



Weekly Agricultural Report (Uganda) – 06 Feb to 14 Feb 2025

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Weather Forecast (7-Day Outlook)

Overall: Uganda remains in its dry season between major rainy periods. Most regions will see **little to no rainfall** this week icpac.net. Daytime temperatures are **moderate to high (20–32 °C)** across much of the country icpac.net, with hotter conditions in the north and northeast. Below is the regional 7-day outlook based on UNMA and official sources:

- **Karamoja (Northeastern): Hot and dry** conditions persist. Expect clear skies with daytime highs around **31–33 °C** and very low chance of rain kara-tunga.com. Nights are mild (~18–20 °C). Farmers should be cautious of wildfires in the parched rangelands.
- **Northern Region** (Acholi, Lango, West Nile): **Sunny and dry** weather will dominate. Highs range from **30–32 °C**, with low humidity. Virtually **no rainfall** is expected until the seasonal rains approach in March. Provide shade and water for livestock to prevent heat stress.
- **Eastern Region** (including Teso, Bugisu): Generally **dry** with **hot afternoons** (~30 °C). Areas around Mt. Elgon (Bugisu) may get an isolated light shower on one or two days, but widespread rain is **unlikely**. Plan for irrigation of vegetables if available, as soil moisture is low.
- **Central Region** (including Kampala, Mubende, Luweero): **Warm** days (max temps ~27–29 °C) with mostly sunny skies. A few **light showers** or thunderstorms are possible toward Lake Kyoga and parts of the Lake Victoria fringe unma.go.ug. Near Kampala and the Lake Victoria Crescent, expect occasional **cloudy intervals with brief showers**, but totals will be minimal. Nights are comfortable (~18–20 °C).
- **Lake Victoria Crescent** (Entebbe, Masaka, Jinja, Wakiso): **Humid and warm**. Frequent cloud cover with **morning drizzles or isolated showers** are possible along the lakeshore. Kampala's 7-day forecast shows periodic "*light showers*" and "*sunny intervals*", with highs ~27–28 °C unma.go.ug unma.go.ug. No heavy rainfall is anticipated – just short rains that can settle the dust.
- **Western Region** (Toro, Ankole, Kigezi, Bunyoro): Predominantly **dry**. The western cattle corridor (Masindi, Hoima) will be hot (~30 °C) and sunny. Southwestern highlands (Kabale, Rukungiri) stay milder (mid-20s °C) with chilly nights (~15 °C) and perhaps a light shower in high-elevation areas. Continue watering perennial crops (banana, coffee) as needed since rain is scarce this week.

Outlook: This dry spell is normal for late January–February. Farmers should use this time to prepare for the **First Rainy Season** which typically begins in **early March in southern Uganda and mid to late March in northern areas** unma.go.ug. No extreme weather is forecast this week, but plan for rising temperatures. Watch for any local advisories from UNMA in case of changes.

Crop Calendar & Current Growth Stages

Uganda's farming calendar is between seasons now. Most crops from the last harvest have been gathered, and farmers are **preparing for the next planting**. According to the FAO/Uganda crop calendars, the country's **bimodal regions** (most areas except Karamoja) have two main growing seasons: Season 1 planting around March–April (harvest in June–July) and Season 2 planting around Sept (harvest Nov–Dec) pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. The **unimodal region** (Karamoja) has a single season (planting ~April, harvest Aug–Nov) pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. Here is the status of key crops (beans, maize, millet, sorghum, bananas) in each major region this week:

- **Karamoja (Semi-arid Northeast):** All major field crops have been **out of the field since November**. The single harvest (mainly sorghum, millet, maize, and beans) was completed by Aug–Nov pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. **Current stage:** *Post-harvest/fallow*. Fields are mostly bare and dry. Farmers are **storing or have consumed the harvest** from late 2024. **Next:** Land preparation (bush clearing, ploughing) is starting in some areas, aiming for planting with the first rains in April. Perennial crops are few here; any banana or cassava plots are in **dormant stage** due to drought stress. Focus now on preserving soil moisture (e.g. mulching) and preparing seed for the coming season.
- **Northern Region (Acholi, Lango, West Nile):** These areas experience one long rainy season (and in some parts a short second season). The **2024 second season** (minor rains) was limited; any beans or late maize from September planting have **just been harvested in Dec/Jan**. **Current stage:** *Post-harvest/field preparation*. Most farmers have **finished harvesting** beans and maize from the late 2024 planting. Crops like **sorghum and millet** (mainly planted earlier in 2024) were harvested by Oct, so those fields have been fallow. Farmers are now **clearing fields, repairing garden tools, and organizing inputs** for the main planting in March. Stored grains (maize, sorghum) are being dried and bagged. **Bananas** (in parts of West Nile/northwest) are in maintenance mode – farmers should prune and mulch them now. With dry conditions, **no active vegetative growth** is happening in most annual crops until rains return.
- **Eastern, Central, Western Regions & Lake Victoria Crescent:** These are **bimodal rainfall zones**, so they had a second season that ended recently. **Beans, maize, millet, and sorghum** that were planted around September reached maturity and were **harvested between late November and January** pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. For example, many farmers picked their second-season beans and maize in December. **Current stage:** *Post-harvest and land preparation*. Fields of beans and maize are largely **cleared or in the process of being cleared** of crop residue. Farmers are **sun-drying, threshing, and storing grains** from the last harvest. By now, most beans and maize stalks have been removed from fields. **Millet and sorghum** in these regions are typically first-season crops; any short-maturity millet planted late last year has been harvested by January. Therefore, fields are generally idle or being prepared (ploughed) for the **upcoming first planting season (March 2025)**. Farmers are **planning nurseries** for crops like rice or vegetables where applicable. In these regions, **bananas (matooke)** are a year-round crop. **Banana plantations**

are currently in a relatively **slow growth phase** due to the ongoing dry season – many plants are holding small fruit or are between bunch cycles. There is no specific “harvest season” for bananas as they are continuous, but farmers note slower shooting of new bunches now. **Management:** farmers should be actively **mulching banana groves and pruning dead leaves** this week. This conserves the little moisture in the soil and prepares the matooke for vigorous growth once rains come. Other perennials like coffee are also in maintenance stage (harvest for main coffee ended, so now pruning and mulching is ongoing).

