

# Uganda Agriculture, Market, and Weather Report (March 21–28, 2025)

Brought to you by **IDEA**, the International Development Extension Agency. We specialize in empowering farmers, Ministries of Agriculture, and INGOs throughout the world with field-proven and impact-driven strategies that improve food security.



Uganda's first rains are now spreading from south to north, marking the main growing season's onset [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug). Farmers in central, eastern, and western regions have planted first-season crops and are preparing for weeding and fertilization, while northern areas are just beginning planting. Karamoja awaits April rains for sowing [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug). Livestock conditions improve with new pasture growth, though vigilance against Foot-and-Mouth in cattle and PPR in goats remains essential [updf.go.ug](http://updf.go.ug), [newvision.co.ug](http://newvision.co.ug). Staple food prices are elevated, with maize 15–18% higher than last year [agra.org](http://agra.org). Government initiatives include the President's regional agriculture program assessment [harvestmoney.co.ug](http://harvestmoney.co.ug), a coffee/cocoa value-chain project [businessfocus.co.ug](http://businessfocus.co.ug), and funding for school feeding in Karamoja [wfp.org](http://wfp.org). Farmers should complete planting in the north, begin crop weeding, vaccinate livestock, and monitor weather forecasts for informed decisions.

# Weather Forecast (March 21–28, 2025)

Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) and IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre (ICPAC) forecast light to moderate seasonal rains across most of Uganda this week [icpac.net](https://icpac.net), [harvestmoney.co.ug](https://harvestmoney.co.ug).

Conditions will be wetter-than-usual, though some areas may experience below-average rainfall

[harvestmoney.co.ug](https://harvestmoney.co.ug), [icpac.net](https://icpac.net). Regional forecasts:



## Karamoja (North-eastern Uganda)

Predominantly dry with isolated light showers (< 20 mm). Daytime temperatures in mid-30°C range. Farmers should finalize land preparation as heavier rains are expected by early April.



## Northern Uganda

Scattered thunderstorms developing across Acholi, Lango, and West Nile. Expect 30–50 mm rainfall, especially around West Nile and Lake Kyoga. Temperatures: 28–32°C, cooler on rainy days.



## Eastern Uganda

Moderate rains of 50–80 mm expected in Teso, Busoga, and Elgon zones. Mount Elgon and Lake Victoria shores may experience frequent, occasionally heavy showers. Daytime highs: 27–29°C.



## Western Uganda

Light to moderate rainfall (30–60 mm) across Bunyoro, Toro, Rwenzori, Ankole, and Kigezi. Rwenzori and south-western highlands may receive localized heavier rains (up to 80 mm). Temperatures: 25–27°C in highlands, up to 30°C in lowlands.



## Central Uganda

Steady seasonal rains continuing with almost daily afternoon thunderstorms in Kampala, Mukono, Luwero, and surroundings (approximately 50 mm weekly). Temperatures: 28–30°C with high humidity.



## Lake Victoria Crescent

Frequent rainfall along Wakiso, Entebbe, Masaka, and Jinja with heavy overnight and early morning showers. Breezy conditions over the lake. Local rainfall may exceed 60 mm.

(Sources: UNMA/ICPAC weekly forecasts [icpac.net](https://icpac.net), [harvestmoney.co.ug](https://harvestmoney.co.ug))



# Crop Calendar & Growth Stages

**Planting and Early Growth:** The first planting season is underway across most bimodal farming regions of Uganda. Steady rains since early March enabled farmers in southern and central regions to sow staple crops like maize, beans, groundnuts, and millet [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug). Crops are now in germination to early vegetative stages—maize planted in early March is emerging with 2-3 leaves, while beans are sprouting. In Northern Uganda, where rains began mid-March, farmers are completing cereal and legume planting this week [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug). In Karamoja's unimodal system, farmers continue land preparation while waiting for substantial rainfall, as sowing typically occurs from late March into April [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug).

