

Uganda Weekly Agriculture, Market, and Weather Report

March 1 – 7, 2025

Helping Ugandan farmers make informed decisions for successful
planting and harvesting.

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strategies that improve food security.



Weather Forecast (March 1 – 7, 2025)

Karamoja & Northern Uganda

Mostly dry conditions continue with isolated light showers. High daytime temperatures (30–35°C) with cooler nights. Farmers should complete land preparation and livestock deworming before mid-March rains begin.

Eastern Uganda

Light rainfall (<50 mm) expected in Bukedi and Busoga, with isolated thunderstorms in Teso and Bugisu. Temperatures range 25–30°C. Mount Elgon and Teso regions forecast for near to above-normal rainfall later in March. Monitor UNMA updates for optimal planting timing.

Western Uganda

Scattered rainfall with thunderstorms expected in Rwenzori and Ankole later this week. Bunyoro remains dry and warm. Temperatures moderate at 24–28°C. Highland areas: watch for severe thunderstorms with hail risk. Above-normal seasonal rainfall predicted for southwestern highlands.

Central & Lake Victoria Crescent

Generally dry with light rainfall (<50 mm). Brief showers near Lake Victoria. Temperatures: 28–30°C days, 18–20°C nights. Slightly delayed rainy season onset. Recommended: implement moisture conservation and rainwater harvesting.

Validation: UNMA confirms typical rainy season onset in early March (southern) and mid/late March (northern regions). ICPAC forecast (Feb 27 – Mar 6, 2025) shows light rains for southern Uganda with warmer than usual temperatures nationwide. These forecasts guide optimal timing for planting and continued fire control measures.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages

Major Crops

In Uganda's bimodal regions (Central, Eastern, Western, parts of Northern), First Season planting begins now for maize, beans, sorghum, groundnuts, millet, and sesame. Key planting windows: maize (late Feb-March), beans (March-mid-April) for June-July harvest. Sorghum planting starts late March in Eastern Savanna zones (Teso, Lango).

Tasks This Week

- **Weeding & Pest Control:** Remove early weeds, especially Striga in maize. Monitor for fall armyworm and bean stem maggots agriculture.go.ug.
- **Planting & Gap Filling:** Plant cereals and legumes where rains have started. Fill gaps promptly if germination is uneven.
- **Fertilizer Application:** Add manure/compost during final land prep. For maize, apply 25 kg/ha fertilizer in low-fertility soils.
- **Harvesting & Storage:** Complete late-season crop harvest before rains. Ensure proper drying and storage of grains.

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Current Growth Stages

Early March status:

- **Land Preparation & Planting:** Early rain areas (southwestern/central) are planting maize and beans. Others finishing ploughing and preparing for sowing.
- **Weeding:** First weeding due for January/February plantings. Maize needs weeding at 2-3 weeks and again at 5-6 weeks after planting.
- **Fertilization:** Apply NPK for maize/sorghum at planting; plan Urea top-dressing 4-6 weeks later. Use DAP for beans at planting.
- **Ongoing Harvests:** Karamoja (unimodal) in land preparation for April rains. Coffee/banana harvest continuous but currently in lean period - focus on pruning.

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Input Recommendations & Technical Advisory

1	Seeds Plant certified seeds with MAAIF tamper-proof label (blue/green tag). Choose short-maturity varieties if planting late in the season.
2	Fertilizers Apply NPK fertilizer (50 kg DAP/ha) at planting for cereals. Top-dress with Urea when maize reaches knee-height. In acidic soils (Western Uganda), apply lime to improve nutrient uptake.
3	Pest & Disease Management Monitor crops as rains begin: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fall Armyworm: Check maize whorls for frass. Apply pesticides or Bt formulations early if detected.Beans: Improve drainage to prevent root rot. Control aphids to prevent virus spread.Groundnuts: Use fungicide seed treatment against rosette virus and soil diseases.
4	Soil Management IPM Strategy: Combine timely weeding with biological controls to reduce pesticide use. Soil Amendments: Apply organic matter (1-2 tons/acre) to improve soil fertility and water retention. Herbicides: Use pre-emergent herbicides after planting and post-emergents for seedbed preparation. Follow safety guidelines strictly.
<div>Tech Tip of the Week: Soil pH Management Correct acidic soils by applying agricultural lime during land preparation. Apply 1-2 tons/ha lime 2-3 weeks before planting. This can improve yields by 15-30% through better nutrient availability, especially in high rainfall areas.</div> <div>Technical Advisory Validation These recommendations align with MAAIF training manuals and NARO best practices. They emphasize proper timing, spacing, and integrated crop management to maximize yields and resilience this season.</div>	

