though some later varieties are still in pod-filling for August harvest. **Sweet potatoes are being dug as needed**, with recent rains ensuring good tuber sizes.

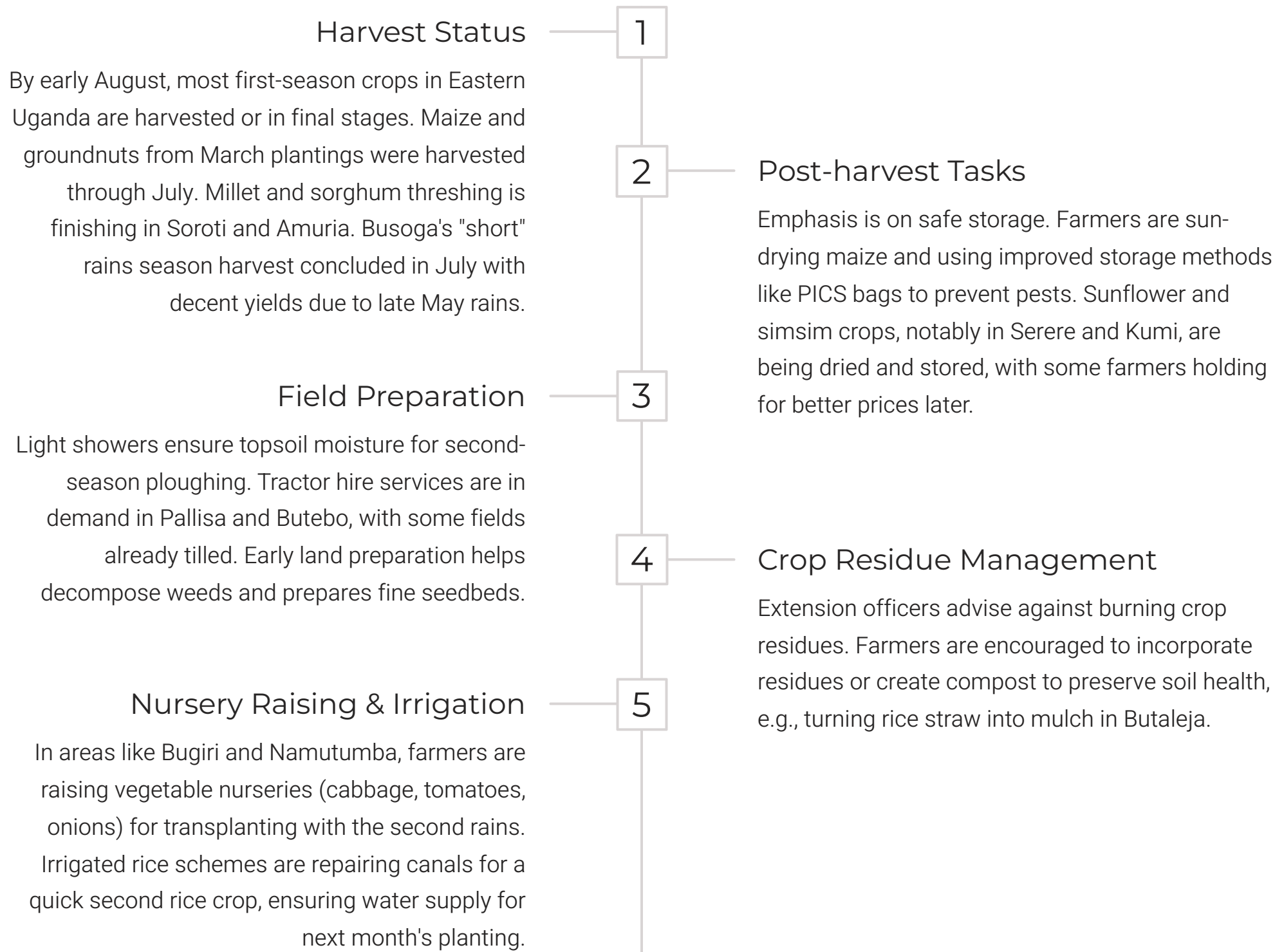
Farmers are busy with cereal harvests (**maize, sorghum**) and **threshing beans and groundnuts**. Yields appear average, despite an early dry spell in May. Continued June-July rains have supported later-planted and second-cycle crops, ensuring a relatively good production close to the season's end.

As harvest concludes, farmers are simultaneously preparing for the second season (Season B), ideally planting by late August into early September. Common second-season crops include short-duration beans, simsim (sesame), cowpeas, and vegetables.

Crop protection efforts are focused on bird scaring in ripening fields. Proper drying of harvested grains is crucial to prevent mold, with extension agents advising thorough drying before storage. The outlook for the first season is positive, with farmers transitioning to second-season planting with cautious optimism, aiming to conserve residual soil moisture for success.