**Weeding and Field Management:** First weeding will be key in the coming weeks, typically performed 2-3 weeks after crop emergence. In central and eastern regions where planting occurred in early March, fields will need weeding by late March or early April. Extension experts emphasize proper spacing and early weed removal to reduce competition for resources [monitor.co.ug](http://monitor.co.ug). Top-dressing with nitrogen will be needed for maize when plants reach knee-height (4-5 weeks post-planting). For uneven germination, gap-filling is currently underway to ensure proper crop density.

**Ongoing Harvests and Perennial Crops:** While annual crops are just starting, some harvest activities continue in specific areas. Western highlands farmers are harvesting residual Irish potatoes, while irrigated horticultural crops like tomatoes and onions are being picked for market. Perennial crops such as banana, coffee, and tea are in maintenance phases. Banana harvesting continues from the late 2024 rains cycle, while coffee trees are between flowering and fruit-setting. The Agriculture Ministry recommends pruning excess branches and building soil conservation structures during this rainy period [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug).

## Regional Highlights

- **Eastern Uganda (Teso & Busoga):** Maize, groundnuts, and millet are dominant, with the first two now emerging.
- **South-Western highlands:** Sorghum and beans planted in late February/early March are at early vegetative stages.
- Rice planting is beginning in **Eastern lowlands** and northern Lira areas.
- **Karamoja:** Millet and sorghum planting prepared for early April.

The country's crop calendar remains on track for the first season. This week should see planting completion in remaining fields, emergence of recently planted crops, and the start of crucial early-stage management including weeding and pest control. Proper agronomic practices at this stage are essential for a successful harvest.

# Input Recommendations & Technical Advisory

Early-stage crop management is critical for maximizing yields. Here are key recommendations for this growth phase:



## Seed and Reseeding

- Check field germination and replant gaps immediately
- Crops like maize, beans, and sorghum can still catch up if replanted now
- Use certified, region-appropriate seed varieties
- Maintain recommended spacing for uniform stands



## Fertilizer and Soil Health

- Apply Urea or CAN when maize reaches knee-height
- Consider split applications in high-rainfall areas
- Use well-decomposed manure if chemical fertilizers are unavailable
- Apply lime in western regions with acidic soils
- Use crop residues as mulch to retain moisture



## Weeding and Weed Control

- Weed 2-3 weeks after emergence when weeds are 5-10cm tall
- Early weeding reduces nutrient competition and pest habitats
- Use appropriate tools to avoid root disturbance
- Schedule a second weeding about a month later
- Clear field edges to eliminate pest refuges



## Pest and Disease Monitoring

- Scout maize weekly for Fall Armyworm, checking whorls for feeding marks
- Implement controls if 5%+ of seedlings show damage
- Monitor for stalk borers, bean aphids, and banana bacterial wilt
- Maintain proper spacing to prevent fungal diseases
- Apply preventative fungicides in disease-prone areas

## Tech Tip of the Week: Early weeding and pest surveillance

Keeping fields weed and pest-free during the first 4-6 weeks is essential. Research shows proper weed management can boost maize yields by 50% [cimmyt.org](http://cimmyt.org), [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug). Regular field scouting helps catch infestations early [openknowledge.fao.org](http://openknowledge.fao.org). Focus on weeding and pest control now to promote robust root systems and canopy development for better harvest yields.

# Livestock & Ranching

As rains improve pasture across Uganda, livestock farmers face better nutrition but increased disease risks. Key management guidance for this week:

## Cattle

While pastures improve and cattle regain condition, disease vigilance remains critical:

- **Foot-and-Mouth Disease:** Check with district veterinary officers for vaccination schedules in quarantined areas. Watch for drooling, mouth lesions, and limping.
- **Tick-Borne Diseases:** Spray/dip cattle every 1-2 weeks. Rotate acaricides to prevent resistance. Manually remove engorged ticks.
- **Parasites:** Deworm calves and yearlings now. Use broad-spectrum anthelmintics and flukicides in swampy grazing areas.
- **General Health:** Complete pending vaccinations like LSD. Prepare for breeding as nutrition improves. Make hay/silage for future dry seasons.

