

# Uganda Weekly Agriculture, Food Market, & Farming Weather Report

25 July – 01 August 2025

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**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION AGENCY**

# Executive Summary

Uganda's agricultural landscape shows contrasting regional conditions. Northern and Northeastern regions are experiencing ample mid-season rainfall, supporting crop growth and lush pastures. Conversely, Central, Western, and Lake Victoria Crescent areas are in a typical mid-year dry spell. This allows northern farmers to capitalize on moisture for grain filling, while southern farmers focus on harvesting first-season crops and conserving soil moisture.



## Crops

First-season harvests (maize, beans) are largely complete in bimodal regions with good yields. Farmers are now preparing for second-season planting. In unimodal Karamoja and parts of Northern Uganda, crops are in reproductive stages, with early harvesting of short-cycle varieties beginning.



## Livestock

Northern herds benefit from regenerated pasture, improving body conditions. In the south, early dry-season strategies are crucial to prevent feed shortages. The government's Foot-and-Mouth Disease control campaign, including quarantines and mass vaccinations, continues nationwide.



## Markets

Staple food prices are easing as fresh harvests enter markets. Maize grain prices are softening (e.g., UGX 1,200–1,300/kg in eastern/northern Uganda), and bean prices are also dropping. However, strong regional demand maintains support for exportable staples.



## Policy & Programs

Government and partners are rolling out supportive initiatives, including the Parish Development Model (PDM) for agricultural credit and input subsidies. A national agricultural exhibition in Jinja is also showcasing new farming technologies.

In summary, northern farmers should leverage favorable rains for good harvests, while those in the dry south must safeguard yields and prepare for the next planting season.

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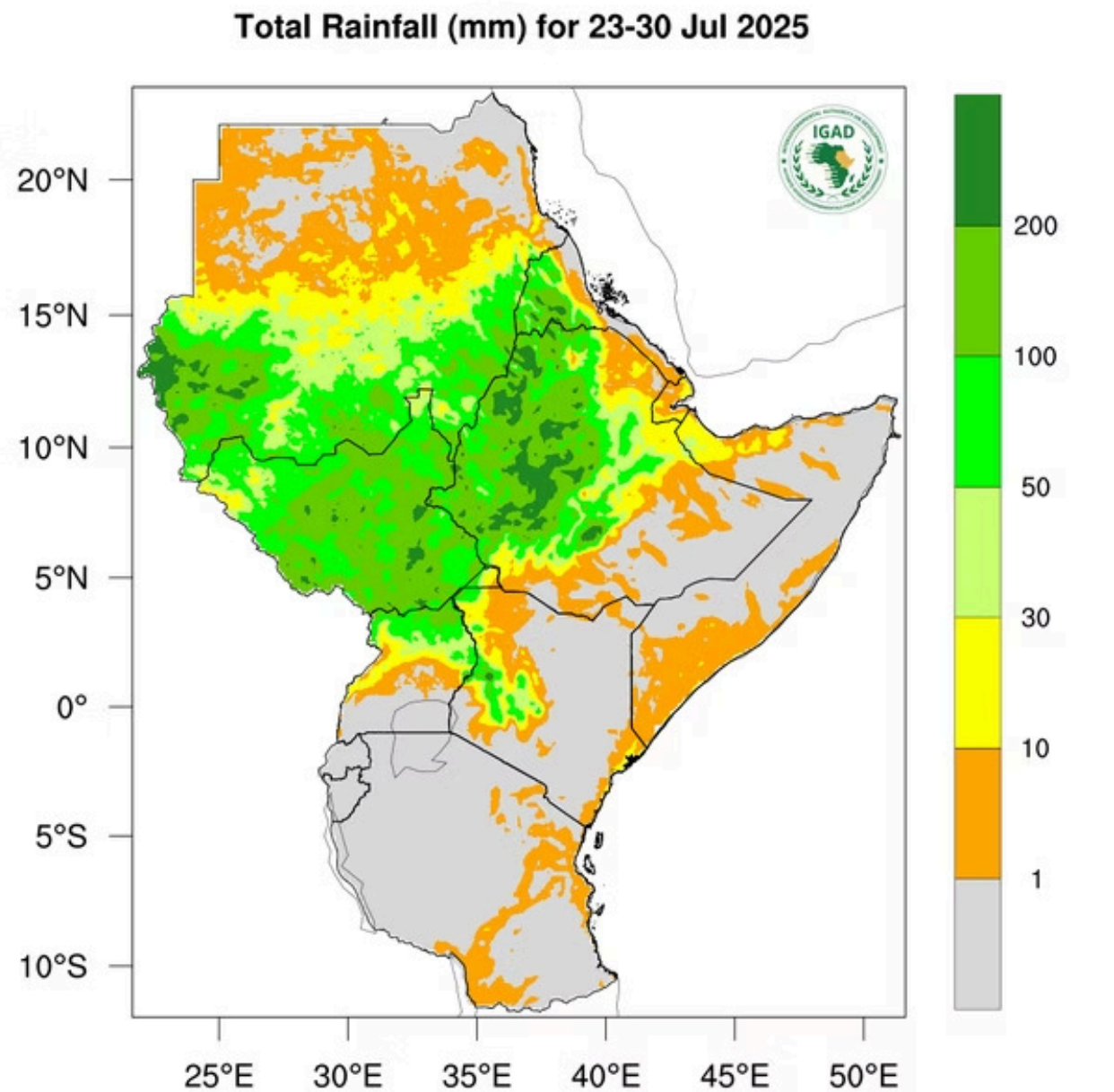




# Weather Outlook

## 25 July – 01 August

Uganda's weather (July 25 – Aug 1) continues its north-wet, south-dry pattern. No extreme events are expected, but regional specifics apply.