Livestock & Ranching

Cattle

With rains expected from mid-March, implement these key interventions:

- **Deworming:** Deworm cattle before rains begin using broad-spectrum anthelmintics to improve weight gain on fresh pasture.
- **Tick Control:** Spray livestock every 7 days with rotating acaricides to prevent tick-borne diseases like East Coast Fever (ECF).
- **Vaccinations:** Contact local veterinary officers for FMD vaccination in risk areas. Ensure calves are vaccinated against Blackquarter & Anthrax.

Goats & Sheep

Update PPR vaccinations yearly and deworm for lungworms before rains. Current market prices: UGX 7,400-11,100 per kg live weight in Kampala (UGX 100,000-160,000 per medium-sized goat). Consider selling excess males if pastures are depleted.

Poultry

Alert: Suspected Newcastle Disease outbreak in Kotido (Karamoja) causing mass chicken deaths since January. Symptoms include watery diarrhea, weight loss, and rapid mortality. Chicken prices in Kotido have dropped by 50%.

Action steps: Vaccinate immediately against Newcastle Disease using Lasota or I-2 vaccine (day 1, 2-3 weeks, then every 3 months). Maintain biosecurity by confining birds and disinfecting coops. Report unusual deaths to authorities.

Disease Watch & Pasture Management

Pasture & Water: Ensure water access in cattle corridor districts. Plan pasture reseeding with hardy legumes when rains begin. Provide mineral licks for nutrition.

Key Disease Risks:

- **Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD):** Watch for outbreaks after first rains
- **Trypanosomiasis:** Implement tsetse control in prone areas
- **Tick-Borne Diseases:** Maintain strict tick control through spraying and pasture management

Market Analysis

Region	Maize (UGX/kg)	Beans (UGX/kg)	Sorghum (UGX/kg)	Millet (UGX/kg)	Matooke (Plantains)
Karamoja (Moroto)	~1,300	~n/a (rare)	~1,267	~n/a	n/a (not common)
Northern (Lira)	~900	~2,100	~n/a	~1,700	n/a
Eastern (Mbale)	~1,500	~3,500 (low supply)	~1,500	~3,500	n/a
Central (Kampala)	~1,100	~4,500 (mixed) – 6,000+ (Nambale)	~3,833	~4,667	~8,000/kg (approx.)
Western (Mbarara)	~1,500	~5,000	~2,500	~n/a	~5,000 (per bunch farm-gate)

Current retail prices for key staple foods show regional variations as of early March 2025:

Maize Grain

Prices remain low due to good carryover stocks. Northern markets show lowest prices around UGX 900/kg, while Eastern and Western regions maintain higher rates at UGX 1,500/kg due to export demand to Kenya.

Beans

Prices vary significantly by region and variety. Mixed beans are cheapest in Northern Uganda at UGX 2,100/kg, while premium varieties like Nambale in Central and Western regions command UGX 4,500-5,000/kg. School reopening has increased demand in Western regions.

Sorghum & Millet

Sorghum prices range from UGX 1,267/kg in Karamoja to UGX 3,833/kg in Central regions. Millet prices are elevated at UGX 3,500-4,667/kg due to reduced cultivation, with possible increases expected until July harvest.

