Uganda Weekly Agriculture, Food Market, & Farming Weather Report

July 18–25, 2025

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION AGENCY

Executive Summary

Uganda's agricultural conditions this week show a north-south divide. Northern regions benefit from steady rains for mid-season crops, while central and southern areas are in their dry season, focusing on harvesting and land preparation for the second season. Northern areas report good crop prospects from above-average rains, though southern yields were patchy due to an April dry spell.

Market prices for staple foods remain high compared to last year but are easing slightly with new harvests. Maize grain prices are about 20–25% above 2024 levels (e.g., UGX 1,200/kg farm-gate; UGX 1,700/kg Kampala), and beans show a similar trend. Livestock prices are robust countrywide, reflecting steady consumer demand and higher input costs (e.g., cattle UGX 8,000–10,000/kg upcountry; UGX 15,000/kg Kampala).

Livestock conditions are favorable in the north due to abundant forage, but declining in drier southern regions, necessitating fodder conservation. Uganda is actively managing animal disease threats: a nationwide Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control campaign is ongoing with movement bans and mass vaccinations. A recent goat plague (PPR) outbreak in western Uganda was swiftly contained through vaccination.

Government and partners continue to bolster agricultural support through programs like the Parish Development Model (PDM), increased extension staff deployment, and recent forums on agrifood systems investment and climate-smart innovation. International agencies are also active, supporting refugee-hosting communities with agricultural projects. These efforts, combined with a stable macroeconomic environment, contribute to a cautiously positive outlook for the sector.

Key message:

Northern farmers should capitalize on rains for good yields. Southern farmers should complete harvests, repair storage, and prepare land for the second season. Livestock keepers must conserve fodder and adhere to movement restrictions to control diseases.

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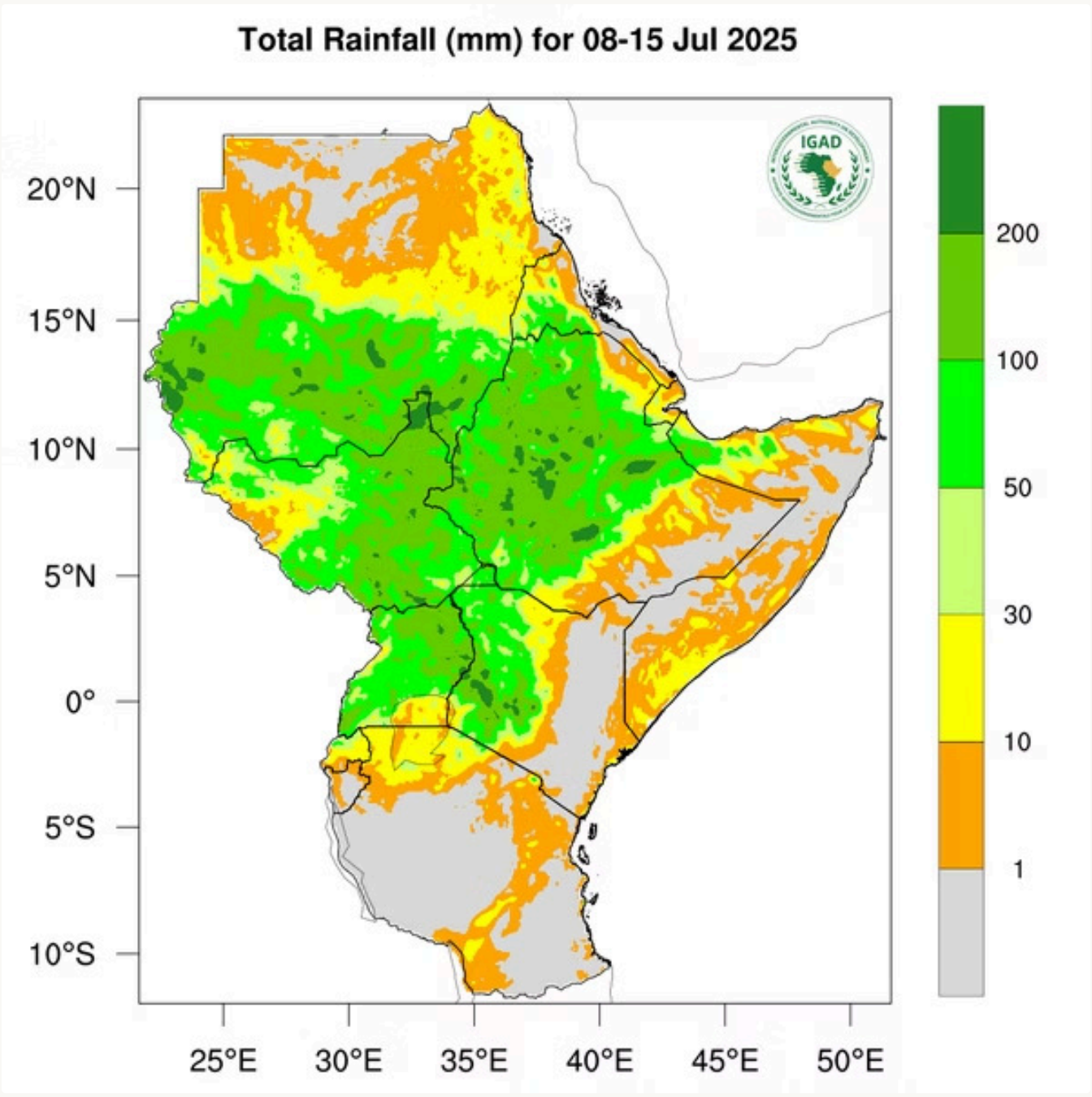
Weather Forecast (July 18–25, 2025)

This week maintains the established pattern: northern Uganda will experience moderate to heavy rainfall due to the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), with a risk of localized flooding in low-lying areas. Conversely, central, western, and southern regions remain largely dry, with predominantly sunny and hazy weather, and only isolated drizzles near large water bodies. Temperatures will be mild to cool across much of the country, with nighttime lows of 17–20°C (10–16°C in southwestern highlands) and daytime highs of 25–29°C (slightly warmer, 30–32°C, in the northeast).



