

Uganda Agriculture, Food Market, & Farming Weather Report

04–11 July 2025

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION AGENCY

Executive Summary

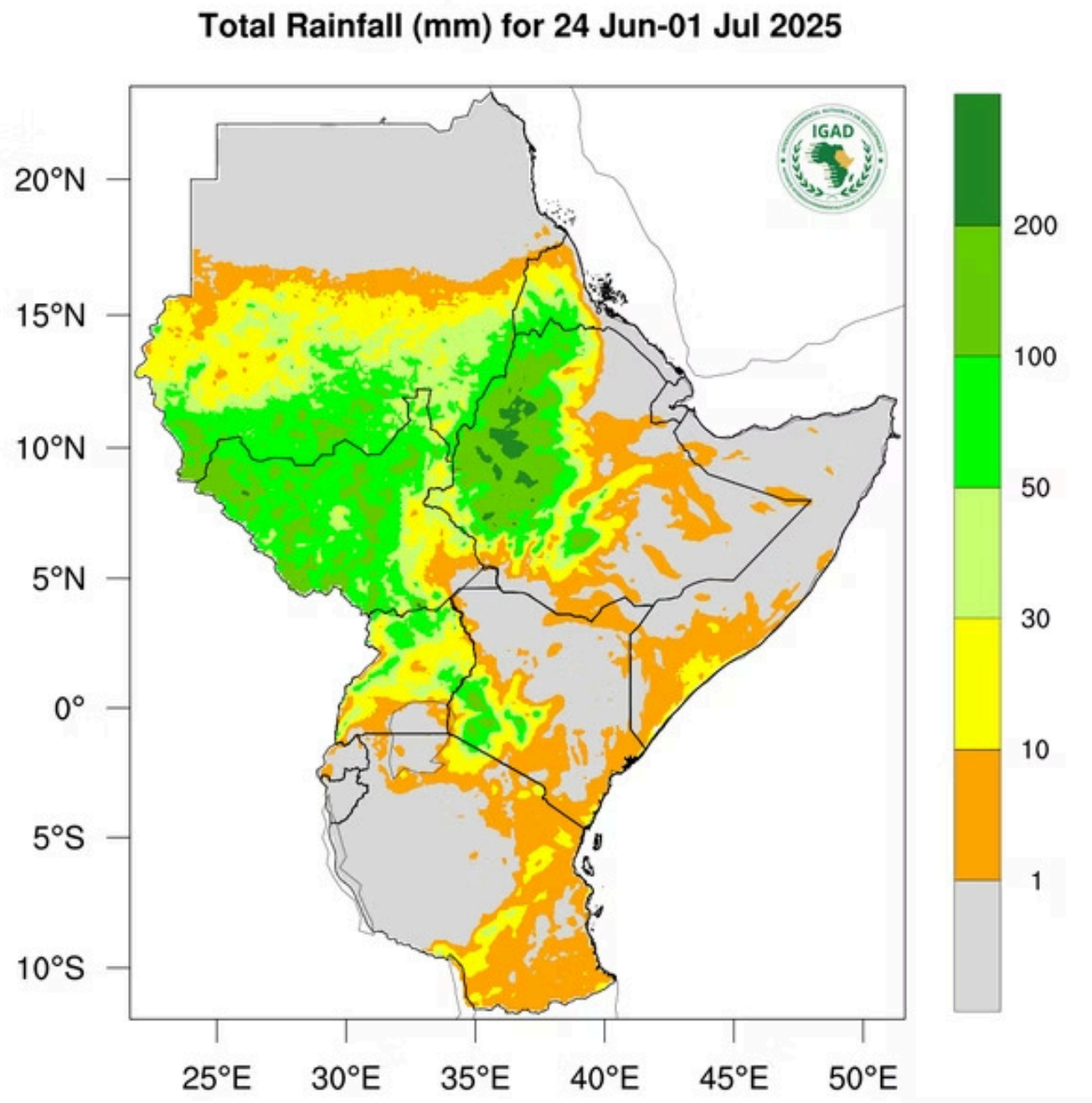
Uganda's agricultural landscape shows a clear regional divide: Northern regions benefit from ample mid-season rains supporting crop growth, while Central and Southern areas experience typical dry conditions. In bimodal regions, first-season maize and bean harvests have concluded with improved yields, and second-season preparations begin. In unimodal northern areas, grain crops are filling with early harvests starting. Market prices remain elevated compared to last year (maize +25%, beans +5%) but are softening as fresh harvests reach markets, despite strong regional export demand. Livestock conditions improve in the north, though nationwide Foot-and-Mouth Disease control measures continue with movement restrictions and vaccination programs. Government initiatives include the Parish Development Model and input subsidies for irrigation and fertilizer, with a national agricultural exhibition in Jinja showcasing new technologies. Farmers are advised to capitalize on northern rains for optimal harvests and, in southern regions, to focus on produce storage and second-season planning. Detailed regional forecasts and recommendations follow.

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Weather Forecast (04–11 July 2025)

Overview: This week shows continued north-south weather division across Uganda. Northern and northeastern regions will experience moderate rainfall, while the southern half remains dry. UNMA forecasts no extreme weather events, though isolated thunderstorms may occur in the north. Temperatures will range from 17–22°C at night to 26–32°C during the day, with the northeast experiencing the highest temperatures. Region-specific forecasts and agricultural implications follow:



*ICPAC is behind on their updates.

Regional Weather: Karamoja

Karamoja (Northeastern Uganda): Scattered showers and thunderstorms expected throughout the week, particularly mid-week. **Projected rainfall:** 30–60 mm, continuing the delayed but now active rainy season.

Temperatures: daytime highs 30–31°C, nights 18–19°C. These rains are timely for early-stage crops (sorghum, millet, maize).

Farming advice: Use this moisture for essential weeding—complete second weeding of cereals now to reduce weed competition. Final window for planting short-maturity crops (cowpeas, vegetables) is early July to ensure yields before rains end. Avoid low-lying areas for new planting to prevent waterlogging from heavy bursts. On slopes, maintain soil bunds or trenches where rainfall has been heavy to prevent erosion.



Regional Weather: Northern Region



Weather Conditions

Expect moderate rainfall (50–80 mm weekly) with occasional heavy downpours. Cloudy skies will keep temperatures in the mid-20s°C. Flooding risk is low, but farmers should clear drainage channels to prevent water pooling in lowland fields.



Pest Management

Stay vigilant for fall armyworm activity in moist conditions—inspect maize whorls for caterpillars and frass. Remove infested plants or apply biopesticides as needed.



Crop Management

Sustained moisture supports grain filling in cereals and pasture growth. Monitor for fungal diseases in humid conditions—apply preventive fungicides or biocontrol treatments (e.g., copper-based fungicide on beans) if symptoms appear.



Livestock Care

Provide mineral supplements with new lush grass to prevent deficiencies. Introduce hungry animals to rich pastures gradually to prevent bloat—offer dry forage like hay before grazing to rebuild livestock condition safely.

Regional Weather: Eastern Region

Eastern Region (Teso, Elgon, Busoga): Expect light to moderate rains (20–50 mm) across eastern districts. Mt. Elgon highlands and Bukedi will receive more rainfall, while Teso areas will see only scattered showers. Daytime temperatures around 27–29°C. These intermittent rains will replenish soil moisture as the first harvest season concludes.



Harvesting Activities

Use this drier period for harvesting and post-harvest handling. Harvest remaining crops promptly and sun-dry grains during clear weather. In Soroti and Amuria, use tarpaulins for drying millet and groundnuts, sheltering produce during rains.