Eastern Region (Mid-East and Elgon zones, bimodal)



Overall, the Eastern region is in a productive lull, focusing on securing the first harvest and preparing for the second season. Residual rains are a bonus for early land preparation. The key for eastern farmers now is to procure quality seeds and inputs and be ready to sow with the first reliable showers later in August.

Western & South-Western (Bimodal highlands and lowlands)

In Western Uganda (Ankole, Kigezi, Toro, Bunyoro), the first cropping season concluded by July, with harvests of beans, maize, sorghum, and Irish potatoes complete. Kigezi saw particularly good bean yields. Maize in Masindi and Kibaale was average due to an April dry spell. Only continuous crops like sweet potatoes or bananas remain.

Farmers are now in post-harvest and off-season mode, focusing on storage, marketing, and farm maintenance. Many store maize and beans for better prices later. Those selling now are advised to add value (drying, cleaning, shelling) to counter depressed farmgate prices.

Western Uganda is between seasons, with fields being readied for September plantings. Farmers are managing harvests, improving farms, and gearing up for the next cycle by repairing terraces, rejuvenating soils, managing finances, and caring for livestock during this downtime.

1	<h3>Soil Fertility Management</h3> <p>August is ideal for soil improvement. Farmers are spreading manure/compost or planting cover crops (mucuna, lablab). In highlands like Kigezi, agricultural lime is applied to acidic plots, boosting future yields.</p>
2	<h3>Tree Planting and Pruning</h3> <p>Farmers are planting eucalyptus or fruit tree seedlings before rains. Coffee and tea pruning is also done during this dry, cool period.</p>
3	<h3>Livestock Management</h3> <p>Dry season affects pasture in the cattle corridor. Ranchers use stored feeds (hay) and cull older animals to manage herd sizes on dwindling pasture.</p>
4	<h3>Community Activity</h3> <p>Farmer groups utilize this off-season for capacity building. Workshops on financial literacy, agro-processing, or pest management are common, with good attendance due to reduced field chores.</p>

Central Region & Lake Victoria Crescent (Bimodal areas)

Central region (including Lake Victoria Crescent) farmers have completed the first (minor) season harvest, with the second (major) planting season a few weeks away. Short-maturity crops like maize, upland rice, tomatoes, eggplants, and chili peppers were harvested by late July; fields are now fallow or being prepared. Farmers are evaluating first-season crop performance to inform variety selection for the upcoming second season, a practice encouraged for climate-smart agriculture.

No annual crop planting is occurring this week. Some farmers are improving irrigation for off-season, high-value enterprises, installing drip irrigation or water tanks with government support. August is also a time for agricultural shows and competitions, where farmers gather new ideas, such as improved poultry breeds or disease-resistant seed varieties, and share knowledge through local farmer associations. This period is less hectic physically but crucial for strategic planning, storing harvests, rehabilitating gardens, and preparing for the second season's farming activities.

Soils in central Uganda have dried enough for mechanization and land preparation. Farmers are clearing bush and managing weeds on idle fields to ensure they are clean for planting by late August. For perennial crops, banana plantations and coffee gardens are in a growth/rest phase. Vigilance against Banana Bacterial Wilt (BBW) is crucial, with extension agents reminding farmers to destroy symptomatic plants immediately and avoid spreading the disease during communal activities. Coffee farmers are applying fertilizer or manure to their gardens, preparing for new growth with the return of rains.





Input & Technical Advisory

Fertilizer – Right Type at the Right Time

Timely use of inputs and best practices are crucial for optimal crop development and livestock health. Here are key technical recommendations:

For cereal crops (maize, sorghum) in northern areas, 4–8 weeks post-planting is ideal for nitrogen top-dressing. Apply nitrogen-rich fertilizers like Urea or CAN before rainfall or on moist soil to boost kernel formation. A guideline is 125 kg/ha of CAN, or 55 kg/ha of Urea for similar nitrogen. Consider splitting the dose to minimize leaching, and always apply about 15 cm from the plant stem, mixing lightly into the topsoil to prevent root burn.

In regions preparing land (central, west), incorporate basal phosphorus fertilizers (DAP or TSP) during ploughing. For high-rainfall or acidic areas (e.g., Kigezi), apply agricultural lime during land preparation to improve soil pH and nutrient availability. Additionally, applying well-decomposed manure or compost during dry spells will enrich soil and enhance water retention for when rains return. Strategic fertilizer use, aligned with crop timing, significantly improves yields and quality.

Pest and Disease Control

Proactive pest management is crucial. For late-planted maize and sorghum, scout fields twice weekly for Fall Armyworm (FAW) signs like "windowpane" holes or frass. If detected early, hand-pick larvae or apply targeted insecticides (Lambda-cyhalothrin, Spinetoram) deep into the whorl. Adding a spreader-sticker (e.g., dish soap) can improve adherence. Organic alternatives include blowing wood ash mixed with chili powder into whorls, ideally when plants are dew-laden.

