

# 10–17 OCT 2025

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

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security.



# Executive Summary

## 1 Food Prices Surging

Uganda's staple food prices are rising as supplies tighten. Market reports show cooking banana (matooke) prices surging in September alongside vegetables.

## 2 Uneven Rainfall Patterns

Rainfall patterns are uneven this week: central and western districts expect moderate showers, but parts of the south and northwest remain drier than normal.

## 3 Farmer Advisory

Farmers are advised to seize the current rains for timely fieldwork – weed and top-dress second-season crops now, harvest early-maturing varieties promptly, and secure fodder and water reserves in anticipation of localized dry spells.

## 4 Mitigate Weather Risks

With careful planning, producers can mitigate weather risks and sustain yields in this critical period.





# Weather Outlook — Karamoja

Mostly dry conditions will persist across Karamoja. Only isolated light showers (generally < 20 mm total) are forecast around mid-week. Daytime temperatures remain high (upper 20s °C), and nights are mild (~15–18 °C). No flood or storm alerts are in effect. The continuing rainfall deficit here is notable – seasonal totals are trending below average. Farmers should plan for limited soil moisture; focus on harvesting and proper drying of sorghum and pulses as clear skies dominate. Pastoralists are advised to utilize remaining surface water efficiently, as grazing areas are drying out earlier than usual.



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# petros network

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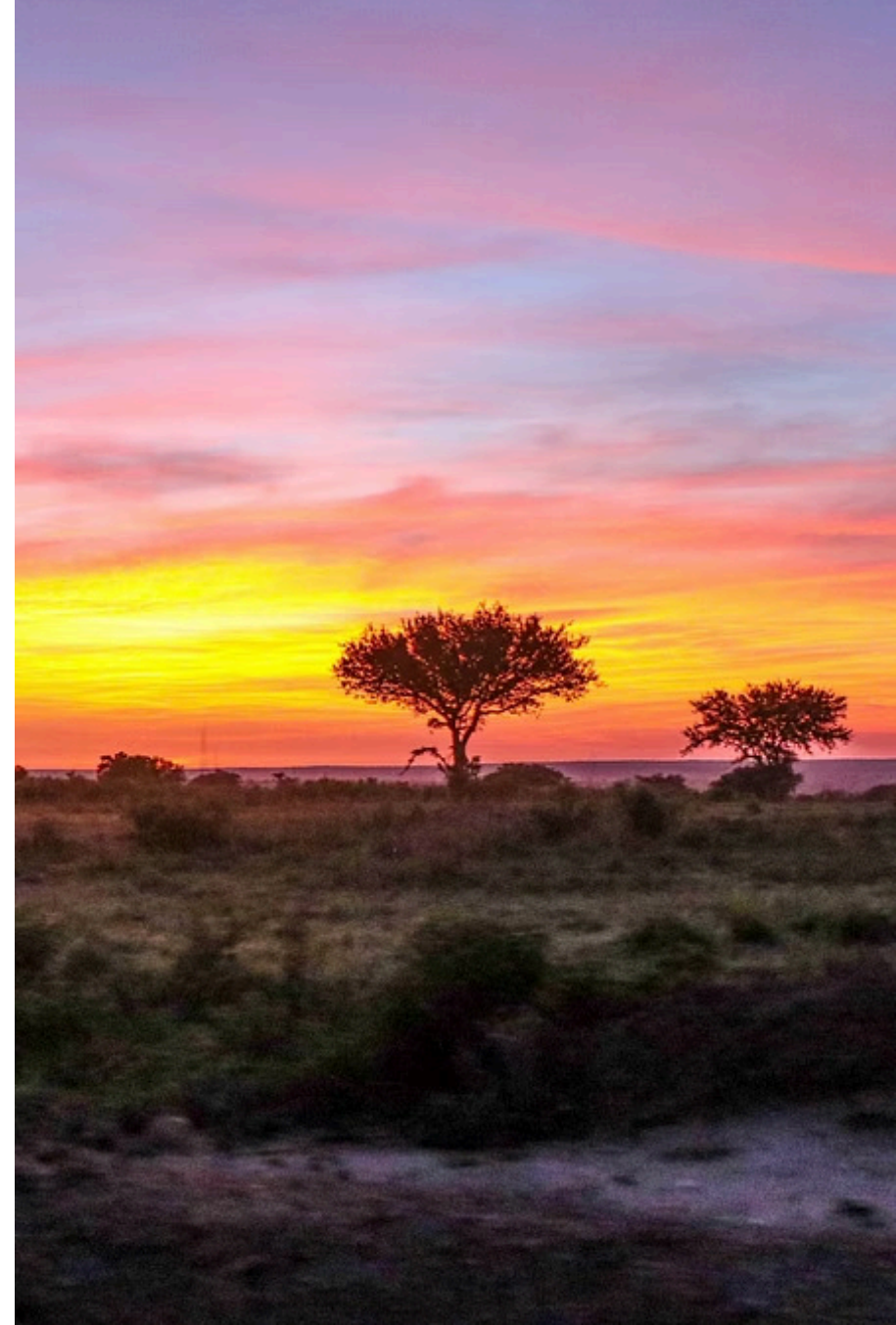
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# Weather Outlook — Northern Uganda

The north can expect light to moderate rains this week. Scattered showers (~30–50 mm cumulative) are likely in Acholi and Lango sub-regions, especially towards the weekend. Temperatures will range from 17 °C at night to 30 °C in the afternoons. No severe weather warnings have been issued. While these rains are near the seasonal norm, parts of the northwest border (West Nile) are still unusually dry for October. Farmers in northern districts should take advantage of the moderate rains for late planting of quick-maturing vegetables and ensure rainwater is captured (via ponds or tanks) to support livestock and any dry-season gardening.