Region-by-region outlook and farming implications:

Karamoja (Northeastern Uganda)

Expect scattered showers and thunderstorms throughout the week, especially mid-week, with 40–70 mm of rainfall. Daytime temperatures will be 28–30°C, with nights around 18°C.

Farming implications:

These rains are timely for crops like sorghum, millet, maize, and cowpeas in early to mid-growth stages. Prioritize weeding to reduce competition. Remain vigilant for fall armyworm in young maize; inspect whorls daily for "windowpane" holes or frass and destroy larvae.

Implement community pest control methods. As sorghum and millet head, prepare for bird damage. Utilize good soil moisture to apply a top-dressing of nitrogen fertilizer (e.g., urea, 25–40 kg/ha) just before rain to boost yields.

This week is the last window for planting short-cycle crops (cowpea, vegetables) to ensure harvest before rains taper; sow immediately, favoring raised beds. Practice soil and water conservation: maintain bunds/trenches on slopes and mulch around bananas/vegetables to retain moisture.

Northern Region (Acholi, Lango, West Nile)

Consistent moderate rainfall (50–80 mm) is expected across northern districts this week, with mostly steady, gentle rains and cloudy skies keeping daytime temperatures in the mid-20s °C. While major flood risk is low, farmers in flood-prone areas should ensure clear drainage to prevent waterlogging.

Farming implications:

Sustained moisture is excellent for grain-filling crops (maize, millet, upland rice) and pasture growth. However, humid conditions increase crop disease risk. Scout maize and legumes for fungal infections; consider preventive fungicide application if early signs appear.

Watch for fall armyworm in maize and treat promptly (e.g., with biopesticides). As early-planted maize matures, harvest promptly once cobs are physiologically mature to avoid losses. Dry cobs on tarpaulins, then shell and further dry grain to <13% moisture for safe storage.

For sorghum and millet, continue field monitoring and ensure excess surface water drains away. Consider staking or tying sorghum stalks to reduce lodging during heavy rains.

High humidity means a higher risk of crop fungal diseases (e.g., groundnut rosette virus, bean anthracnose). Rogue out diseased plants to prevent spread. If aphid vectors are observed, an early fungicide or insecticide treatment may be warranted.

Looking ahead, northern farmers planning a short second-season crop (late August) should begin preparations: identify fields, do initial ploughing, and secure quality seed from best harvest or agro-dealers/NAADS. Stay informed about community seed fairs via local extension offices.

Eastern Region (Teso, Elgon, Busoga zones)

Eastern Uganda anticipates light to moderate rains (20–50 mm) with local variations. Mt. Elgon highlands will receive more rainfall and cooler temperatures (mid-20s°C), while lower areas like the Busoga plains will be drier, reaching up to 30°C.

Farming implications:

In wetter zones (Elgon highlands, parts of Teso), maintain soil erosion controls (terraces, drainage) for late-planted or long-maturing crops. Harvest any late-season maize or beans promptly and use sunny intervals for thorough drying of grains.

For eastern farmers in drier areas, prioritize safeguarding remaining crops. This is a land preparation period; begin land clearing and gather crop residues for mulch or livestock feed. Start sourcing quality seeds (maize, beans, groundnuts, vegetables) for the upcoming second season.

For stored first-season maize or sorghum, use pesticide dust or hermetic bags to prevent losses from grain borer and weevils. Livestock keepers in Teso should prepare for shrinking water sources by harvesting and storing water now, and consider supplementary feeding with dried crop residues for August.

Western Region (Bunyoro, Ankole, Rwenzori, Kigezi)

Western Uganda is in its dry season, with most areas expecting little to no rain (<10mm), clear skies, warm days (27-30°C lowlands, 23-25°C highlands), and cool nights (12-18°C). Isolated light showers (<5mm) may occur near Rwenzori or Lake Albert.

Farming implications:

For Western farmers, this is a crucial harvest and post-harvest period. Ensure all remaining crops are harvested promptly, taking advantage of the reliably dry conditions for efficient drying of produce like maize, beans, and coffee. Proper drying is key for safe storage and better prices.

As fields clear, focus on soil health: spread organic manures or compost. Consider sowing drought-hardy cover crops (e.g., lablab, mucuna) to protect soil from erosion and add organic matter, benefiting future rains.

Livestock keepers in the Ankole cattle corridor must plan for upcoming pasture scarcity. Conserve available forage now (hay from grass, silage from crop residues) and avoid overgrazing. Secure alternative feeds like legume hays or agro-industrial byproducts for August/September.

Environmental note: The dry season increases wildfire risk in Western savannah and forest areas; avoid bush burning. Leave crop residues on fields as mulch to conserve soil moisture and add nutrients.

Central Region & Lake Victoria Crescent

Central Uganda expects a dry, slightly cool week with minimal rain (5–10mm near Lake Victoria). Daytime temperatures will be 27–29°C, nights 17–19°C, with mostly sunny conditions and occasional morning fog near water bodies.

Farming implications:

This dry spell is ideal for harvest processing and proper storage of first-season crops (maize, beans, groundnuts, sweet potatoes). Utilize aerated storage, hermetic bags, or metal silos to protect yields against pests. Begin land preparation for second season planting, typically starting in late August/September, as soils are easier to work.

Farmers with irrigation can plant quick-maturing horticultural crops like tomatoes or cabbages, using mulch and efficient watering. Livestock and poultry require attention: watch for Newcastle disease in poultry and manage tick-borne diseases in cattle with regular control. Expect typical dry-season issues like dusty roads and increased bushfire risk. This dry window will persist until late August, facilitating produce drying and infrastructure work.