For beans and other legumes, as they reach flowering and podding, watch for pod-boring insects and aphids. A timely application of insecticide or bio-insecticide (neem-based) at early flowering can prevent significant damage. Also, monitor for fungal diseases like Angular Leaf Spot or Rust, especially in rainy areas. Consider preventive fungicide sprays (Mancozeb or Copper oxychloride) if lower leaves show spots or rust pustules.

In banana plantations (central and western Uganda), continuous pest control is needed. Regularly inspect pseudostem bases for banana weevil pinholes. Use pheromone traps or split pseudostem traps to reduce weevil populations. For suspicious wilting or ooze (potential Bacterial Wilt), immediately uproot and bury/burn affected banana mats to prevent spread.

In summary, early detection and intervention are paramount. Farmers who routinely inspect their fields with knowledge and appropriate controls (chemical or organic) can prevent most pest and disease damage. Preventative measures like rouging diseased plants, using pest traps, and maintaining crop hygiene are as vital as curative actions.

Soil and Water Management



Northern/Northeastern Regions

Apply soil conditioners like farmyard manure or compost to retain nutrients and water during rainy conditions.

Southern/Central Regions

Apply thick mulch around perennial crops to reduce evaporation and keep roots cool in dry conditions.

As one season ends and another begins, prioritize improving soil health and conserving moisture. In regions currently receiving rains (north, northeast), soil conditioners like farmyard manure or compost can prevent nutrient leaching and improve water retention. Consider cover crops for future seasons to boost moisture retention.

For drier areas (southwest, central), mulching is crucial. A thick layer of dry grass or crop residues around plants reduces evaporation and keeps roots cool. For fallow annual crop fields, leaving residues on the surface protects soil and preserves moisture from drizzles.

This is also an opportune time to implement or repair water harvesting structures. Excavating small farm ponds, repairing contour bunds, or digging diversion ditches can help manage run-off and channel water into the soil, especially on slopes in eastern and northern regions.

To prepare for the next season, consider applying agricultural lime in August where soil tests indicate acidity (e.g., Kigezi, Ankole). This allows time for the lime to react and optimize soil pH before planting, leading to better crop performance.

Proactive soil care—through organic matter addition, erosion control, and pH correction—now will significantly influence success in the coming season. As the saying goes, "August makes the harvest of December."

Post-Harvest Handling & Storage

Significant harvest losses in Uganda stem from poor handling and storage pests. Proper post-harvest practices are crucial, beginning with thorough drying. Maize should reach about 13% moisture (kernels hard, sharp crack when bitten), and beans should rattle in their pods. A simple test for maize involves mixing a sample with salt in a sealed bottle; if the salt remains free-flowing after a day, the grain is dry enough.

Once dry, store grains in clean containers, ensuring old stores are free of insect eggs or mold. Avoid mixing new harvest with old stock. Farmers are encouraged to use hermetic storage bags (like PICS bags) to safely store grains without chemicals, by suffocating insects. For ordinary sacks or traditional granaries, consider inert dusts such as food-grade diatomaceous earth, which naturally kills insects by desiccation.

Additionally, elevate stored produce on pallets or raised platforms, keeping it off earthen floors to prevent moisture and rodent damage. Cover stacks with tarpaulin if the roof isn't waterproof, and use barriers to deter rodents in cribs.

Regularly inspect stored produce (every week or two) to catch infestations early, which can then be managed by re-sundrying or controlled fumigation. For Irish potatoes, ensure cool, well-ventilated storage pits and sort out any damaged tubers to prevent rot spread. Groundnuts, currently being harvested, should be dried in the shell until kernels rattle and stored unshelled if possible to extend freshness. Aflatoxin risk is high for groundnuts and maize stored with moisture, reinforcing the mantra: "If it's not dry, don't store; if it's dry, store it right." By adopting these measures, farmers can significantly reduce losses, potentially saving 20% or more of their harvest, and gain better income by selling later when prices rise.



"Tech Tip of the Week" – Home Germination Testing for Seeds



Before planting, testing your seeds' viability is crucial to ensure a good crop stand. This simple, low-cost home germination test helps you avoid wasting effort on non-viable seeds. Here's how:

1. Select 20–30 random seeds from your batch.
2. Dampen a clean cloth or paper towel; it should be moist, not dripping.
3. Place seeds evenly on the cloth, then fold or roll it to cover them.
4. Put the cloth in a warm, shaded place, like a perforated plastic bag, to maintain humidity.
5. Keep the cloth moist and observe seeds for 5–7 days.