Highland Precautions

In the Elgon sub-region, watch for afternoon thunderstorms. Secure drying crops and maintain terrace bunds on steep slopes to prevent erosion from sudden downpours.



Land Preparation

As water sources recharge, begin land preparation for second-season planting (August) by ploughing fields when soil conditions permit.

Regional Weather: Western Region

Western Region (Bunyoro, Ankole, Rwenzori, Kigezi):
Entering long dry season with minimal rainfall (<10–20 mm). Expect clear skies, warm days (28–30°C in lowlands, 25°C in highlands) and cool nights (15–17°C). Only Rwenzori slopes and parts of Kigezi may experience isolated showers.

Farming implications:

- Complete first-season crop harvests (maize, beans, millet) while weather remains dry.
- Utilize dry conditions to properly dry grains before storage to prevent mold.
- Begin land preparation for second season by clearing fields and incorporating crop residues as soil amendments or mulch.

Current conditions are ideal for haymaking. Cut and sun-dry surplus grass or crop residues to store as livestock feed before grasses become too stemmy in July.

For horticultural crops, implement irrigation systems. Check with local MAAIF and NGO offices about subsidized micro-irrigation kits. Use water from rivers or valley tanks to maintain vegetable crops during the dry spell.



Regional Weather: Central Region

Central Region / Lake Victoria Crescent: Dry and cool conditions expected with only isolated light showers (~5–15 mm) near Lake Victoria (Entebbe, Kalangala). Kampala and surrounding areas will remain mainly rain-free with partly cloudy skies. Expect daytime temperatures of 26–28°C and nights at 17–19°C, often with humid lake breezes.



Moisture Conservation

Apply mulch (dry grass, banana leaves, coffee husks) around coffee, banana, and vegetable crops to preserve soil moisture during the dry season. This helps plants survive the rainless period ahead.



Harvesting & Drying

Ideal conditions for bean harvesting with low humidity ensuring proper drying. Watch for morning dew which can promote fungal diseases in dense crops like bananas and coffee despite the absence of rain.



Pest & Disease Management

Prune diseased banana leaves and dispose properly to prevent disease spread. Keep gardens weed-free to reduce hiding spots for variegated grasshoppers, which have been recently observed in central districts.



Livestock & Water Management

Prepare for water shortages by rationing valley tanks/ponds and minimizing evaporation. Avoid bush burning; instead, keep crop residues on fields to protect soil until rains return in late August.

Weather Implications Summary

Northern & Northeastern Regions

Maximize agricultural activities during this wet period – plant short-cycle crops, weed fields, and ensure proper drainage to prevent water damage or crop lodging.

Central, Western & Southwestern Regions

Shift to dry-season practices – complete harvests, focus on post-harvest preservation, and retain soil moisture for perennials.

Rainfall Outlook

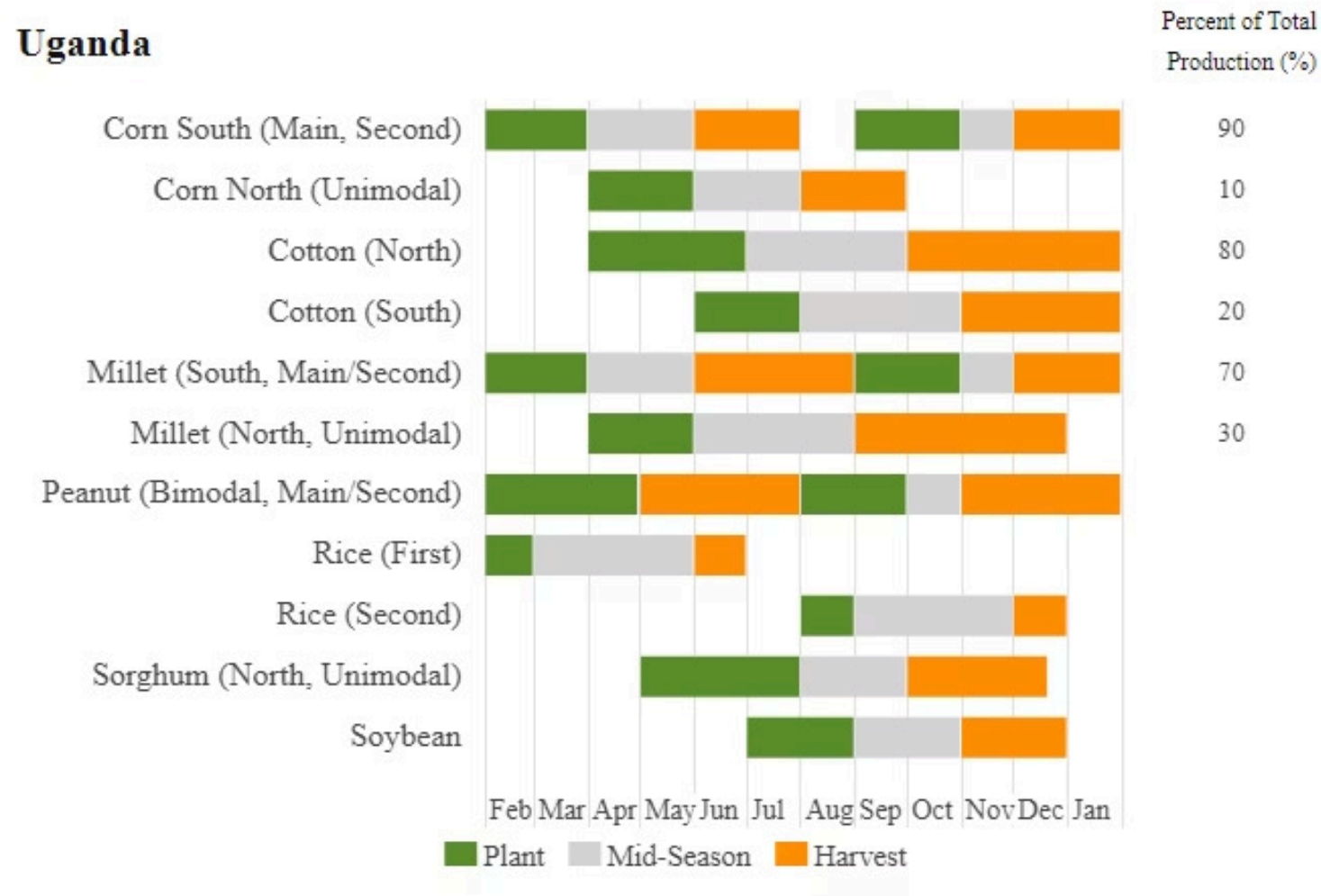
Above-normal rainfall predicted for northern/eastern Uganda through July benefits yield prospects, with minor flood risk in lowland areas.

Planning Ahead

Central and western regions should not expect rainfall until late August/September. Implement irrigation and drought-tolerant practices now. Monitor UNMA updates and allocate resources accordingly.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages

Crop stages across Uganda vary by region based on planting calendars and rainfall patterns. Using FAO data and field reports, we identify current growth stages of major crops and provide region-specific agronomic recommendations:



Karamoja Crop Stages

In Karamoja's uni-modal zone, crops are in early to mid-growth stages following April-May planting. Maize is knee-high with early fields beginning to tassel. Sorghum and millet are in tillering to stem elongation phases. Beans and cowpeas planted in late May are now flowering and forming pods. These current growth stages are critical yield determinants.