# Weather Outlook — Eastern Uganda

Intermittent showers are expected in Eastern districts, though overall rainfall will be moderate. Teso and Busoga areas may receive around 40–60 mm, with heavier downpours possible near Mt. Elgon's slopes. Daytime highs will hover around 28–30 °C, with nights near 18 °C. There are no current flood advisories, but localized thunderstorms could cause brief field flooding in low-lying areas. Given slightly below-average precipitation projections in parts of the East, farmers should conserve soil moisture (through mulching around young plants) and time field activities (like fertilizer application) to coincide with these rainfall events for best effect.

# Weather Outlook — Western Uganda

The west is forecast to see steady rains this week. Total precipitation of 50–80 mm is expected across districts like Kabarole, Hoima, and Mbarara. Temperatures will be mild (16 °C min, 26–27 °C max). No extreme weather is anticipated, though the Rwenzori mountain areas could see misty conditions and occasional downpours. Overall, soil moisture is favorable. Farmers can proceed with planting of any remaining bean or maize plots for the second season. Ensure drainage ditches are clear to handle the consistent rains, and be alert for any waterlogging in banana plantations.







# Weather Outlook — Central Uganda

Central regions (excluding the immediate Lake Victoria zone) will experience moderate rainfall in the coming days. Totals around 40–70 mm are expected in districts such as Luweero, Kiboga, and Masindi. Day temperatures near 27 °C, nights around 17–18 °C. The showers are timely for ongoing second-season cropping and are in line with the seasonal average. No severe weather alerts are active. Farmers should use this period to finish planting remaining short-cycle crops (e.g. vegetables) and to top-dress maize and millet fields. Given the normal rain pattern, it's also an opportunity to prepare land for any late planting while moisture is adequate.



# Weather Outlook — Lake Victoria Crescent

The Lake Victoria crescent (Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono, Masaka areas) can expect frequent thunderstorms and showers. Cumulative rainfall of 60–100 mm is likely, accompanied by humid conditions. Temperatures will range from 19 °C at night to 29 °C by day. No widespread warnings, but brief heavy downpours may occur during afternoon storms. These rains, slightly above the long-term average for mid-October, will benefit matooke and coffee farms. Urban growers and peri-urban farmers should ensure proper runoff management to prevent soil erosion. It's advisable to harvest any mature crops (like tomatoes or leafy greens) ahead of intense storms to avoid spoilage.



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# Practical Implications by Region — Karamoja

## Harvest & Storage

With the dry spell persisting, Karamoja farmers should prioritize harvest and storage. Safely store sorghum and maize grain to protect it from pests and moisture – use improved granaries or bags with liners if available. Community granaries should be monitored for weevils; consider applying botanical repellents or diatomaceous earth to stored grain.

## Pastoral Planning

For pastoral communities, this is a time to strategically plan grazing: concentrate remaining pasture use in secure areas and begin moving herds towards dry-season grazing reserves as water points shrink. Repair boreholes and water tanks now before the dry season intensifies.

## Livestock Supplementation

Lastly, deploy available cut-and-carry forage (like harvested bush hay) to supplement livestock – maintaining animal body condition will be critical until the next rains.

# Practical Implications by Region — Northern Uganda

1

## **Farmers: Boost Second-Season Crops**

Northern farmers should use the moderate rains to boost their second-season crops. Now is an ideal window for top-dressing maize and sorghum fields with nitrogen fertilizer (urea) while soil moisture is sufficient, which can increase grain fill before harvest. Continue weeding bean and groundnut fields to reduce competition and pest habitat – the rain-softened soils make weed removal easier. As harvest of early-planted crops (like sesame or sunflower) begins, dry and thresh them quickly during sunny intervals to prevent mold.

2

## **Livestock Keepers: Animal Health Management**

Livestock keepers should vaccinate and deworm animals in this wet period when parasite loads can spike; coordinate with veterinary officers for any Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination campaigns underway.

3

## **Village Groups: Drainage and Sanitation**

Finally, village groups can start mapping and clearing drainage around homes to avert stagnant water and mosquito breeding as the rainy season continues.



# Practical Implications by Region — Eastern Uganda

## Water Management

Eastern Uganda's farmers should protect against field flooding and maximize the beneficial rains. In low-lying fields of Teso and Bukedi, open furrows and unblock canals to drain excess water from heavy bursts. On sloped plots around Mbale and the Elgon foothills, use soil bunds or sacks to slow runoff and prevent nutrient loss.

## Crop Support & Yields

Now is prime time for staking climbing beans and yams – the moist soil makes it easier to insert stakes for vine support and improved yields.