Lake Victoria Islands

The Lake Victoria Islands (Kalangala, Buvuma) will be largely dry, with isolated light morning drizzles. Fisherfolk can expect calm, clear conditions but should be aware of gusty afternoon winds; secure boats accordingly. Residents must also be cautious of bushfires as island vegetation dries.

Weather Summary

Southern Uganda

Central, Western, and Lake Victoria regions will remain under a sustained dry spell through July, ideal for harvest and infrastructure projects. Vigilance for water conservation and fire prevention is crucial.

Northern Uganda

Northern and Eastern Uganda continue to receive beneficial, above-average rains, supporting crops and rangelands. While positive for yields and pasture, be aware of potential flood and post-harvest handling concerns.

Farmers should leverage these regional conditions: maximize northern rains while managing excesses, and utilize the southern dry spell for next cycle preparations. UNMA advises staying updated with local weather alerts to reduce risks and optimize agricultural outcomes for the week.

Crop Calendar & Growth Stages

Current crop stages across Uganda vary by region, following the staggered planting calendars and rainfall patterns in each zone. Drawing on the FAO Uganda crop calendar data and field reports, we identify the growth stage of major crops in each region and provide agronomic guidance:

Karamoja (Northeastern, uni-modal rainfall zone)

In Karamoja, crops planted April-May are in early to mid-development. Maize is primarily in the vegetative to early reproductive (tasseling/silking) stages. Sorghum and millet are mostly tillering to stem-elongation, with some early varieties nearing booting. Pulses sown in late May are flowering and forming pods. These are critical stages for yield, requiring proper management.

Agronomic recommendations:

Priorities include timely second weeding in maize, sorghum, and millet to prevent competition.

Diligently scout for pests, especially Fall Armyworm (FAW) in maize. Inspect whorls for signs like "window" holes or frass. Take immediate action by handpicking or applying botanical treatments like neem leaf extract or wood ash. Community use of FAW pheromone traps (if available) is recommended for early warning.

For sorghum and millet, prepare for bird damage as grain heads emerge by organizing bird-scaring or using reflective tape. A light fertilizer top-dressing (e.g., micro-dose of urea/CAN or organic compost tea) can boost yields, especially for maize and sorghum before rainfall. Farmers growing bananas should keep them heavily mulched for moisture conservation and weed suppression. Maximizing field management now is crucial for a better harvest in August/September.

Northern Region (Acholi and Lango sub-regions, parts of West Nile)

In Northern Uganda, with rains continuing into late July, main cereal crops are maturing. Maize and millet planted in March are now in grain-filling to maturation stages, with early-planted maize harvesting already underway in some districts since late June/early July. Quick-maturing sorghum planted in March is also being harvested. The main sorghum crop (sown in April) is heading or in early grain-fill, expected to mature by August if rains continue.

The first season for common beans (planted Feb–March, harvested by May) is largely over. Groundnuts from the first season (planted March) are currently being harvested and dried (June–July). Sweet potatoes planted earlier are bulking and can be harvested as needed. Bananas, where present, are bearing fruit, and farmers should prop up heavy bunches and remove any suckers infected with Banana Bacterial Wilt.

Agronomic advice:

For cereals nearing maturity, focus on harvest and post-harvest practices. Harvest maize as soon as cobs show full maturity (hard kernels, dry husks, black layer visible) to prevent losses. Properly dry harvested cobs on raised platforms, then shell and sun-dry grain to 12–13% moisture for safe storage (kernels should crack when bitten). For sorghum and millet not yet mature, continue monitoring fields, ensure sufficient drainage, and consider tying stalks in bundles or propping them to prevent lodging.

High humidity increases risk of fungal diseases, especially in late-planted legumes like groundnuts (rosette virus, leaf spots) and beans (anthracnose, root rot). Uproot diseased plants to reduce inoculum. If significant threats are observed, consult extension agents for appropriate controls.

Eastern Region (including Teso, Bukedi, Busoga, and Elgon zones)

Eastern Uganda features both bimodal and unimodal rainfall patterns. As of mid-July, the first cropping season (Season A) is concluding in most eastern districts. In lower-elevation bimodal areas (e.g., Busoga, parts of Bukedi), maize and beans planted in March were largely harvested by late June. Farmers are completing remaining harvests (like sweet potatoes) and beginning land preparation for Season B, which typically starts in August.

In Teso and East Central, longer-cycle crops (maize, sorghum, sunflower) are in grain-filling and tuber bulking stages, with harvest expected late July through August.

The Elgon highlands have a distinct, later, and longer season. Maize is tasseling/flowering and beans are pod-filling (planted April, harvest around August), reflecting persistent mountain rains.

Agronomic guidance:

For areas that finished first-season harvests, focus on soil fertility restoration and second-season preparation. Consider planting short-duration cover crops (e.g., cowpea) or applying organic manure to enrich depleted soils before August planting. Monitor fields with maturing crops (sorghum, late maize) for pests like Quelea birds (in Teso) and Fall Armyworm (FAW) in maize. Rice growers in wetlands should maintain adequate water levels for grain filling and prepare drying grounds for August harvest.

For second season planning, secure improved seeds early, as popular varieties often sell out. Conduct germination tests on saved seeds (aim for >80% viability) and arrange any necessary tractor or ox-plough services in advance of the August rush.

Western Region (including Ankole, Toro, Bunyoro, Kigezi)

By mid-July, most annual crops in Western Uganda (maize, beans, millet, sorghum, groundnuts, upland rice) have been harvested or are reaching full maturity following the March–May rainy season. Only a few late-planted crops, like Irish potatoes in Kabale, might still be in fields. Perennial crops such as coffee and bananas are in active production, sustained by residual soil moisture.

Guidance:

For harvested annual crops, focus on careful post-harvest handling to preserve quality. Consider investing in hermetic storage (e.g., PICS bags) for grains to prevent pest damage, especially for maize stored until prices rise. On fallowed fields, planting cover crops is beneficial.