Agronomic recommendations:

- Prioritize weed control and pest monitoring
- Complete second weeding for maize and sorghum
- Monitor for Fall Armyworm (FAW) in maize
- Apply botanical pesticides for FAW if detected
- Use pheromone traps where available
- Protect forming grains from bird damage
- Apply nitrogen top-dressing if available
- Maintain thick mulch in banana plots

Optimize field management during current rains to ensure strong August harvest.

Northern Region Crop Stages



Maize

Maize planted in March is now in grain-filling to maturity. Early-planted crops are turning golden, with harvesting underway in Lira, Gulu, and Arua districts for shorter-maturity varieties since late June.



Sorghum

Short-duration sorghum planted in March or late last year is being harvested now. Medium/long varieties sown in April are in heading or early grain-fill stage and will mature by August.



Other Crops

First-season beans (planted February/March) were harvested by May. Groundnuts are currently being harvested. Sweet potatoes are harvested as needed, while bananas in West Nile and parts of Lango continue production year-round.

Agronomic advice:

- Harvest mature cereals promptly to minimize losses
- Dry maize on tarpaulins to below 13% moisture
- Drain any waterlogging in late-maturing sorghum and millet fields
- Monitor late-planted beans and groundnuts for fungal diseases
- Source quality seeds for second-season planting
- Mulch and prune perennial crops as needed
- Prepare rice nurseries by July-end where applicable

Eastern Region Crop Stages

Eastern Uganda's first cropping season (Season A) is concluding. In Bugosa (Iganga, Bugiri), maize and beans were mostly harvested in June. Teso farmers (Soroti, Kaberamaido) planted in April; these crops (maize, sunflower, sorghum) are now grain-filling for July harvest. Mt. Elgon highlands (Mbale, Kapchorwa) have later planting cycles with maize and beans in flowering/pod-filling stages. Early-planted sorghum and millet are maturing, with millet harvest underway in Teso and Bugisu. Sweet potato vines are establishing with tuber formation expected by August. Perennial banana and coffee plantations in eastern regions (Bugisu) are fruiting but will face moisture stress as the dry season progresses.

Harvest & Storage

Dry harvested beans until crisp (bite test) and store in hermetic bags. Shell maize, dry thoroughly on tarpaulins, then store in airtight containers with diatomaceous earth to prevent weevil infestation.

Field Preparation

Incorporate crop residues into soil and prepare fields for second season planting. July ploughing improves seedbed conditions for August planting. Consider cover crops for fields that will remain fallow until next year.

Input Sourcing

Source second-season inputs now: improved seeds, fertilizers, and other necessities. Take advantage of post-harvest discounts from agro-dealers before the August price increases.

Pest Management & Irrigation

Practice field sanitation where crop residues remain. Farmers with irrigation access should clear canals and prepare for second rice crop, considering staggered planting to distribute risk.

Perennial Crop Care

Remove male buds from banana plants after fruit set to prevent Bacterial Wilt spread. Sterilize pruning tools between plants to avoid transmitting wilts and weevils, which extension officers note can become problematic if neglected.

Western Region Crop Stages

Western Region (South-Western and Mid-Western Uganda, bimodal areas): First season is ending with most March-planted crops (maize, beans, sorghum, groundnuts, millet) now harvested or at final maturity. Bunyoro areas (Masindi, Hoima) saw June maize harvests, with some late-planted fields maturing in July. In southwestern highlands (Kabale, Rukungiri, Kigezi), cooler climate potatoes and beans are being harvested through early July. Sorghum in Ankole/Kigezi is approaching harvest.

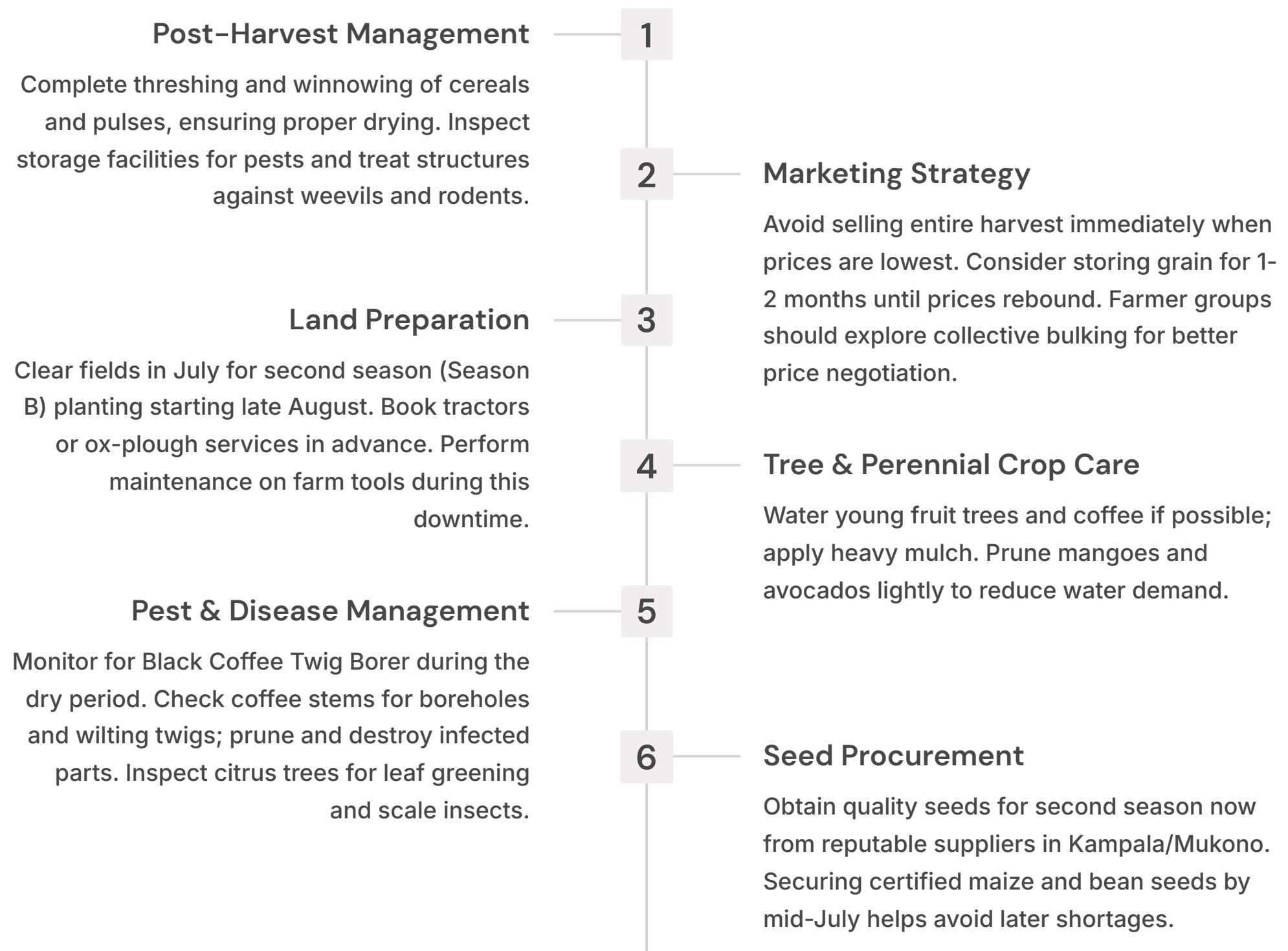
Perennial crops: Banana plantations in southwest (Isingiro, Mbarara) continue production but will slow as dry season progresses. Coffee (Robusta in mid-western, Arabica on Mt. Rwenzori slopes) is in ripening/harvesting phase for mid-year crop.