Summary: Across Uganda, **beans and maize are in their post-harvest stage** – seeds are being sorted and stored, and fields are being readied for the next planting. **Millet and sorghum** (longer-cycle cereals) are also **between seasons** – seed selection and land preparation are underway, especially for sorghum in the north and millet in eastern districts. **Bananas** and other perennial staples remain in growth, though slower; farmers are focusing on upkeep (weeding, mulching) rather than planting. This is a crucial time to **prepare inputs and fields** so that when the first rains arrive (expected in a few weeks for most areas unma.go.ug), sowing can be done promptly. Farmers should **take stock of seed and planting material** now, and consult the local crop calendars to time their activities. According to Uganda’s crop calendar, **no major planting is happening this week** – it is a *pre-planting interval* for most crops. Use this window to **plough, repair terraces, and improve soil fertility** (as discussed below) in readiness for the imminent season.

Input Recommendations & Technical Advisory

As we gear up for the next planting season, farmers should focus on **inputs and field management** that match the current crop growth stage (which for most annual crops is **pre-planting**). Below are practical recommendations on fertilizers, pest management, and soil amendments for this period, followed by a **Tech Tip of the Week** highlighting an important practice:

- **Soil Fertility & Fertilizers:** Given the long-term nutrient depletion in Ugandan soils numbeo.com, it’s critical to replenish soil nutrients now. Farmers are advised to **apply organic matter** to their fields during land preparation. Spread **well-decomposed manure or compost** on your gardens before ploughing it in – this improves soil structure and moisture retention for the coming crops. Where accessible, consider doing a **soil test** (through local extension or agro-input dealers) to know your soil’s needs. For **maize and millet** (cereal crops), plan to apply a basal fertilizer at planting (for example, **DAP or NPK**) which provides phosphorus for root development and some nitrogen numbeo.com. For **beans**, which fix nitrogen, emphasis should be on phosphorus (TSP/DAP) at planting and perhaps inoculants (rhizobia) if available to boost nitrogen

fixation. On acidic soils (common in high rainfall areas like Kigezi or parts of eastern Uganda), applying **agricultural lime** now, a few weeks before planting, can raise soil pH and make nutrients more available for crops. Ensure any lime or manure is **evenly incorporated** into the soil during digging. By improving soil fertility now, you set the stage for better germination and vigorous early growth in March.

- **Pest & Disease Management (Off-season):** Even though fields are mostly fallow, **pest management** starts now. **Clear crop residues** from the last season that might harbor pests and diseases. For instance, destroy **maize stalks** infested by stem borers and **bean debris** that might hold bruchid beetles or fungal spores. Either compost these residues far from the field or burn those severely infested (if permitted), to break pest lifecycles. Clean up volunteer crop plants (“self-sown” maize or sorghum stalks in fields) which can sustain pests like fall armyworm between seasons. Farmers storing grains should protect them from storage pests: thoroughly dry maize and beans to safe moisture levels, and consider using **hermetic storage bags or botanical insecticides** (like dried neem leaves) to prevent weevils. If you had any **disease outbreaks** last season (such as maize lethal necrosis or sorghum smut), discuss with extension agents about planting resistant varieties or treating seeds with appropriate fungicide. **Seed treatment** is highly recommended: treat maize seeds with a recommended insecticide/fungicide dressing before planting (many brands available in agrovets) to guard against soil-borne diseases and early pest attack. Likewise, **bean seeds** can be treated with fungicide to prevent seed rot and a bio-insecticide to deter bean fly. By being proactive with pest and disease control now, you reduce the pressure on the new crop.
- **Seed and Input Selection:** Acquire **quality seeds and inputs** early. Use this week to source **certified seeds** of maize, beans, etc., from reputable suppliers or local cooperative stores. Avoid waiting until rains start, when good seed might be scarce. Inspect your saved seeds for viability: do a quick germination test (sprout a few on a moist cloth) to ensure they will grow. If germination is low, obtain fresh seed. Check with sub-county agricultural offices for any **government or NGO seed distribution** programs in your area. Ensure you have needed inputs on hand: basal and top-dress fertilizer, pesticides for emergencies (such as insecticide for fall armyworm which often attacks young maize), and tools (hoes, pangas) in good condition. It’s easier to negotiate prices for inputs now in the off-season than during the rush of planting.

Tech Tip of the Week: Enhancing Soil Fertility for the Upcoming Season –

Combatting soil nutrient depletion. Uganda’s soils are known to be heavily depleted in nutrients due to continuous cultivation numbeo.com. Many farmers apply little or no fertilizer, leading to declining yields. **This week’s tip** focuses on how to rebuild your soil fertility before planting:

- **Soil Testing & Tailored Feeding:** If possible, perform a basic soil test (some districts offer this service). Knowing whether your soil lacks nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium or is too acidic helps you choose the right remedy. For example, if tests show very low nitrogen, plan to incorporate nitrogen-rich matter (like green manure crops or chicken manure) and consider an N-fertilizer like urea later. If phosphorus is low, prioritize DAP or TSP fertilizer at planting for root development.

- **Integrated Fertility Management:** Don't rely on chemical fertilizer alone. A mix of **organic and inorganic** sources often works best. By digging in crop residues, compost, or animal manure now, you improve soil organic carbon which in turn helps any applied inorganic fertilizer work more effectively. Even spreading **wood ash** from cooking can provide potassium to the soil (and helps reduce soil acidity).
- **Micronutrients and Conditioners:** Consider “hidden hunger” in soils – nutrients like zinc, boron, etc., can be deficient but are not always obvious. Using a well-rounded fertilizer or foliar feed that contains micronutrients can benefit your maize and beans at early stages. If your soil is very hard (compacted), double-digging or ripping through the hardpan now, and adding organic matter, will enable roots to penetrate deeper for nutrients and water.
- **Mulching and Cover Crops:** Where you have access to dry grass or crop stalks, cover your fields with a light **mulch** layer after tillage. This will conserve moisture and begin to moderate soil temperature, creating a better environment for soil organisms. In some areas, farmers are planting quick-growing **cover crops** (like mucuna or lablab) at the end of the dry season. These can add fertility (especially legumes that fix nitrogen) and protect the soil until you slashing them down at planting time.