**MAAIF urges farmers to prepare** for future dry spells by making hay while fodder is abundant [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug). Isolate new animals for 2 weeks, avoid mixing herds, and ensure clean water access as temperatures rise.

## Goats and Sheep

- **Peste des Petits Ruminants:** Vaccinate goats if not done in the last year. Quarantine new stock for 10 days. Monitor for fever, nasal discharge, and mouth ulcers.
- **Nutrition:** Supplement green forage with mineral salt licks. With improved nutrition, ensure breeding bucks are ready as does come into estrus.
- **Parasites:** Deworm at the start and middle of rainy season. Watch for bottle jaw or chronic diarrhea.
- **Housing:** Keep shelters dry with repaired roofs and raised platforms to prevent mud exposure.

## Poultry (Chicken)

- **Newcastle Disease:** Vaccinate all chickens if not done in last 3 months using Lasota or I-2 strain. Vaccination increases flock survival by 57%.
- **Housing:** Ensure dry, leak-free coops with adequate ventilation. Add dry bedding if dampness occurs.
- **Disease Management:** Monitor for Coccidiosis (bloody diarrhea) and Infectious Coryza (swollen faces, nasal discharge). Prevent overcrowding.
- **Feeding:** Increase feed during cooler weather. Supplement free-range birds with energy-rich grains on rainy days.

With improved pasture conditions, maintain disease prevention through vaccination, parasite control, proper housing, and good nutrition. Market conditions remain favorable with healthy animals fetching good prices.

# Market Analysis (Prices & Trends)

Region	Maize (UGX/kg)	Beans (UGX/kg)	Sorghum (UGX/kg)	Millet (UGX/kg)	Bananas (Matooke) (UGX/kg)
Northern	1,300	5,000	1,200	3,500	1,100
Eastern	1,150	4,500	1,200	3,300	1,000
Western	1,100	4,000	1,100	3,000	800
Central	1,300	4,500	1,200	3,200	900

Staple Food Commodities: Uganda's staple food prices remain elevated in late March 2025 due to the lean period and last season's below-average yields. Maize grain prices increased 29% in January compared to December 2024 [openknowledge.fao.org](#). Wholesale maize trades at UGX 1,100–1,300/kg in major markets, while retail maize flour in Kampala costs UGX 1,900–2,000/kg. Current prices are 15–18% higher than 6 months ago [agra.org](#) and 5–10% higher than last year, attributed to poor first season yields and regional export demand. Uganda's maize remains more affordable than neighboring countries (US\$355/MT vs. Kenya's US\$421/MT) [agra.org](#).

## Key Commodity Prices

- Beans:** Wholesale prices range UGX 2,500–7,500/kg by variety and region. Common dry beans retail at UGX 3,800–4,500/kg in Kampala, exceeding UGX 5,000 in deficit areas like Karamoja.
- Matooke:** Farm-gate prices in Central region: UGX 10,000–15,000 per medium bunch. Kampala retail: UGX 800–1,000/kg.
- Millet and Sorghum:** Sorghum wholesale: UGX 5,500–9,500/kg bulk; UGX 1,200/kg in Northern markets. Millet flour in Kampala: UGX 3,000–3,500/kg.

**Karamoja markets reported maize** at UGX 2,000+/kg and sorghum at UGX 1,800/kg in February, significantly above national averages [agra.org](#), highlighting the region's acute food insecurity during dry season. WFP and other humanitarian organizations are closely monitoring these staples.