## Pest Vigilance

Additionally, keep an eye out for fall armyworm on late-planted maize, which tends to flare up after rains; inspect whorls and apply recommended bio-pesticides or ash if larvae are found.

## Harvesting Practices

As some farmers begin harvesting sweet potatoes, do so carefully in stages, leaving enough ground cover to protect the soil.

With careful water management and vigilance for pests, Eastern region farmers can secure a robust second-season harvest.

# Practical Implications by Region — Western Uganda

## Crops & Livestock Opportunities

Western farmers should capitalize on consistent rains for both crops and livestock. These showers are ideal for establishing new pastures or fodder crops – consider sowing improved grass or legume fodder seeds now in any fallow plots to boost dry-season feed availability.



## Farm Management in Rains

In banana and coffee farms, heavy rains mean it's time to trim excess foliage and improve aeration; prune banana leaves affected by Sigatoka and thin out coffee canopies to reduce fungal diseases. Keep up with mulching around plantains – apply a fresh layer of mulch (dry stalks, grass) to conserve moisture and suppress weeds as soils stay damp.

## Livestock Shelter & Health

For livestock, ensure that kraals and poultry houses remain dry and clean despite the rains; add bedding or raise slats to avoid hoof rot and poultry coccidiosis.



## Rainwater Harvesting

Lastly, this is a good week to collect rainwater – use installed gutters and water jars to save water now for use during the December dry breaks.



# Practical Implications by Region – Central Uganda

## Weed Control

Fast-growing weeds can overtake maize and bean fields; cultivate or hand-weed now while soil is soft.

## Pest Monitoring

As maize approaches tasseling, monitor for stem borers and apply recommended controls (such as neem extracts or extension-recommended insecticides) at first signs of damage.

## Disease Scouting

Look for early blight in tomatoes, rust in groundnuts, or banana bacterial wilt in matooke, and remove infected plant material promptly to curb spread.

## Fruit Orchards

Farmers with fruit orchards (mango, citrus) should consider setting up fruit-fly traps now — the humidity can spike pest populations.

## Off-Season Ventures

Begin land preparation and secure seeds for quick crops like vegetables; the current rain-softened soil will make initial plowing easier, and residual moisture will benefit early growth even after rains taper off.

# Practical Implications by Region – Lake Victoria Crescent



## Intensive Farm Upkeep

Around the Lake Victoria crescent, the frequent rains mean intensive farm upkeep is needed. High humidity can trigger fungal outbreaks – apply preventive fungicides (e.g. copper-based) on tomato, chili, or potato crops to protect against blights.



## Fodder Preservation

At the same time, the ample rainfall is boosting pasture – now is a great time to cut and preserve fodder: farmers should cut excess napier grass or lablab forage, sun-dry it during brief clear spells, and store it as hay/silage for use in the next dry period.



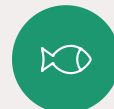
## Soil Erosion Control

Soil erosion control is a priority on the lake's rolling hills; farmers should repair any gullies and consider planting vetiver or elephant grass strips along contours to hold soil.



## Wetlands and Drainage

In wetlands and along lake shorelines where vegetables and rice are grown, ensure pumps and drainage channels are functioning – fields should drain within a day of heavy rain to avoid root rot in horticultural crops.



## Fish Pond Management

Fish pond owners can rejoice at refreshed water levels, but should also check pond embankments for rain-related damage and prevent overflow that could let fish escape.

With diligent management, the Lake crescent's rain bounty can be fully harnessed for improved productivity.



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# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Karamoja

1

## Harvesting Cereals

Karamoja's single growing season is concluding. The main cereal crops (sorghum, millet, maize) have reached maturity and harvest after the long April–September season. Farmers are now busy cutting and threshing sorghum heads and collecting maize cobs. Complete the harvest promptly to avoid grain shattering or wildlife losses – many sorghum fields are ready for cutting.

2

## Drying Grains

Begin drying grains on tarpaulins or raised platforms; thorough sun-drying is crucial in Karamoja's post-harvest period to prevent mold.

3

## Pulses & Field Preparation

For pulses like cowpeas and beans that were planted early, carry out final pod harvests and store seeds for next season. Given the sparse rains now, it's also time to prepare fields for dry-season fallow: clear crop residues carefully (many farmers will save sorghum stalks for fencing or firewood).

4

## Livestock & Future Planning

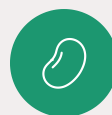
Livestock herders can allow controlled grazing on harvested fields, which helps manure the soil. Finally, start planning for next year – assess which areas will need soil fertility improvement (consider communal composting of cattle manure) and store any surplus seed from this harvest in sealed containers for 2026 planting.

# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Northern Uganda



## Maize

Planted in August, now tasseling and silking.  
Refrain from excessive movement through fields at this sensitive pollination stage.



## Beans

Second-season beans sown in September, now flowering and forming pods. Critical period requiring consistent moisture and vigilant pest watch (pod borers or aphids).



## Sorghum & Millet

For those who planted a second minor crop, now in early booting or panicle emergence.



## Groundnuts

In West Nile areas, second-season groundnuts are approaching maturity. Inspect for yellowing leaves as a sign to start lifting pods.

