

# 03 - 10 NOV 2025 Uganda Weekly Agriculture, Market, And Weather Report

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**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION AGENCY**

# Executive Summary

Uganda enters the week with stark regional weather contrasts. Karamoja is transitioning to dry season (30–50 mm), Northern remains wetter than normal (70–90 mm), while Eastern and Lake Victoria Crescent face sustained heavy showers (80–120 mm and 90–110 mm respectively). Western moderates at 40–70 mm, offering brief drying windows for harvests. Flood and landslide risks persist in the East and around Kampala. Second-season crops are at flowering to grain fill in bimodal zones, with Karamoja largely in post-harvest. Livestock conditions are good nationally, but vigilance is required for anthrax, FMD, mastitis, flukes, and tick-borne diseases.

Staple markets show mixed but generally high levels: maize has stabilized on new inflows, beans remain expensive, and matooke prices are historically high but may ease. Sorghum and millet display wide cross-region price spreads. Farmers should prioritize timely top-dressing for cereals, effective drainage management, and rapid, protected drying to prevent mould. Prepare storage and plan for an earlier drying trend south of the equator by late November.

## Prices

Maize steady on harvest; beans elevated; matooke high, modest easing expected.

## Rainfall anomaly/hazard

Above-normal, high-frequency storms in Eastern/Lake Victoria; urban flash floods and landslides possible; Northern stays wetter.

## Priority farmer action

Top-dress cereals, drain fields, harvest/dry promptly under cover, and maintain livestock vaccination/tick control.

# Weather — Karamoja

## Rainfall

30–50 mm total; scattered late-season showers tapering through the week.

## Temperatures

18–32 °C; hot afternoons, pleasant nights.

## Alerts/Anomalies

Transition to dry season; brief downpours possible but decreasing frequency; pasture/waterpoints get a final recharge before a long dry spell.

# Weather — Northern

## Rainfall

70–90 mm; frequent showers and a few thunderstorms, especially Acholi and West Nile.

## Temperatures

19–27 °C; mild days, humid nights.

## Alerts/Anomalies

Above-normal rainfall sustains flood risk in lowlands/riverine areas; saturated soils may prolong field inaccessibility after heavy bursts.

# Weather — Eastern

## Rainfall

80–120 mm; near-daily storms,  
locally higher on Elgon slopes.

## Temperatures

20–28 °C; warm and humid.

## Alerts/Anomalies

High landslide and flash-flood  
potential on steep terrain; fully  
saturated soils increase runoff and  
slope failure risk; travel disruptions  
likely.

# Weather — Western

## Rainfall

40–70 mm; more in highlands (Kigezi/Rwenzori), less in Ankole/cattle corridor pockets.

## Temperatures

16–27 °C; coolest in highlands.

## Alerts/Anomalies

Near/below-normal in some belts creates harvest windows; isolated heavy cells still possible—maintain flood vigilance along Semliki/Nyamwamba.

# Weather — Central

## Rainfall

60–80 mm; repeated  
afternoon/evening showers.

## Temperatures

19–27 °C; humid, with saturated  
soils.

## Alerts/Anomalies

Urban flash-flood risk persists in  
low-lying Kampala/Wakiso; brief dry  
breaks suitable for fieldwork and  
post-harvest handling.

# Weather — Lake Victoria Crescent

## Rainfall

90–110 mm; stormy most days, lake-breeze convergence enhances totals.

## Temperatures

20–28 °C; very humid.

## Alerts/Anomalies

Flash floods and lightning risk; lake squalls hazardous for small craft—avoid open water during convective build-ups.



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## Practical Implications — Karamoja

- Complete sorghum/maize harvest; use raised cribs/tarps for rapid sun-drying.
- Sort, shell only when kernels are hard; store in hermetic bags or sealed granaries.
- Conserve fodder now (hay cutting) and map dry-season grazing/water points.
- Service and protect waterpoints (boreholes/valley tanks) before levels recede.
- Maintain tick control as populations peak post-rains; plan strategic deworming.