Agronomic advice:

- Harvest remaining beans, soybeans, and peas quickly to prevent losses
- Promptly gather dried maize and sorghum
- Use hermetic bags for grain storage
- Improve soil fertility during fallow period
- Apply agricultural lime in fallow fields (1–2 tons/ha for acidic soils)
- Spread wood ash over gardens to add alkalinity and potassium
- Apply composted manure to harvested fields
- Plan crop rotations for second season (August planting)
- Consider dry-season vegetables where water is available
- Inquire about small drip irrigation subsidies at sub-county offices

Central Region Crop Stages

Central Uganda's first season (March–June) has largely concluded. Beans, maize, groundnuts, and upland rice planted in March were harvested May–June. Only late-planted fields (primarily maize replanted after April's dry spell) remain unharvested. Plantains (matooke) continue year-round, with farmers currently harvesting for market during this low-production, higher-price period. Near urban centers, horticultural crops are shifting to irrigation as the dry season begins.



Input Recommendations & Technical Advisory

Strategic inputs and practices at each crop stage boost yields and resilience. This week's recommendations cover fertilizer use, pest/disease management, soil and water conservation, plus our "Tech Tip of the Week" to enhance productivity:

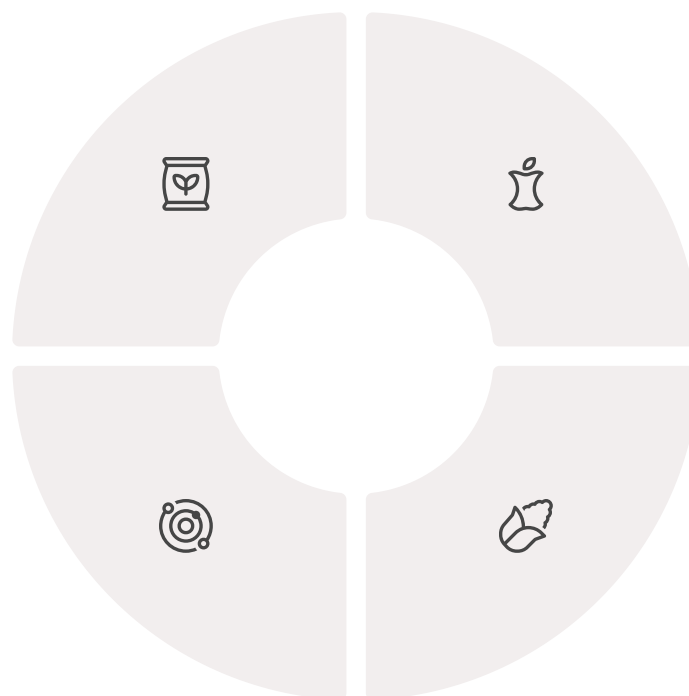
Fertilizer Management

Active Growth Regions

In northern regions where crops are still growing, apply top-dressing fertilizer now. Maize and sorghum benefit from additional nitrogen - apply Urea (40-50 kg/ha) to improve grain formation. Apply just before rainfall for best soil absorption.

Soil pH and Lime

Acidic soils lock up nutrients, causing stunted, yellowish crops despite fertilizer use. Apply agricultural lime (1 ton/ha) during dry season to correct moderately acidic soils. Wood ash from cookstoves can serve as an alternative liming material.



Post-Harvest Areas

In central and western areas after harvest, sow green manure cover crops like lablab bean or sunhemp to protect soil during the dry season. These can be ploughed under before next rains. Alternatively, broadcast well-decomposed compost or farmyard manure on fallow fields.

Phosphorus for Next Season

For August planting of beans, maize or root crops, secure phosphorus-rich fertilizer (DAP or TSP) now. Phosphorus is essential for root development in soils depleted from first-season crops. Investigate local subsidy programs or bulk purchase options.

Pest & Disease Management

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Monitor late-planted maize using pheromone traps weekly. Check 10-20 plants for "windowpane" leaf damage or frass. For small plots, remove infested plants or handpick caterpillars. In larger fields, apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) or neem oil on young larvae to preserve beneficial insects.

Stemborers in Maize/Sorghum

After harvest, remove cereal stalks from fields as stemborers hide in them. Uproot and compost stubble in covered piles or burn to kill larvae/pupae, significantly reducing carryover populations.

Bean pests/diseases

For upcoming bean planting, treat seeds with appropriate pesticide/fungicide dressing to protect against soil fungi and bean fly maggots. In existing fields, monitor for foliage beetles and either handpick them or apply botanical spray at first signs of damage.

Banana Bacterial Wilt (BBW)

Remove and bury any banana plant showing BBW symptoms immediately. Sterilize all cutting tools with bleach or heat after each use. Remove male buds after bunch formation to prevent disease spread.

Coffee diseases/pests

Apply copper-based fungicides to control Coffee Leaf Rust in wet conditions. For Coffee Wilt Disease, uproot and destroy affected trees, replacing with wilt-resistant varieties. Maintain tree health through regular pruning and mulching.

Emerging Pest Alert – Variegated Grasshopper

In Central Uganda, control these grasshoppers by handpicking in early mornings. Dig around plant bases to expose and destroy eggs. Keep fields weed-free and well-sunlit to discourage infestations.

Livestock pests

During rainy/humid periods, control rising tick populations with acaricide spraying every 2 weeks or weekly in high-tick areas. Rotate acaricide types to prevent resistance. Uganda's new TicVac-U vaccine has shown over 90% efficacy in trials.

Soil & Water Management



Mulching

One of the most effective soil practices for dry season areas (central, western, east). Cover gardens with organic mulch using dry grass, straw, crop residues or banana leaves. Mulch retains moisture, cools soil temperature and prevents weeds. Especially beneficial around banana plants to boost yields and reduce irrigation needs.



Erosion Control

Critical for regions with ongoing heavy rains (northern, eastern highlands). On sloped land, maintain contour bunds and terraces by repairing breaks and clearing channels to capture runoff. Plant vetiver or elephant grass along contour lines as living barriers to slow water flow and prevent soil loss.



Water Harvesting

With above-normal rains predicted later this season, prepare now to capture excess water. Dig farm ponds or water pans where possible. Even small excavations lined with clay or plastic can store hundreds of liters from heavy rains—valuable for livestock or irrigation during dry spells.

Conserving water and building soil health now will ensure better yields and resilience in the next planting season.