Continue weeding all fields; late weeds can steal nutrients especially as crops set seed. This week's rains are beneficial – to support beans, farmers might practice light earthing-up around bean stems to improve root stability and moisture retention. Overall, the focus is on protecting the reproductive stage: apply recommended bio-insecticides to control flower pests and ensure no water stress occurs (mulch if necessary). With these actions, northern farmers will set up for a good harvest by late November.



# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Eastern Uganda

1

## Maize

In areas like Teso and Busoga, planted around late August, maize is knee-high to early tasseling depending on planting date – vigorous vegetative growth is ongoing. Top-dressing with nitrogen should be concluded now to boost cob development.

2

## Beans and Cowpeas

These crops are flowering (October's moderate rains support good pod set). It's vital to stake climbing bean varieties in Bugisu region this week, as vines are elongating rapidly.

3

## Rice

In eastern swamps (such as Doho rice scheme) is tillering to panicle initiation – farmers should maintain water levels in paddies and top-dress with urea if not yet done.

4

## Sunflower or Sesame

Late-season crops, common in parts of Teso, are reaching flowering; farmers should scout for capsule pests or birds.

In summary, Eastern region farmers are juggling multiple crops in mid-stage – timely weeding, staking, and targeted feeding (fertilizer) are the tasks that will secure a strong finish to the season.

# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Western Uganda

## Matooke (highland bananas)

Matooke (highland bananas) are yielding continuously, but this cool wet period triggers a flush of new bunches – farmers should apply a final round of organic manure at the matooke stool and remove any over-mature suckers to channel energy to developing bunches.

## Maize

Maize in mid-west districts (planted around September) is at knee-height to tasseling, depending on altitude (lower altitudes like Rukungiri have slightly earlier crop development). Ensure these maize fields are weed-free now; any further weeding should happen before tasseling to avoid disturbing pollination.

## Beans and Groundnuts

Beans and groundnuts in Western are generally podding – keep an eye out for fungal spots given humid conditions; farmers may apply bean fly control or desiccants on groundnuts if foliage pests appear.

## Potato

In the southwestern highlands (Kabale region), the single long-season potato crop planted in August is bulking tubers now; hill-up soil around potato stems one last time to encourage larger tubers and prevent exposure.

## Coffee

Coffee (both Arabica in highlands and Robusta in mid-altitude) has cherries in various stages; with continuous flowering and fruiting, farmers should carry out "strip-picking" of any ripe cherries to avoid pest buildup, and simultaneously remove any new suckers.

Overall, Western Uganda's to-do list includes feeding the soil (manure/compost to perennials), final weeding, and prepping for upcoming harvests (clean and ready storage for beans and maize expected next month).

# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Central Uganda

## Second-Season Crops

Central Uganda's second-season crops are in peak growth and early yield stages now. Maize fields across the Central region (planted ~late August) are tasseling and starting to form cobs. Farmers should avoid any water stress at this stage – those with irrigation access may plan a supplemental watering if a dry spell over a week occurs, but fortunately rains have been regular.

## Vegetables

Vegetables (cabbages, tomatoes) that were transplanted in early September are now heading and fruiting; continue with weekly top-dressing of nitrogen for cabbages and potassium for tomatoes to improve head size and fruit quality. Also start planning for staggered harvest: identify early-maturing tomato plants and begin selective picking to encourage continuous fruiting.

## Sweet Potatoes & Legumes

Sweet potatoes, commonly planted in August, are in mid-tuberization; this is a good time to gently lift vines to prevent them from re-rooting too far from the mound, which helps tuber swelling. Soybeans and beans in central districts are setting pods; refrain from spraying any pesticides during flowering/pod set unless absolutely necessary, to avoid harming pollinators – if needed (for aphids or flower beetles), do so in late evening.

## Nursery Preparation

Additionally, plant nurseries for the next season should be prepared this month – nursery beds for cabbage, chili, or even tree seedlings (like coffee or fruit trees) can be sown now under partial shade so they'll be ready for transplanting at the onset of next rains. Central farmers are in a management-intensive phase, balancing immediate crop needs and forward-looking preparations.



# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Lake Victoria Crescent

## Overlapping Cycles

In the Lake Victoria Crescent, the agricultural calendar sees overlapping cycles due to the equatorial climate – many farmers have crops at multiple stages.

## Maize Grains Filling

Maize in the Lake region (often a shorter 3-month variety) is filling grains, with green cobs in some early-planted fields; guard against cob rots by stripping a bit of sheath off each cob tip if rains remain incessant, to allow airflow.

## Apiculture Honey Flow Likely

Additionally, apiculture (beekeeping) is common around the Lake; as many plants are flowering now, beekeepers should check hives and add super boxes if necessary because a honey flow is likely.

## Garden Harvests

Gardens around Kampala-Entebbe are ready for harvest; for example, African eggplants and okra planted in August are now in full production. Farmers should pick mature fruits frequently (every 2-3 days) to encourage continued flowering.