# Karamoja (Northeastern Uganda)

Karamoja's active single rainy season continues with scattered showers and thunderstorms, totaling 30–60mm. Days will be warm (~30°C) and nights comfortably cool (18–19°C). These rains are timely for maize, sorghum, and millet, which are mostly in vegetative to early reproductive stages.

Farmers should utilize dry breaks for weeding and completing any remaining short-maturity planting. Moisture conservation through mulching and constructing soil bunds is crucial. Overall, the outlook is near-normal to above-normal rainfall, a positive scenario for both crops and pasture.



# Northern Region (Acholi, Lango, West Nile)

Steady moderate rains will persist across most northern districts. Weekly totals of about 50–80 mm are expected, with locally heavier downpours possible. Rainfall is well-distributed, reducing flood risk; however, farmers in lowland fields should keep drainage channels clear as a precaution. Temperatures will range from ~19°C at night to 28–30°C during the day, under frequently cloudy skies.

These conditions will sustain crop growth – maize and millet are filling grain, and late beans or groundnuts are maturing. It's an ideal scenario for pasture too, with rangelands staying green.

## Alerts/Advice:

- The humid conditions could trigger crop diseases; farmers should monitor for foliar fungal issues (like bean rust or maize blight) and consider preventive fungicide sprays if needed.
- Also stay vigilant against pests: continued rains can spur Fall Armyworm activity, so inspect maize whorls for caterpillars and frass (apply appropriate controls if any "window-pane" damage is seen).
- Livestock keepers should note that the fresh grass, while plentiful, may be low in minerals – providing mineral licks is recommended.
- Introduce very hungry animals to lush pasture gradually (offering some dry forage first) to avoid bloat.



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

The Eastern Region will experience light to moderate rainfall. Elgon highlands and parts of Bukedi may receive 40–60 mm, while Teso plains and Busoga expect 20–40 mm. Temperatures will be 27–29°C in lowlands.

With Season A harvest concluding, drier intervals are ideal for post-harvest activities. Farmers should promptly harvest and sun-dry remaining maize, millet, or legumes to safe moisture levels. In the Elgon sub-region, secure drying crops and maintain terrace bunds due to potential afternoon thunderstorms. The rains are recharging soil moisture, allowing farmers to begin initial land preparation for second-season planting (late August).

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

The Western Region is firmly entering its long dry season, with minimal rain expected (<10-20 mm) and mostly clear skies. Expect warm days (28–30°C lowlands, ~25°C highlands) and cool nights (~15°C in highlands). Only isolated Rwenzori or Kigezi showers might occur.

## Farming implications:

Farmers should finalize first-season harvests, ensuring thorough drying of maize and beans to prevent mold. Utilize the dry conditions for land preparation for September planting, incorporating crop residues into the soil. It's also an ideal time for repairing soil bunds and drainage ditches.

## Livestock:

Ranchers should plan for reduced pasture quality, ensuring water and fodder supply through August. The ongoing dryness increases fire risk; avoid bush burning and be vigilant about accidental fires in rangelands.



**Fire Risk Alert:** The dry conditions increase risk of bush fires. Avoid burning crop residues and create firebreaks near plantations.



# Central Region

Central Uganda remains largely sunny and dry, with minimal rainfall (<10mm) expected, mostly around the Lake Victoria fringe. Daytime temperatures will be 28–30°C, with cool nights. Farmers here are firmly in the between-seasons period.

## Guidance

Use this dry spell to complete post-harvest processing and service farm tools in readiness for second-season tillage.

## Irrigation

Continue irrigation for high-value crops where possible; mulching gardens is highly advised to conserve soil moisture.

## Planning

Utilize this time before substantial rains (late August/early September) to plan, gather inputs (seed, fertilizer), or conduct community training.

While dust is likely and flood risk low, dry conditions aid pest control for stored produce. Remain vigilant against bushfires and maintain firebreaks near plantations.

# Lake Victoria Crescent (including Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Jinja)

The Lake Victoria Crescent remains largely dry, with the lake's influence bringing only isolated morning drizzles. Temperatures range from ~19°C near the lake to ~29°C in the afternoon, with relatively high humidity.

## Impacts:

Farmers in this banana and coffee belt should continue generous mulching to retain soil moisture and prune coffee and fruit trees. Urban and peri-urban growers can utilize the stable weather for solar-drying vegetables and herbs for value addition.

## Lake and fishing communities:

Generally calm weather benefits fishing operations, but watch for occasional gusty afternoon winds. Flash flood risk in low-lying city suburbs is minimal, allowing city authorities to conduct drainage maintenance; urban market traders can also assist in clearing waterways.