By focusing on soil health now, you'll set up your beans, maize, millet, and sorghum for a strong start. Healthier soil also means your crops will be better equipped to handle any weather surprises, such as a dry spell or pest attack, in the coming season. *Remember: “The best fertilizer is the farmer's footprint”* – walk your fields, observe the soil, and tend to its needs before the rains arrive.

Livestock & Ranching

Livestock farmers are currently in the dry season management mode. Pastures in many areas are dry or dwindling, and disease control is a priority as some outbreaks have been reported. Below are updates and best practices for **cattle, goats, poultry, and swine** this week:

Cattle (Beef and Dairy): The government has been actively tackling **Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)** after a widespread outbreak affected over 30 districts last year independent.co.ug. A new **FMD vaccination policy** was rolled out in late 2024, which introduces a **cost-sharing vaccination program** – farmers will pay UGX 7,700 per dose and cattle will be vaccinated **twice a year** (every 6 months) ugandaradionetwork.net. **Update:** Many districts (including parts of Central and South-West) have ongoing FMD vaccination camps this month (Jan–Feb), so ensure your cattle (and also goats/sheep, since they are susceptible) are registered and vaccinated in this cycle. MAAIF is also **registering all livestock farmers** in a new database to improve disease control ugandaradionetwork.net – if officials come to your village, cooperate and provide the needed information, as this will help track and control outbreaks.

Other cattle diseases to watch: With ticks abundant in dry grass, **tick-borne diseases** like East Coast fever and anaplasmosis remain a risk. Continue your routine **tick control** (spraying or dipping) even in dry months – ticks are fewer now than in the rains, so it's a good time to get on top of them. Also consider vaccinating against **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)** if a campaign is available, because LSD often flares up with the onset of rains. **Feeding:** Pastures are poor now, so supplement cattle with available crop residues. Many farmers are feeding **dry maize stalks, hay, or silage** (for those who prepared it). Ensure **clean water** is available – cattle may need to travel far for water in Karamoja and cattle-corridor districts; if possible, set up a water trough nearer to reduce animal stress. **Dairy farmers:** expect lower milk yields due to heat stress and limited green fodder. To maintain milk production, feed concentrates (like cottonseed cake or dairy meal) if you can, and provide mineral licks. Also milk early in the morning or late evening when it's cooler, to reduce stress on the cows. Keep an eye on **body condition** – many cows lose weight now; try to prevent excessive weight loss in breeding cows and oxen by supplementing and reducing workload in the hottest hours.

Goats and Sheep: Small ruminants are generally hardy in the dry season, but they too face feed and disease challenges. There have been **no major goat plague (PPR) outbreaks reported in the past weeks** – which is good – but remain vigilant and consider preventive vaccination if available in your area (PPR vaccine can protect your flock for several years). **FMD** can also affect goats and sheep (though less severely than cattle); with the new FMD control policy, expect that **goats in high-risk areas will also be vaccinated** during the current campaign. **Update:** In some pastoral communities (e.g., Amudat, Moroto), goat prices recently fell due to poor body condition from drought (in one case last year, prices dropped from UGX 100k to 50k) – this underscores the impact of pasture scarcity ugandaradionetwork.net. **Feeding:** Allow goats and sheep to forage widely – they will browse bushes that cattle can't. If you kept hay or legumes (like tree lucerne, calliandra leaves), feed these to goats now to keep them in good health. Also, provide **clean drinking water**; goats may not drink as much as cattle but still need water regularly especially if browsing dry matter. **Health:** Deworm your goats and sheep at the end of the dry season. Parasite loads (worms) can build up internally; giving an anthelmintic now means the animals will be in better shape for the rainy season. Check for external parasites like lice or mites as animals huddle together in the night kraals – treat accordingly. Also be on the lookout for any signs of **CCPP (Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia)** in goats – dry dusty conditions can aggravate respiratory issues. If you hear coughing or nasal discharge in the herd, consult a vet for appropriate antibiotics. Good kraal hygiene (removing manure, ensuring ventilation) will help prevent disease spread in the dry corrals.

Poultry (Chicken): This is a crucial time to protect flocks from diseases as well as prepare for better egg production when the weather cools. **Newcastle Disease (ND)** remains the biggest threat to village chickens – it can strike any time, but often outbreaks are noticed after holidays when bird movements have happened. Ensure your chickens are **vaccinated against Newcastle Disease**. An affordable thermostable ND vaccine (like I-2) is often available through local vets; it can be given as eye-drops or in drinking water. Best practice is to vaccinate poultry **every 3 months** in endemic areas. If your chickens haven't been vaccinated in the last few months, do it now in February to avoid deadly losses. **Management:** Provide shade and

plenty of water for chickens during the day – chickens can succumb to heat stress in this blazing weather. For those with **broilers**, maintain cooling (via airflow or sprinkling water on roofs) to keep them eating and gaining weight. Disease-wise, aside from ND, watch out for **fowl pox** (dry scabs on combs) which can spread in dry, dusty conditions – there is also a vaccine for it if it's been an issue in the past. **Feed:** If free-range chickens are not finding enough insects or greens (common now), supplement with a little energy feed like maize bran or sorghum. This will keep hens in lay. **Biosecurity:** With many water sources drying, chickens from different homesteads often mix at remaining water points – this can spread disease. Try to provide water at home for your poultry to limit roaming. Also, **avoid introducing new birds** to your flock right now unless they are quarantined/vaccinated; markets sometimes have diseased birds being sold off. Overall, keep poultry houses clean (disinfect the coop, especially if you had any disease last season) and collect eggs frequently (heat can spoil eggs quickly).

Pigs (Swine): The pig sector has a pressing concern: **African Swine Fever (ASF)**. There was an **ASF outbreak reported in Sheema District in western Uganda in early January 2025**, leading the authorities to ban pig sales and slaughter in that area newvision.co.ug newvision.co.ug. Over 20 pigs were affected and several died in Sheema Municipality newvision.co.ug. Farmers across the country should take this seriously – ASF has no cure or vaccine, and it can wipe out entire pig herds. **Preventive measures:** Implement strict **biosecurity** on your pig farm. Limit visitors and absolutely avoid sharing boars or buying pigs from unknown sources while ASF is in the region. Do not feed pigs with swill (kitchen waste) that contains pork scraps, as this can transmit the virus. If you must use swill, thoroughly boil it. Disinfect footwear and equipment if you or farm workers have been to other pig farms or livestock markets. Watch for ASF symptoms: high fever, loss of appetite, red skin patches, rapid death. Report any sudden pig deaths to the veterinary authorities immediately. In case of any suspected ASF, isolate the pig and do not move it or any pig from your farm.