## Leafy Greens Rapid Cycle

Urban and peri-urban farmers in this region often grow fast leafy greens (amaranth, sukuma wiki); these greens are in a rapid cut-and-regrow cycle – ensure a steady nutrient supply by applying liquid manure or compost tea after each cutting to maintain productivity.

## Continuous Production Mode

In summary, the Lake Victoria crescent is in a continuous production mode – timely harvest, replanting, and maintenance are key to leveraging the forgiving climate and current rains.

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# Input & Technical Advisory

Soil fertility and pest management take center stage this week. With crops actively growing, farmers are reminded to use inputs judiciously and safely:

## Fertilizer Application

Now is the optimal time for top-dressing cereals and tubers. Apply urea or CAN around the base of maize, sorghum, and millet when rains are expected, to boost grain filling. For matooke, work in well-rotted manure or compost around the stool – this organic boost improves matooke size without costly chemicals. Remember, more is not better: follow recommended rates (e.g. 1 teaspoon of urea per maize plant, spread in a ring) to avoid burning crops.

## Soil Amendments

Many Ugandan soils are acidic and low in potassium. Farmers can incorporate lime in recently harvested fields or vegetable plots to raise pH – this will benefit the next planting. In banana and coffee groves, consider ash from wood fires as a free potash source; sprinkle cooled ash lightly around plants to supply potassium and discourage root pests.

## Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Pest pressure often peaks after rain. Fall Armyworm is a threat on late-season maize; an IPM approach is best – regularly scout whorls for frass, handpick and destroy caterpillars at early stage, and encourage natural predators (like ants or wasps) by avoiding broad-spectrum pesticides. Bean aphids and pod borers can be managed by spraying neem leaf extract or chili-garlic solution on the underside of leaves – these botanical sprays reduce pests without harming beneficial insects.

## Tech Tip of the Week: Mobile Pest Surveillance

Farmers and extension agents are encouraged to leverage digital tools for pest reporting. The Ministry, in partnership with NARO, recently trained staff in using a smartphone app for invasive pest surveillance. Try using your phone's camera and WhatsApp to send clear photos of any unusual crop pest or disease to your extension officer or local agro-dealer. Early digital reporting allows experts to diagnose and advise quickly. This low-cost tech tip can save an entire crop by catching outbreaks early – it turns your smartphone into a farm risk alert system!

By combining prudent input use with modern IPM and a dash of technology, farmers can enhance yields sustainably and safely. All chemical interventions should follow label instructions, and protective gear (gloves, mask) must be worn when handling agro-chemicals to ensure health and environmental safety.



# Livestock & Ranching

Livestock keepers should take proactive steps for herd health and productivity as the rains taper off in some areas:

## Disease Surveillance & Vaccination

This is a critical moment to guard against livestock diseases. Veterinary authorities have highlighted an uptick in Foot-and-Mouth Disease risk; many districts are implementing vaccination drives. Farmers should cooperate with officials and ensure cattle are vaccinated against FMD (foot-and-mouth) on schedule. The government's new cost-sharing policy means some farmers now obtain vaccine doses at subsidized rates (about UGX 7,700 per animal) – budget for this essential expense as it will protect your herd and market access. In addition, with the rainy season, tick populations thrive – consider a strategic tick control: plunge dips or spray races should be used regularly. Uganda's researchers have even developed a novel anti-tick vaccine (NAROVAC) that gradually reduces tick infestations, pointing to future tools in tick-borne disease control. For now, maintain acaricide spraying every 2–3 weeks and rotate acaricide classes to prevent resistance.

## Nutrition & Feed

Pastures are currently lush in many regions after the rains, but this will change quickly in drier zones. Harvest surplus forage now – cut hay from natural grass stands and store it covered, or practice silage making with maize or sorghum stover for use in the dry season. In zero-grazing units (dairy), continue to feed a high-protein diet as forage quality declines: incorporate legumes like calliandra or gliricidia leaves into fodder, and start sun-drying legume hay (like groundnut or bean haulms) for later. Also, mineral supplementation is crucial when animals graze on flush grass; provide mineral blocks or a mixture of salt and dicalcium phosphate to prevent deficiencies (especially for lactating cows and goats).

## Water & Housing

As rainfall distribution becomes patchy, ensure water sources for livestock are secure. Desilt farm ponds now and fix cracked water troughs before the dry spells intensify. In communal areas, coordinate with local water user committees to repair any boreholes or windmills – a small fix now can avert a crisis later. In terms of housing, the wetter conditions might have soiled kraals; it's time to clean and bed sheds. Remove mud and manure buildup from goat pens and cow sheds to reduce hoof infections and fly breeding. Provide dry bedding (straw) especially for young stock at night to prevent pneumonia in this cool, damp period.

## Health Monitoring

Conduct a routine deworming for all animals towards the end of the rains – internal parasite loads are highest now. Use broad-spectrum anthelmintics for cattle and a suitable dewormer for sheep/goats (consult a vet for correct dosages). Also observe livestock closely each morning: check for signs of lameness (could indicate footrot from wet ground), nasal discharge or coughing (early sign of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia in goats, for example), or any abortions in does/ewes (could indicate brucellosis – seek vet guidance if noted). Early isolation of sick animals and contacting veterinary officers can prevent disease spread.