Western highlands often have acidic soils; apply agricultural lime (~50 kg per acre) now to improve next season's yields, or use wood ash if lime is unavailable. Avoid combining ash/lime with fertilizers immediately. For ongoing crops, banana farmers should continue debudding and practicing tool sanitation to prevent bacterial wilt. Tea estates should maintain plucking cycles and use this drier spell for pruning. Overall, this period in Western Uganda is for maintaining soil cover, protecting stored produce, and preparing for the next planting season, including repairing terraces and cleaning water harvesting systems.

Central Region (Central and Lake Victoria Crescent, bimodal areas)

Central Uganda's first cropping season (March–June) has largely concluded, with most beans, maize, groundnuts, and upland rice harvested by late May or June. Farmers are now primarily between seasons, focusing on drying and marketing produce like maize and Robusta coffee, which peaks from May to August. Vanilla harvest (June–July) is also underway, while pastures in the central cattle corridor are steadily drying.

Guidance:

July is a crucial period for planning and procuring inputs for the second season, which commences around late August. Farmers should inventory their needs for quality seeds, fertilizers, and storage materials, sourcing them now to avoid shortages or price spikes.

For crop residues like maize stalks or rice straw, conservation as livestock feed or tilling them under is highly recommended. Burning residues is strongly discouraged due to fire risks and the loss of organic matter. Instead, chop and incorporate stover or leave it as mulch to improve soil moisture and add nutrients.

Orchard farmers should use this off-season for pruning and initiating pest control measures. Urban and peri-urban gardeners should prioritize mulching and evening watering to conserve moisture, and improve soil fertility by adding compost or manure now for the upcoming rains.

Regional Crop Calendar Summary

Farmers nationwide should align activities with their area's crop calendar, adapting to current weather. The June–September 2025 forecast for above-normal rains in northern Uganda and near-normal to slightly below-normal in the south has proven accurate.

This allows northern farmers a potentially longer growing period and better yields, if managed well. Southern farmers should anticipate a delayed start to second rains (late August); they should prepare in July and plant only when sufficient moisture is available. Following these tips helps maximize yields and build resilience.

March–May

First season planting in bimodal areas (Central, Western, parts of Eastern)

Main season planting begins in unimodal areas (Northern, Karamoja)

1

June–July

First season harvest in bimodal areas

Crop development continues in unimodal areas

Dry season in southern regions

2

August–September

Second season planting in bimodal areas

Main season harvest begins in unimodal areas

3

October–December

Second season crop development in bimodal areas

Dry season begins in unimodal areas

4

Input Recommendations & Technical Advisory

This week, we provide specific recommendations on inputs and field management, covering soil fertility and pest/disease control. We also introduce a practical "Tech Tip of the Week" to help farmers innovate, all based on proven agronomic practices.

Fertilizer & Soil Management

For actively growing crops (north, northeast), apply urea (40–50 kg/ha, or 1 mug/10 m²) as a top-dressing, especially for maize and sorghum, to boost grain development. Time application just before rain or irrigate/scratch into soil to prevent loss. Avoid direct contact with plant stems to prevent scorching.

In regions with completed harvests (central, western), replenish soil fertility during fallow periods. Sow green manure cover crops like lablab or sunnhemp to fix nitrogen and add biomass. Alternatively, spread well-decomposed compost or farmyard manure onto empty fields to enrich soil before next planting. This is especially useful for banana-coffee intercropping systems.

Phosphorus for Next Season:

For August/September planting, ensure phosphorus-rich fertilizers like DAP or TSP are on hand for crops like maize, beans, or root crops. Phosphorus is vital for early root development in often-deficient Ugandan soils. Even micro-dosing (a teaspoon of DAP per planting hole) can significantly improve early vigor. Consider pooling resources for bulk purchases or inquire about government subsidies.

Soil pH and Liming:

Many high-rainfall zones (Western/Eastern highlands, Lake Victoria crescent) suffer from acidic soils, which hinder nutrient uptake. The dry season is ideal for applying agricultural lime to correct this. Aim for roughly 1 ton per hectare (or 1 kg/10 m²) spread evenly and incorporated into the topsoil after harvest. This gradual neutralization improves nutrient availability for the next season.

Wood ash (1–2 kg/100 m²) is a good substitute if commercial lime is unavailable. Caution: Do not apply wood ash or lime simultaneously with urea or ammonium fertilizers; apply them a few weeks apart to prevent nitrogen loss. Proactive soil fertility management now ensures strong crop performance in the coming season.

Pest & Disease Management

As the first season ends and the next approaches, focus on managing pests and diseases. Fall Armyworm (FAW) on maize remains a key concern, especially for late-planted or irrigated maize in northern and eastern regions. Weekly checks of pheromone traps provide early warning for intensified scouting. Inspect maize plants for "windowpane" patches or frass in the leaf whorl. If FAW larvae are found, options include handpicking, applying biological pesticides (e.g., Bt or neem oil), or as a last resort, using recommended chemical insecticides.

Always follow extension guidance for chemical use, including safety precautions and product rotation to prevent resistance. Early detection is crucial as some insecticides cannot reach larvae deep in the whorl.

Looking ahead, consider treating maize seed with insecticide coatings if available. Certified pre-treated seeds offer protection against FAW for the first few weeks after germination, allowing seedlings to grow past their most vulnerable stage.

Stemborers in cereals:

After harvesting maize or sorghum, destroy dry stalks to eliminate stemborer larvae and FAW pupae. Uprooting and composting crop residues (where heat kills pests) or deep ploughing them under can significantly reduce pest carry-over to the next crop.

Bean pests and diseases:

For second-season bean planting, use clean, certified seed to prevent seed-borne diseases. If reusing own seed, sort thoroughly and consider treating it with a seed dressing (fungicide + insecticide powder) to protect emerging seedlings from soil-borne fungi and early insect attacks. For existing bean plants, watch for foliar beetles and aphids; handpick small infestations, or use botanical sprays. Ensure good spacing and remove diseased plants to limit spread.