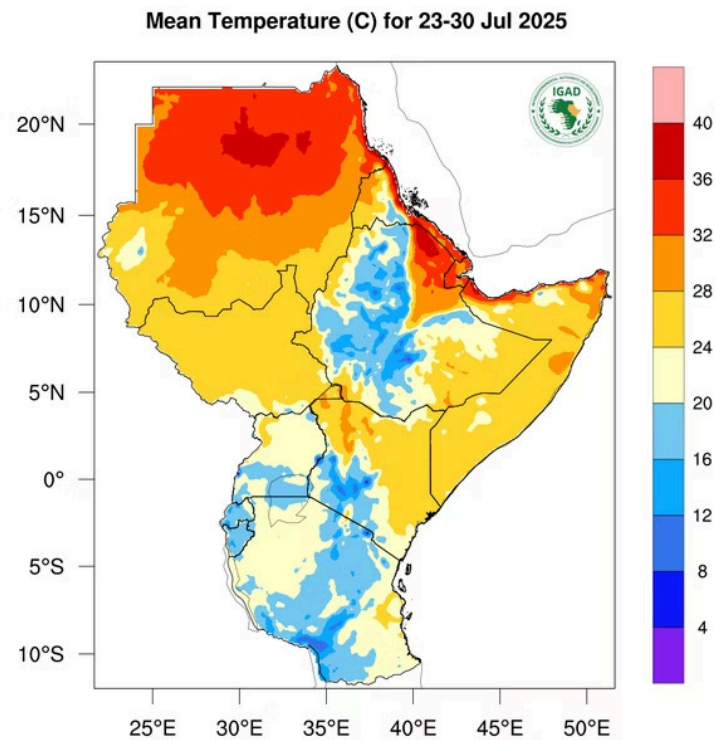


**Urban Farming Tip:** This is an ideal time for solar drying of vegetables and herbs for value addition and preservation.



# Weather Outlook in Brief

Uganda's weather for the next 7 days reinforces typical mid-year patterns. Southern regions (Central, Western, Lake Victoria basin) will remain dry; farmers there should focus on water-saving and harvesting until late August. Northern and Eastern Uganda, however, continue to receive beneficial rains, aiding crop growth and water sources. This stable weather aligns with seasonal forecasts, with no severe alerts. Farmers are advised to plan activities accordingly and monitor UNMA updates.





## Crop Calendar & Growth Stages (late July)

As July turns to August, Uganda's crops are at varying stages across regions, reflecting the country's bimodal (two-season) zones versus unimodal (one-season) zones. Below is a summary of current crop growth stages and recommended field tasks by region and crop, based on the FAO crop calendar and field observations:



# Karamoja & North-Eastern (Unimodal Zone)

This unimodal region (Apr–Sept planting) has completed planting, with crops in active growth. Early-planted cereals (sorghum, millet, maize) are in vegetative to early reproductive stages, while pulses are flowering.

Current priorities include a second weeding, which is critical for yield. Farmers should also top-dress maize with nitrogen fertilizer (if available) 4–6 weeks after emergence, ideally before it reaches waist height or tasseling. For Karamoja's May-planted maize (5–7 weeks old), apply urea or CAN fertilizer (50–100 kg per acre, ~15 cm from the stem).



**Pest Alert:** Regularly inspect young maize and sorghum for Fall Armyworm. If "window pane" feeding or frass in the whorl is noticed, take immediate action.

Pest vigilance remains important. Although reports of foliar pests are low due to good rains, farmers should continue inspecting young maize and sorghum for Fall Armyworm and apply recommended remedies if found. For late-planted legumes, gap-filling should be done where emergence was poor. With continued above-average rains, thinning overly dense cereal stands and staking tall bean varieties is recommended to prevent lodging.

No harvesting has begun in Karamoja. Expect first green harvests of maize and beans in August, with main grain harvests by September. Farmers in areas like Kaabong and Moroto should prepare for bird scaring as sorghum heads emerge in late August.

# Northern Region (Acholi, Lango, West Nile)

This zone typically has two cropping seasons, with a dominant first season (Mar–Jul). First-season crops are in mid to late stages. Maize planted in March/April is tasseling and silking, with early-planted fields already cobbing. Later-planted maize requires final top-dressing and weeding now.

Beans, with their shorter cycle, are mostly harvested throughout mid to late July. Any remaining late-planted beans are in pod-filling stage and will be ready within 1–2 weeks.

Sorghum and millet are at heading or flowering stages. Bird scaring is critical as sorghum heads start filling grains by month-end.

Parts of the mid-north (Lira belt) experienced a dry spell in April, causing some moisture stress and potentially reducing yields. However, replanted short-cycle crops (cowpeas, green gram) are looking promising due to abundant May–July rains.

## Current tasks in Northern Uganda:

1	2	3
<b>Early Harvest Preparations</b> Early-planted maize is reaching maturity; farmers should begin drying ripe cobs gradually to prevent mold.	<b>Storage Preparation</b> Granaries are being cleaned and treated (e.g., with insecticide or botanicals) in anticipation of the main August harvest to prevent weevil infestation.	<b>Second Season Planning</b> Land preparation for second-season planting will soon begin in August, with farmers ploughing under crop residues to enrich soil.