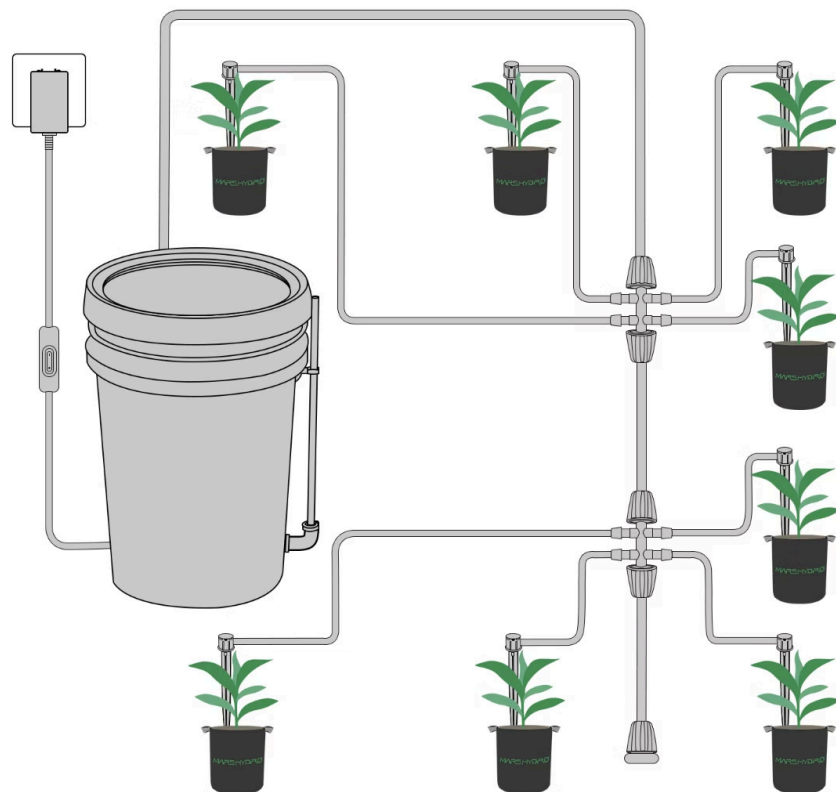
Tech Tip of the Week – DIY Drip Irrigation

This simple irrigation method helps farmers grow crops during dry seasons using everyday items like jerrycans or plastic bottles to provide steady water to plants.

How it works:

1. Take a 20-liter jerrycan (or 5-liter bottle for smaller gardens)
2. Make tiny holes near the bottom using a heated needle
3. Place on an elevated platform or hang it
4. Fill with water (rainwater or well water)
5. Direct water to plant roots via small hose, cloth strip, or furrow

SIMULATE INSTALLATION SCENARIOS



Position one container per set of plants (e.g., one per 2-3 tomato plants) and fill daily. The holes release water slowly, delivering moisture directly to roots with minimal waste.

Why it's useful:

- Sustains crops through July-August dry periods in central and western Uganda
- Reduces water consumption by up to 50% compared to bucket watering
- Saves labor – just refill containers once daily
- Maintains consistent soil moisture for healthier crops

Bottom line: Turn everyday containers into efficient irrigation systems with minimal investment. This helps maintain productive gardens during dry seasons when fresh produce commands premium prices.

Livestock & Ranching

Mid-year presents varied conditions for livestock farmers across Uganda. Recent rains have boosted pasture and water availability in northern and eastern regions, while southern and central areas face an emerging dry spell requiring strategic feed and water management. Below are key recommendations for husbandry, veterinary care, seasonal practices, and current market prices:



Husbandry & Feed

Uganda's cattle corridor presents contrasting scenarios this June-July. In Karamoja and Northern Uganda, above-average rains have created abundant pasture. Farmers should use this opportunity to restore livestock body condition after the previous dry season.

Introduce animals to lush pasture gradually to prevent bloat. Let them consume dry roughage (hay or maize stalks) before moving to wet pasture. Providing some dry feed alongside green grass prevents digestive issues.

Feed Conservation

Smallholders can ensile chopped maize stalks or excess grass in pits or plastic drums with molasses for August feeding. Implement cut-and-carry feeding: harvest grass from low-lying areas that stay green longer rather than allowing herds to trample dwindling pastures.

Water Management

In the north and east, desilt and fence natural water points while they're refilling. Proper securing extends water availability into dry periods and prevents animals from getting stuck in mud or falling into wells.

In Central and Western Uganda, pasture quality is declining as dry season begins. Farmers should now preserve crop residues and forage for the weeks ahead. Collect post-harvest maize stover, bean haulms, and groundnut vines for storage.

Improve feed value through simple methods like urea-treatment of maize stover - sprinkling urea solution onto stacked stalks and covering for 2 weeks increases digestibility. If possible, make hay or silage from remaining green fodder (elephant grass, napier, lablab) in early July.

Mineral Supplementation

Provide mineral lick blocks in all regions. Fast-growing rainy season pastures often lack minerals like salt and copper. In dry areas, mineral licks encourage water consumption, supporting animal health.

Poultry Management

Adjust chicken feeding strategies during harvest season when maize bran becomes cheaper and more available. Store it for future use while maintaining balanced nutrition - layers and broilers need sufficient protein. Supplement free-range chickens with grain as dry season reduces natural foraging.

Disease & Veterinary Updates

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

FMD remains a serious concern in Uganda with outbreaks in over 30 districts last year. President Museveni's Executive Order No. 2 of 2025 targets FMD control, blaming illegal cattle movements for spreading the disease from neighboring countries.

Currently, cattle movement in outbreak zones is prohibited, with many livestock markets closed in affected areas. Do not move cattle, goats, or sheep without veterinary permission.

Uganda has secured FMD vaccines through international partnerships, including 3 million doses from Egypt. Mass vaccination campaigns are underway across districts – ensure your livestock are vaccinated when available, typically at minimal or no cost.

Other Livestock Diseases

Monitor for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle, especially in northern regions where increased rainfall has boosted mosquito and biting-fly populations. Isolate animals showing nodules, swelling, or fever, and contact a veterinarian immediately. LSD vaccines are available in some districts.

Tick-Borne Diseases

Ticks thrive in green conditions, spreading East Coast Fever, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis. Implement regular tick control through sprays or dips. Seek veterinary care for animals showing fever, swollen lymph nodes, or red urine. Uganda plans to introduce the "TicVac-U" anti-tick vaccine by late 2025.

Small Ruminant Diseases

Goats and sheep are vulnerable to Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP). PPR causes fever, mouth sores, and diarrhea, often proving fatal. Uganda aims to eliminate PPR by 2030 through vaccination campaigns. Report any sudden illness affecting multiple animals.

Poultry Diseases

While no major poultry epidemics have been reported this year, remain vigilant for Newcastle Disease (ND), which often emerges during weather changes. Many districts offer synchronized ND vaccinations in June/July. Vaccination is essential as ND can devastate entire flocks.

Maintain your farm's health calendar: deworm animals in rainy northern regions, follow vaccination schedules, and maintain good hygiene and biosecurity practices to prevent disease.

Seasonal Livestock Management Tips

Management for Rainy Northern/Eastern Areas

Deworm all livestock grazing on lush pasture as worms thrive when animals ingest moist larvae on grass. Use a broad-spectrum dewormer - consult a vet for proper drug and dosage based on species and weight (common options: albendazole for sheep/goats, levamisole or ivermectin for cattle).

Provide adequate shelter during heavy rains, especially for small stock. Goats are particularly vulnerable to rain and can develop pneumonia if left cold and wet. Ensure goat pens remain dry with indoor retreat options during downpours.

With abundant grass growth, **cut and conserve excess pasture as hay**. Coordinate with community leaders to harvest tall grass from communal grazing areas or fallow fields, taking advantage of July's sunny days for proper curing in northern regions. This stored hay will be valuable during the next dry season.

Inspect rain-filled water points: clean out algal growth and fence dangerous swampy edges. Monitor temporary rain ponds, marking these areas and supervising animals to prevent young or weak livestock from becoming trapped in muddy areas.

Management for Drier Central/Western Areas



Supplemental Feeding

Begin supplemental feeding before animals lose weight. Offer stored feeds in small quantities to maintain condition. Enhance crop residues like maize stover or bean vines with urea treatments or molasses to improve palatability.



Water Management

Prepare for water shortages by repairing borehole pumps, windmills, or solar pumps now. Clean water troughs and plan for water transportation if needed—consider arranging with truck owners or exploring communal solutions.



