Weekly Ugandan Agriculture, Market, and Weather Report

Week of February 1 – February 7, 2025

DownloadReport Subscribe to Updates

WEATHER FORECAST February 1–7, 2025

Karamoja

Temperatures ranging from 19°C to 27°C. Expect mostly dry conditions with light rain early in the week.

Central/Greater Kampala

Temperatures from 20°C to 28°C. Continued light showers and overcast skies throughout the week.

Western Uganda

Cooler conditions, temperatures ranging from 17°C to 24°C, with moderate rainfall expected.

Northern Uganda

Temperatures between 22°C and 30°C. Predominantly sunny and dry, with a brief chance of rain midweek.

Eastern Uganda

Warm conditions with temperatures between 21°C and 29°C. Sunny days transitioning into scattered showers by the weekend.

Lake Victoria Crescent

Highs of 23°C to 28°C. Occasional thunderstorms near the lakeshore late in the week.

Source: Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) Daily Forecasts unma.go.ug Note: For detailed and updated weather information, please refer to the Uganda National Meteorological Authority's official website.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS for Each Region Based on Weather and Crop Calendar

(For Major Crops: Beans, Maize, Millet, Sorghum, and Plantains/Bananas)

Karamoja Region Agricultural Implications

Weather Conditions for 01FEB - 07FEB 2025

19°C – 27°C, Mostly Dry, Light Rain Early in the Week

Crop Implications

Beans: The dry conditions will stress crops that are in the vegetative or flowering stages. Farmers should prioritize mulching and early morning or late evening irrigation to conserve soil moisture.

Maize: The dry spell will slow growth; soil moisture retention strategies (e.g., mulching and minimum tillage) should be used. Avoid top-dressing fertilizers as low soil moisture reduces effectiveness.

Millet: Being drought-resistant, millet will tolerate the dryness, but light rain early in the week may help seed germination for recently planted fields.

Sorghum: Dry conditions will be manageable, but farmers should monitor for shoot fly infestations, which thrive in drier weather.

Plantains/Bananas: Not commonly grown in Karamoja due to arid conditions, but for smallholder farmers, drip irrigation or shading techniques can mitigate water stress.

Recommendations

- Water conservation techniques (mulching, rainwater harvesting, minimum tillage)
- Pest monitoring for sorghum shoot fly
- Irrigation for beans and maize where possible

Northern Uganda Region Agricultural Implications

Weather Conditions for 01FEB - 07FEB 2025

22°C – 30°C, Predominantly Sunny & Dry, Chance of Rain Midweek

Crop Implications

Beans: Flowering and pod development stages are moisture-sensitive. The brief rain midweek should help, but farmers should use mulching and moisture-conserving techniques to sustain crop health.

Maize: Most crops are in the late vegetative stage. Avoid nitrogen-based fertilizer application until rain is more consistent.

Millet & Sorghum: The dry weather benefits drying grains already in storage but may slow early vegetative growth. Monitor for pests like stem borers and aphids.

Plantains/Bananas: These require more water, and water stress can lead to reduced fruit formation. Farmers should prune excess leaves to reduce water loss and apply organic mulches.

Recommendations

Timely weeding to reduce competition for water

Pest Control

For maize, millet, and sorghum

Water Management

Harvest rainwater midweek for irrigation

Central Uganda/Greater Kampala Region Agricultural Implications

Weather Conditions for 01FEB - 07FEB 2025

20°C – 28°C, Light Showers & Overcast Skies

Beans

Flowering and pod development will benefit from light showers. Farmers should be cautious of fungal diseases like anthracnose due to the humidity.

Maize

Tasseling requires adequate moisture. The light showers will support kernel development, but nitrogen top-dressing should be carefully timed to maximize uptake.

Millet & Sorghum

The humid conditions may promote fungal diseases like ergot in sorghum. Farmers should ensure good air circulation around plants.

Plantains/Bananas

The higher humidity and showers will support fruiting, but banana weevils and fungal diseases like Black Sigatoka may increase.

Recommendations

- Apply fungicides where needed (especially for beans, sorghum, and bananas)
- Prune banana leaves to improve airflow and reduce disease risks
- Maintain soil fertility by using compost or organic manure in maize fields

Eastern Uganda Region Agricultural Implications

Weather Conditions for 01FEB - 07FEB 2025

21°C – 29°C, Sunny Days, Scattered Showers by Weekend

1 **Beans**

The early part of the week will require irrigation support, but showers by the weekend will aid pod filling. Farmers should monitor for aphid infestations.