# Practical Implications — Northern

- Top-dress maize/sorghum before mid-week rains; split N to reduce leaching.
- Weed after rain breaks; prioritize fields at tassel/boot stages.
- Harvest early-planted sesame/sunflower; dry under cover to avoid mould.
- Drain standing water from field edges/tracks to restore access and reduce disease.
- Livestock: footbaths for hoof health; schedule LSD vaccination where indicated.





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## Practical Implications — Eastern

- Open/maintain field drains; ridge or make furrows to relieve waterlogging.
- Stabilize slopes with contour bunds and quick fixes (sacks/brush barriers).
- Stake climbing beans; avoid field work when foliage is wet to limit disease spread.
- Scout FAW/borers; treat only above thresholds; remove plants with stalk rot.
- Stage harvests; keep drying racks/tarps ready for rapid cover during storms.



# Practical Implications — Western

- Use drier intervals for bean/maize harvest; field-cure mature maize cobs.
- Clear drains in banana/coffee; mulch to buffer intermittent showers.
- Second weeding for late maize (SW highlands); hill soil for stem support.
- Foliar feed beans at flowering in cool, wet belts to improve pod set.
- Recycle residues into compost; plan manure applications for perennials.







## Practical Implications — Central

- Last planting window for short-cycle crops; ensure beds drain quickly.
- Top-dress 4–6-week cereals; minimize trafficking on saturated soils.
- Prune to improve airflow in banana/coffee; reduce foliar disease pressure.
- Inspect/repair rainwater harvesting; secure small ponds/earth dams.
- Stage bean harvest; prioritize covered drying to prevent sprouting/mould.



# Practical Implications — Lake Victoria Crescent

- Flood-proof homesteads; clear channels; elevate inputs/feed above floor level.
- Mulch intensively; use raised beds for vegetables to avoid immersion.
- Harvest near-mature produce before major storm cycles.
- Reinforce trellises/stakes; check fish-pond spillways and embankments.
- Observe lightning safety; suspend lake activities during convective build-ups.







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# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Karamoja

**Maize** — Post-harvest; tasks: finish picking, sun-dry 2–3 weeks; shell only when kernels crack; store hermetically; inspect weekly for pests.

**Beans** — Harvest complete/storage; tasks: pull remaining plants to dry under cover; sort seed; store with ash in sealed containers; keep haulms for fodder/mulch.

**Sorghum** — Harvest complete/late fields; tasks: cut heads with stalk, stook to air-dry; thresh on tarps; re-dry grain; store sealed; continue bird scaring until storage.

**Millet** — Late harvest/threshing; tasks: harvest fully ripe heads; thresh over cloth; sun-dry grain to rock-hard; store airtight with a dash of ash; reserve seed.

**Bananas** — Minor irrigated plots; tasks: heavy mulching to conserve moisture; remove diseased/dead leaves; harvest mature bunches now to avoid dry-stress losses.

# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Northern

**Maize** — Late grain fill to early dry-down; tasks: guard against birds; phased harvest once ~70% husks brown; dry on cribs; shell at ~13% moisture; store in treated liners or silos.

**Beans** — Pod filling to early harvest; tasks: pull/dry whole plants under cover when two-thirds pods yellow; gentle thresh; winnow; PICS or airtight storage; chili or neem as repellents.

**Sorghum** — Post-harvest handling; tasks: sun out stored grain to remove absorbed moisture; select/preserve seed heads; incorporate stover to build soil organic matter.

**Millet** — Storage; tasks: re-sun if humid; repair granaries; monthly pest checks; hold some stock for sale when prices rise, keep seed separately.

**Bananas** — Active growth in pockets; tasks: de-sucker to 1 mother + 1–2 followers; remove male bud post last hand; add ash or K-rich fertilizer; prop heavy plants.

# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Eastern

**Maize** — Tassel/silk to milk/soft-dough; tasks: complete top-dressing immediately; shake stalks mornings to aid pollination in small plots; spot-treat borers; rogue stalk-rot plants.