Other pig diseases to consider: **Swine erysipelas** and **parasitic worms** can also affect pigs in the dry season, though these are manageable. Deworm your pigs now to reduce internal parasites (especially if pigs are on dirt floors or pasture). Also vaccinate against **Classical Swine Fever** if recommended by vets in your area (some regions include this in their programs). **Feeding and management:** Pigs might lose weight in this period due to heat and possibly reduced feed (some farmers cut feed to save costs in fear of ASF – but remember, a healthy pig is more likely to survive disease than a malnourished one). Continue feeding a balanced diet (energy from maize, protein from soybean, silverfish, or legumes, plus greens like sweet potato vines or forage) to keep pigs healthy. Ensure a shaded pen and ample water so pigs can cool themselves (wallowing or drinking). For breeding pigs, this is a good time to have them in moderate condition; avoid pregnancies facing peak heat stress if possible. If sows are farrowing (giving birth) now, provide a cool, clean farrowing area to reduce piglet mortalities.

General Note: The Ministry of Agriculture is promoting better livestock management through initiatives like farmer registration and regular vaccination drives. **Plan your herd health calendar** now – mark the next vaccination dates (e.g. FMD again in Jul/Aug, PPR for goats if due, ND for poultry every few months, etc.). Also, conserve whatever crop residues or hay you have; we have a few more weeks of dryness before pastures regenerate. By practicing these

measures – timely vaccination, strategic feeding, and tight biosecurity – farmers can keep their cattle, goats, chickens, and pigs healthy through the harsh end-of-dry-season conditions.

Market Analysis

Current Prices (Early February 2025): Market prices for staple crops remain influenced by recent harvests and regional demand. Below are approximate **current farm-gate and market prices** for key commodities in Uganda, along with any notable changes (prices are quoted per kilogram unless otherwise stated):

- **Maize Grain:** Selling at about **UGX 1,300–1,500 per kg** in most wholesale markets. For instance, in Masindi (mid-western Uganda) maize is around **UGX 1,400–1,500** per kg harvestmoney.co.ug. In some southwestern towns like Ibanda, maize rose to **UGX 1,500** in late December due to supply shortages harvestmoney.co.ug, though it may stabilize as more stocks reach markets. Overall, maize prices are somewhat **lower than last year** at this time, thanks to adequate carry-over stocks fao.org, but are expected to be stable to slightly firm in coming weeks.
- **Beans:** Prices are **high and rising** in many areas because supplies are tightening after the second-season harvest. Common beans (mixed varieties) range from **UGX 3,500 up to 5,500** per kg depending on variety and region. In urban Wakiso District, a kilogram of Nambaale (short) beans jumped from 5,000 to **UGX 6,000** recently harvestmoney.co.ug, reflecting scarcity. In Masindi, yellow and white beans are about **UGX 5,000** per kg harvestmoney.co.ug. Some rural markets with inflows from Tanzania have medium beans around UGX 3,000–4,000. The overall trend is **upward** – traders report that **bean stocks are very low countrywide** and many are resorting to imports harvestmoney.co.ug harvestmoney.co.ug. Expect beans to remain expensive until the next harvest (June/July).
- **Millet:** Both finger millet and pearl millet prices are relatively **high but stable**. Cleaned (sorted) finger millet is roughly **UGX 3,500–3,800** per kg in retail, while unsorted bulk millet grain sells around **UGX 2,800–3,000**. For example, in Ibanda, sorted millet rose to **UGX 3,700** per kg in December harvestmoney.co.ug. The recent harvest in millet-growing areas (eastern and northern) has somewhat eased prices, but millet remains pricier than maize (millet is ~2 times the price of maize per kg). With millet being a favored staple in some regions, any shortfall could spike prices. Currently, supply meets demand and no big change is expected in the very short term.
- **Sorghum:** White sorghum grain is trading around **UGX 1,200–1,800** per kg in different markets. It is generally slightly cheaper than maize in surplus areas, but in deficit areas (like Karamoja or parts of the north) sorghum can fetch higher prices. **Note:** Due to poorer sorghum production in the first season of 2024 (especially in northern Uganda), sorghum prices have been **significantly above the 5-year**

average in recent months fews.net. In Karamoja, many households rely on sorghum, so local market prices there are elevated. For now, national sorghum supply from second season harvest (e.g., eastern Uganda) has kept markets supplied. We anticipate stable to slightly firm sorghum prices; any large purchases by breweries or relief agencies could tighten supply regionally.

- **Bananas (Matooke):** The price of cooking bananas has fluctuated widely with supply gluts and shortages. Currently, **banana prices are rebounding** from the lows of the peak harvest late last year. During the December festive season, a large bunch of matooke sold for as high as **UGX 50,000** in Kampala markets harvestmoney.co.ug. Farm-gate prices in major producing areas (Western Uganda) had crashed to as low as UGX 3,000–6,000 for a big bunch during a glut in mid-2024 harvestmoney.co.ug, but have since recovered. As of this week, a typical bunch in urban markets goes for **UGX 20,000–30,000** (depending on size and quality), while in producing areas like Mbarara or Bushenyi, farm-gate prices might be **UGX 10,000–15,000** for a sizeable bunch. Banana supply is seasonally low in the dry months (plants yield less now), which is keeping prices firm. Consumers are also facing high prices for bunches in most towns compared to last year's average. We expect matooke prices to stay relatively **high until the rains boost production** by late March.
- **Livestock (Cattle, Goats, Poultry, Pigs):** Livestock markets are experiencing mixed trends:
 - *Cattle:* Prices for beef cattle are **high** compared to a year ago. In Karamoja, a mature bull that cost around UGX 1.1 million last year now sells for roughly **UGX 2.2 million** harvestmoney.co.ug due to strong demand and previous losses of stock. Local zebu cows in settled areas (e.g., in Ankole) are trading between **UGX 600,000–800,000** for an average adult cow harvestmoney.co.ug. Dairy bred heifers (in-milk) can fetch **UGX 1.5–3 million** depending on breed and lactation stage. Generally, the **beef market is strong** because of low supply (herd rebuilding after FMD quarantines and raids). As quarantine restrictions lift in remaining areas, more cattle might come to market, but for now prices remain on the higher side.
 - *Goats:* Goat prices have been variable. In many village markets, an average local goat (for meat) sells for **UGX 120,000–200,000**. However, in some areas we've seen extraordinary spikes – e.g., last year in Karamoja, a goat that typically sold at 80k–120k shot up to **UGX 300,000** due to demand and scarcity harvestmoney.co.ug. Currently, in central Uganda, a medium-sized goat is around UGX 150k. **Trend:** As the Easter season approaches in a couple of months, traders may start collecting goats, which could inch prices up. Right now, the market is relatively calm with no major festivals driving demand. Goat supply is stable since many farmers sell a few at this time to pay school fees.
 - *Poultry:* Chicken prices are **steady to rising**. A live mature local chicken (indigenous breed) is going for about **UGX 25,000** in regional markets (e.g., Gulu, Lira) husfarm.com, and slightly higher (UGX 30,000) in Kampala. Broilers (fully grown, 1.5-2kg) are selling at **UGX 15,000** each in Kampala's Owino market husfarm.com. Layers (spent hens) are around UGX 12,000–18,000 depending on size. Egg prices are moderate: ~UGX 10,000–11,000 per tray of 30