Count the sprouted seeds. For example, 18 out of 20 (90%) is excellent. Only 10 (50%) signals poor quality, requiring a higher seeding rate or new seeds. This test works for all crops and is ideal for home-saved seeds or those stored in less-than-ideal conditions. It ensures you "know your seed" before you sow, preventing field disappointment and increasing your farm's success.

Bonus Advisory: Timing Your Farm Activities

Timely farm activities enhance produce quality and reduce losses. **Harvest leafy vegetables and fruits in the cool morning for freshness.** For grains and pulses, harvest during dry, sunny midday/afternoons to reduce moisture and prevent spoilage.

Following technical guidance, from timely fertilizer application and pest control to proper post-harvest handling and seed testing, is crucial for maximizing gains and mitigating risks. Early August is a critical window for interventions that significantly impact yields, ensuring abundant harvests, healthy livestock, and a prosperous farm household.



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Livestock & Ranching

The livestock sector shows regional variations, with northern herders finding ample water and forage, while southern ranchers face leaner conditions. Disease control remains a national focus. Here are the latest updates and advice for cattle, goat, and poultry keepers this week:

General Herd Health & Disease Alerts

Uganda's government veterinary authorities continue to enforce strict **Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)** controls following a presidential directive. Movement of cattle is banned in quarantine zones without special authorization, with enforcement teams monitoring checkpoints. The Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF) recently completed a second round of mass FMD vaccinations in 27 high-risk districts, administering approximately 3 million vaccine doses. Livestock markets remain closed in these quarantine districts until officials certify no new FMD cases appear post-vaccination. If no fresh outbreaks occur, authorities may begin lifting quarantines region by region, potentially easing marketing restrictions.

Farmers should also watch for **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)**, especially with increased insect activity, as it spreads by biting flies. Routinely inspect cattle for nodular skin lesions. If LSD is present in neighboring communities, consider vaccinating your herd. **Tick-borne diseases** remain a year-round challenge. With recent pasture growth, tick populations are surging in some areas. Maintain diligent tick control through acaricide spraying or dipping every 1–2 weeks. If ticks survive current treatments, it may indicate resistance; rotate acaricide classes (e.g., from synthetic pyrethroid to amitraz) under guidance. Always follow label instructions and avoid under-dosing. Remember to also treat goats grazing in the same areas to prevent pathogen spread.

Nutrition and Pasture Management

Pasture conditions vary sharply across Uganda. In the north and northeast (Karamoja, Lango, Acholi), abundant rainfall has led to excellent pasture regeneration. Cattle and goats are grazing on lush grasses, and many pastoralists have cut and stored hay. If you haven't yet, **grasses are still green enough in northern Uganda for hay-making to conserve fodder for the upcoming dry season** (Dec–Jan).

Conversely, in the central and southwestern rangelands, pasture decline is beginning. **Farmers should strategize feed resources by identifying areas for grazing and those for regrowth.** Supplementation is crucial here; gradually introduce stored feeds like hay, silage, or maize stover to maintain livestock condition, especially for dairy cows to sustain milk production. **Consider culling or selling animals you cannot feed through the dry season, as current market prices are favorable** (e.g., local bull ~UGX 1.2–1.3M, mature goat ~UGX 150k+).

For zero-grazed animals (stall-fed dairy cows, pigs), secure feed supply for coming months. Purchase concentrates like bran or molasses in bulk now while prices are lower, or ferment crop residues into silage. Silage made from recent maize harvest needs 3–4 weeks to ferment properly; July-prepared silage can be fed late this month. Remember to use opened silage quickly to prevent spoilage.

Finally, provide mineral supplementation such as salt licks or mineral blocks, as mature pastures can be deficient. This enhances animal health, appetite, and weight gain. Goat herders in drier areas can supplement with leaves from drought-tolerant trees like acacia pods or pigeon pea bushes, which are nutritious and relished by goats.



Goat and Sheep Care



Goats are transitioning to new forage conditions. A key concern is **Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)**, or **goat plague**, causing sudden deaths with symptoms like mouth sores and diarrhea. If your goats haven't been vaccinated against PPR in the last three years, contact your District Veterinary Officer about available vaccines or campaigns.

Routine deworming is also crucial for both goats and sheep now, as recent lush pastures may have increased internal parasite loads. A broad-spectrum dewormer will help maintain animal condition. Additionally, shear any wool sheep for the coming heat, and **treat any limping animals for footrot by trimming hooves and applying antiseptic**, especially as the ground dries.

Poultry (Village Chickens)

Poultry farmers, especially for free-range indigenous chickens, should be mindful of **Newcastle Disease (ND)**. This highly contagious viral disease often spikes during stress periods and can wipe out flocks. August is an ideal time to vaccinate if not done recently; the vaccine is inexpensive and highly effective. Inquire at district veterinary offices about ongoing vaccination programs, as ND losses are preventable.