**Beans** — Flowering/podding; tasks: avoid handling wet foliage; finish staking; prepare tarps/racks; protect harvest from rain; monitor for blight/anthracnose.

**Sorghum** — Heading/grain fill (short-cycle plantings); tasks: bird guarding at dawn/dusk; rogue smut heads; trim intercrops shading panicles; harvest promptly at colour change.

**Millet** — Late vegetative/heading (limited area); tasks: weed now; small N side-dress if pale; begin bird control at head emergence; ensure dry, sealed storage for first-season grain.

**Bananas** — Fruit fill; tasks: maintain 3-plant mats; apply manure or K; remove male buds; prop heavy bunches; keep trenches open to prevent waterlogging.

# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Western

**Maize** — Milk to hard-dough (mid-west); vegetative (SW highlands); tasks: partial harvest of mature cobs; field-cure husked cobs; second weeding and hilling in SW; top-dress before rain.

**Beans** — Harvest (West Nile/Bunyoro) to flowering (Kigezi); tasks: harvest early/yellow pods then cure under cover; stake climbers; micronutrient foliar at flowering; rogue root-rot plants.

**Sorghum** — Late harvest/threshing; tasks: cut heads promptly; hang/bundle to dry; clean threshing; re-dry grain; line sacks or use DE; keep stalks as fodder/mulch.

**Millet** — Storage; tasks: sun-freshen stores on dry days; seal granaries vs rodents; periodic pest checks; plan sales/uses; keep reserve.

**Bananas** — Peak production; tasks: de-sucker; heavy mulching; manure/compost; sanitize tools; uproot suspect BBW plants; prop bunches in soggy soils.

# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Central

**Maize** — Late grain fill to maturity; tasks: secure fields; harvest lodged plants and hang to dry; time bulk harvest to multi-day dry spells; avoid bagging moist cobs.

**Beans** — Maturing/early harvest; tasks: pick as pods yellow; dry on raised racks; cover at night/downpours; inspect stores for bruchids; set aside clean seed.

**Sorghum** — Limited off-season stands; tasks: protect heads from birds; drain wet spots; harvest at hard dough; remove shoot-fly damaged ratoons.

**Millet** — Minor this season; tasks: weed and protect seedlings from birds in any off-season plots; rest or graze first-season fields.

**Bananas** — High output; tasks: de-sucker/debud; mulch; balanced NPK or old manure; set pseudostem traps for weevils; sanitize pruning tools.

# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages — Lake Victoria Crescent

**Maize/Beans** — Intercropped plots at late grain fill (maize) and pod maturation (beans); tasks: harvest in phases before storm peaks; keep drying under cover; maintain raised beds.

**Root And Tuber Crops** — Lowlands prone to waterlogging; tasks: keep field drains open; harvest in stages to maintain soil cover; store off ground under shelter.

**Vegetables** — Peak flush; tasks: raise beds and ensure drainage; harvest pre-storm; deploy slug/snail barriers; rotate plots to limit disease.

**Perennial Bananas** — Fruit fill; tasks: de-sucker; mulch; K inputs; disease sanitation; prop; maintain trenches.

**Perennial Cash Crops** — Coffee/cocoa/tea; tasks: pick coffee promptly; dry parchment on raised trays (solar-cover if needed); ferment cocoa under shelter; monitor tea leaf spots.

# Input & Technical Advisory

## Fertility

- **Cereals (maize/sorghum):** Top-dress 25–40 kg N/ha now (e.g., urea 55–90 kg/ha or CAN 100–150 kg/ha), split 2 applications 5–7 days apart ahead of rain; avoid leaf contact.
- **Beans:** Avoid heavy late N; if pale, apply 5–10 kg N/ha; favor 10–20 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/ha where leaching likely; foliar micronutrients (B, Mo) at early flowering.
- **Bananas:** 10–15 kg well-decomposed manure per mat or 30–60 kg/ha K<sub>2</sub>O equivalent this month; repeat light dressings if heavy leaching continues.