eggs in wholesale. Chicken prices often dip after the Christmas season, but due to increased feed costs and disease losses, farmers are selling at relatively **high prices for local chickens** this year. In Gulu main market on Feb 6, local chickens were exactly 25k each and exotics 15k husfarm.com. Expect stable to slightly higher poultry prices as we get into Lent (when some abstain from meat, which can soften demand for a while).

- **Pigs:** The pig market is cautious due to ASF outbreaks. When ASF hits, prices usually plummet as farmers rush to sell before pigs die. Outside of outbreak zones, a moderate-sized pig (approx 70–80kg live weight) sells for roughly **UGX 400,000–600,000** (which is about UGX 5,000–8,000 per kg live weight). Pork retail prices in cities are around **UGX 12,000–13,000 per kg** for good quality pork cgspace.cgiar.org. In Kampala, pork joints report buying pigs at about UGX 7,000/kg live and selling meat at 12k/kg. Because of ASF in western Uganda, traders are sourcing from other regions; this has kept farm-gate pig prices depressed in Sheema and neighboring districts (where trade is restricted) but stable elsewhere. **Trend:** If ASF remains contained, pig prices should remain at these levels. Farmers are advised, however, not to move pigs or hold onto large numbers in risky areas – the market can crash overnight if ASF spreads.

Market Trends & Outlook:

- **Staple Grains:** The general trend post-harvest is **slightly downward or stable** for cereals (maize, sorghum), as supplies from the second season are still coming in. However, this year's first season harvest (mid-2024) was below average in parts of the north fao.org fao.org, so stocks may not last as long. Traders expect **maize prices to gradually tick upwards by March** as household stocks deplete – moreover, regional export demand (from Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda) is picking up. In fact, **cross-border demand** has been noted as a factor: e.g., maize prices in the southwest rose partly due to buyers from Rwanda and Kampala coming to source grain harvestmoney.co.ug. Maize exports to Kenya have also increased slightly since Kenyan traders anticipate higher prices there in a few months. If you are a farmer with surplus maize, monitor cross-border price trends; you might get a better price selling to a trader for export, but balance that with local needs.
- **Beans & Pulses:** The **bean market is tightening** considerably. Many traders are importing from Tanzania to cover the gap harvestmoney.co.ug. Prices are already high and could even increase until April/May. Cowpeas, pigeon peas, and other pulses also have higher demand now as substitutes for beans – their prices are inching up. For instance, Nambale beans nearly doubled in some areas over four months harvestmoney.co.ug. This is a **seller's market** for beans; farmers who stored beans can fetch very good prices now. However, be cautious – prices might peak then fall abruptly once large imports arrive or when early beans from the first rains (planted in irrigated plots) come in by late April.
- **Root Crops & Matooke:** Cassava chips/flour prices are stable, sweet potato prices are moderate (less supply now but also less perishability issues). Matooke (bananas) as noted is high now; likely to ease a bit when rains improve supply. Irish potato prices are

high in urban areas because supplies from Kabale and Kisoro dropped (dry season harvest is lower), but should improve from March harvests in those areas.

- **Livestock Products:** Milk prices are elevated in many towns due to the dry season (less fodder = lower milk output). In Kampala, raw milk is about UGX 2,000 per liter up from 1,500 a few months ago. This will likely remain high until April when cows calve in larger numbers and pastures are lush. Meat prices (beef) are stable at high levels; if quarantines lift, more cattle may come to market, possibly softening beef prices slightly in late February. On the other hand, improved economic activity and schools reopening mean demand for meat is steady. Goat meat is a premium product now given the high live goat prices; some butcheries report goat meat at UGX 15,000–18,000 per kg, well above beef. Pork demand in urban areas is strong (pork remains one of the cheapest meats per kg), but any bad news on ASF could disrupt supply chains.

In summary, **farmers and traders should note:** it's a generally favorable market for sellers of staples at the moment. **Maize and sorghum** are reasonably priced for consumers but may rise gradually, **beans are expensive** and scarce, **matooke is costly** for buyers, and **livestock prices** are mostly high due to earlier shocks and seasonal factors. Monitor market information from the Farmgate or Market Price Information System (if available via SMS/USDD) for weekly price updates. Where possible, farmers with storage capability might hold grain a bit longer for potential price gains, but weigh that against the risk of losses (pests) or the need for cash now (for inputs or school fees). Collaborate with local cooperative groups to aggregate produce – sometimes selling collectively to a large buyer (e.g., WFP's procurement or a grain exporter) can fetch a premium.