As fields clear and dry up, local chickens may find fewer insects and green matter. Supplement their diet with grains like maize bran or sorghum to maintain egg production.

Coop hygiene is critical: dusty shelters can cause respiratory issues. Thoroughly clean and air chicken houses by removing old litter, raking out manure (for composting), and spreading fresh bedding.

External parasites like **chicken mites** tend to build up in warm weather. Offer a dust bath (a mix of wood ash and fine sand in a shallow basin) to help deter them. For broilers or exotic layers, **maintain proper ventilation as temperatures rise**; heat stress can significantly reduce laying performance. Consider installing simple screens or extra vents in enclosed coops.



Market Analysis

As the first harvest of 2025 reaches markets, staple commodity prices are beginning to adjust downward. Below are approximate mid-week wholesale prices in Ugandan Shillings (UGX) per kilogram for crops and per typical head for livestock across Uganda's regions:

	Northern Region	Eastern Region	Western Region	Central Region
Maize grain	UGX 1,200 / kg	UGX 1,250 / kg	UGX 1,300 / kg	UGX 1,300 / kg
Beans (mixed)	UGX 2,600 / kg	UGX 2,800 / kg	UGX 3,000 / kg	UGX 3,200 / kg
Sorghum (grain)	UGX 1,500 / kg	UGX 1,500 / kg	UGX 1,800 / kg	UGX 2,500 / kg
Millet (grain)	UGX 2,500 / kg	UGX 2,600 / kg	UGX 2,800 / kg	UGX 3,500 / kg
Bananas (matooke)	~UGX 5,500 / kg	~UGX 5,000 / kg	~UGX 4,500 / kg	~UGX 6,000 / kg
Cattle (bull, head)	UGX 1.1 million	UGX 1.0 million	UGX 1.25 million	UGX 1.35 million
Goat (per head)	UGX 140,000	UGX 150,000	UGX 165,000	UGX 175,000
Chicken (per bird)	UGX 22,000	UGX 20,000	UGX 27,000	UGX 30,000

Table Notes: These figures are approximations from local market reports, varying by specific market, quality, and volume. Prices for matooke are estimated per kilogram based on typical bunch weights. Higher banana prices in Northern and Eastern regions reflect transport costs from growing areas. Livestock prices assume a standard mature animal in good condition and are mid-range values. Poultry prices are for full-grown local chickens. Sources include WFP market monitoring and M-Omulimisa SMS price system updates.

Analysis: Maize Prices

Maize grain prices have significantly softened to UGX 1,200–1,300 per kg in most regions. This represents a notable 25% drop from March prices (UGX 1,700–1,800) and is primarily due to the ongoing harvest, bringing relief to consumers. Improved domestic supply and moderated regional demand also contribute to this decline.

Prices are expected to remain relatively low through August's harvest peak, potentially rising in September. **Farmers are advised that holding maize until late in the year, particularly November, could yield better prices as regional demand often increases.**

Analysis: Bean Prices

Bean prices show more subtle movements, with mixed beans currently trading between UGX 2,500 and 3,200/kg, only marginally different from last year. Unlike maize, bean supply and demand are balanced due to a decent first-season harvest and steady year-round demand. While prices eased slightly in upcountry markets (e.g., Lira yellow beans from UGX 2,800 to UGX 2,500), Kampala retail prices remain higher at UGX 3,200-3,500. A modest further decline is expected through August as more Kigezi highland beans reach urban markets. However, by September, traders will likely hold stock for school term demand, which could stabilize prices. Overall, beans offer comparative price stability, benefiting both farmers and consumers.

Analysis: Sorghum and Millet

Sorghum and millet prices show significant regional disparities. Sorghum is affordable in northern Uganda (UGX 1,200–1,500/kg) due to its staple status and good yields, boosted by aid. In central regions like Kampala, prices jump to ~UGX 2,500/kg wholesale, driven by brewery demand and urban consumption, as it's largely transported from the north or east.

Millet is similarly cheaper in growing regions (UGX 2,500–2,800 in west/north) but pricey in central areas (UGX 3,500+). Its overall lower supply and premium uses (malting, infant food) keep prices high, likely remaining so without a bumper harvest. Farmers growing these grains should leverage these market dynamics, seeking premium urban markets, especially for brewing sorghum.

Analysis: Matooke (Cooking Bananas)

Matooke prices are currently moderate thanks to good rainfall supporting banana plantations. In producing areas of Western Uganda (e.g., Isingiro, Mbarara), a large bunch can go for as low as UGX 10,000–15,000. In non-producing areas like the North, the same bunch might cost UGX 25,000 or more due to transport costs. The Central region also sees moderate prices around UGX 6,000/kg retail in Kampala. Prices are expected to remain stable for the next month, provided fuel prices and trucking are unhindered. A slight increase could occur in early September before second rains bring new flushes, but ample availability currently benefits urban consumers.