## Soil Amendments

- Lime acidic soils (pH < 5.5) at 1–2 t/ha during post-harvest/dry season; re-test before next planting.
- Incorporate 2–5 t/ha composted residues on uplands; use mulch bands on slopes and in bananas/coffee.

## IPM With Action Thresholds

- **Fall armyworm in maize:** treat when >20% plants show fresh frass/live larvae; prefer Bt or emamectin; apply into whorl after scouting.
- **Maize stalk borer:** intervene if ≥10% deadhearts in vegetative stage; destroy infested stems at harvest.
- **Bean pests/diseases:** treat aphids if colonies widespread or >10–15 per growing tip; prevent anthracnose/blight by avoiding field work on wet foliage; copper/biologicals if lesions spread.
- **Banana diseases:** remove male buds post last hand; sanitize tools; promptly rogue suspected BBW plants.
- **Sorghum head smut:** rogue infected heads immediately; rotate away from sorghum for at least one season in hotspots.





## Tech Tip Of The Week

- ❏ **Build a simple tent-style solar dryer** (clear polythene cover, mesh sides, raised racks) to dry maize, coffee, fruits protected from showers; internal temperatures often run 10–15 °C above ambient, cutting drying time and reducing aflatoxin risk. Start with a small batch and scale once performance meets your needs.



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# Livestock & Ranching



## Vaccination

Participate in ongoing FMD campaigns in cattle-corridor districts; schedule boosters per district vet guidance; ring-vaccinate where advised.



## Anthrax Alert (Western focus)

Do not dress/consume sudden deaths; report immediately; comply with quarantine; request vaccination where available.



## Wet-season health

Weekly footbaths (e.g., copper sulfate) for cattle in kraals; maintain dry bedding to prevent foot rot/pneumonia; deworm where fluke risk follows flooding.



## Vector control

Maintain tick control every 1–2 weeks; use pour-ons to also reduce biting flies that transmit LSD/trypanosomes; inspect lymph nodes in suspected trypanosomiasis areas.



## Dairy

Enforce udder hygiene; post-milking teat dip; supplement fresh grass with energy (maize bran) to sustain yields; provide mineral licks to address rainy-season deficiencies.



## Small ruminants

Vaccinate goats/sheep against PPR/CCPP where services exist; trim hooves after muddy periods; isolate coughing/diarrheic animals.



## Poultry

Vaccinate village flocks for Newcastle; manage litter dryness/ventilation to limit coccidiosis/IBD; secure feed from rodent/water contamination.



## Pasture/water

Conserve hay now in semi-arid belts; map rotational use of dams/boreholes heading into the dry season; check windmill/borehole spares.



## Fisheries

Inspect pond embankments/spillways after heavy rains; keep emergency overflow channels functional; plan gear maintenance during expected December dry breaks.

# Market Analysis

Regional Average Prices (UGX per kg)

Commodity	Karamoja	Northern	Eastern	Western	Central	Lake Victoria Crescent
Maize	1,200	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,150
Beans	4,000	3,800	4,200	4,500	4,400	4,500
Sorghum	800	1,500	1,600	2,800	2,000	2,000
Millet	2,000	2,500	2,600	3,000	2,800	2,800
Bananas	2,500	2,000	1,800	1,500	1,600	2,000

## Insights

- Sorghum shows the widest spread: Karamoja ~UGX 800 vs Western ~UGX 2,800, reflecting production concentration and weak westbound flows.
- Maize has stabilized with new inflows; urban centers price slightly above producing zones; narrow Busia–Kampala spread indicates active arbitrage.
- Beans remain elevated nationwide; matooke prices are still historically high but are poised to soften as bunch flow improves with sustained rainfall.

# Coverage Footnote

**Karamoja:** 4 cities used (Moroto, Kotido, Kaabong, Napak); missing: Abim, Nakapiripirit.

**Northern:** 8/14 cities reported (Adjumani, Arua, Gulu, Koboko, Lira, Yumbe plus two nearby proxies); missing: Lamwo, Moyo; Karamoja districts reassigned to Karamoja region.