By staying ahead of common challenges – from ticks and worms to water and feed – Ugandan livestock farmers will maintain herd health and even improve production. Healthy animals will translate to better milk yields, weight gains, and market prices, thereby bolstering household income as the year progresses.

# Market Analysis

Uganda's staple food markets show mixed trends as of mid-October. Below is the matrix of average regional retail prices (per kilogram) for key commodities, reflecting the latest data and source cross-checks:

| Commodity<br>UGX | Karamoja | Northern | Eastern | Western | Central | Lake Victoria<br>Crescent |
|------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| Maize            | 2,500    | 1,600    | 1,400   | 1,300   | 1,500   | 1,600                     |
| Beans            | 3,000    | 2,600    | 2,400   | 2,200   | 2,500   | 2,600                     |
| Sorghum          | 2,200    | 1,800    | 1,600   | 1,500   | 1,700   | 1,800                     |
| Millet           | 2,400    | 2,000    | 1,800   | 1,700   | 1,900   | 2,000                     |
| Bananas          | 2,000    | 1,500    | 1,200   | 800     | 1,000   | 1,100                     |

(Prices are per kg, except bananas (matooke) which are per kg of green bananas. Ranges represent variation among different markets; sources include WFP market monitor and UBOS reports.)

# Market Highlights

## Karamoja Cereal Prices

Karamoja continues to record the highest cereal prices nationally – for instance, maize in Karamoja is selling at roughly UGX 2,500/kg, significantly above the national average, reflecting the region's deficit status and recent below-average harvests.

## Western Uganda Matooke Prices

In contrast, Western Uganda enjoys the cheapest matooke (bananas) – farmgate prices in the southwest can be as low as UGX 800/kg, aligning with a bumper banana supply.

## Bean Prices Countrywide

Bean prices have firmed up countrywide due to tightening supplies at this lean tail of the second season; central wholesalers report beans at ~UGX 2,500/kg and rising.

## Sorghum and Millet Stability

Sorghum and millet are relatively steady, though Karamoja's sorghum is expensive due to local demand for brewing and food.

## Food Inflation Uptick

Notably, food inflation has ticked up – UBOS attributes a 7.4% annual food inflation in September largely to higher produce prices, especially for matooke and vegetables.

## Policy and Trade Vigilance

On the policy front, there are no new export bans or tariffs reported this week, but traders remain vigilant after neighboring countries' occasional import restrictions earlier in the year.

Overall, consumers face moderately higher food costs than earlier this year, and farmers in surplus areas stand to gain from strong prices if they can efficiently get their crops to market. Government agencies and WFP continue to monitor staple prices; any extreme volatility will prompt interventions (such as releasing food reserves or adjusting cash assistance rates for refugees). Farmers are encouraged to keep records of prevailing market rates and, where possible, aggregate their produce for collective sale to bargaining advantage.





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# Government & NGO Updates

Recent weeks have seen several initiatives from government ministries and development partners aimed at bolstering agriculture and food security:



## MAAIF Input Support

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) has been distributing improved seeds and planting materials as the second season progresses. Notably, in northern Uganda, MAAIF and Operation Wealth Creation launched a program to deliver 20 million coffee seedlings to Acholi and Lango sub-regions this season, alongside training for farmers in coffee agronomy. This effort responds to rising interest in coffee in the North, with over UGX 5.5 billion earmarked for the seedling push.



## Anti-Tick Vaccine Milestone

Uganda's livestock sector is poised for better tick control – scientists at the National Livestock Research Institute (NaLIRRI) have developed an innovative anti-tick vaccine called NAROVAC. Government support has been strong: an 80-million-dose storage facility in Entebbe is near completion to facilitate national rollout. While NAROVAC is undergoing final approvals, officials are optimistic it will significantly reduce tick-borne diseases in cattle once deployed.



## Digital Pest Surveillance

In early October, the government stepped up efforts against invasive crop pests using technology. MAAIF, in collaboration with NARO and international partners, conducted a training (Oct 6–11) for agricultural officers on digital pest surveillance tools. This training, including sessions at NARO Kawanda and field exercises on Kalangala Island, is equipping extension workers to use mobile apps and GIS mapping to monitor pests like fall armyworm and fruit flies in real time. This will enable faster response to outbreaks and better data for decision-makers.



## FAO's Food Safety Drive

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Uganda's authorities have launched a new drive to boost food safety in beef value chains. This month FAO began training butchers, traders, and veterinary officers in improved meat handling and launched the development of national guidelines for beef hygiene. The initiative "Safer Beef, Healthier Population" aims to reduce contamination from the farm to the abattoir. This comes alongside FAO-supported efforts to establish a traceability system for cattle, improving export prospects for Ugandan beef.



## WFP Assistance and Funding

The World Food Programme (WFP) warns of challenging times ahead for food assistance programs. Due to funding shortages, WFP has indicated it must cut rations and beneficiary numbers in Uganda's refugee settlements in the coming month. Starting in November, only about 350,000 of the most vulnerable refugees will receive food or cash support, a sharp drop. The Government and UN are urgently appealing for donor support to prevent a hunger gap. Meanwhile, in Karamoja, WFP and NGOs continue targeted feeding programs for malnourished children and mothers, though they are bracing for pipeline breaks if resources don't improve.