Analysis: Livestock Markets



Livestock prices are rebounding, with healthier national prices compared to last year's dry season. The FMD crackdown and improved vaccination coverage are expected to gradually reopen markets, potentially causing a temporary local increase in supply and slight price dip in specific areas. However, better animal condition due to good rains is generally leading to improved prices. For instance, a bull fetching UGX 1.3 million in Kampala today would have been UGX 1.0–1.1 million last year.

Regional variations exist: Western Uganda, a supply zone, sees cattle prices around UGX 1.1–1.25 million, while Central region buyers pay a premium (UGX 1.3–1.4 million). Goat prices are relatively uniform at UGX 140k–175k, with city demand keeping Kampala prices 20–25% higher. Local chickens sell for about UGX 20k in villages and UGX 30k in city markets. Urban poultry demand has recovered, partly due to low fish supplies. Egg prices remain steady at UGX 10,000 per tray farmgate in Masaka and UGX 11,000–12,000 in Kampala, stabilized by feed costs.

Market Outlook

Grain prices are expected to remain subdued through August, likely near a seasonal low for maize. A slight increase for maize is possible in September due to school reopening and potential regional export demand, especially if Kenya's harvest underperforms. **Bean prices may remain low until late in the year** due to the upcoming minor harvest in the north, while matooke prices should stay stable.

In livestock, **cattle prices in the southwest may soften slightly** if quarantines lift. Nationwide, however, prices are expected to hold or rise, supported by consistent demand from abattoirs and neighboring countries, and a boost from school reopening in September. Successful FMD vaccination campaigns are expected to restore confidence and increase trade volumes.

The Ministry of Agriculture considers current food prices stable, though they monitor specific high-price areas. Food aid programs like WFP provide a price floor by purchasing grains. Farmers are encouraged to use collective marketing through cooperatives and Parish Development Model (PDM) storage centers to secure better prices.

Market Summary

This week's market is positive for consumers (easing prices) and cautiously positive for farmers (higher sales volumes, good livestock values). Typical of harvest season, supply is ample, with a cyclical uptick expected. Farmers should plan strategically, storing produce or selling incrementally, to maximize earnings from this season's bounty.

Government & NGO Updates

Key updates on significant agricultural developments and support programs in Uganda:



Intensified FMD Control and Vaccination Campaign

The Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF) has intensified efforts to curb **Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)** across Uganda's cattle corridor. Following President Museveni's Executive Order No. 2 of 2025, enforcement has tightened, with security teams actively halting unauthorized livestock movement. Mass vaccination drives continue, with over 2.5 million cattle vaccinated in priority districts. Vaccines donated by Egypt were fully utilized in the western region, and the government is procuring additional doses for other hotspots.

Farmers are urged to cooperate with veterinary officials and report any FMD symptoms immediately. The Minister of Agriculture indicated that quarantine restrictions might be gradually lifted if no new outbreaks are detected in the next 4–6 weeks post-vaccination. Until then, **quarantine rules remain in force in at least 20 districts**, including market closures and inter-district transport bans. Sensitization meetings are also promoting long-term prevention. Authorities are cautiously optimistic about containing this FMD episode by early September.



WFP Shifts Food Assistance Modality in Karamoja

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is shifting its food assistance strategy in Karamoja, moving from general food distributions to an expanded **Food-for-Assets (FFA)** program. Under FFA, able-bodied community members receive food or cash in exchange for working on community resilience projects. These projects, currently active in districts like **Napak, Moroto, and Kaabong**, focus on creating soil and water conservation assets, such as terracing, woodlots, and feeder road rehabilitation.

WFP's "two-pronged" approach addresses immediate food needs while strengthening long-term food security by improving agricultural and environmental conditions. This pivot comes as general distributions faced funding shortfalls, prioritizing activities that leave a lasting impact. The most vulnerable (elderly, disabled, pregnant women) will still receive direct relief. Local leaders welcome this approach, noting it restores community dignity and assets. Farmers and residents facing food insecurity are advised to enroll in ongoing FFA projects through community food management committees. This model is expected to continue through the rest of the year and may expand to parts of the Teso region.



Food-for-Assets Projects

- Hillside terracing
- Community woodlots
- Feeder road rehabilitation
- Valley tank construction
- Contour bunds and drainage channels

Benefits

- Immediate food security through earned rations
- Long-term agricultural improvements
- Soil moisture retention
- Reduced erosion
- Community dignity and ownership

Emergency Seed Distribution by FAO for Second Season



The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with MAAIF, has launched an emergency seed distribution for the second planting season, targeting vulnerable farming households in Eastern and Northern Uganda. This initiative focuses on regions like Karamoja and the Teso sub-region that experienced food shortfalls, providing improved, fast-maturing varieties such as sorghum (75 days) and "SECOW" cowpea (60 days).