Outlook: Crop condition is cautiously optimistic. Despite localized yield reduction from April dryness, widespread good rains in June–July have aided later crops. A decent first-season harvest is expected.

Farmers are encouraged to stagger harvests and store part of the crop to avoid market flooding and low prices. By early August, harvesting of maize/sorghum will coincide with land preparation for the next planting.

# Eastern Region (Teso, Bukedi, Busoga, Elgon zones)

Crop stages vary across Eastern Uganda's diverse micro-climates. In Teso and Bukedi, first-season maize and millet are in flowering to grain-filling stages, while groundnuts and beans are at or near harvest with good yields.

In Busoga, maize and rice fields are in grain-filling. Early beans were harvested in June, and a developing dry spell has put new planting on hold, with farmers awaiting late August rains for second-season crops. July plantings require irrigation due to scant rainfall.

In the cooler Mt. Elgon highlands, April-planted maize is tasseling. Irish potatoes are tuber bulking, requiring earthing up and blight controls. Coffee is in cherry development, with ongoing weeding and mulching.

Key concerns include Striga weed in Teso's cereal fields, where control methods are being demonstrated. Banana plantations in Busoga and Bugisu benefit from good soil moisture, with farmers de-suckering, fertilizing, and managing pests.

Overall, first-season crops are mostly in reproductive or maturity stages, with harvest of beans, groundnuts, and early maize continuing through late July into August. Pest management, particularly for Fall Armyworm on late-planted maize in Bugisu, is crucial. Farmers are completing Season A activities and preparing for second-season planting.



# Western & South-Western Regions

The main rainy season in Western Uganda concluded by early June, focusing late July on harvesting and post-harvest handling. In Bunyoro, early-planted maize was harvested from late June through July, yielding average to above-average results. Farmers are currently drying maize, with extension officers advising 13% moisture content to prevent mold.

In the Kigezi highlands, first-season climbing beans and sorghum planted in March/April have been harvested (May-July) and are now being threshed and winnowed, aided by dry weather.

Ankole and Toro sub-regions are also harvesting millet and sorghum. Sweet potatoes are being dug out gradually to maintain market prices. With rains gone, new planting is on hold until September.



❏ **Storage Tip:** Clean grain stores and bags, fumigating or sunning them to kill any pests before filling with the new harvest.

Banana plantations in the western belt are productive thanks to earlier rains. Farmers are applying manure and de-suckering. Vigilance against Banana Bacterial Wilt (BBW) continues, with farmers sterilizing tools and removing infected mats.

Overall, late July in Western Uganda marks harvest completion and off-season preparation. Farmers are advised to store produce safely, plan for the second season by testing seeds and acquiring inputs early, and perform infrastructure repairs during this dry period.

# Central Region & Lake Victoria Crescent

In the bimodal Central Region and Lake Victoria Crescent, first-season crops like short-maturity beans, quick maize, and vegetables are fully harvested or in final stages by late July. Fields are mostly fallow, as this is a non-planting period between seasons.

Farmers are evaluating first-season performance, planning for Season B with earlier-maturing or drought-tolerant seeds, and actively clearing and tilling dry, fallow fields using ox-ploughs or tractors, alongside weed management, in preparation for late August sowing.



*Banana with common bean understory  
(Credit: B. Dhed'a)*

Cooking banana (matooke), a staple, is in a growth and fruiting phase thanks to earlier rains. Farmers are mulching to conserve moisture, de-suckering for optimal yields, and continuing pest control for banana weevils. Vigilance against wilting due to increasing heat is also key.

Coffee trees, often intercropped with bananas, completed their main harvest in June. July is an excellent dry-period for pruning and fertilizing, reducing infection risk on cut surfaces.

With no new annual planting until rains resume, farmers are utilizing July for trainings, agricultural shows, securing subsidized inputs via Parish Development Model groups, servicing equipment, and expanding water conservation efforts. They are also marketing their last harvest, sorting and bagging maize/beans for better prices later. Preparatory planting of nursery beds for second-season crops is expected to begin in early August.

# Input & Technical Advisory

Timely use of inputs and good practices are crucial for crop yields and quality. Here are key recommendations:

## Fertilizer – Right Type, Right Time:

Cereal crops like maize and sorghum, especially those planted late June/early July (e.g., Northern Uganda), are ready for nitrogen top-dressing (Urea or CAN). Apply 4-6 weeks after emergence, ideally before rain for best absorption.

Guidelines: 125 kg/ha CAN (or equivalent). Split doses benefit high-rainfall areas. In lower-rainfall zones, a single 50-100 kg/acre top-dress is better to prevent leaching. Apply away from the stem and lightly incorporate to avoid root burn.

Banana farmers should apply organic fertilizers (manure/compost) for nutrients and moisture retention. For acidic soils (e.g., Kigezi highlands), consider applying agricultural lime during land preparation to raise pH and improve future fertilizer effectiveness.

Right fertilizer, right time: a key investment for significantly boosted yields.