These updates underscore a mix of progress and challenges. On one hand, innovation and capacity-building – such as vaccines, digital tools, and training – are being rolled out to strengthen agriculture. On the other hand, resource constraints are putting pressure on food assistance and input distribution programs. Farmers and agribusinesses should stay informed of these developments: local government agri offices can connect them to training or input schemes, and communities may need to rally support where safety nets (like food aid) are being scaled down. Policymakers are actively seeking sustainable solutions, from promoting coffee in new regions to improving livestock health, all geared toward a more resilient food system.

# Looking Ahead & Reminders

As mid-October passes, farmers and stakeholders should start planning for the next phase of the agricultural calendar and take note of seasonal advisories:

## Seasonal Climate Outlook

Preliminary forecasts for the upcoming early 2026 season suggest a potential shift to drier conditions in some parts of Uganda. Climate models (influenced by the developing El Niño conditions globally) indicate that while the current second season rains have been adequate to above-average in central and northern areas, the January–March dry season could be more pronounced. Farmers should be prepared for a possibly delayed onset of the first rains next year or erratic early rains. Accordingly, secure drought-tolerant seed varieties (especially for maize, sorghum, cowpea) and consider practices like zai pits or moisture-conserving planting basins for the first season planting in March. Agencies like UNMA will issue detailed 2026 first season forecasts in January – stay tuned for those updates.

# Regional Action Checklists

## Karamoja

After harvest, implement soil conservation – practice minimum tillage on cleared fields to preserve moisture and leave residues to break down (this improves soil for next season). Community leaders should begin contingency planning for food reserves; if harvests were below average, work with local government and NGOs on possible off-season food-for-work programs or grain banks. Also, carry out livestock culling or sales if herds are too large for available pasture – better to offload some animals now while in good condition than to risk losses in a harsh dry season.

## Northern Uganda

Use the downtime between seasons to rehabilitate infrastructure: repair grain storage cribs, fix farm equipment, and clear bush around homesteads (this reduces tsetse fly habitat and snake hideouts). Farmers in flood-prone parts of Acholi should construct or reinforce anti-erosion bunds on their fields before the next rains. It's also the right time to form or strengthen farmer groups for marketing – right after harvest (late Nov-Dec), collectively selling produce can fetch better prices, so start organizing those meetings now.

## Eastern Uganda

As the second season winds down by late November, think ahead to irrigation opportunities. Eastern region (especially along Lake Kyoga and in rice schemes) has potential for dry-season cropping. Identify any small-scale irrigation kits or communal dams – line up maintenance or fuel for pumps in December so that a short vegetable or rice off-season crop can be attempted. Also, remember that September-October planted trees do well – if you have been planning to establish fruit orchards or boundary trees, do it now so seedlings root firmly with remaining rains. Common fruit tree planting (mango, avocado) by the end of October can yield first fruits in a couple of years.

## Western Uganda

Prepare for the coffee harvest peak coming up (for Robusta) around December – gather picking materials and ensure shade trees are pruned to allow easy access. Western dairy farmers should plan silage making in November: once the maize is in dough stage, reserve part of the crop for chopping into silage, as this will secure feed through next year's dry spell. Kigezi potato farmers looking ahead to first season 2026 should source quality seed potatoes by January; start communally organizing seed bulking or purchase from trusted sources (possibly via NAADS programs).

## Central & Lake Victoria

The end of the year is an ideal time for renovating plantations. For matooke, plan a major de-suckering and tool sanitation campaign in December – removing excess banana suckers and sterilizing pruning knives can dramatically reduce disease carry-over to the next year. Rice farmers around Lake Victoria planning for first season 2026 should begin nursery bed prep in late December so that transplanting in wetlands can coincide with early rains (often February around the Lake). Also, keep in mind fall armyworm monitoring in the new year – central Uganda saw early attacks in past years' first seasons. Communities might arrange rota scouting (each farmer scouts a section of neighbors' fields weekly) starting February, as a collective defense strategy.

## General Reminders

The 31st National Agricultural Show is expected in Jinja early next season (usually around July); consider what innovative practices you might adopt now to showcase or learn about then. The government is emphasizing youth in agriculture; as the school year ends soon, involve young family members in farm activities – their labor and curiosity can be harnessed positively, and many extension programs (like 4-H and young farmers clubs) are gearing up holiday trainings. Lastly, carry out an end-of-year farm audit in the coming weeks: check what worked well this season, which pests were problematic, and stock up on essentials (tarpaulins, storage bags, seed for next planting) while prices are lower post-harvest. A bit of reflection and forward-planning now will pay off with smoother operations in 2026.

By keeping an eye on the climate outlook and acting on these regional checklists, farmers across Uganda can enter the next season prepared and resilient. The agricultural calendar is a continuous cycle – the quiet of December and January is only on the surface, as wise farmers use it to repair, learn, and strategize for a prosperous new season ahead.