Matooke (Bananas/Plantains)

Current shortage has pushed prices to UGX 6,000-10,000/kg in Kampala. Relief expected with upcoming rains improving production.

Cattle

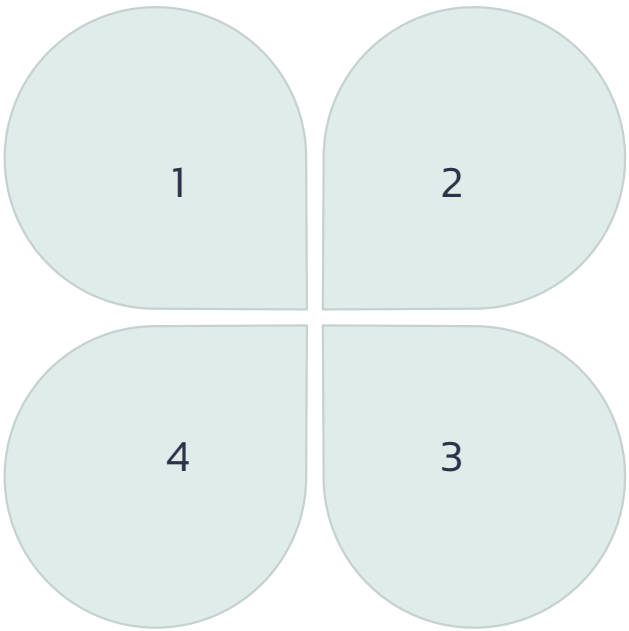
Live cattle prices range from UGX 7,500-18,800/kg in Kampala, with lower prices in Western ranching districts at UGX 6,000-7,000/kg live weight.

Goats

Live goats sell for UGX 7,400-11,100/kg in Kampala, with local breeds averaging UGX 100,000-150,000 per head. Prices may rise before Easter.

Market Trends

Maize prices are seasonally low but may rise from late March. Bean supplies are tightening and prices could increase if April rains delay. Kenyan market stability is keeping Ugandan maize prices in check.



Poultry

Local chickens cost UGX 15,000-25,000, with disease-affected Kotido showing distressed prices of UGX 6,000-8,000. Kampala egg prices remain stable at UGX 12,000-13,000 per tray wholesale.

Watch: Monitor banana prices for disease indicators and Karamoja sorghum prices as households rely more on markets.

Guidance: Consider buying maize now while prices are low. Hold bean stocks for potential price increases, but monitor local markets. Trading opportunities exist moving beans from Northern to Central markets.

Government & NGO Updates



MAAIF Updates

- **Input Quality:** New tamper-proof certification labels introduced for seed packets to combat counterfeit products.
- **Policy:** National Fertilizer Policy framework in development to improve accessibility.
- **Funding:** IFAD launches \$1.2M climate-smart agriculture grant project.
- **Extension:** PDM agri-financing accelerated with digital data collection rollout.
- **Regulatory:** New Veterinary Act requires registered vets at all drug outlets.



International Organizations

- FAO-WMO partnership established to enhance farmer climate services [wmo.int](https://www.wmo.int).
- GIEWS reports stable food prices despite below-average 2024 harvest.
- Karamoja identified as food security concern through May 2025.
- WFP continues refugee food support and price monitoring.
- School feeding programs expanding in northeastern Uganda.



Other NGO Initiatives

- KOICA & ITC grant focuses on farmer climate resilience and marketing.
- Farm Africa introducing improved goat breeds in Karamoja.
- Kampala Declaration emphasizes sustainable agrifood systems.

Local Programs: NAADS distributing coffee seedlings pre-rainy season, while NARO trained 800+ farmers on improved practices through COFIA program.