2 **Maize**

The transition from vegetative to tasseling means adequate moisture is critical. Ensure good soil fertility and time fertilizer applications around expected rainfall.

3 **Millet & Sorghum**

Warm, dry conditions support grain ripening. Farmers should start harvesting millet to prevent shattering when rains increase.

4 **Plantains/Bananas**

The weekend showers will help maintain soil moisture. Farmers should monitor for bacterial wilt, which spreads in humid conditions.

Recommendations

- Aphid monitoring for beans
- Fertilizer application for maize, timed with expected rain
- Early millet harvest to prevent losses from upcoming rains

Western Uganda Region Agricultural Implications

Weather Conditions for 01FEB - 07FEB 2025

17°C – 24°C, Cooler, Moderate Rainfall Expected

1 **Beans**

Flowering and pod-filling stages will benefit from moisture, but excess rainfall can lead to fungal infections. Farmers should apply fungicides preventively.

2 **Maize**

The moderate rains will support pollination and grain filling. Nitrogen application can be done safely.

3 **Millet & Sorghum**

Humidity increases the risk of mold and grain diseases. Farmers should begin harvesting any mature fields and store grains in dry, ventilated areas.

4 **Plantains/Bananas**

The moderate rains will support fruit development, but farmers should clear waterlogged areas to prevent root rot.

Recommendations

- Fungicide application for beans
- Proper grain storage for millet and sorghum
- Ensure proper drainage for banana plantations

Lake Victoria Crescent Region Agricultural Implications

Weather Conditions for 01FEB - 07FEB 2025

23°C – 28°C, Occasional Thunderstorms

Crop Implications

Beans: The excessive moisture may promote leaf diseases like rust and root rot. Ensure proper field drainage.

Maize: Heavy rains may cause lodging (falling of maize plants). Farmers should stake maize stalks and apply top-dressing fertilizer when conditions dry up.

Millet & Sorghum: Fungal infections like smut in sorghum may be a risk due to the high humidity.

Plantains/Bananas: The thunderstorms will benefit banana growth, but strong winds could cause toppling. Farmers should prune excess leaves and apply organic mulches.

Recommendations

- Improve drainage in bean fields to prevent root rot
- Stake maize plants to prevent lodging
- Remove infected sorghum heads to prevent disease spread
- Prune banana plants to protect against storm damage

Summary of Key Recommendations for Farmers Across Regions

Region	Major Concern	Key Recommendations
Karamoja	Dry conditions affecting crops	Mulching, pest control, irrigation where possible
Northern Uganda	Sun & dry conditions, brief rain midweek	Water conservation, rainwater harvesting, pest monitoring
Central Uganda	Humidity increases disease risk	Fungicides, banana pruning, nitrogen application
Eastern Uganda	Dry conditions transitioning to rain	Timed fertilizer application, aphid control
Western Uganda	Moderate rainfall, possible waterlogging	Drainage management, fungal prevention
Lake Victoria Crescent	Thunderstorms and high humidity	Maize staking, bean root rot prevention, banana pruning

Farmers should stay updated with local weather forecasts (UNMA) and adjust their planting and harvesting schedules accordingly. Proper pest and disease control, soil fertility management, and water conservation techniques will be crucial for productivity this season.

CROP CALENDAR AND GROWTH STAGES

Current Crop Growth Stages (February 2025)

Maize

Late vegetative to tasseling stage

Beans

Flowering to pod development stage

Sorghum

Early vegetative stage

Bananas

Continuous growth and fruiting

Crop-Specific Recommendations

Maize (Late Vegetative to Tasseling Stage)

- Apply nitrogen-based fertilizers to support ear development
- Monitor for fall armyworm; implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies
- Ensure adequate soil moisture through proper irrigation

Beans (Flowering to Pod Development Stage)

- Maintain soil moisture through mulching
- Inspect for anthracnose and apply fungicides if necessary
- Support plants with stakes to prevent lodging

Sorghum (Early Vegetative Stage)

