

February 9, 2022.

Notes of the meeting on weather forecast information dissemination – at Production department (Lira)

Members present

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Context

There are changes in the weather pattern; seasons are no longer as easily predictable as they used to be.

Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA) releases periodic weather forecast information that farmers and communities can use to plan / guide farming and /or other activities. Lira District Local Government (Production Department) aspires to make such weather forecast information accessible in more user friendly formats to the stakeholders, especially farmers /farming communities.

The monthly weather outlook for February was issued by UNMA on February 4, 2022.

The key weather events with respect to Lira district / Northern Uganda generally are that;

February is expected to be;

- Dry
- Hot (temperatures 28^oC - 30^oC)
- Dusty.
- Hazy

Risks

Likely risks associated with the February weather	Recommendations advisories
<p>Animal husbandry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reduction in pasture and forage;<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Most people are going to be leaving their animals roaming.- animal disease can spread easily a2. Drying up of some water sources3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animals should not be left to just roam (even with reduction in pasture) because;<ul style="list-style-type: none">– They can easily catch diseases from other herds.– They might be confiscated /fined if they destroy crops of people who do off-season gardening.– They can get easily lost / stolen.– They can mate with poor quality breeds

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make good use of water resources / reservoirs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Protecting water sources are important as cows tend to compete with humans for limited water sources within the community. – Farmers with small ruminants like goats and sheet should be more alert to give water to the animals because of the heat. • Can use wetlands for grazing instead of letting the animals roam. • •
<p>Crops</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crops of farmers doing off-season farming can be destroyed by animals 2. 3. 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People near water sources can practice irrigation for short maturing crops like vegetables; such are usually good for home consumption and local markets. • Protect any crops in the gardens from stray animals. • Land preparations (for those who have not yet done it) are encouraged. • For people who are drying cassava, or engaged in brick making; they still have the sunny weather to do that till the end of February. • This is also a good time to buy seeds and other farm inputs because then, the prices are not yet hiked. • •
<p>Entomology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bees are likely to travel longer distances in search of forage and water; and get more exposed to predators. 2. Bees (as they look for forage, may gather around people selling cassava flour and maize flour) 3. Apiaries can be exposed to wild fires; hives /bee colonies can be destroyed by such fires. 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide water points and food (like cassava flour) in the apiary. • Maintain a tidy apiary; keeping the grasses short • Create a fire line around the apiary.
<p>Fisheries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For fish farmers, ponds are likely to dry out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is best time to rehabilitate or construct new fish ponds.
<p>Natural resources and environment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are risks of fire outbreaks especially for those having forests. 2. Damage to young trees by stray animals 3. Misuse of wetlands; people are likely to cultivate in wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foresters should maintain fire lines • Protect the young trees from the risk of damage by stray animals • Seek permit from district environment office before undertaking any activity in the wetlands. • Local community leaders should look for and advice those who are engaging in illegal activities in the wetlands.

There are other risks that can be better addressed by other departments, than production.

For example,

- The risk of airborne and respiratory disease (because of dry and dusty conditions); that can be best addressed by the health departments.
- The risk of road accidents to travelers because of hazy conditions and reduced visibility etc.

Next Steps

Activity	Status	Next step	Responsible / timeline.	Comment
1. Identifying key weather events for February and the accompanying extension messages.	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the draft messages. • Packaging the messages; Translating where necessary. • Dissemination through the identified channels 	CCFPP; 14 th – 18 th Feb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination (for this start) will be through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – District extension officers (WhatsApp group; sms). – Radio talk shows • Airtime, data bundles and facilitation for staff going on radio beyond their normal working hours is required.
2. An engagement meeting with the managements of radio stations on how to effectively utilize the mandatory radio talk time to the DLG.	Proposed	Date to be determined by CAO and RDC	CAO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the agenda for discussion are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Schedules; – Topics of discussion, – Difference been “RDC time” and “production time” on radios.
3. Assignment of a CCFPP from within the department of production since the current bearer is moving into the city staff structure.		DPO and CAO to discuss and agree on a person.	CAO and DPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person who shall have been assigned will continue to work hand in hand with the current bearer until when they are comfortable to manage on their own.
4. Emphasis on usage of weather information forecast by all departments, in the weekly management meeting	Proposed	CAO determines to communicate utilization of weather forecast information by all departments in the district, during the weekly management meetings.	CAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather affects all sectors. The other departments should also start analyzing the periodic weather forecast information to guide their activities and also give advisories / recommendations to communities.