Relevant Publications & Links

- [Uganda National Meteorological Authority \(UNMA\)](#) Daily Forecasts – UNMA website – for up-to-date local forecasts. (UNMA posts 24-48 hour forecasts for regions and major lakes.)
- [ICPAC Weekly Forecast \(27 Feb – 6 Mar 2025\)](#) Available via ICPAC Weekly Forecast Page – highlights rainfall and temperature anomalies for the Horn of Africa.
- [FAO GIEWS Country Brief \(Uganda, Oct 2024\)](#).
- [MAAIF March–May Cropping Season Advisory \(2020\)](#)
- [MAAIF Extension Manuals](#)
- [Etoil A Karamoja News](#). Local news on Karamoja. Article: "Mass chicken deaths in Kotido drive prices down" (Feb 25, 2025).
- [Selina Wamucii – Uganda Market Prices](#). Provides daily updated prices.
- [WFP – Food Price Data](#). WFP's Vulnerability Analysis dataset for Uganda (monthly market prices, last updated Feb 2025) – available via data portals. It's the source for our regional price table.
- New Studies
 - ["Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity \(Feb 2025\)"](#) – highlights areas needing urgent attention.
 - ["Climate Trend in Karamoja \(UN Study\)"](#) – new UN report found rainfall patterns shifting in Karamoja. Good read on climate change impacts in NE Uganda (if interested in long-term trends).
 - ["Uganda's Sheep and Goat Meat Market Report 2025" \(IndexBox\)](#) – industry analysis for those in livestock trade.
 - For Agro enthusiasts: A new research bulletin by [NARO on fall armyworm biological control](#) (released Feb 2025) is available at NARO's website or district agri offices.

Each of these resources provides further detail and can help validate on-ground decisions. Farmers and stakeholders are encouraged to use these links for planning or to seek assistance.

Looking Ahead & Reminders

1	Weather Outlook Seasonal rains moving northward
2	Agricultural Events District meetings and Women's Day
3	Trade Patterns Regional market trends
4	Action Steps Key farmer priorities

8–15	2–3	7
March Days Second week of March brings steady rains to central Uganda.	Weeks Before Planting Window for applying agricultural lime in acidic soil areas.	Days Between Spraying Recommended interval for livestock tick control during rainy season.

Upcoming Agricultural Events/Announcements: District barazas will coordinate input distribution and crop advisory. International Women's Day (March 8) features seed fairs and distributions. National Agricultural Show preparations underway with "Climate-Smart Farming" theme.

Trade & Market Patterns: Early grain transport advised before roads deteriorate. Strong regional trade with South Sudan and DRC may increase maize prices. Coffee prices remain favorable, while tea farmers should prepare for increased production with coming rains.

Farmer To-Do List (Action Points)



1. Finalize Planting Plans

Select crop varieties, map fields, and secure quality seeds before local stocks deplete or prices increase.



2. Land Prep & Planting

Plant immediately where rains have started. In areas awaiting rain, complete ploughing and prepare planting holes for immediate sowing with first rains.



3. Early Weeding & Thinning

Weed early-stage crops within the first month. For maize, thin to 1 plant per stand at 2-3 weeks after emergence.

Task	Timing	Priority
Pest Surveillance	Daily checks	High
Livestock Care (clean barns, repair fencing)	Before heavy rains	High
Check granaries for leaks	Immediately	Medium
Monitor weather forecasts	Continuously	High
Community collaboration (road clearing)	As needed	Medium

Pest Surveillance: Conduct daily inspections under leaves and in plant funnels. Have pest control measures ready for immediate action.

Livestock Care: Clean barns, repair fencing, and prepare rain shelters for newborns before heavy rains begin.

Post-Harvest: Inspect and repair granaries to prevent rain damage. Check stored grain for pests and treat as needed.

Stay Informed: Monitor weather forecasts and maintain contact with extension officers for guidance and learning opportunities.

Community Collaboration: Coordinate planting timing with farmer groups to optimize equipment use and marketing. Maintain access roads for traders and services.

These preparations will support a successful Season A (First Season) 2025. Given variable weather forecasts, maintain flexibility with crop choices and have drought-tolerant alternatives ready. Good preparation and timely management will lead to better yields.



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