Rotational Grazing

Divide pastures into paddocks and rotate herds every 1-2 weeks. This prevents overgrazing, allows recovery, and interrupts parasite cycles. Using multiple small paddocks extends grass availability longer into the dry season.



Health Precautions

Watch for hardware disease risks when animals consume dusty feed or graze close to ground. Monitor goats for consumption of toxic dry shrubs that desperate animals might eat despite normally avoiding them.

Breeding Considerations

Mid-year is an ideal breeding time, targeting calves born at the start of the rainy season when feed is plentiful. For cattle (9-month gestation), mate or inseminate during June-August. Consider Artificial Insemination from local vets or AI technicians for genetic improvement with exotic or improved semen. Ensure breeding bulls are healthy, well-conditioned, and screened for diseases like brucellosis.

For goats and sheep, mate in July-August for kids/lambs in early new year when grass begins growing. Implement controlled breeding by separating bucks/rams and introducing them only during specific mating periods to avoid births during harsh months.

With pigs, avoid farrowing during extremely hot periods; provide cool wallows and shade for due sows. For poultry, starting chicks now means they'll grow during the lower-disease dry season and begin laying by next rainy season.

Align breeding with feed availability. If you can't support late-pregnancy cows during next March's dry spell, adjust breeding timing. Consider staggered breeding to balance workload and resource demands throughout the year.

Market Analysis

Agricultural commodity prices in Uganda reflect harvest onset in bimodal areas and supply constraints in key staples. Below are regional market prices (UGX) for major food commodities:

Commodity	Northern (UGX)	Eastern (UGX)	Western (UGX)	Central (UGX)
Maize grain (per kg)	1,300	1,100	1,200	1,400
Beans (mixed variety, per kg)	3,200	3,000	3,500	4,000
Millet grain (per kg)	2,500	2,200	3,500	3,000
Sorghum grain (per kg)	1,300	1,200	1,500	1,600
Matooke (cooking bananas, per kg)	~7,000 (few sold)	6,000	4,000	5,000
Livestock	Northern (UGX)	Eastern (UGX)	Western (UGX)	Central (UGX)
Cattle (bull, per head)	1,100,000	1,300,000	1,400,000	1,500,000
Goat (per head)	200,000	220,000	200,000	250,000
Sheep (per head)	180,000	200,000	180,000	250,000
Chicken (local, each)	20,000	20,000	18,000	25,000

Sources: WFP price dataset, market reports (June–July 2025), and Wamucii price insights. Regional prices average main markets (North: Gulu, Lira; East: Mbale, Soroti; West: Mbarara, Kasese; Central: Kampala). Prices vary by specific market and quality.

Market Observations & Trends

Grain Prices

Grain prices are declining with the influx of newly harvested crops across Eastern, Western, and Central regions. Maize prices have dropped in producing areas like Eastern Uganda (UGX 1,100/kg, down from 1,300–1,500 earlier) as fresh supplies enter markets. In Kampala, prices remain higher (UGX 1,400/kg) due to strong demand and delayed harvest arrivals.

Year-on-year, **maize** prices are up about 25% due to last year's poor harvest and strong export demand from Kenya and South Sudan. We expect prices to ease further as more June/July harvest reaches markets, with western regions already showing price softening from previous UGX 1,500 peaks.

Millet and Sorghum: Eastern region shows lowest millet prices (UGX 2,200) following recent harvests and limited export demand compared to maize. Western region prices are higher (UGX 3,500), likely due to millet's use in brewing and cultural ceremonies amid limited local supply.

Matooke (Cooking bananas): Price variations (UGX 4,000–7,000/kg) reflect regional availability. Western region, as the primary production area, shows lowest prices. In Northern Uganda, bananas remain a luxury import with minimal sales at premium prices.

Livestock Market Analysis:

- **Cattle:** Bulls fetch 1.4–1.5M UGX in urban/export areas vs. 0.8–1.1M in Karamoja.
- **Goats:** Clear north-south price gradient, with Kampala prices double those in Moroto (~250K vs ~120K UGX).
- **Sheep:** Comparable to goat prices, with premium in central markets.
- **Poultry:** Local hens command higher prices than commercial broilers, especially in urban centers.

Livestock prices remain stable to rising, driven by domestic and regional demand. Reduced herd sizes from last year's drought in Teso and Karamoja, combined with FMD quarantine restrictions, have kept healthy animal prices high.

Markets currently favor sellers, particularly in non-quarantined areas. Recommended strategy: sell market-ready animals while retaining breeding stock to rebuild herds.

Beans

Bean prices remain high at UGX 3,000–4,000 per kg across regions, showing minimal decrease from pre-harvest levels. This stems from mediocre first-season harvests in central/west regions due to April's dry spell, plus sustained exports to deficit countries like Kenya.

Western Uganda reports the highest averages (UGX 3,500/kg) due to strong local demand and exports to eastern DRC. A slight price dip may occur through July as farmers complete threshing, but significant drops are unlikely as households simultaneously restock their granaries.



Government & NGO Updates

Key developments from government agencies, NGOs, and development partners are currently influencing Uganda's agricultural sector:

National FMD Control Drive & Pastoral Policy Enforcement

President Museveni's Executive Order No. 2 of 2025 (June 1) establishes strict Foot-and-Mouth Disease control measures. Unauthorized livestock movement across districts is now criminalized, requiring pastoralists to fence land and obtain movement permits. This especially impacts communal grazing practices, with local governments in northern and eastern Uganda now enforcing these rules where farmer-herder conflicts have occurred.

Livestock markets in quarantined districts remain closed. Farmers must sell animals locally or wait for quarantines to lift. The government is considering compensation for farmers who lost animals to FMD, though details are pending.

The President's directive discourages "landless pastoralism," pushing those previously settled on ranches to adopt modern methods on existing lands rather than expecting new land allocations. This signals a shift toward sedentary, controlled grazing systems with government investment in water infrastructure and commercial ranching programs instead of nomadic herd movements.

Pastoral communities must register herds, vaccinate animals, and follow new regulations. Security forces will support veterinary officers in enforcing quarantines by stopping unauthorized livestock transport. While this creates short-term marketing challenges, it aims to break the cycle of FMD reinfections.

Parish Development Model & Extension Services Boost



Extension Officer Recruitment

The Parish Development Model anti-poverty program is now fully operational with agricultural focus. MAAIF has recruited and trained over 500 parish agricultural officers in climate-smart farming and financial management to support PDM farmer groups.



Revolving Funds

Parishes are receiving revolving funds for agricultural inputs. PDM groups provide members with seeds, fertilizers, and livestock on credit (repayable after sales). Contact your Parish Chief or SACCO leadership about available support.



Irrigation Subsidies

Government offers 75% subsidy on small irrigation systems (drip/sprinkler for 0.5–2 acres). Apply at sub-county agriculture offices. Requirements include water source access and 25% co-funding from farmers.



Feed Production Initiative

MAAIF and private sector partners are addressing high feed costs through local production of affordable compounded feeds. A new livestock feed mill in Soroti now produces quality feed using local grains.

On May 30, the Ministry launched a UGX 1.2 trillion Agriculture Stimulus Package to improve market access and boost production. The program supports community grain stores, milk coolers, and produce bulking centers, reducing post-harvest losses and enabling collective bargaining. In Kiruhura District, a new milk cooling tank helps dairy farmers preserve quality and secure better prices through bulk sales.