Banana Xanthomonas Wilt (BXW):

This bacterial wilt remains a serious issue in central and western Uganda. Symptoms include yellowing/wilting, premature fruit ripening with brownish ooze, and yellow bacterial ooze from cut stems. Infected plants have no cure; the entire mat must be uprooted and destroyed. Crucially, disinfect farm tools after pruning or cutting any banana plants (e.g., with bleach or heat) to prevent disease spread. Community cooperation in promptly removing diseased plants is vital for control.

"Tech Tip of the Week" – Dry-Season Fodder Conservation

This week's practical tip focuses on preserving livestock feed for the dry season. As many Ugandan regions, especially the Cattle Corridor, enter the dry period, pastures will shrink, leading to feed scarcity. Farmers can convert current surplus green forage into nutritious, conserved feed like hay and silage, sustaining their animals for months.

Making Silage

Silage is fermented, high-moisture fodder stored in airtight conditions, excellent for preserving nutrients in grasses or crop residues. To make basic silage:

1. Cut fresh green forage (e.g., Napier, sorghum, maize plants) into small pieces.
2. Layer chopped forage in a pit or large plastic bag, adding diluted molasses and a handful of salt per layer.
3. Compact each layer tightly to squeeze out all air.
4. Fill the container completely and seal the top, weighing it down.

The forage ferments anaerobically over 3–6 weeks. Good silage smells sweet-sour and is green-brown; if kept sealed, it can be stored for over a year. Silage retains vitamins and proteins, is readily eaten by livestock, and helps maintain milk production and body weight during dry months.

Maize plants make the best silage due to high sugars, but sorghum and elephant grass also work. If forage is too wet, wilt it in the sun for a day to reach optimal moisture (~65%). Always add molasses if possible, as it speeds up fermentation and improves quality.

Making Hay

Hay is dried grass or legumes, stored in bundles. Making hay is simpler than silage but requires sunny weather.

1. Cut green, mature grass (e.g., Rhodes grass) or legumes when quality is good.
2. Spread the cut grass in a thin layer under the sun on a clean surface.
3. Let it dry for 1-2 days, turning regularly for even drying.
4. Hay is ready when it's crispy-dry but still greenish, and stems snap.
5. Gather the dried hay before night to avoid dew, and store it in a dry place, either bundled or loose.

Properly made hay can last several months in storage.

Tips for quality hay:

- Avoid rain during drying to prevent nutrient loss and mold.
- If drying takes longer, cover smaller heaps at night.
- Legume hays (like lucerne) are nutritious but must be dried carefully (often in shade) to prevent leaf shattering.

The basic process involves cutting, sun-drying, turning, and storing, which can be done with minimal equipment. Good hay quality starts with good grass from well-fertilized pastures.

Benefits of Fodder Conservation

Dry Season Resilience

Silage and hay provide crucial dry season resilience, sustaining livestock productivity when green pasture is scarce. They help maintain milk production and weight during dry months.

Choosing the Right Method

Silage preserves more nutrients and suits wetter forages, ideal for maize stover. Hay is simpler for grasses in sunny weather. Farmers can utilize both, depending on available materials and conditions.

Feeding Guidelines

Introduce conserved fodder gradually. Ensure animals have clean water and a mineral lick, as dry feeds increase water needs. Monitor consumption, adjusting as required for different animal types.

Economic Opportunities

Fodder conservation can create income streams, with bales of hay or bags of silage selling well during the dry season. Youth groups can offer hay-making services, adding value to the agricultural sector.

Fodder conservation prevents dry-season weight loss and milk drops, acting as a climate-smart resilience strategy. Identify areas of surplus green growth this week and try making a small batch as a demonstration. Adopting silage or hay practices can significantly improve livestock productivity and farmer livelihoods.

Livestock & Ranching

Pasture and Water (North):

Ongoing rains in northern Uganda (Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Moroto) have led to plentiful, high-quality pasture. Rangeland greenness is above normal, improving livestock body conditions significantly. Farmers should capitalize by allowing ample grazing and conserving grass as hay for later.

Conversely, southwestern and central cattle corridor districts (e.g., Kiruhura, Nakasongola, parts of Teso) face a forage deficit. Pastures are drying and water sources receding. Ranchers in these regions should ration water (provide during cooler times) and utilize crop residues like maize stover as supplementary feed (preferably chopped and mixed).

Consider rotational grazing to allow paddocks to rest and concentrate manure. For extreme water shortages, coordinate with local authorities; planning is crucial even if July isn't critical yet.

Livestock Health

The Ugandan government continues to combat Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks in several hotspots. Movement quarantine measures remain in effect in known outbreak sub-counties – farmers must not illegally move cattle out of these zones.

Strict enforcement, including military checkpoints, has slowed FMD spread; mass vaccination is ongoing in high-risk districts. Farmers are urged to comply with vaccination schedules and maintain farm-level biosecurity: use footbaths for visitors, isolate new animals, and avoid sharing farm equipment.

A Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) outbreak in goats and sheep earlier this year in western Uganda is now under control following vaccinations and temporary market bans. Goat and sheep farmers should vaccinate for PPR; the vaccine is highly effective. If signs like sudden fever, mouth sores, coughing, or diarrhea appear in goats, isolate them and inform veterinary officials immediately.

Trypanosomiasis (Nagana) remains an issue in cattle, especially in tsetse-fly prone areas. As drier conditions emerge, keep livestock out of bushy areas during peak fly times. Use pour-on insecticides if nagana is prevalent; watch for signs like emaciation and treat positive cases with prescribed drugs.

Tick-borne diseases (e.g., East Coast Fever, anaplasmosis) are always present – continue regular tick control (sprays or dips). July's cooler temperatures in the south can sometimes increase tick loads, so vigilance is key. Reports indicate increased Anaplasmosis cases in Kiruhura, showing symptoms of fever and yellowing eyes, treatable with oxytetracycline if caught early.