Over 10,000 households in districts including Nakapiripirit, Katakwi, and Amuria are receiving seed kits, typically containing 5 kg of sorghum and 2 kg of cowpea, along with other varieties like millet or groundnut. FAO is also providing training in dry planting and water conservation techniques to maximize germination.

Beneficiary lists prioritize the most food-insecure families, including women-headed households, the elderly, and those affected by early-season drought. Farmers can check eligibility with their Local Council chair or sub-county agriculture office; some areas are organizing seed fairs with vouchers to empower farmers' seed choices.

The distribution in early August is critical for late August planting, aiming for a harvest by November/December. This effort, which previously boosted food production, runs alongside government seed support under the Parish Development Model, ensuring a coordinated push to improve second-season yields in affected areas.

Parish Development Model (PDM) Update – Agricultural Grants and Inputs

The government's flagship Parish Development Model (PDM) is gaining momentum in its agriculture component. Recently, the Ministry of Finance released additional funds to PDM SACCOs (Savings and Credit Cooperatives) at the parish level, specifically for agricultural activities. This allows farmers in many districts to access low-interest loans or grants through their PDM groups to invest in inputs and farm improvements. For instance, Jinja district PDM SACCOs received UGX 1.2 billion this week, disbursing average loans of UGX 1–2 million for seeds, fertilizer, or livestock. Some areas are also using PDM funds for bulk procurement of subsidized inputs, like fertilizer in Iganga, which reduced costs by 10%. Farmers interested in PDM benefits should register with their parish's SACCO, with lists available from local parish chiefs and extension officers. The goal is to integrate smallholder farmers into the monetized economy, with over 90% of parishes now having active PDM groups, each slated to receive up to UGX 100 million. PDM also integrates agricultural extension training, ensuring funds are used effectively for productive purposes, with early uses including ox-ploughs, irrigation, and improved livestock.

Uganda's agriculture sector is active with various programs, including disease control, climate-smart investments, emergency aid, and grassroots financing like PDM. These efforts by both government and development partners aim for immediate relief and long-term agricultural sustainability. Farmers are encouraged to stay informed and engage with these initiatives by contacting local authorities for details on participation or benefits. Successful implementation of these programs could significantly boost productivity and resilience, helping Uganda realize its potential as a regional food basket.

Recent Publications & Links

1	<p>Seasonal Climate Outlook</p> <p>Seasonal Climate Outlook June–August 2025 – Uganda National Meteorological Authority (June 2025): Forecasts above-normal rainfall for northern/eastern Uganda and near-normal (dry) in the south. Source: Ministry of Water & Environment.</p>
2	<p>Weekly Weather & Crop Forecast</p> <p>Weekly East Africa Weather & Crop Forecast (30 July – 06 August 2025) – ICPAC: Highlights "more than usual" rainfall over South Sudan/Uganda border and drier central Uganda. Source: IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre.</p>
3	<p>Food Security Monitor</p> <p>Food Security Monitor, 58th Edition – AGRA (May 2025): Reports Uganda's maize prices rose 15% m/m due to Kenyan demand. Provides regional price trends. Source: Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.</p>
4	<p>Hunger Hotspots Report</p> <p>Hunger Hotspots Report (June–October 2025) – FAO/WFP: Identifies areas at risk of acute food insecurity, noting Uganda (especially refugee-hosting districts) with nearly 21% of analyzed population in Crisis. Source: FAO & WFP.</p>
5	<p>Climate Smart Agriculture Project</p> <p>"Farmers From 69 Districts to Benefit as Uganda Rolls Out \$350M Climate Smart Agriculture Project" – Business Focus: Details the World Bank-funded UCSATP launch, supporting 3,300 farmer groups with grants for machinery and promoting climate-resilient practices. Source: Business Focus (Uganda).</p>

These online resources offer valuable insights for farmers and practitioners: UNMA/ICPAC outlooks guide farm planning, AGRA/WFP reports shed light on market and food security trends, and the Business Focus piece provides background on government projects. Review for detailed data and guidance.

Looking Ahead & Key Reminders

Looking to mid-August, anticipate upcoming conditions and prepare for key tasks. With the seasonal transition upon us, here's what farmers should expect and prioritize:

Short-Term Outlook (Next 1–2 Weeks)

Northern Uganda will likely continue to receive adequate rainfall through mid-August, benefiting late-planted crops and pastures. In contrast, the southern half (Central, Western, Lake Victoria basin) is expected to remain largely dry and sunny until late August, with rising temperatures and declining soil moisture. The coming two weeks will see a peak supply of fresh harvests, leading to a temporary dip in prices for maize, beans, groundnuts, and other staples. This period marks the lowest grain prices before they stabilize as traders begin storing and second-season planting reduces market arrivals. No immediate weather hazards are currently forecast for Uganda, though northern farmers should remain alert for heavy rainfall warnings.