# Pest and Disease Control

Mid-season makes crops highly vulnerable to pests like **stem borers**, **armyworms**, **pod borers**, and **humidity-driven diseases**. **Fall Armyworm (FAW)** is a major concern for **maize**; farmers with young maize should scout fields twice weekly for "windowed" holes and frass. Early detection allows for hand-picking or treatment with recommended insecticides (Spodoptera-specific or Bt biopesticides). For better adherence, add a sticker-spreader to sprays. Organic options like ash mixed with chilli powder can repel FAW larvae.


**Beans** maturing now may face **pod borers** and **aphids**; apply safe insecticides or bio-insecticides at flowering/early podding if infestations occur. Watch for bean foliage diseases (angular leaf spot, rust), and apply preventative fungicides (e.g., copper) at early symptom appearance.

For **bananas**, inspect pseudostems for **weevils** and use traps. Immediately remove and properly dispose of any banana mats showing signs of Banana Bacterial Wilt.

In **livestock**, preventative care is vital. De-worm **cattle** and **goats** to maximize benefits from lush pastures, especially in northern areas. Maintain regular acaricide spray or dip schedules (every 1–2 weeks) to prevent **tick-borne diseases**, rotating acaricide types (pyrethroid vs. amitraz) each season to counter resistance.

Ultimately, integrated pest management—combining monitoring, cultural practices, and targeted agro-chemical use—is essential to minimize crop losses at this stage.



 **Fall Armyworm Alert:** Scout maize fields twice weekly for "windowed" holes in leaves and frass in the whorl. Early detection and control is critical.

# Soil and Water Management

Maintaining soil fertility and moisture is crucial. Mulching is highly encouraged, especially in dry central and western areas. Spreading crop residues or dry grass suppresses weeds, reduces evaporation, and adds organic matter, conserving moisture and improving future productivity.

In hilly areas (e.g., Elgon, Kigezi), reinforce contour bunds, terraces, and trenches now. Repairing these structures ensures fields can safely receive future rains without major erosion.



For areas with current rainfall, inter-plant cover crops like lablab or ground cover legumes in widely spaced crops to protect soil from erosion and enhance fertility. Additionally, practice small-scale water harvesting by digging pits or swales to catch runoff, providing water for dry spells.

Treat your soil as an investment; practices like adding manure/compost, mulching, and preventing erosion will boost resilience and yields.

Farmers with water access are urged to utilize the government's 75% subsidy on small drip irrigation kits. Having an irrigation option is a game-changer in unpredictable climates.

# Post-Harvest Handling

Proper post-harvest drying and storage are crucial to prevent losses. Dry grains (maize, beans, groundnuts) on clean tarpaulins or mats, off the bare ground, until they reach safe moisture levels. For maize, kernels should be hard enough to crack, not smoosh.

Avoid mixing new harvest with old stock. Use hermetic bags (PICS bags) for chemical-free pest control, or treat ordinary sacks with organic protectants like food-grade diatomaceous earth. For groundnuts and simsim, dry them in-shell/on-stalk until they rattle. Prevent aflatoxin by ensuring maize and groundnuts are properly dried before storing (use moisture meters or the rattle test).



**Storage Tip:** Triple-layer hermetic bags (PICS bags) are an excellent investment – they allow you to store grain without chemical insecticides by suffocating pests.

## **Packaging:**

Use new or clean bags. Stack them on pallets or raised platforms, not directly on damp floors. Many NGOs distribute storage silos and pallets; utilize these if available.

Consider holding onto some produce to monitor price trends, as prices often rise after harvest. Sorting your produce for cleanliness can also fetch premium prices. Simple measures in post-harvest handling can prevent significant yield losses (20-30%) due to poor management.



# "Tech Tip of the Week" – Making High-Quality Silage from Crop Residues

This week's tip helps livestock farmers through the dry season by preserving crop residues as silage. After harvesting maize or sorghum, turn stalks into nutritious silage to feed cattle, goats, or pigs. Silage-making ferments green fodder in an airtight condition to preserve it.

Here's a quick method for small-scale farmers:

1. Chop maize stover (stalks, leaves) into small pieces (3–5 cm). Fresh forage like napier grass can be mixed in.
2. Wilt the chopped material under the sun for a few hours to reduce excess moisture.
3. Pack tightly into a plastic drum, lined silage pit, or heavy-duty polythene bags.
4. As you pack, add a ferment starter like molasses diluted in water (1 liter molasses in 3 liters water per 100 kg fodder).
5. Compress the material as much as possible to squeeze out air.
6. Seal it air-tight.

In 3–4 weeks, your fermented silage will be ready. This technique can convert dry, unpalatable stalks into a juicy feed that retains nutrients and sustains your animals. Many farmers in Uganda are adopting silage from maize residues, especially where dry season feed shortages are common, as it can improve milk yields and keep animals in good condition.

This week, as maize harvesting picks up, is an ideal time to try making a small batch. Store silage packages in a shaded, cool place. Once opened, feed it over a few days and then open the next; don't leave silage open to the air for long or it will spoil.

Turning crop waste into feed is a smart, low-cost tip that increases your farm's efficiency and is especially handy this year given the forecast dry spell ahead.