# Recent Publications & Links

1. **"Food Price Surge and Inflation in Uganda – Sept 2025"** – UBOS/Daily Mail Uganda. Overview of rising food prices (matooke, vegetables) fueling a jump in Uganda's food inflation to 7.4%. Published: 02 Oct 2025. (URL: [Daily Mail Uganda](#))
2. **"Harnessing Tech to Fight Crop Pests in Uganda"** – PML Daily. News on a training program launched in early October to equip Ugandan extension officers with a mobile app for invasive pest surveillance, aiming to improve early warning for pests like armyworms. Published: 08 Oct 2025. (URL: [pmldaily.com](#))
3. **"IGAD: 42 Million Facing Acute Hunger in East Africa"** – ReliefWeb/IGAD/FAO/WFP. Press release highlighting a regional hunger report; places Uganda's food insecurity in a broader context of East Africa's challenges and calls for urgent action. Published: 05 Oct 2025. (URL: [reliefweb.int](#))
4. **"Uganda's Beef Value Chain Upgrade"** – Tweet by FAO in Uganda. Announcement of FAO's new initiative to improve beef safety through training of sector players and developing hygiene guidelines, as part of efforts to ensure healthier meat for consumers. Published: 12 Oct 2025. (URL: [twitter.com/FAOUganda](#))
5. **"NARO Unveils Anti-Tick Vaccine (NAROVAC)"** – Publicist East Africa. Article detailing the development of a groundbreaking anti-tick vaccine by Ugandan scientists, its mode of action, and expected benefits for livestock farmers. Published: 28 May 2025. (URL: [publicisteastafrica.com](#))

(All links are provided for further reading; they outline the source material behind this week's report.)

# References

1. **Weekly East Africa Climate Forecast (7–14 Oct 2025)** – ICPAC (IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre), 5 Oct 2025. – Anomalies show moderate rainfall (50–200 mm) over most of western & central Uganda, with less than usual rain over southern Uganda. ([icpac.net](https://icpac.net))
2. **Global Weather Hazards Summary (9–15 Oct 2025)** – NOAA Climate Prediction Center, 9 Oct 2025. – Notes that poor rainfall since mid-April led to abnormal dryness in northwestern Uganda (bordering S. Sudan/DRC), and forecasts light to moderate rainfall for western Uganda with near to below-average rains across much of Uganda next week. ([cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](https://cpc.ncep.noaa.gov))
3. **UBOS September 2025 Inflation Brief** – Uganda Bureau of Statistics via Daily Mail Uganda, 2 Oct 2025. – Reports annual food crop inflation jumped to 7.4% (from 3.0%), driven by sharp price increases for matooke bananas, tomatoes, leafy vegetables, onions, pineapples, mangoes in September. ([dailymailuganda.com](https://dailymailuganda.com))
4. **FAO Uganda – Beef Value Chain Initiative (Tweet)** – FAO Uganda on X (Twitter), 12 Oct 2025. – Announces a new drive for safer beef, healthier population in Uganda: FAO is training beef sector players and developing guidelines to boost food safety in beef value chains. ([twitter.com](https://twitter.com))
5. **NARO's NAROVAC Anti-Tick Vaccine** – The Publicist (East Africa), 28 May 2025. – Describes the National Agricultural Research Org's development of NAROVAC, an innovative anti-tick vaccine proven to gradually reduce tick populations, poised to revolutionize livestock health in Uganda. ([publicisteastafrica.com](https://publicisteastafrica.com))
6. **MAAIF Digital Pest Surveillance Training** – PML Daily, 8 Oct 2025. – Details a capacity building program (Oct 6–11, 2025) where MAAIF and partners trained extension officers in using digital tools (mobile apps, GIS) for early warning of invasive crop pests (like fall armyworm), launched at NARO Kawanda. ([pmldaily.com](https://pmldaily.com))
7. **Food Assistance Cuts in Uganda – WFP Update** – ReliefWeb (WFP Food & Nutrition Brief), Oct 2025. – Warns that due to funding shortfalls, WFP will reduce emergency food aid in Uganda's refugee settlements by November, assisting only 350,000 people (significantly down from current caseload). ([reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int))
8. **MAAIF/OWC Coffee Initiative in Acholi** – Uganda Radio Network via The Independent, 2 May 2025. – Reports on a program where MAAIF and Operation Wealth Creation provided 5.5 billion UGX for 20 million coffee seedlings plus training to boost coffee farming in Northern Uganda (Acholi/Lango) in response to rising farmer demand. ([independent.co.ug](https://independent.co.ug))
9. **Karamoja Sorghum Price Spike** – FAO GIEWS Country Brief (Uganda), 18 Oct 2024. – Noted that in mid-2024, sorghum prices in Karamoja surged 35% in markets like Nakapiripirit, Napak, Kotido due to poor harvest prospects, underlining chronic market volatility in the region. ([fao.org](https://fao.org))
10. **UBOS FMD Vaccination Policy Change** – The Cooperator News, 18 Nov 2024. – Describes Uganda's new policy requiring farmers to co-pay for Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccines (about UGX 7,700 per dose) as government seeks to increase coverage amid vaccine shortages. ([thecooperator.news](https://thecooperator.news))

(All sources were accessed and verified in October 2025. They provide the factual basis for the data and recommendations in this report. For deeper insights, readers can refer to the full text of these references.)

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