**Eastern:** 6/7 cities reported (Busia, Iganga, Jinja, Mbale, Soroti, Tororo); missing: Kween.

**Western:** 9/9 cities reported (Hoima, Isingiro, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kasese, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Masindi, Mbarara).

**Central:** 4/4 cities reported (Kampala proxied via Wakiso; Masaka, Mukono, Wakiso).

**Lake Victoria Crescent:** 2 markets used (Kampala/Wakiso proxy, Entebbe).



# Looking Ahead & Reminders

## National

- Expect an earlier drying trend south of the equator by late November; plan harvests/drying and soil works for December breaks.
- Prepare storage: clean cribs, line bags, and organize group threshing/drying to beat sporadic showers.
- Line up inputs for the next season (seed, lime, basic fertilizers) and service tools/irrigation for off-season vegetables where feasible.

## Karamoja

- Ratchet down water use plans; repair boreholes early; finalize hay reserves and dry-season grazing rotations.
- Guard granaries; schedule monthly pest checks; prioritize sales now while grain quality is high.
- Community fire lines and rangeland protection works before December to reduce bush-fire risk.

## Northern

- Bulk and store beans/sesame for January group marketing; aim for value-added cleaning and grading.
- Second deworming and tick knock-down before cattle crowd at watering points.
- Identify lowland plots for off-season vegetables; seedbeds can start in late December.

## Eastern

- Participate in slope stabilization and drainage rehabilitation; adopt vetiver/grass strips on gullies.
- Deep plough after harvest to reduce carry-over FAW/borers; rotate away from host crops.
- Stage market entries for grain to avoid glut; target dry breaks for transport from Elgon slopes.

## Western

- Tea/coffee: mulch and leaf-spot monitoring as showers taper; plan cherry storage/marketing strategy.
- Banana rehabilitation: manure, sanitation, and sucker management to capitalize on improved soil moisture.
- Prepare community fire breaks in pasture belts; inspect valley tanks before water levels fall.

## Central

- Schedule drainage works in wetlands for first-season rice/vegetables; secure treadle pumps/drip kits.
- Urban/peri-urban: focus on value addition/drying training during December dry windows.
- Fisheries: plan net/boat maintenance and compliance ahead of seasonal closures.

A smiling woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue patterned top and a red cloth tied around her waist, stands in a lush green field. She is holding two purple eggplants in her hands. The background is a soft-focus view of a rural landscape with trees and a bright sky.

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# Government & NGO Updates

## Record coffee exports

Record coffee exports announced (8.2 million 60-kg bags); UCDA/MAAIF signal continued support to seedlings, husbandry, and market access.

## Agricultural loan approval

Parliament approved a UGX 774.3 billion loan for agricultural market access; oversight cautions issued on past idle funds and project management capacity.

## Anthrax response

Anthrax response in Ibanda (Western): quarantine and vaccination ongoing; national advisory to maintain clostridial vaccination coverage.

## FMD vaccination drive

FMD vaccination drive continues in high-risk districts; goal is biannual coverage in cattle-corridor subcounties to minimize trade-disrupting quarantines.



# Recent Publications & Links

- **Mapping Uganda's Climate Future** — Workshop validated vulnerability maps highlighting shifting risk hotspots; guidance for targeting adaptation investments.
- **IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (Aug 2025–Feb 2026)** — 1.42 million projected in Crisis or worse; hotspots in Karamoja and refugee-hosting districts.
- **Hunger Hotspots (Oct 2025)** — Early warnings underline localized Ugandan risks if high staple prices persist; urges flexible humanitarian response.
- **Digital Innovations In Ugandan Agriculture (2025)** — Uptake of SMS/USSD and community platforms improving timing of farm decisions; smartphone access gap persists.
- **Solar Dryers Preserve Value** — Case study of improved low-cost solar dryers in Uganda; faster, protected drying and higher-quality product.

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