For Poultry: Newcastle Disease tends to peak in dry, cool seasons – community poultry vaccinators should organize ND vaccine campaigns now. Smallholder chicken flocks should be vaccinated (LaSota or I-2 vaccine). Also, ensure coops are well ventilated and provide drinking water with electrolytes on very hot days to mitigate heat stress in northern Uganda.

Livestock Management Tips

- In the north, time breeding programs now while forage is improving for higher conception rates.
- In dairy areas, supplement with concentrates or cheaper alternatives like legume hays to maintain milk yield as grass dries.
- Collect and store abundant crop residues (e.g., maize stover, bean vines) for feed, reducing costly commercial feeds.
- Plan and execute dry-season borehole repairs or expansions now, before water becomes critically scarce.

Consider making homemade multinutrient lick blocks (molasses, mineral premix, cottonseed cake, salt) to supplement cattle during lean times, or at least provide a simple mineral salt lick.

For housing, ensure young animals (calves, kids) have dry bedding and windproof pens during cooler nights (July–Aug) to prevent pneumonia. For tick control, if communal dips are dry, organize hand-spraying days with neighbors for synchronized community treatment.

Livestock Market Update

The livestock market is generally firm. Farm-gate prices for medium-grade Zebu bulls (350 kg) are UGX 1.2–1.5 million, up slightly due to South Sudan demand (UGX 8,000–9,500/kg live upcountry, UGX 15,000/kg in Kampala). Goat prices are also strong: a mature local goat (~25 kg) sells for UGX 150,000–180,000 in the north, rising to UGX 250,000 in Kampala due to high urban demand.

Local chicken fetch UGX 25,000–30,000 in villages and UGX 40,000+ in Kampala, reflecting stable demand. Eggs retail at UGX 12,000 per tray farm-gate in Central, a slight decrease due to good wet season production. Livestock keepers maintaining healthy herds through the dry season will benefit from high prices, especially towards year-end, emphasizing the importance of fodder conservation and vigilant animal health.

In summary, Uganda's livestock sector shows firm prices, benefiting those who plan ahead with water, feed, and health management. Diligent care now ensures healthy, productive, and profitable animals through the current season.

Market Analysis

Uganda's agricultural markets (July 18–25, 2025) are marked by moderating staple food and strong livestock prices, influenced by seasonal harvests, regional trade, and input costs. Below are current average prices (UGX) for major staples and livestock, representing regional averages from key wholesale markets:

Regional Average Prices (Mid-July 2025):

Commodity	Northern UGX/kg	Eastern UGX/kg	Western UGX/kg	Central UGX/kg
Maize grain (dry, per kg)	1,200	1,300	1,100	1,600
Beans (dry, mixed varietal)	3,800	3,500	3,600	4,400
Sorghum grain (per kg)	1,300	1,800	2,000	3,500
Millet grain (per kg)	2,300	2,500	2,800	4,000
Cooking bananas (matooke, per kg)	3,000	2,400	1,500	4,800
Live Cattle (per kg live weight)	8,500	10,000	9,000	15,000
Live Goats (per kg live weight)	7,500	9,000	9,500	11,000
Local Chicken (per kg live weight)	7,000	8,000	8,500	10,500

Prices are derived from WFP market monitors and the Selina Wamucii platform. Livestock prices are based on live animal weight.

Key Market Insights

Staple grain prices are slightly softening with the first-season harvest. **Maize** is cheapest in Western and Northern Uganda (UGX 1,100–1,200/kg) due to ample supply, but costliest in Central (UGX 1,600) reflecting transport costs and earlier dry spells. **Beans** are cheaper in Eastern and Northern production zones (UGX 3,500–3,800) and priciest in Central (UGX 4,400).

Matooke (bananas) are very cheap in Western Uganda (~UGX 1,500), but over UGX 4,500 in Kampala. This indicates high transport costs, reduced output from banana bacterial wilt, and increased fuel prices.

This reflects the dynamic nature of Uganda's agricultural markets, where regional supply and demand, alongside logistical factors, heavily influence commodity prices.

Livestock Price Analysis

Livestock prices are higher in urban Central due to strong demand and lower in rural areas. For instance, live cattle fetch ~UGX 15,000/kg in Kampala versus ~UGX 8,500 in the North, and goats are ~UGX 11,000/kg in Central compared to ~UGX 7,500 in the North. Western goat prices are slightly higher, influenced by local demand and cross-border trade.

Chicken prices also peak in Kampala at ~UGX 10,000/kg live weight, whereas in Northern village markets, they are around ~UGX 7,000/kg.

Commodity Analysis: Maize

Maize grain prices remain elevated nationwide, though seasonal declines are beginning. Prices were 26% higher year-on-year in March and stayed high through May due to planting delays and regional demand. Urban Central consumers pay around UGX 1,600/kg, compared to UGX 1,100–1,300 in rural producing areas.

This differential reflects rising transport and handling costs, largely due to fuel prices (over UGX 5,000/liter for petrol). Export demand from neighboring countries like Kenya and South Sudan also supports prices, preventing steep declines.

Seasonal factors:

Despite being at the cusp of the first harvest, maize prices are easing only slightly instead of crashing. This is due to below-potential yields in some areas (erratic rains) and farmers holding onto grain, hoping for better prices later. As a result, the typical glut hasn't fully materialized.

The trend looking forward:

We expect further modest price moderation into August as more of the northern harvest enters markets. However, any decline could be limited by sustained regional exports, high production costs (fertilizer, fuel), and firm global grain prices with low regional stocks, setting a floor under maize prices.

From a farmer's perspective, current prices are favorable, and phased selling might be considered. For consumers, especially institutions, buying maize soon before second season planting picks up in August (potentially leading to slight price increases) could be wise.

Livestock Prices

Livestock prices remain high, particularly for cattle, driven by robust export and urban demand, along with increased production costs. Despite localized oversupply due to FMD quarantines, national cattle prices are sustained by external sourcing and Uganda's growing population.