✔ **Silage Benefits:** Well-made silage smells slightly sweet-sour and is relished by livestock. This simple technique converts dry stalks into juicy feed that retains nutrients and sustains animals through dry months.



# Livestock & Ranching

While grazing conditions improved with recent rains, impending dry spells in the south necessitate proactive livestock management. Below are key updates and advice for cattle, goat, and poultry keepers:





# General Herd Health & Disease Alerts

Uganda's government is strictly enforcing Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) controls, with movement bans and quarantines in affected districts. A national vaccination drive is ongoing; farmers in high-risk areas should ensure their animals are vaccinated. Livestock markets in quarantine zones remain closed; market animals locally or delay sales.

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) tends to flare up in early dry season. Watch for skin nodules; consider vaccination if neighboring herds are affected.

Tick-borne diseases (especially East Coast fever, anaplasmosis) are a year-round threat, with increased tick loads after rains. Maintain strict tick control; if treatments are ineffective, switch acaricide drug classes.



**FMD Alert:** Cattle movement is banned, and quarantines are active. Ensure your animals are vaccinated.

## Goat health:

Watch for PPR (goat plague) symptoms; deworming is prudent in wetter northern areas due to worm infestations.

## Poultry health:

With cooler nights/dampness, Newcastle disease and respiratory issues can crop up. Vaccinate village chickens and maintain coop hygiene to prevent coccidiosis.



# Feeding and Pasture

Pastures have significantly greened up across Northern, North-Eastern, and parts of Eastern Uganda due to recent rains, with abundant grass reported in Karamoja, Lango, and Acholi. Farmers in these areas are advised to cut and store hay now to prepare for potential dry spells. In south-western rangelands (Ankole), grass is curing; harvest remaining green fodder quickly. Additionally, ensiling crop residues like maize or sorghum can provide high-nutrition feed for lean periods.

## **Water:**

Water availability has improved in previously dry cattle corridor areas, with many tanks refilling. As the dry season deepens in the south, plan to ration water, prioritizing weaker or lactating animals daily. In contrast, northern and northeastern ponds are still full. However, stagnant water can breed mosquitoes; keep watering points tidy and consider treating standing water to curb larvae and prevent diseases like Rift Valley Fever.

# Husbandry Practices

In regions with abundant forage (north), prevent cattle bloat by offering dry feed before turning them onto lush pastures. In drier regions, gradually supplement grazing with stored feeds. Dairy farmers in Central Uganda should begin supplemental feeding (e.g., banana peels, brewers' mash) to maintain milk production during dry spells.

July is also a common time for weaning 5–6 month old calves, especially if pasture is declining. This reduces competition and helps cows recover body condition.



## **Shelter and breeding:**

Provide shade for animals during hot afternoons to prevent heat stress, which reduces milk yield and fertility. Late July/August is ideal for breeding dairy cows to time the next calving for April when rains and fresh grass are available.

For goats, this period of increasing day length naturally induces breeding; ensure does are in good body condition with a small flushing diet for potential twins.

Meanwhile, poultry farmers should take advantage of dry weather to sun feed and sterilize litter. Expect an egg production rebound if hens experienced wet stress, and continue providing a balanced diet and clean water to support laying.

# Market Prices for Livestock

Livestock prices remain firm, reflecting improved animal condition and resumed market activity.

These prices indicate better returns for farmers compared to last year, when drought and FMD quarantines limited sales (e.g., mature cows averaged UGX 1.3M now vs. UGX 1.0M a year ago). Goat prices are also up slightly.

The outlook for livestock prices in coming weeks is stable to slightly rising, driven by grain harvests and farmers investing in animals. However, increased supply in August due to school fees season might soften prices.

Farmers should consider selling animals in tip-top shape now for profitable returns, or holding them longer to fatten on available pasture for potentially better prices by the dry season's end.





# Market Analysis

Staple commodity prices are adjusting with ongoing harvests. Below are average market prices (UGX) for key commodities across Uganda's regions this week, based on field reports and market surveys:

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

Prices are average approximations; actual prices vary by market and quality. Regional references: Northern (Gulu/Lira), Eastern (Mbale/Busia), Western (Mbarara/Fort Portal), Central (Kampala). Matooke prices are per kg, estimated from bunch weights. Livestock prices are for mature, healthy animals and subject to negotiation. Recent harvests have lowered maize and bean prices, while millet and sorghum remain pricier in central markets due to demand for brewing and food uses.

# Market Analysis (continued)

**Maize** grain prices are down 25–30% year-on-year due to the first-season harvest and carry-over stocks. It's cheapest in surplus regions (West/East: UGX 1,200–1,300/kg) and highest in central urban areas (UGX 1,300/kg). Regional exports are moderate, ensuring comfortable local supply.

**Bean** prices remain relatively stable, averaging UGX 2,500–3,000/kg upcountry and UGX 3,200–3,500/kg in Kampala, only slightly above last year's prices (+5%). A slight dip is anticipated in August as more beans enter the market.

**Sorghum** and **millet** show significant regional price disparities. Northern **sorghum** is affordable (UGX 1,200–1,500/kg), while Kampala prices exceed UGX 2,500/kg due to demand from breweries and urban consumers. **Millet** is generally expensive across all regions, with central consumers paying up to UGX 3,500+/kg due to lower production.