## Livestock Prices

Livestock trading has increased as pastoralists begin selling animals now that conditions are improving. A mature local bull (350–400 kg) fetches UGX 1.5–2 million at auction (UGX 5,000–8,500/kg live weight). Wholesale beef carcass prices in Kampala are UGX 12,000–13,000/kg, slightly up from last quarter.

Medium goats (~25 kg) sell for UGX 120,000–150,000, with strong demand ahead of Easter. Local chickens cost UGX 25,000–30,000 in rural areas and UGX 35,000+ in Kampala. Egg prices remain stable at UGX 10,000–11,000 per tray (30) at farm gate.

## Inputs and Farm Products

Fertilizer prices remain high but stable – NPK (50kg): UGX 160,000–170,000; Urea: UGX 150,000. Hybrid maize seed (10kg): UGX 60,000–70,000; Bean seed (K132): UGX 4,000/kg, with limited stock available.

Robusta coffee beans (FAQ) fetch UGX 6,500–7,000/kg at farm gate, down from last year's peak. Milk sells at UGX 1,200/liter at farm in Kiruhura and UGX 2,000+ retail in Kampala, likely to decrease slightly as pasture improves and production rises in April.

**Market Outlook:** If rainfall patterns remain normal, early green harvests from central Uganda may begin in late May, with main cereal harvests starting in June. Maize prices should ease by June, though the extent depends on this season's yield. Bean prices typically remain high until July harvest. Livestock prices may dip slightly with improved pasture but will likely remain firm due to strong demand. Food inflation was approximately 5% year-on-year in February (UBOS), though staple-specific inflation for maize and beans reached double digits. WFP and FEWS NET estimate 1.5–2 million Ugandans will need food assistance through May 2025, particularly in Karamoja and refugee-hosting areas [reliefweb.int](#).



# Government & NGO Updates (Policy, Programs, Announcements)

## President's Agricultural Tours – PDM Inspection

President Museveni toured the Bunyoro region (March 19-20) to assess Parish Development Model (PDM) agricultural progress [harvestmoney.co.ug](https://harvestmoney.co.ug). Local Masindi leaders reported that his engagement motivated farmers participating in PDM initiatives, which aim to integrate subsistence farmers into the money economy [harvestmoney.co.ug](https://harvestmoney.co.ug). During the visit, Museveni highlighted the Kinyara Sugar factory (with 7,000 outgrowers) as an exemplary agro-industrial success in the region [harvestmoney.co.ug](https://harvestmoney.co.ug).

## MAAIF Takes Over Coffee & Cocoa Project

The Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF) officially took over the Coffee and Cocoa Value Chain Development Project (CoCoDev) from Uganda Coffee Development Authority on February 27, 2025 [businessfocus.co.ug](https://businessfocus.co.ug). This EU-funded UGX 25.5 billion project (2022-2027) focuses on strengthening policies, improving production, reducing post-harvest losses, and enhancing marketing for coffee and cocoa [businessfocus.co.ug](https://businessfocus.co.ug). In late 2024, the project awarded UGX 12.6 billion in matching grants to 152 farmer groups and enterprises for new coffee and cocoa plantings [businessfocus.co.ug](https://businessfocus.co.ug).

## World Food Programme – School Feeding Contribution

The UN World Food Programme received UGX 2.5 billion (US\$680,000) from the Ugandan Government to support Home-Grown School Feeding in Karamoja [wfp.org](https://wfp.org). The funding will provide meals to 122,000 schoolchildren while supporting local farmers through direct food purchases. This initiative simultaneously addresses child nutrition in food-insecure regions and creates markets for farmers in surplus-producing areas.

## Agricultural Policy Developments

Parliament approved merging three agencies – Cotton Development Organization, Dairy Development Authority, and National Seed Certification Service – back into the Ministry of Agriculture [parliament.go.ug](https://parliament.go.ug). This public sector streamlining may affect service delivery, including how seed certification, cotton, and dairy services are administered.