NGO and INGO Activities

World Food Programme (WFP)

In Karamoja, WFP has shifted from general food relief to resilience-building through Food-for-Assets programs. Communities receive food or cash for working on projects like soil conservation structures (terracing, gully plugs) and rural road repairs.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO is promoting drought-tolerant crops in rainfall-erratic areas, distributing quick-maturing sorghum, millet, and cowpea seeds in Karamoja and Teso. Beneficiary selection for second-season distribution was underway by July – interested farmers should contact District Production Offices or sub-county extension workers.

USAID–Funded Programs

In Northern Uganda, USAID programs like Resilience in Karamoja and DINU are providing equipment such as ox-ploughs, grinding mills, and post-harvest handling kits to farmer groups. In Kitgum, several groups received ox-ploughs and tarpaulins to improve cultivation and crop drying.

Refugee Support

In refugee-hosting districts (West Nile's Adjumani and Yumbe, southwest's Kiryandongo and Kamwenge), NGOs including Mercy Corps, Danish Church Aid, and World Vision are distributing vegetable seeds and gardening tools to refugees and host communities to improve nutrition.

Plant Health Clinics

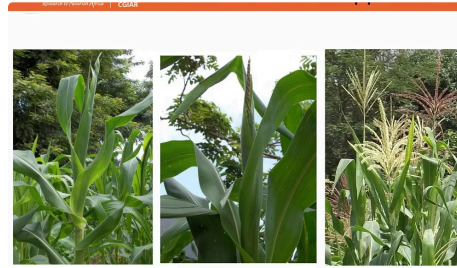
CABI and partners are running Plant Health Clinics – free diagnostic services where farmers bring diseased plant samples for immediate advice. Recent clinics have been held in Soroti, Arua, and Masaka districts.

Research & Innovations



Rice Sector Upgrade

NARO's National Crops Resources Research Institute recently completed a rice sector gap analysis. This will likely lead to new upland rice varieties with higher yields and contract farming initiatives with millers to boost national production.



Aflatoxin Control

IITA and NARO are promoting Aflasafe, a biocontrol product that reduces aflatoxin in maize and groundnuts. Recent demonstrations were held in Pallisa and Lira districts. Aflasafe works by introducing beneficial fungi that outcompete toxin-producing strains.



Meteorological Advances

UNMA has improved its seasonal forecasting capabilities. Their May prediction of above-normal northern rains and drier southern conditions for June-August has proven accurate, building trust in these forecasts.



Free Tree Seedlings

The National Forestry Authority, in partnership with district governments, is distributing free tree seedlings to boost resilience. Available varieties include fruit trees (mango, jackfruit, citrus) and fast-growing timber species (Grevillea, Musizi).

Policy News & Budget Highlights

National Fertilizer Policy

Parliament is reviewing the National Fertilizer Policy aimed at increasing fertilizer use from current levels (<5 kg/ha) toward the African Union's target (50 kg/ha). Plans include potential fertilizer subsidies through an e-voucher system offering farmers 40-50% discounts on purchases.

Local Government Policies

Local initiatives are emerging, such as Gulu District's Maize Production and Trade Ordinance that bans immature maize sales and may require trader licensing. Similar bylaws could extend to other districts and crops to address quality issues like aflatoxin contamination and substandard seed sales.

Agricultural Finance

Banks and microfinance institutions are expanding agricultural lending. dfcu Bank now offers financing for farmer groups to purchase equipment and machinery at competitive terms. Despite high interest rates (~18% annually), some loans benefit from government guarantees.

This is an opportune time for cooperatives seeking financing for tractors, milk coolers, or maize mills, as banks have specialized agri-loan options with flexible repayment schedules. Additionally, some PDM-affiliated SACCOs now provide small loans for value addition projects such as grain milling machines for women's groups.

Agricultural Show and Youth in Agriculture

The 31st National Agricultural Show in Jinja (June 27 - July 5, 2025) features over 300 exhibitors under the theme "Technological Innovations Driving Farm Wealth." Participants include research institutes, agritech companies showcasing solar irrigation, drones and mobile apps, and various agribusinesses.

This year introduces an extended format with an Agricultural Education Week (July 6-12) focused on youth and students. President Museveni's representative inaugurated the event, emphasizing the adoption of innovations to boost productivity.

The event aligns with government policy priorities: mechanization, value addition, and youth involvement in agriculture. Farmers are encouraged to implement show innovations on a small scale when possible. The President's message emphasized improved productivity and commercialization as key development goals, suggesting continued support for input access, cooperative formation, and market infrastructure.

The show highlights smart irrigation systems, precision farming technology, and climate-resilient practices. Youth groups and school agricultural clubs receive guided tours to inspire future farmers.

Even if you missed attending, watch for information via television and newspapers. Some technologies displayed may soon be piloted in select districts, including drone-spraying services and digital marketing platforms.

Publications & Resources

Recent research, bulletins, and articles provide vital knowledge for Ugandan agriculture. Below are key publications on farming, markets, and climate with their essential insights. Full references appear in the Reference section.

FAO GIEWS Country Brief – Uganda (13 May 2025)

This FAO report outlines Uganda's agricultural season and food security status: (1) Erratic early rains in March with April dry spells caused crop wilting and replanting in central/eastern regions. (2) Heavy May rains salvaged crops, especially in northern/eastern areas. (3) As of March 2025, maize prices were 26% higher year-on-year, beans 5% higher. (4) Nearly 953,000 people in refugee-hosting northern districts were in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse between Feb–June 2025.

WMO/ICPAC Seasonal Climate Outlook (June–September 2025)

This May forecast by IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre with WMO projects a 55% chance of above-normal rainfall in eastern and northern Uganda for June–Sep. It also predicts warmer than average temperatures across East Africa, except for parts of Karamoja which may be average to slightly cooler.

AllAfrica/Nile Post – Museveni on FMD Outbreaks (25 June 2025)

This article covers President Museveni's directives on the Foot-and-Mouth Disease crisis. Museveni blamed some Balaalo pastoralists for "blindly moving" cattle and importing FMD from Tanzania, causing persistent outbreaks damaging dairy and beef industries. The piece highlights a policy shift against free grazing across districts.

Selina Wamucii – Uganda Commodity Price Insights (June 2025)

This agri-market data platform reports June retail price ranges across Ugandan markets: maize from UGX 1,879 to 7,517 per kg (reflecting differences between production zones and urban markets), and beans between UGX 3,660 and 10,980 per kg. These retail ranges indicate market margins and demand strength, though farmers typically deal in wholesale or farmgate prices.

NARO News – Fall Armyworm IPM Training (Jan 2025)

Christine Elong's NARO article describes Integrated Pest Management training for Eastern Uganda farmers combating Fall Armyworm. The program emphasizes early recognition, pheromone trap monitoring, natural enemy conservation, biopesticides, and selective chemical sprays as needed. This validates our pest management recommendations and shows IPM is being actively implemented with success.

The Cooperator News – Variegated Grasshopper Infestation (June 2025)

Caesar Mukasa reports on variegated grasshoppers attacking coffee plantations in Kyotera District since late 2023, with alarming damage by mid-2025. NARO scientists and district agricultural officers recommended immediate management: weeding to destroy eggs and reduce hiding spots, pruning to open canopies, and morning handpicking and burning when grasshoppers are sluggish.

Looking Ahead & Key Reminders

As we move into July, here are key considerations for upcoming conditions and activities across different regions:



In summary, northern regions continue wet season strategies (planting, weeding, managing excess water) while southern areas shift to dry season approaches (harvesting, moisture conservation, selective irrigation).