Finally, keep an eye on **regional politics and logistics:** borders are open and trade is flowing; any changes (like Kenyan import policies or fuel price shifts) could affect farmgate prices in Uganda. As of now, the market outlook for the coming week or two: **stable prices for cereals, upward pressure on pulses, and firm high prices for matooke and livestock.**

Government & NGO Updates

Government Initiatives:

- **New FMD Control Policy & Livestock Registration:** The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) has introduced a **policy for Foot-and-Mouth Disease control** focused on routine vaccination and farmer involvement. Farmers are now required to **co-pay for FMD vaccines** (UGX 7,700 per animal, twice a year) as part of a sustainable vaccination drive ugandaradionetwork.net. To facilitate this, MAAIF in partnership with local governments has begun **electronic registration of all livestock farmers** nationwide ugandaradionetwork.net. This registration (which

started in Dec 2024 and continues through Jan-Feb 2025) collects farmers' details (name, village, livestock owned) to create a database for targeted animal health services.

Implication: If you are a livestock farmer, ensure you register with your parish veterinary officer so you can benefit from vaccinations and timely info. The State Minister for Animal Industry has noted that this policy aims to prevent devastating FMD outbreaks and quickly **stabilize livestock markets** ugandaradionetwork.net. Early reports suggest farmers are responding well, seeing it as a step to avoid blanket quarantines in the future.

- **Agency Mergers:** Uganda's Parliament has approved the **merger of three agriculture agencies into the Ministry** structure. The Cotton Development Organization (CDO), Dairy Development Authority (DDA), and the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre (NAGRC) are set to be merged back into MAAIF parliament.go.ug. This reform (part of broader public sector restructuring) is meant to **streamline services** – reducing duplication and directing more resources to extension services. For example, DDA's functions in dairy farmer support and regulation will now fall directly under MAAIF's directorate. In the short term, farmers may not notice much change, but over 2025 we expect **simplified access to services**: e.g., one-stop offices at district level for crops, livestock, and fisheries rather than multiple agency offices. The Minister of Agriculture has assured that ongoing programs (like provision of cotton seeds or artificial insemination services) will continue uninterrupted during the transition. Keep an ear out for local consultations or new contact persons as these mergers take effect.
- **Extension and Input Support:** MAAIF officials are rallying farmers to **join available development projects** and take advantage of grants and programs agriculture.go.ug. For instance, under the Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP), the **e-voucher system** for subsidized inputs is operational in several districts. Recently, the Ministry launched an e-voucher program that subsidizes seeds, fertilizers, and agrochemicals for eligible farmers – with some farmers already receiving inputs through this platform agriculture.go.ug. If your district is under ACDP, you can register at the sub-county to benefit; the government covers 67% of input cost while the farmer pays 33% via e-voucher. Additionally, preparations are underway for the **Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation (UCSAT) Project** (financed by the World Bank) agriculture.go.ug, which will roll out in mid-2025 focusing on infrastructure like small-scale irrigation, storage facilities, and farmer training to counter climate change effects. While these projects are in pipeline, current support like **Operation Wealth Creation (OWC)** continues to distribute some planting materials (cassava cuttings, coffee seedlings) in select areas. Check with your local extension officer if any off-season distributions are happening – e.g., some districts are giving out **cassava cuttings and potato vines** now so farmers can plant them with the coming rains.

NGO and INGO Initiatives:

- **Karamoja Resilience Project (EU-FAO-WFP):** In November 2024, a major project was launched targeting **Karamoja's chronic hunger and climate challenges**. The

European Union, FAO, and World Food Programme have partnered on a €5 million initiative titled “*Improving Food Security and Resilience of Food Production Systems in Karamoja*.” [independent.co.ug](https://www.independent.co.ug). This project aims to **end the hunger cycle in Karamoja** by building community resilience and sustainable food systems. What does this mean on the ground? It includes activities like **drought-tolerant seed distribution, training in climate-smart farming, supporting community vegetable gardens, and restocking of small ruminants** for vulnerable households. According to Dr. Charles Owach of FAO, the project will strengthen agri-food value chains and empower women and youth farmers in Karamoja [independent.co.ug](https://www.independent.co.ug). WFP’s component involves improving water access (through valley tanks or solar pumps) and expanding their **Home-Grown School Feeding** program which already provides daily meals to over 200,000 Karamoja school children [wfp.org](https://www.wfp.org). For Karamoja farmers, expect upcoming opportunities such as demonstration plots for resilient crops, food-for-work programs to build assets like water harvesting structures, and possibly cash transfers during lean seasons. This multi-agency effort underlines a shift from relief to resilience – so communities can better withstand droughts, livestock diseases, and insecurity. Local leaders and the EU have highlighted how this aligns with long-term goals of “sustainable growth, climate resilience, and social inclusion” in Karamoja [independent.co.ug](https://www.independent.co.ug).

- **Climate-Smart Agriculture for Youth (Eco-ProspERITY Project):** A new five-year project called “**EcoProsperity**” was launched recently (supported by Linsi and Happel Foundations, co-financed by SDC and FCDO, implemented by Swisscontact). It aims to **empower 12,000 Ugandan youth and women** in Eastern and Western Uganda with climate-smart agriculture skills [swisscontact.org](https://www.swisscontact.org). The project is providing training in modern farming techniques, facilitating access to climate-resilient technologies (like solar water pumps, improved drought-tolerant seeds), and helping young agripreneurs develop market linkages. During the launch, the Commissioner of Crop Protection (MAAIF) emphasized focusing on enterprises that make economic sense for youth [swisscontact.org](https://www.swisscontact.org). What to expect: If you are a young farmer (especially in districts in Eastern Uganda like Mbale, Soroti, or Western like Kasese, Fort Portal), look out for outreach by this project. They will be working with local partners to select youth groups for training on things like mushroom farming, poultry, horticulture with drip irrigation, etc. They also plan to partner with agribusinesses to deliver services and inputs to the youth. This is a welcome initiative as it addresses youth unemployment through agriculture – as one young farmer at the launch said, “*Agriculture is not just for older people; young people like me can thrive in it*” [swisscontact.org](https://www.swisscontact.org). Keep in touch with the District Agriculture Offices for information on how to participate or benefit from such programs.
- **Food Relief and IPC Findings:** Uganda continues to host a large number of refugees (about 1.76 million) and faces pockets of food insecurity. The **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)** analysis for Aug 2024 – Feb 2025 indicated that about **401,000 people in Karamoja (30% of the region’s population) are in IPC Phase 3 or worse (Crisis or Emergency)** [fao.org](https://www.fao.org), and nearly 800,000 people in refugee-hosting districts are also in high acute food insecurity [ipcinfo.org](https://www.ipcinfo.org). In response, NGOs and UN agencies (WFP, World Vision, etc.) have been continuing food assistance