**Matooke** supply is good, maintaining moderate prices. Producing areas like Mbarara offer bunches for UGX 15,000, while non-producing areas like Gulu see prices up to UGX 25,000 due to transport. Prices remain within normal seasonal ranges.

**Livestock** prices have largely rebounded after FMD quarantines. **Cattle** prices are slightly lower in western Uganda (approx. UGX 1.2M/bull) due to direct sourcing by Kampala traders. **Goat** and **chicken** prices are consistent nationwide with a slight urban premium. **Beef** retails around UGX 15,000–20,000/kg in Kampala.

Overall, **grain** prices are expected to remain subdued through August as harvests peak. **Livestock** prices may ease where quarantines persist but will normalize as restrictions lift. The government is satisfied with current supply and prices, encouraging farmers to utilize **collective marketing** for better returns.

# Government & NGO Updates

Several new developments from the Government of Uganda and its development partners are underway, affecting the agricultural sector this week:

## Foot-and-Mouth Disease Crackdown:

The Government has intensified its FMD control efforts following President Museveni's Executive Order No. 2 of 2025. This order imposes strict measures: unauthorized livestock movement is now illegal, with active enforcement through roadblocks. Pastoralists must fence grazing areas and obtain official permits for relocation, aiming to break the FMD re-infection cycle.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF) completed a second round of mass FMD vaccinations in 27 high-risk districts, utilizing 3 million vaccine doses from Egypt. While vaccinated farmers express relief, livestock markets in quarantine zones remain closed until new cases cease. Discussions are ongoing regarding compensation or restocking support for affected farmers.

These measures encourage regulated, modern ranching, with the President advocating for fenced ranching over nomadic herding. Livestock owners are advised to cooperate by registering herds, vaccinating, and avoiding illegal movements. Despite short-term inconvenience, these steps are vital for achieving disease-free herds and improved market access, potentially lifting export bans on Ugandan beef.



# Parish Development Model (PDM) – Inputs and Extension Boost

The Parish Development Model program is actively injecting funds and support into grassroots agriculture. Over 500 new parish agricultural extension officers have been recruited and trained to work directly with PDM SACCO groups, offering advice on crop selection, finance, and enterprise development.

Many parishes have now received PDM revolving funds, which farmer groups are using to provide subsidized inputs like improved maize and bean seeds, fertilizers, or chicks to members on credit. Farmers belonging to a PDM SACCO should inquire with their Parish Chief or SACCO committee about available agricultural support.



- ✔ **Subsidy Alert:** A 75% subsidy on small-scale irrigation kits (drip irrigation or solar water pumps) for 0.5 to 2-acre plots has been announced. Farmers pay only 25% of the cost.

This significant irrigation subsidy is being rolled out through sub-county agriculture offices. Interested farmers with a water source should apply at their sub-county office.

Additionally, the government unveiled a UGX 1.2 trillion Agriculture Stimulus Package aimed at improving market access and boosting production. This includes establishing community grain stores, milk coolers, and produce bulking centers nationwide to help farmers store produce safely and sell in bulk at favorable prices.

Farmers are encouraged to organize into cooperatives or groups to fully benefit from these facilities and leverage new demonstration farms and farmer field schools. The government is investing heavily in grassroots support through more extension workers, cheaper inputs, and better infrastructure – seize these opportunities by engaging with agents, signing up for training, and collaborating with fellow farmers.

# NGO and Development Partner Initiatives

A number of projects by NGOs and international agencies are actively supporting agriculture and food security, especially in vulnerable regions:

## In **Karamoja**:

The World Food Programme (WFP) has transitioned from general food aid to Food-for-Assets (FFA) programs. Communities receive food or cash for work on projects like soil and water conservation (terraces, check-dams) and feeder road repair. These initiatives provide immediate relief and create long-term assets such as irrigated community gardens. If in Karamoja, inquire with local leaders or WFP offices about FFA projects to gain support and enhance community resilience.

## FAO Drought-Tolerant Crops:

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is promoting drought-tolerant crops in areas prone to erratic rainfall. FAO Uganda has distributed quick-maturing seed varieties – including early-maturing sorghum, millet, and cowpea – to farmers in **Karamoja** and **Teso** ahead of the second season. FAO targets vulnerable smallholders; if you are in these regions and struggling, contact your District Production Office or sub-county extension worker to inquire about inclusion in seed distribution.

## In **Northern Uganda** (Acholi, Lango, West Nile):

USAID-funded programs like the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU) continue to boost productivity by providing farming equipment (e.g., ox-ploughs, grinding mills) and training. These are often distributed through calls for proposals or via established farmer organizations. Registered farmer groups in Northern Uganda should stay in touch with their district agriculture office or NGO coordination forums for opportunities in equipment applications or post-harvest handling trainings.

## In **refugee-hosting districts**:

NGOs including Mercy Corps and World Vision are focusing on kitchen gardening and nutrition in parts of **West Nile, Kiryandongo, and Kamwenge**. They have distributed vegetable seeds and simple irrigation kits to both refugee and host community households to improve food diversity, given cuts in general food rations. Engage with NGO field staff in these communities to get seeds or attend training on backyard gardening and water-saving irrigation techniques, which are beneficial for any farmer dealing with limited space or water.