Makerere University launched an Agricultural Policy Research Centre in March to support evidence-based policy formulation [news.mak.ac.ug](https://news.mak.ac.ug). Meanwhile, an IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis identified Karamoja and refugee settlements as areas of concern [ipcinfo.org](https://ipcinfo.org), where humanitarian NGOs are implementing food distribution and resilience projects.

Farmers should engage with cooperative societies or farmer organizations to access project benefits such as free seed, training, or grants. Government priorities clearly focus on commercialization and climate adaptation—aligning farming activities with these areas could increase access to upcoming support.

# Relevant Publications & Resources

Several key reports and bulletins released this past month provide valuable insights:



## March–May 2025 Seasonal Climate Outlook (ICPAC & UNMA)

Regional forecast predicting below-normal rains in western/southern Uganda and above-normal in eastern areas [icpac.net](https://icpac.net).



## Weekly East Africa Weather & Crop Situation Update

ICPAC-Crop Monitor bulletin (March 19–26) reports moderate rains (50–200 mm) across Uganda with heavy rainfall in neighboring Rwanda [icpac.net](https://icpac.net).



## WFP Uganda Market Monitor (Feb 2025)

Latest price bulletin shows significant increases in staple food prices, with maize up 29% in January [openknowledge.fao.org](https://openknowledge.fao.org).



## AGRA Food Security Monitor – February 2025 Edition

Monthly report indicates Uganda's maize prices increased ~15% over 3 months and ~18% over 6 months, with data on insufficient food consumption across regions [agra.org](https://agra.org).



## IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (late 2024 – early 2025)

Report identifies Karamoja in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) with ~40–45% of households facing acute food insecurity, and stressed conditions in parts of Teso and refugee settlements [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).



## FAO Crop Prospects and Food Situation – March 2025

Global report notes "good weather conditions supported above-average 2024 harvests in East Africa" with exceptions in certain areas [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

These resources are available online via the provided links or through local agriculture offices.



# Looking Ahead & Key Reminders

As Uganda's farming community progresses through the first rainy season, here are key insights and actions for the coming weeks:



## Finalize Planting

Complete planting in Northern Uganda and Karamoja when conditions allow



## Early Weeding

Schedule first weeding 2-3 weeks after crop emergence



## Monitor Rainfall

Track forecasts to time field operations effectively

## Pest Surveillance and Early Action

Scout fields weekly for Fall Armyworm in April. Control immediately if egg masses or infestation appear (handpick eggs, use bio-insecticides for early larvae). Coordinate community spraying for larger farms as pests cross farm boundaries.

## Livestock – Vaccinate & Breed

Schedule vaccinations in April (Newcastle for poultry, FMD/Brucellosis/Black Quarter for cattle, PPR for goats). Contact veterinary offices about potential free vaccination drives. With improved pasture, maintain breeding plans and enhance nutrition for breeding animals.

## Prepare for Next Season's Inputs

Plan now for second planting season (August–September 2025). Save portion of current harvest for replanting or start nurseries for long-duration crops. Consider purchasing fertilizer early to avoid price spikes and stock shortages.

## Grain Marketing Strategy

Monitor price trends during harvest. With high current prices that may drop during good harvests, consider selling a portion at harvest and storing some for when prices typically rise later in the year.

Following these actions will prepare farmers for upcoming weeks, whether rains are plentiful or challenges arise. With normal rainfall, many regions should see good mid-year harvests, improving food security and incomes. Timely practices and preparedness for weather and market changes are essential.

Sources: UNMA/ICPAC forecasts [icpac.net](http://icpac.net), MAAIF extension advisories [nilepost.co.ug](http://nilepost.co.ug), FAO/FEWS reports [agra.org](http://agra.org), and various local news updates included above.



# IDEA

INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
EXTENSION  
AGENCY

**IMPROVING GLOBAL FOOD  
SECURITY THROUGH  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

[www.IDEA.ag](http://www.IDEA.ag)

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.](#)