and livelihood programs. Notably, WFP's **cash transfers and food distributions** in refugee settlements are ongoing, albeit at reduced rations due to funding constraints. Meanwhile, the government with support from FAO has been promoting **backyard gardening and nutrition education** in places like Karamoja and the refugee settlements of West Nile, to supplement relief food with home-grown vegetables. Farmers in other regions should note these developments as sometimes surplus production (of maize, beans) can find market via WFP procurement for these efforts – e.g., WFP has local purchase programs (Buy Uganda) to supply food for relief. Additionally, some NGOs are working on **drought preparedness** in cattle corridor districts – for instance, constructing community valley dams and training pastoralists on fodder conservation (e.g., making hay or silage). These efforts are gradually helping communities become less dependent on emergency aid.

- **Other NGO Highlights:** Several development partners are active as the new growing season approaches. The World Bank-funded **Agricultural Cluster Development Project (ACDP)** is winding down, but it delivered e-vouchers in over 50 districts – an evaluation is ongoing and lessons will feed into the new UCSAT project. The **World Food Programme (WFP)** has introduced a “Karamoja Feeds Karamoja” initiative, purchasing cereals from Karamoja farmers (who had a surplus in some pockets) to supply the school feeding program wfp.tind.io. This kind of local procurement strengthens local markets and incentivizes production. The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has published guidelines on Fall Armyworm monitoring ahead of the planting season, and they are supporting the government in locust surveillance (just precaution, no locusts currently, but systems are in place after the 2020 scare). **USAID** through Feed the Future is continuing projects in areas like Mubende, Mityana, etc., focusing on coffee value chains and farmer cooperatives – farmers in those areas may have access to training in post-harvest handling and marketing as part of those programs.

In conclusion, the policy environment is active: the government is implementing policies and reforms to bolster agriculture (from animal disease control to agency consolidation), and numerous projects by NGOs/INGOs are in play to support farmers with inputs, knowledge, and market access. Farmers are encouraged to **stay informed** via local radio or extension workers about these opportunities – whether it's a new vaccination program, an input subsidy, or a training workshop in climate-smart farming. Taking part can significantly improve your farming operations. The overall direction is towards **resilience and self-sufficiency** – helping farmers mitigate climate and market risks through better planning and support.

Relevant Publications & Links

For those interested in more detailed information, research, and official guidelines, here is a list of recent and relevant publications (with sources) that can be accessed for further reading:

- **Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) – Seasonal Rainfall Outlook (Mar–May 2024):** Detailed climate forecast for the first rainy season, by region. (Press release, 1 March 2024) unma.go.ug unma.go.ug
- **ICPAC Weekly Weather Forecast (04–11 Feb 2025):** Regional forecast by the IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre showing expected rainfall and temperature anomalies. icpac.net icpac.net
- **FAO GIEWS Country Brief – Uganda (Jan 2025):** Global Information and Early Warning System report on Uganda’s crop production and food security situation. fao.org fao.org
- **FAO/MAAIF Uganda Crop Calendar (Overview):** Timing of planting and harvesting for major crops in Uganda’s various regions. (See FAO Crop Calendar tool) pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
- **FEWS NET Uganda Market Price Bulletin (Jan 2024):** Price charts for staple foods (maize, sorghum, matooke, beans) in key markets, with comparisons to 5-year averages. fews.net reliefweb.int
- **MAAIF FMD Control Policy Announcement – Nov 2024:** Media report on the new Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccination strategy and livestock farmer registration. ugandaradionetwork.net ugandaradionetwork.net
- **EU/FAO/WFP Karamoja Project Press Release – Nov 2024:** “Improving Food Security and Resilience in Karamoja” project launch details and objectives. independent.co.ug independent.co.ug
- **Swisscontact EcoProsperity Project Brief – Dec 2024:** Outline of the climate-smart agriculture initiative targeting youth and women in Uganda, with training and empowerment goals. swisscontact.org swisscontact.org
- **Research Article – Bean Production & Climate** (2023, Nature Sci. Reports): Study on Uganda’s bean growing seasons and stresses (e.g., ozone pollution) highlighting that Karamoja has a single growing season (July–Sep) unlike the bimodal rest of country. pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
- **Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Report – Uganda 2024:** Assessment of acute food insecurity in Karamoja and refugee-hosting areas (Aug 2024 – Feb 2025 projection). fao.org

Each of these resources provides valuable insights – from weather guidance and agronomic timing to market trends and policy changes. Farmers and advisors can use them to make more informed decisions. (Where possible, we have provided the source links or references in the text above. Many of these documents can be obtained through district agricultural offices or downloaded if the internet is available.)

Looking Ahead & Reminders

As we move into the second week of February 2025, farmers should **look ahead** to prepare for upcoming conditions and tasks. Here are a few key insights and reminders for the coming weeks:

- **Weather Watch:** The current dry spell is expected to continue for a few more weeks. Plan farming activities with the assumption of **little rain until early March**. In southern and central Uganda, the **first rains may start in early to mid-March** unma.go.ug, so aim to complete land preparation by the end of February. In northern Uganda (including Karamoja), the onset is later (likely late March), but don't delay – start prepping fields now so you can take advantage of any early showers. If you have irrigation for vegetables, you might get premium prices now due to general scarcity – keep irrigating efficiently (water in the evenings, mulch to reduce evaporation). Also, take note of wind patterns – late dry season often brings strong winds; secure any structures like greenhouses or store roofs, and consider windbreaks to protect young banana mats or tree seedlings.
- **Market Outlook:** Beans are likely to get even pricier as months go on, and maize might start inching up by March. If you have **surplus produce stored**, decide on your marketing strategy. It might be wise to sell a portion now (when prices for beans are high) and keep some maize for later sale. Monitor local market prices or radio market reports so you can sell at favorable times. If you need cash to buy inputs (seeds, fertilizer), selling a bit of grain now to fund timely purchase of those inputs is a good trade-off – planting on time with proper inputs will yield more value than holding grain hoping for every last shilling of price increase. For those near borders, be aware of traders coming in; you might get better prices by pooling produce with neighbors and negotiating with a big trader (economies of scale). Also, livestock farmers should gauge the market: if your animals are in poor condition due to drought, prices might not be great – it could pay to wait until they fatten up after the rains, but also weigh the risk of animal diseases. Keep an ear on any quarantine notices (especially for pigs and cattle).
- **Upcoming Agronomic Tasks: February is all about preparation.** Key tasks for the next 1–2 weeks include:
 - **Land Preparation:** Finalize bush clearing, ploughing or digging of your fields. For those using oxen or tractor hire services, book them now before the last-minute rush. Ensure rice paddies (in Eastern Uganda) are prepared and bunds repaired before inundation.
 - **Input Procurement:** Buy or collect your **seeds, fertilizers, and agro-chemicals** now. Agro-dealers often have stocks now, which might run low later. Inspect seed packets for certification labels. If planting hybrid maize, verify the lot numbers to avoid counterfeits. Secure vegetative planting materials (cassava cuttings, sweet potato vines, banana suckers) and keep them in shade/moist condition so they don't dry out before planting.
 - **Nursery Establishment:** If you plan to transplant crops (like rice, tobacco, or vegetables), start your **nursery beds** in the next week or so. For example, raise