Goat meat is increasingly popular, often fetching higher prices than beef in urban areas. Limited supply and festival-driven demand (such as the recent Eid al-Adha surge) are key factors, with prices expected to remain firm through year-end.

For poultry, high feed costs for maize and soy continue to keep chicken and egg prices elevated. While egg prices have stabilized from previous spikes, they are still above long-term averages. The recent strengthening of the Ugandan shilling offers some slight moderation by making imported inputs more affordable.

Fertilizer & Fuel

Despite global declines, Ugandan retail fertilizer prices remain high due to existing stock and a past weak shilling. However, with the shilling strengthening, more affordable fertilizer might be seen for the second season. Fuel costs continue to significantly impact transport, and any reduction would directly lower food prices.

Policy Impact on Markets

Government consideration of removing the 25% co-funding for small-scale irrigation subsidies could boost dry-season vegetable production and lower prices. The East African Community's potential decision on duty-free maize flour imports could also affect maize prices, though local supply is currently adequate.

Despite first season harvest relief for staples, overall food prices remain historically high. Markets are supplied, but consumers pay more. A strong second season (Sept–Dec) is vital for significant price drops by year-end. Households should store some harvest, and surplus farmers can reinvest. We will continue to monitor market changes weekly.

Government & NGO Updates

Policy and Programs

Recent initiatives by the Government and partners aim to support the agriculture sector:

Government & NGO Initiatives

1

Agrifood Systems Financing Conference

On 24–25 June 2025, Uganda hosted a major Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference in Kampala, co-organized by MAAIF, OPM, FAO, and partners. Over 500 stakeholders participated to mobilize innovative financing for agricultural transformation.

Key outcomes included a commitment to develop a National Agrifood Systems Financing Strategy, aiming to align public budgets, attract private capital, and channel funds into priorities like climate-smart agriculture and agro-processing.

2

Parish Development Model (PDM) Progress

The PDM, Uganda's flagship anti-poverty program delivering grants at the parish level, continues its nationwide rollout. Local reports indicate many parish SACCOs have begun receiving funds for disbursement to farmer groups and small businesses.

PDM aims to inject UGX 100 million per parish annually. While recruitment of additional extension staff is ongoing to address concerns, new Parish Chiefs and extension facilitators are now in place in many areas.

3

Micro-Scale Irrigation Program

The Ministry of Agriculture's initiative to subsidize small irrigation kits (e.g., solar-powered drip systems) is scaling up. The World Bank-supported program covers 75% of equipment costs, with farmers contributing 25%.

Farmer uptake has been slow due to the 25% co-pay. MAAIF is reviewing this requirement, potentially reducing the co-pay or offering credit. Around 130 micro irrigation kits have been distributed in pilot districts.

4

Extension & Training

The Ministry and NGOs are active in training programs. NARO and partners are conducting regional farmer training on climate-smart agriculture, covering drought-tolerant crops and water conservation techniques.

Workshops, like a recent one in Arua, teach improved practices such as soil mulching and agroforestry. Similar free sessions are scheduled for August in Karamoja and Eastern Uganda, offering new knowledge and sometimes demonstration inputs.

NGO/INGO Activities

WFP & EU Refugee Support

WFP, with EUR 5 million from the EU, launched a project to boost self-reliance for refugees and host communities. It provides training, inputs, and vocational skills (e.g., agro-processing) to refugee farmers, and improves market access for host communities. This initiative helps refugees grow their own food following recent WFP food assistance cuts.

FAO & South-South Cooperation

FAO Uganda highlighted ongoing South-South Cooperation with China, focusing on hybrid rice, aquaculture, and horticulture. A farmer in Butaleja successfully integrated fish farming in rice paddies, significantly boosting income. The project has introduced high-yielding varieties and techniques to many farmers in Eastern Uganda.

Relief and Food Security Outlook

The FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report (June–Oct 2025) notes parts of Karamoja and refugee-hosting districts in Uganda as areas of concern. This indicates continued NGO interventions like supplementary feeding and livelihoods projects will likely be needed.

Resilience Projects

The EU-funded DINU program in Northern Uganda is concluding, having established produce collection centers and provided grants for value addition. A grain processing facility for maize and simsim was commissioned in Kitgum, enabling local milling and increased farmer earnings.

Regional Climate Center (ICPAC) Support

IGAD's ICPAC is collaborating with Uganda's climate services to enhance early warning. They provided training to UNMA staff on forecast downscaling and local climate outlook forums. This aims to deliver more precise, localized seasonal forecasts and potentially SMS-based advisories for farmers at the district level.

Relevant Publications & Resources

Here are newly released studies, bulletins, and online resources for farmers, extension workers, and policymakers:

UNMA Seasonal Forecast – July Update

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (July 4, 2025) summarized UNMA's July national outlook, noting moderate rains in northern Uganda and dry, cool conditions in southern regions. This aligns with observed patterns and is useful for farmers to understand monthly climate trends.

ICPAC Regional Climate Outlook

ICPAC/IGAD's June–September 2025 Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook (GHACOF 70, May 20, 2025) predicted a high likelihood of above-normal rainfall in northern and eastern Uganda, near to below-normal in southwestern areas, and warmer temperatures across most of Uganda.

FAO Crop Calendar (Uganda)

FAO's online crop calendar tool (cropcalendar.apps.fao.org) allows users to find official sowing and harvest periods for various crops in different agro-ecological zones within Uganda. For example, maize in Northern Farming System is typically sown March–April and harvested July–August.

Looking Ahead & Key Reminders

As we approach August, here are key considerations for farmers and agricultural stakeholders:

Weather Outlook (Next 7–14 days)

The wet north, dry south pattern is expected to continue into early August. Northern Uganda will likely receive above-average rainfall, extending the growing season but increasing risks of waterlogging and flooding in prone areas (e.g., West Nile, Amuru). UNMA advises vigilance, clear drainage, and elevated storage. Eastern Uganda (Bugisu, Teso) may see moderate persistent rains, aiding crop maturation.