## On a broader scale:

The new ABEEP (Agri-Business Ecosystem Enhancement Project), funded by AGRA, aims to strengthen Agricultural Business Development Services (BDS) nationwide. It is training 60 local agri-business service providers to support farmer SMEs in accessing markets, finance, and digital services. While an "ecosystem" project, farmers may indirectly benefit from more professional services. Keep an eye out for outreach from involved organizations like Private Sector Foundation or AMI, which may offer training through local cooperatives.



# Agri-Tech and Innovation

This week, the National Agricultural Show in Jinja showcased new farming technologies, including solar-powered irrigation and mobile apps for marketing produce. The Ministry of Agriculture highlighted innovations like a digital market information platform (e.g., M-Omulimisa via USSD/SMS) for daily crop prices and weather, and low-cost evaporative cool storage for off-grid areas.

Government officials encouraged youth in agribusiness, promoting grant opportunities for agro-processing startups. Adopting these new technologies, such as market price SMS services or high-yield seeds, can significantly benefit farmers.



**Tech Opportunity:** The show also reportedly had a stand where farmers could sign up for the e-voucher input subsidy scheme (which had been in pilot, giving farmers digital coupons for discounted seed/fertilizer) – those sign-ups may lead to inclusion in the upcoming season's subsidy distribution.

In summary, various policy and development programs are actively bolstering Uganda's agriculture. These include disease control (FMD), grassroots financing (PDM), capacity building (extension, ABEEP), and direct relief (WFP, FAO). Farmers are encouraged to align with these opportunities: vaccinate livestock, utilize subsidized inputs or irrigation kits, participate in trainings, and use collective facilities. By staying informed and involved with local authorities and NGOs, farmers can benefit from available resources, increasing their resilience and productivity and contributing to national food security.



# Recent Publications & Useful Links

Stay informed with key publications and resources relevant to Ugandan agriculture and food security, each with a brief summary and direct URL:

## East Africa Seasonal Monitor (FEWS NET, 2 July 2025)

Regional climate bulletin: notes a slow start to June–September rains in northern Uganda, with recent improvements.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/east-africa-seasonal-monitor-slow-start-june-september-season-northern-sector-2-july-2025>

## WFP Uganda Country Brief (May 2025)

Snapshot of WFP Uganda operations: assisted 868,823 people in May 2025 with food/cash, noting funding shortfalls.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/wfp-uganda-country-brief-may-2025>

## AGRA Food Security Monitor – May 2025 Edition

AGRA monthly report on African food security: Uganda's maize prices rose ~15% in early 2025 due to high export demand.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/food-security-monitor-may-2025> (AGRA/ReliefWeb).

## Global Report on Food Crises 2025 (FSIN)

Comprehensive analysis of global acute food insecurity (2024/25), includes Uganda's crisis severity and drivers.

<https://www.fsinplatform.org/global-report-food-crises-2025> (large PDF).

## Uganda: IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (July 2024 – June 2025)

IPC report on Uganda's food insecurity: ~2.2 million Ugandans in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in early 2025, with expected harvest improvements.

<https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156535/?iso3=UGA> (IPC Dashboard).

## "Uganda Launches Transformative Training to Boost Agri-Business Services" (Nile Post, June 20, 2025)

News on ABEEP programme launch: training 60 agri-business service providers to boost agri-SME support, funded by AGRA.

<https://nilepost.co.ug/news/266750/uganda-launches-transformative-training-to-boost-agricultural-business-services>

These resources (FEWS NET, IPC, WFP, AGRA, Nile Post) offer valuable insights for climate, food security, market trends, and capacity building.

# Looking Ahead & Key Reminders

## **Short-Term Outlook (1–2 weeks):**

The North is expected to continue receiving adequate rainfall, sustaining crop growth and pastures. The South (central, west, Lake Victoria region) should remain mostly dry until late August, with rising temperatures and declining soil moisture.

Markets will see increasing supply of fresh harvests (maize, beans, groundnuts), which may lead to slight price drops before stabilizing. August is a critical planning month for farmers to organize labor, repair tools, and budget for inputs.



## **Priority Tasks for the Coming Week:**

1. **Harvest & Land Prep:** Finish harvesting mature crops and immediately begin land preparation for the next season.
2. **Post-Harvest Care:** Focus on drying and safely storing your produce to the proper moisture levels.
3. **Source Inputs:** Acquire seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs early for the second planting.

**Livestock:** In the North, conserve fodder by making hay or silage. In the Central/South, assess feed inventory and consider culling non-productive stock if feed is short.

**Community Collaboration:** Utilize this period for farmer group meetings to discuss lessons learned from the first season and plan collectively for the next, including bulk input purchases or coordinating pest-resistant varieties.

**Remember to stay safe:** drink plenty of water in dry, hot areas, and schedule heavy work for cooler hours. In wet areas, continue malaria precautions.

By staying proactive – harvesting on time, planning ahead, and accessing available support – we can ensure a strong finish to this season and a smooth start to the next.

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