tomato and cabbage seedlings under a simple shed – they will be ready to go into the field with the first rains. Keep nursery soil moist and shaded in the heat, and protect from ants or birds. Similarly, those planting coffee or tree seedlings can sow them in polybags now.

- **Livestock Vaccinations:** As highlighted, participate in the **FMD vaccination** campaigns currently underway. Mark your calendar for follow-up booster shots if any. Also, vaccinate your goats against PPR if there's a scheduled exercise, and chickens against Newcastle as recommended. **Deworm** livestock (especially young goats, sheep, calves, and pigs) at the end of this month to reduce parasite burdens before the rainy season explosion. It's easier to do these health interventions while animals are mostly in dry-season paddocks.
- **Equipment Check:** Check and repair your farm tools and machinery. Sharpen hoes and machetes, service two-wheel tractors or pump engines. For those with irrigation pumps, clean the filters and ensure the fuel engine is in good working order (you might need it to pump water for nurseries or if rains delay). For ox-plough farmers, ensure the yokes and ploughshares are secure, and your oxen are in shape for the heavy work (don't overwork them in extreme afternoon heat; plough in the cooler hours).
- **Soil & Water Conservation:** As you prepare land, consider digging **trenches or ridges** on gentle slopes to trap rainwater when it comes. Soil conserved now will prevent erosion later. If you have access to labor, construct or repair **contour bunds, terraces, or check dams** in your fields. These structures will be invaluable once the heavy rains arrive, ensuring the water soaks in rather than washing your topsoil away.
- **Community Planning:** Work with farmer groups or village committees to plan communal activities like **communal grazing management** (to avoid conflict when pastures are scant) or **water source protection** (maybe organize a day to clean the community valley tank or well, so that water is safe for use). Also, exchange knowledge – for instance, discuss with elders about traditional indicators of rain (some communities observe flora/fauna patterns) to complement official forecasts.
- **Pest Surveillance:** Even before crops are in the ground, stay alert to pest situations. There have been reports regionally of **African armyworms** in past dry seasons – these pests can move quickly with the wind and attack young grass or cereal seedlings at the start of rains. Keep an eye on any early sightings (local radio or extension will alert if there's an outbreak). Being prepared with appropriate insecticide or traditional control (like ash or sand to sprinkle on larvae) at planting time can save your crop if such pests appear. Similarly, monitor storage pests now – if you see bruchid holes in stored beans or weevils in maize, treat or sun-dry those grains again to prevent total loss.
- **Health & Safety:** A reminder to farmers to also take care of themselves during this strenuous period. The heat can be punishing around midday; try to do heavy field work in the early morning (like 6–10am) or late afternoon (4–7pm) to avoid heat exhaustion. Drink plenty of water and wear a hat when in the field. This is also bushfire season – if you're burning fields to clear them, do it cautiously: inform neighbors, create fire breaks,

and avoid windy times of day to prevent accidental wildfires. Secure your harvest stores from fire as well.

Finally, here's a **short list of actionable tasks for the upcoming week** (Feb 7–14, 2025):

- **Field Prep & Fertilization:** Complete ploughing of main fields. Spread manure or compost on at least one garden this week (especially where you'll put nutrient-hungry crops like maize). If you haven't limed your acidic fields yet (e.g., in Kigezi highlands), do so now.
- **Secure Seeds & Inputs:** Purchase your required improved seeds (maize hybrids, bean seeds, etc.) and keep them in a cool, dry place. Also buy necessary fertilizers and pesticides now. Double-check seed storage from last season – treat with insecticide if needed and keep in airtight containers until planting.
- **Livestock Care:** Get your cattle and goats vaccinated in ongoing campaigns (contact your vet about the schedule). Procure dewormers and treat all young stock by next week. Continue providing supplementary feed (cut-and-carry grass, crop residues) to your animals daily. Repair any broken kraal fences to prevent nighttime escapes (especially as animals wander farther for grazing).
- **Equipment & Infrastructure:** Mend broken hand tools. If using irrigation, set up the system near your nurseries/vegetable plots. Dig rainwater harvesting pits or channels on your farm now while soil is dry and easier to excavate. If you have an unfinished shallow well or valley tank project, consider community labor to deepen it before it rains (it will fill when rains come).
- **Community Farming Meetings:** Arrange or attend a village meeting with the local agricultural extension worker if possible. This is a good time for farmers to collectively discuss seed varieties to plant, plan bulk input purchases (some input dealers might deliver to the village if there's a bulk order), or organize exchange of labor (e.g., neighbor groups helping each other to speed up field preparation). Sharing knowledge on expected weather (e.g., the UNMA seasonal forecast of likely above-normal rains for March-May in some areas) will help everyone plan better unma.go.ug unma.go.ug.

By following these recommendations and staying proactive, farmers can **enter the new planting season well-prepared and confident**. Agriculture is full of uncertainties, but timely preparation and access to information can greatly increase the odds of success. Let's use this relatively calm week to lay the groundwork (literally and figuratively) for a productive Season 1 of 2025. **Happy farming, and may the rains be favorable!**