- Timely weeding to reduce nutrient competition
- Apply phosphorus-rich fertilizers to promote root growth
- Monitor for shoot fly infestations

Bananas (Continuous Growth and Fruiting Stage)

- Remove old and diseased leaves regularly
- Apply organic mulch to improve soil structure
- Monitor for banana weevils and implement control measures

MARKET ANALYSIS

Commodity Prices (World Food Programme)

Regional Commodity Prices

Region	Commodity	Price UGX
Central Uganda/Greater Kampala	Beans	4,283
Central Uganda/Greater Kampala	Maize	1,249
Central Uganda/Greater Kampala	Millet	4,050
Central Uganda/Greater Kampala	Sorghum	3,513
Eastern Uganda	Beans	3,595
Eastern Uganda	Millet	2,995
Eastern Uganda	Sorghum	1,600
Karamoja	Beans	3,880
Karamoja	Millet	2,119
Karamoja	Sorghum	1,121
Lake Victoria Crescent	Beans	4,163
Lake Victoria Crescent	Millet	3,225
Lake Victoria Crescent	Sorghum	2,125
Northern Uganda	Beans	3,976
Northern Uganda	Maize	1,191
Northern Uganda	Millet	2,537
Northern Uganda	Millet flour	3,928
Northern Uganda	Sorghum	1,425
Western Uganda	Beans	3,835
Western Uganda	Maize	1,366
Western Uganda	Millet	3,107
Western Uganda	Sorghum	2,275

Market Trends & Demand

Increased demand for bananas in urban centers offers profitable opportunities for farmers. (harvestmoney.co.ug)

LIVESTOCK & RANCHING

Husbandry Practices

- **Disease Surveillance:** Monitor for respiratory diseases due to fluctuating temperatures. Ensure proper ventilation in animal housing.
- **Feed Recommendations:** Provide high-energy feeds, especially during hotter periods when feed intake may drop.
- **Water Management:** Ensure constant access to clean and cool water to prevent dehydration.

Livestock Market Prices (January 2025)

- Cattle (per head): UGX 1,200,000 – UGX 1,800,000
- Goats (per head): UGX 120,000 – UGX 250,000
- Poultry (per bird): UGX 15,000 – UGX 30,000

GOVERNMENT & NGO UPDATES

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF) Announcements

In a recent update, MAAIF announced plans to enhance agricultural mechanization during the 2025/26 period. The ministry aims to provide 10 sets of heavy earth-moving equipment and 2,000 walking tractors with implements to farmers across various regions. This initiative is expected to boost productivity and support large-scale farming operations. x.com

NGO/INGO Activities

A new project has been launched to provide farmers with access to quality and affordable fertilizers. The Fertilizer Financing for Sustainable Agriculture initiative aims to enhance soil fertility and boost crop yields, contributing to increased food security in the country. naads.or.ug

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS & LINKS

Food Security Insights

A recent study published in January 2025 suggests that future food prices may become less sensitive to agricultural market prices and mitigation costs. This indicates a potential shift in how global food systems respond to various economic factors, which could have implications for food security strategies in Uganda. nature.com

Research & Reports

The World Agricultural Production report released in January 2025 provides comprehensive data on global crop production trends. While focusing on international markets, the insights can help Ugandan farmers understand global supply dynamics and identify potential export opportunities. apps.fas.usda.gov

LOOKING AHEAD & REMINDERS

Action Items for Farmers (February 2025)

Land Preparation

Begin clearing fields and conduct soil tests for nutrient levels.

Seed Procurement

Acquire high-quality, drought-resistant seeds from certified suppliers.

Pest & Disease Monitoring

Scout for early signs of infestation and take preventive measures.

Irrigation Scheduling

Implement efficient irrigation to conserve water during the dry season.

Fertilizer Application

Ensure balanced nutrient application to enhance crop growth.

Livestock Care

Monitor water access and provide shade during hotter days.

The International Development Extension Agency (IDEA) serves one purpose: to empower the world with food security and agricultural development that enables improved sustainability. IDEA leverages field proven and impact-driven strategies for transformational development. We accomplish this by empowering your organization with rigorous program design, field-tested surveys and assessments, regular coaching and consultations, and the sharing of relevant educational resources that will best serve your beneficiaries and stakeholders. **Contract IDEA to increase your impact.**