Around mid-August, UNMA will issue crucial monthly updates; farmers, especially in southern regions, should monitor these for any early signs of rain. This is a critical window for planning and preparation: organize labor for field clearing, repair tools, and budget for seeds and fertilizer while input prices are relatively stable. Selling large quantities of produce now may not be advantageous due to lower prices, so consider storage if possible. Conversely, for households needing to purchase food, this is the best time to buy staples at their cheapest. In summary, expect stable weather patterns (wet north, dry south) and softening crop prices, and use this calm period to prepare for the next agricultural phase.



Priority Tasks for Farmers This Coming Week

1

Finish Harvesting & Start Land Prep

Prioritize harvesting any remaining mature crops during dry spells (south) or sunny breaks (north) to prevent losses. Immediately initiate land preparation for the second season. Early August is ideal for primary tillage, as residual moisture makes the work easier and the soil less prone to clodding. Early preparation helps control weeds, exposes soil pests, and reduces workload bottlenecks. Book tractors or oxen now to avoid the rush. Incorporate crop residues or manure to enhance soil fertility. Successful farmers overlap harvest and land preparation; the coming weeks are crucial for this transition.

2

Post-Harvest Crop Care

After harvesting, focus on drying and storing produce safely. Utilize strong sunshine to dry grains to the appropriate moisture content, ensuring months of safe storage. Properly clean traditional granaries or use improved storage solutions like hermetic bags. Sort produce before storing, removing any damaged grains to prevent spoilage. Store perishable crops like simsim in-shell. Consider using natural treatments like diatomaceous earth. Always clean and sun-dry bags before reuse, and keep all stored food off the ground using pallets or dry sticks. While current prices are low, confident storage can lead to better prices later in the year, but only if storage practices are sound to prevent losses from pests or aflatoxin.

3

Source Inputs Early

Procure seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs for the upcoming planting season now. August offers good stock availability and helps avoid last-minute rushes and price hikes in September. Visit local agrovet dealers to choose improved seed varieties suited for your area and arrange fertilizer supplies. Check for off-season discounts, ensuring product quality. For those in subsidy programs, follow up with coordinators promptly. Always buy certified seeds in sealed, labeled packs. If using home-saved seed, perform germination tests and consider fungicide treatments. Purchase essential pesticides or herbicides now to avoid later shortages. Book mechanization services like tractors or communal ox-ploughs in advance. Being input-ready by mid-August ensures timely planting, a critical factor for good yields.

4

Livestock: Fodder & Health Management

Livestock keepers should prepare for the changing season. In the north and east, conserve fodder by cutting and drying hay from abundant pastures. Check on any stored silage for damage. In the dry south and west, inventory existing fodder and consider early procurement if needed. Plan rotational grazing and ensure water sources (boreholes, wells) are functional. Crucially, keep vaccinations up to date; contact your vet for FMD and PPR campaign schedules. For poultry, schedule Newcastle disease vaccines. Implement parasite control through de-worming and regular tick spraying/dipping. Consider supplementary feeding for high-value animals like dairy cows to maintain productivity. "Flushing" breeding goats/sheep with extra nutrition can improve fertility. Use dry spells to sun litter and disinfect coops. Proactive care now prevents weight loss and disease, saving costs in the long run.

5

Community Collaboration & Learning

This calmer period is ideal for farmer collaboration and learning. Organize or attend group meetings to share experiences on crop varieties or pest control. Peer learning can offer practical tips and reveal opportunities for bulk actions like aggregating produce for better market access or pooling funds for wholesale input purchases. Attend agricultural shows, field days, or extension trainings organized by NAADS or NGOs. Stay informed about government/NGO programs (seed distributions, PDM grants) by regularly checking with local leaders. Community cooperation can extend to labor sharing, ensuring timely field preparation for everyone. Leverage information from recent agricultural shows. Consider forming or strengthening produce marketing cooperatives for better selling prices. Use your collective voice to advocate for community needs, like a broken irrigation dam. Focus on the social and knowledge aspects of farming during this "breather," as community unity strengthens farming success.

Health and Safety Reminders

As you prepare for the next season, prioritize health and safety. In dry areas, stay hydrated and work during cooler hours to prevent heatstroke. In wet areas, continue using bed nets and drain stagnant water to reduce malaria risk. When preparing land, use properly sharpened tools with caution and keep a first aid kit accessible.

Proactive planning and community collaboration are essential for a successful second season. We wish all farmers a productive week and a smooth transition into the next planting cycle. Stay safe, support one another, and together ensure food security and prosperity for all.



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