Farmers' To-Do List (by Region)



Northern & Eastern (July)

Harvest first-season grains promptly, especially in eastern Uganda where harvest is complete, and northern areas with ready crops. Thresh and dry immediately after harvesting. Clean and repair storage facilities now, fixing holes to prevent rodent entry. Prepare storage bags, preferably hermetic ones.



Land Preparation

For northern farmers planning late August planting, start initial ploughing now if soil moisture allows. Early ploughing eases later cultivation, kills weeds, and exposes pests to predators. Begin selecting and securing quality seeds from your current harvest for future planting.



Central & Western (July)

Focus on proper drying and storage of harvests. Dry grains on tarpaulins, not directly on ground, turning periodically for even drying. For maize, shell cobs after initial drying, then dry shelled grain again to reach optimal moisture content.



Marketing Strategy

Avoid selling during harvest glut when prices are lowest. If financially possible, consider collective marketing through cooperatives later (around August) for better prices. Staple prices typically rise months after harvest, and aggregating with other farmers can attract higher-paying buyers.



Soil Improvements

Apply manure or compost to fields now that crops are harvested. July application allows nutrients to integrate before September planting. Address any liming needs for acidic soils now.



Equipment Maintenance

Book tractors or ox-ploughs early to avoid delays as second season approaches. If you own equipment, use this downtime for maintenance and servicing.



Karamoja (July–August)

With rains continuing through August, focus on weeding and top-dressing. Complete second or third weeding by late July to prevent yield reduction from weed competition.



Harvest Planning

Prepare for August harvests of early-planted sorghum and maize. Gather tarpaulins, sacks, or mats now before supplies diminish. Avoid drying cereals on bare ground to prevent moisture and contamination.

Upcoming Planting Windows

For bimodal regions, the next major planting window (Season B) starts late August through September. Begin preparations now by assessing your seed needs and purchasing certified seeds by mid-July to avoid shortages and price increases. This ensures you get your preferred varieties at better prices. Store seeds in a cool, dry place and off the ground until planting time.

If saving seed from your harvest, conduct a simple germination test: place 10 seeds on moist paper for a few days – if fewer than 7 germinate, consider new seed.

Plan your crop rotation strategy now – avoid planting the same crop consecutively in the same field (e.g., follow maize with beans or groundnuts to replenish nitrogen). Leave legume residues on fields intended for maize to enrich the soil.

July is also the time to arrange any land rental or expansion. Consider incorporating cover crops or improved forages like brachiaria grass or lablab into your second season plan for enhanced livestock feed or soil fertility. Source these specialty seeds early from NARO research stations or seed companies.

Pest/Disease Early Warning

Fungal Diseases

If forecasted above-normal August-September rains occur in north/east regions, expect increased crop diseases. Watch for foliar fungal diseases on beans (angular leaf spot, rust) and late blight on potatoes in highlands. Stock up on affordable fungicides now, or prepare preventive measures including disease-free seeds and timely spraying.

Crop Pests

No desert locust threat currently affects Uganda. For previously mentioned Quelea birds affecting sorghum/millet during August-September heading, organize community bird-scaring teams or prepare netting for smaller plots.

Livestock Diseases

Increased moisture leads to more mosquitoes, raising Rift Valley Fever (RVF) risk in livestock. Though not currently reported in Uganda, avoid grazing animals in flooded areas and implement mosquito control around animal sheds as precaution.

Swine Fever

African Swine Fever (ASF) often increases in wet conditions as muddy environments aid virus spread. If heavy rains occur, pig farmers should enhance biosecurity: restrict visitors, avoid boar swapping between farms, and never feed uncooked swill. Report sudden pig deaths immediately to authorities for quarantine implementation.

Farm Management & Financials

By early July, farmers in bimodal areas will have cash from first-season produce sales. Consider reinvesting some into farm improvements: new tarpaulins for drying grains, upgraded storage facilities (metallic silos or hermetic bags), repaired roofs for granaries or animal sheds, or equipment you typically rent. These productive assets will yield returns in future seasons.

While school fees and other needs are pressing, even small investments in farm tools boost long-term productivity. Prioritize settling any input credits or seasonal loans after harvest to maintain good credit standing. Timely repayments often lead to better terms from suppliers and community credit groups in the future.

If you've harvested storable crops like maize or beans, consider holding a portion for later sale when prices rise. Selling in October could fetch 20-30% higher prices than now, potentially outweighing storage costs. Remember to use hermetic storage or regular fumigation to protect stored crops.

Food security tip: Calculate your household's food needs until the next harvest and reserve that amount first. Don't sell everything at low prices only to buy food later at higher costs. Store your family's portion safely, then market only the surplus to ensure you remain food secure and maximize profits.

Climate Watch

El Niño Potential

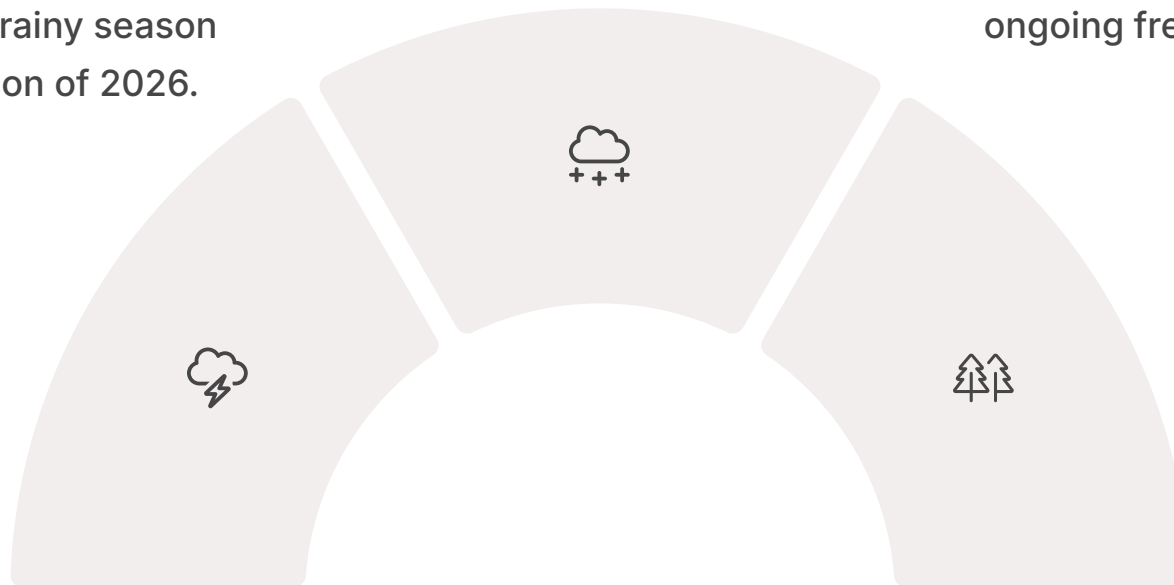
Monitor global climate patterns as indicators suggest a possible El Niño event forming in late 2025. For East Africa, El Niño typically brings above-average rainfall, potentially affecting the second rainy season of 2025 or first season of 2026.

Seasonal Forecast

Watch for UNMA's September–December seasonal forecast by late August. This guidance will help inform crop selections—consider water-tolerant varieties like rice instead of rot-prone beans if heavy rains are predicted.

Climate Adaptation

Climate change continues making seasons less predictable. Adapt through rainwater harvesting, crop diversification, and planting trees as windbreaks. Take advantage of the National Forestry Authority's ongoing free seedling distribution program.



Consider planting trees around your farm now in wet areas, or wait until September rains in dry regions.

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