Conversely, central and western Uganda will likely remain predominantly dry until mid-August, with only isolated showers around Lake Victoria in early August (unreliable for planting). The second rainy season (Season B) is projected to start in late August for southern areas. Preliminary Aug–Oct models, influenced by El Niño, suggest above-average rainfall for much of Uganda, especially east and north, bringing both cropping benefits and flood risks. Official updates are pending.

Recommendations: Southern farmers should use this dry period for land preparation and input acquisition, delaying planting until consistent rains begin. Northern farmers should plan harvests carefully, picking crops during dry spells and having tarps ready for protection during heavy rains.

Upcoming Farm Operations (August)

In bimodal regions, August is planting time for Season B. This means farmers should:

- Prepare seeds and cuttings for popular second-season crops like maize, beans, groundnuts, and horticultural crops. Check germination of stored seeds and purchase improved varieties early, looking out for agro-dealer promotions.

- For Striga-prone areas, use Striga-tolerant maize varieties (e.g., Longe 5), rotate with legumes, and apply manure to boost crop vigor.

- Secure phosphorus fertilizers (DAP, TSP) for planting and nitrogen (urea, CAN) for top-dressing. Inquire about potential discounts or government subsidy vouchers.

- Book mechanization services (tractors, ox-ploughs) early to avoid delays and ensure timely land preparation. Explore platforms like the Uganda National Farmers Federation app.

- Given expected wet conditions, prepare for higher pest pressure. Ensure you have appropriate pesticides/bio-pesticides for common issues like FAW on maize or blight on potatoes. Adopt preventive measures like treating bean seed or early planting.

Harvesting & Storage (Ongoing)

For ongoing harvests (e.g., northern maize, eastern sorghum), prioritize proper drying and storage. Utilize current dry conditions for sun-drying cereals to safe moisture levels before August rains.

Invest in hermetic storage bags or silos now to prevent sell-outs and aflatoxin risk. Ensure maize moisture is below 13%; never store wet. Protect your valuable grain.

Pest/Disease Early Warning

Looking to the next cropping season, a few specific watch-outs:

- Kenya reports increased fall armyworm moth counts in July, signaling high FAW risk for Uganda's second season maize. Farmers should prepare for early control measures within 2 weeks of germination.
- Thankfully, no desert locust incursions have been noted in Uganda for 2025. While swarms are in remote Somalia/Ethiopia, they pose no current threat. Still, El Niño could increase breeding; remain alert for regional alerts via radio.
- Banana bacterial wilt can spread in the dry season via contaminated tools, especially during pruning. Disinfect tools. A coordinated community effort to remove infected banana mats before next rains (e.g., an August campaign) would significantly reduce BXW. Local leaders should champion this.

Market Prospects (coming months)

Maize:

Maize prices are expected to decrease slightly through August, potentially reaching UGX 1,200 by September. Prices may rebound by Nov/Dec. Farmers should consider storing some maize if feasible, or selling a portion for immediate needs.

Beans:

Bean prices may ease in August, then rise by October, heavily dependent on second-season rainfall. A mid-August sale could be opportune, or holding for a good November harvest if conditions allow.

Cooking bananas:

Cooking banana prices are expected to remain high until mid-September. Farmers with good production should consider selling now, while buyers might explore alternative staples.

Input prices:

Fertilizer prices might slightly decrease by September. Procure seeds and fertilizers by mid-August. Government tariff changes on imported staples could influence market dynamics; watch for notices.

Livestock market:

Livestock prices are generally expected to increase from August to December. Farmers should consider holding stock until November for better prices, if possible, or destocking early if feed is scarce to maintain animal condition and price.

Government/Policy Events Coming Up

District budget releases for Q1 (July–Sept) are now out, meaning funds for agricultural extension and input subsidies (like coffee seedlings) should be flowing. Farmers should contact local government and sub-county NAADS coordinators to inquire about programs like free fruit tree seedlings or second-season seed distributions (especially for beans or sweet potato vines) usually available around August.

Labor availability and health reminders:

While Uganda's COVID-19 situation is currently normal, basic hygiene and caution are advised for communal activities such as market days and harvest. Keeping sick individuals home and practicing handwashing can help prevent potential disease spread, which could deplete critical farm labor. This is a precaution, not an alarm.

Farmer To-Do Checklist for the Week and Month Ahead

1

Northern Farmers

- Intensify harvest & prepare storage.
- Prepare for second-season planting.
- Vaccinate livestock.

2

Eastern Farmers

- Finish remaining harvest & rehabilitate soil.
- Procure seeds for August planting.
- Maintain irrigation systems.

3

Western Farmers

- Store or sell harvest promptly.
- Mulch coffee & banana plants.
- Diligently check cattle for ticks.

4

Central Farmers

- Repair grain drying cribs.
- Secure second-season input contracts.
- Maintain farm equipment & plan planting.

All regions: Use this calm period for strategic planning. Review Season A performance (e.g., crop varieties, pest issues) and seek advice for Season B. Manage finances, especially for upcoming school fees in September, by considering strategic sales of produce now.

Conclusion

The upcoming period is vital for preparation and transition. Proactive planning now—readying fields, applying lessons learned, and safeguarding assets—will ensure farmers reap benefits as seasonal rains return.

The national outlook for the second half of 2025 is cautiously optimistic, with favorable weather, government support, and strong market demand. Farmers should stay informed, proactive, and collaborate to capitalize on these opportunities.

We will continue monitoring key agricultural domains, providing the next update for 25 July – 1 August 2025. Plan well and farm smart; preparation ensures success as opportunities emerge.

Farmer's Reminder:

Double-check those granaries, sharpen those tools, and don't burn your crop residues – turn them into next season's wealth. Wishing you a productive week ahead, stay safe (on the farm and on the road), and may favorable weather be on your side!

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