

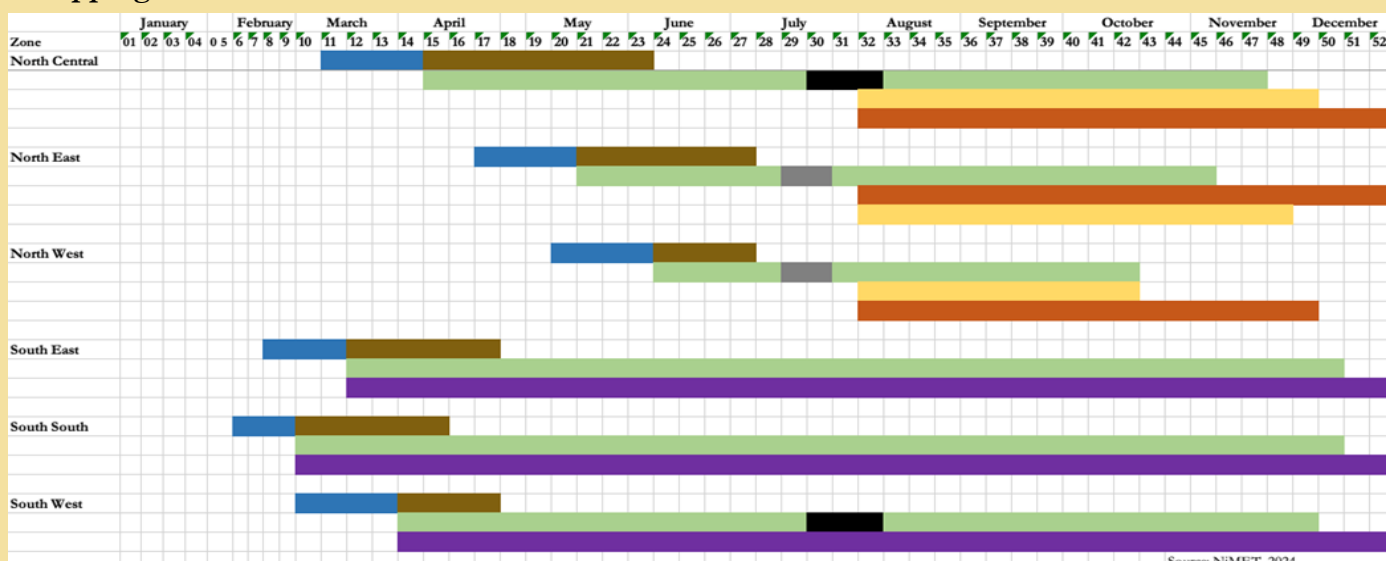
# NIGERIAN LIVESTOCK EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

Climate Factsheet - No. 004

5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## LIVESTOCK FARMERS CAN PLANT SOME CROPS TO FEED THEIR ANIMALS

### Cropping calendar for 2024



- Land preparation
- Period of onset of rainfall across each of the zones
- Period within which maize, rice, soybean, cotton and some other annual crops can be cultivated with activities such as planting/sowing, weeding, fertilizer applications and harvesting can be carried out.
- Period within which cowpea can be cultivated.
- Period within which guinea corn can be transplanted on the field.
- Nurturing period for perennial cash crops transplanted at the onset of the rainy season
- Occurrence of dry spell in some Local Government Areas of Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Yobe in the North East.  
Occurrence of dry spells in some Local Government Areas of Jigawa, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara in the North West.  
Occurrence of mild dry spell (less than 8 days) in Ogun, Osun, Edo and Enugu State.
- Occurrence of Little Dry Season from 21 July to 10 August in Ekiti, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo and some parts of Niger State

### Rainfall patterns across the zones of Nigeria

Rain is expected to have been established in all regions of Nigeria in June 2024 as depicted in the cropping calendar as shown above.

Rainfall had been established since the second week of April in most States of the North Central zones. This is expected to continue till third week of November in the zone.

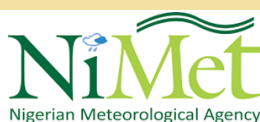
Onset-date of raining season started in May in the Southern parts of the Northeast. However, the extreme North-East were predicted to record enough rainfall and would be able to commence cultivation of crops in June 2024.

The cessation date of raining season (when conditions such as soil moisture availability is below 50% requirements of plant need) in the Northeast is predicted to occur in the first week of November 2024.

Shorter length of rainfall is predicted for Northwest. Onset-date is June while the cessation date is 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October.

Rainfall had been since established in Southern Nigeria. Predicted cessation dates in the Southern zones are 1<sup>st</sup> week of December in South-West and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December in both Southeast and South-South.

**Please note:** The onset-date of raining season – as defined by NiMET – is the date at which the available water content of the root zone at the beginning of the cropping season reaches 50%.



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## Varieties of crops that can be planted by livestock farmers

To achieve a reduced cost of inputs, livestock farmers are at this moment advised to plant some of the most essential crops used as ingredients in the production of feeds for their animals.

In the Southern parts of the country, maize can be planted twice during the entire length of the rainy season.

In all the zones of the country, **livestock farmers** and **feed millers** can plant maize, sorghum, groundnuts, and cowpeas. Residues of these crops are useful for feeding ruminant animals.

For more information on **good agronomic practices** (GAP) of these crops, please contact:

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Farmers in the areas predicted to have short length of the growing season (especially North-East and North-West) are encouraged to plant drought tolerant and early maturing varieties of crops. Example of early maturing varieties of crops in Nigeria are:

1. Ife Maizehyb-5 (IITA Hybrid EEWH-21) and Ife Maizehyb-6 (IITA Hybrid EEWH-26). These are extra-early hybrid maize. The potential yield of Ife Maizehyb-5 in Nigeria is 6.0 tonnes per hectare and Ife Maizehyb-6 yields 5.5 tonnes per hectare. For more information on these varieties of maize, please contact:

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2. The following varieties are early maturing and drought tolerant varieties of the specific crops that were developed by the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State:

Maize	Potential yield (tonnes/hectare)
SAMMAZ 27	4.7 - 3.0
SAMMAZ 51	8.6
SAMMAZ 15	5.0 - 6.0

Groundnut	Potential yield (tonnes/hectare)
SAMNUT 23	2.0 - 2.5
SAMNUT 21	2.0
SAMNUT 22	2.0
SAMNUT 10	2.0

Sorghum	Potential yield (tonnes/hectare)
SAMSORG 52	2.5 - 3.0
SAMSORG 53	3.5 - 4.0
SAMSORG 54	3.5 - 4.0
SAMSORG 49	2.5 - 3.0
SAMSORG 44	3.5 - 4.0

Cowpea	Potential yield (tonnes/hectare)
SAMPEA 15	2.5
SAMPEA 11	2.0
SAMPEA 7	2.0

For more information on these varieties from IAR/ABU,

Please contact,

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