

A MESSAGE TO TANZANIAN FARMERS FROM SEED CO TANZANIA

MORE RAIN, MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Preparing for the 2026 El Niño season, where above average rainfall is a chance to raise your yield, provided you plan for the water as well as the crop.



SEED CO TANZANIA

SOURCE: TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

VULI SEASON · OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2026

El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon that occurs every two to seven years and usually lasts between nine and twelve months. It typically begins to develop between March and June, reaches its peak between November and February, and has its greatest impact on weather patterns during the following year.

Its effects vary with intensity, duration, the time of year it develops, and how it interacts with other climate systems such as the Indian Ocean Dipole. Not every country experiences the same effects and even within Tanzania, the impacts differ from one region to the next.

Increased rainfall is an opportunity for higher yields and, at the same time, a risk of flooding, waterlogging, erosion and disease.

What Is Expected in 2026

High probability · second half of 2026

Climate forecasts indicate a high probability of El Niño conditions developing during the second half of 2026. Although the exact intensity is still uncertain, farmers are encouraged to prepare early.

2–7Years between
El Niño events**9–12**Months a typical
event lasts

In Tanzania, El Niño is generally associated with above-average rainfall, particularly during the October–December Vuli season. While increased rainfall provides an opportunity for higher crop yields, it also increases the risk of flooding, waterlogging, soil erosion, nutrient leaching and outbreaks of crop diseases.

Nov–FebWhen the event reaches
its peak

NORTHERN & COASTAL

ABOVE NORMAL - VULI

WHAT TO EXPECT

Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Pwani, Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mtwara and other coastal areas expect above normal rainfall during Vuli, an excellent opportunity for maize production.

WHAT TO PLANT

Early maturing hybrids. At about 90 days they reach grain filling before Vuli ends.

SC 419

SC 555

LAKE ZONE

INCREASED RAINFALL

WHAT TO EXPECT

Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu, Mara, Kagera, Shinyanga, Kigoma and Tabora also expect increased rainfall. The longer growing period the extra moisture creates is an ideal opportunity.

WHAT TO PLANT

High yielding medium to late maturing hybrids, exceptional under favourable moisture.

SC 657

SC 719

CENTRAL ZONE

NEAR TO SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL

WHAT TO EXPECT

Dodoma and Singida expect near normal to slightly above normal rainfall; enough to plant on, but not enough to gamble a long season hybrid on.

WHAT TO PLANT

Early maturing hybrids, well suited where rainfall may still be variable.

SC 419

SC 555

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

SMALLER EL NIÑO EFFECT

WHAT TO EXPECT

Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa, Katavi and Ruvuma expect relatively smaller El Niño effects this season.

WHAT TO PLANT

Continue with your preferred hybrid, consistently high yielding under the region's favourable conditions.

SC 719

Prepare for the challenges

Excessive rainfall creates its own production problems

Flooding, waterlogging, erosion

Heavy rains cause poor crop establishment and nutrient losses.

Prepare drainage channels, avoid planting in flood prone areas, and practise soil conservation; contour farming, mulching, and maintaining ground cover.

Fungal and bacterial disease

Wet conditions favour disease, including maize leaf blight. Plant disease tolerant hybrids, hold the recommended spacing, monitor fields regularly, and seek extension advice as soon as symptoms appear.

Weeds and insect pests

Both multiply rapidly in wet seasons. **Early weeding**, regular crop scouting and **Integrated Pest Management** will reduce crop losses and improve productivity.

DISEASE TOLERANT HYBRIDS

SC 719

SC 657

SC 555

RECOMMENDED PLANT SPACING

75cm between rows

30cm between plants

Prepare for the challenges

- 1 Harvest on time**
Harvest maize **immediately after physiological maturity** every extra day in a wet field is a day of risk.
- 2 Dry to the right moisture**
Dry grain down to the **recommended moisture content** before it goes anywhere near a store.
- 3 Store clean and ventilated**
Store in clean, **dry, well ventilated** facilities to protect the crop you have paid for.

Most importantly; continue following seasonal weather forecasts issued by the **Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA)** and plan your farming activities accordingly.

The 2026 El Niño season presents both **opportunities** and challenges for Tanzanian farmers.

With the right seed, good agronomic practices and timely management, farmers can take advantage of the expected favourable rainfall while minimising production risks. Rain is an asset this season but only for the farmer who has drained the field and matched the hybrid to the zone.

SEED CO TANZANIA - Turn a Wet Season Into a Good One

Visit your nearest Seed Co distributor to get the perfect seed hybrid that match your zone's expected weather pattern or get in touch with your nearest Seed Co agronomist for further agronomic assistance.