

ProAgri

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AFRICA

No 120

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**Plan ahead: 2026
Weather insights**

p 7

Namibian aquaponics firm
gears up for regional growth

**Farming smarter: Agri
technology trends for 2026**



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A new year, bringing new hope...

As we step into 2026, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many conversations I have had with farmers. Different regions, different challenges, but one thing is clear, hope shines through every discussion. Hope for better seasons, hope for stronger yields, hope for a brighter tomorrow. It is this hope that has made 2025 a year of gratitude, even in the face of difficulties.

For African farmers, hope is more than a feeling, it is what keeps us going through long days in the fields, through uncertain markets and changing weather. It is the reason we plant, the reason we care for our animals, and the reason we continue to invest in the future of our land. It is also the reason why we continuously seek new knowledge, tools, and techniques to improve our work and sustain our communities.

In this first edition of 2026, we celebrate this resilience and determination with stories and insights to help farmers across the continent. We look ahead to the 2026 weather forecast, giving you an idea of what to expect in

the coming season. We also explore the latest agricultural technology trends that are shaping the way African farmers grow crops, manage livestock, and increase efficiency on their farms.

This edition also features inspiring stories from our continent, such as Oribi Aquaponics in Namibia, showing how innovation and smart resource management can result in new opportunities – even in challenging environments. And for poultry farmers, Tiger Feeds shares techniques to achieve good ventilation in the brooder, helping chicks grow healthy and strong from day one.

As we look ahead, may 2026 bring good rains, strong growth, and continued success for every farm and farmer. Let hope guide your plans, your work, and your harvests. Together, we can make this year one of progress, innovation, and promise for African agriculture.

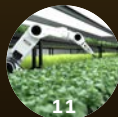
ProAgri-greetings!
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DISC DIA.		20"

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2	1400mm	35 - 50HP
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6	4000mm	85 - 90HP

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FERTILIZER HOPPER	60L
SEED HOPPER	45L
MIN. ROW SPACING	420mm

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DISC PLOUGH

NO. DISC	WORKING WIDTH	TRACTOR SIZE
2	600mm	35 - 50HP
3	900mm	60 - 75HP
4	1200mm	80 - 90HP
WORKING DEPTH		150 - 300mm
DISC SPACING		550mm
DISC DIA.		26"

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CRSG	14	1550mm	75HP
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CRSG	20	2250mm	125-140HP
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Techniques to achieve good ventilation in the brooder

by Malanda Chiumge, technical advisor, Tiger Animal Feeds



Managing ventilation in a brooder is crucial for the health and comfort of chicks, especially during hot weather. Let's look at some of the effective strategies one can implement to achieve good air conditions during brooding:

1. Ensure adequate airflow

Cross ventilation: Position the brooder in order to take advantage of natural breezes. Use fans to create cross ventilation that helps circulate air without creating direct drafts on the chicks.

Adjustable vents: Install adjustable vents or windows that can be opened to increase airflow while allowing you to control the temperature.

2. Use fans wisely

Ceiling fans: If possible, install ceiling fans to help circulate air throughout the brooder space.

Box fans: Use box fans placed at strategic locations to blow cooler air into the brooder and expel warm air.



3. Create shade

External shade structures: Use shade cloths or tarps outside the brooder to block direct sunlight and reduce heat buildup inside.

Insulated roofs: Consider using insulated roofing materials that reflect heat away from the brooder.

4. Temperature and humidity

Thermometers: Use thermometers to monitor both temperature and humidity levels inside the brooder. Ideal temperatures should be lower than usual in hot weather.

Humidity control: Aim for a humidity level of approximately 50 to 60% to ensure comfort and prevent respiratory issues.

5. Cooling techniques

Misting systems: If feasible, install a fine misting system that can cool the air without soaking the bedding.

Ice in water: Place ice packs or ice cubes in water to keep the water cool and help lower the ambient temperature.

6. Monitor chick behaviour

Watch for signs of heat and stress: Look for chicks panting, spreading their wings, or huddling away from the heat sources. Adjust ventilation based on their behavior.

Adjust heat sources: If you're using heat lamps, consider dimming or repositioning them to avoid overheating.

7. Regular cleaning

Clean bedding: Regularly change bedding to reduce ammonia buildup and maintain a healthier environment, which helps with overall ventilation.

8. Exit strategies

Open door policy: If safe to do so, keep the brooder door open to allow for natural ventilation, while ensuring that it's secure from predators.

By implementing these strategies, you can effectively manage ventilation in your brooder during hot weather, promoting better health and growth for your Tiger chicks.



For more information contact Rowena Blanco, Animal Nutritionist of Tiger Animal Feeds on (+260)977-991-847 or visit their website on www.tigerfeeds.com



Growing beyond borders: Namibia's Oribi Aquaponics takes its next leap

by Bianca Pretorius

What started as a bold attempt to commercialise aquaponics has matured into a scalable fresh-produce business with ambitions well beyond Namibia's borders. For the Oribi Aquaponics Group, hard lessons, strict system discipline and strategic infrastructure investment have laid the foundation for regional expansion across Southern Africa.

"When we entered the commercial space, we quickly realised how big the gap is between a hobby system and a reliable production unit," says Ryno Postma, Commercial Director of Oribi Aquaponics. "The learning curve was steep, and consistency was our biggest challenge at the start."

Early production cycles were marked by fluctuations that might be manageable for small-scale growers, but not for a business supplying formal retail markets. The turning point came when the team conducted an uncompromising review of every process in their system.

"One of the biggest breakthroughs was understanding the importance of small, regular water changes," Ryno explains. "That single adjustment had a major impact on plant health and growth uniformity. From there, everything changed."

Today, Oribi operates a 2 500 m² aquaponic system housed within a 5 000 m² greenhouse outside Okahandja, north of Windhoek. An expansion currently nearing completion will see the entire greenhouse brought into production, effectively doubling aquaponic growing capacity to 5 000 m².

But scale, Ryno emphasises, is only one part of the strategy. "We are not simply repeating what already works," he says. "Alongside the aquaponic expansion, we're investing in a dedicated seedling facility, a net house for soil-based crops and a significantly larger packhouse to handle increased output."



(Image source: www.hortidaily.com)



Farming in Namibia's dry conditions requires careful attention to water quality and resource management. (Image source: www.hortidaily.com)

This integrated production model supports a diverse crop basket of 20 to 25 vegetable lines, including 11 lettuce varieties. Celery, in particular, has emerged as a strong performer.

Supporting local supply and lowering prices

Oribi's expansion aligns closely with Namibia's import substitution drive, and the impact is already visible on retail shelves. By producing high-value, highly perishable leafy greens locally, the company has shortened supply chains and reduced costs for retailers and consumers alike.

"Premium pillow-pack lettuce used to travel around 1 600 kilometres from Johannesburg before reaching Namibian stores," Ryno explains. "By producing locally, we've reduced prices by between 30% and 50%, while also improving shelf life and consistency." Consumer behaviour has responded in kind.



While unwashed iceberg lettuce traditionally dominated the market, Namibian consumers are increasingly embracing a wider range of fresh, ready-to-use leafy greens. Oribi supplies several major retailers, including Food Lovers Market, Spar, Woermann Brock (only trading in Namibia) and Freshmark, the fresh-produce division of Checkers.

The company's success with celery has further strengthened its regional outlook. "Since we increased local production, Namibia's reliance on imported celery has dropped substantially," says Ryno. "That immediately highlighted opportunities in neighbouring countries. Zambia, for example, imports far more celery than Namibia, and from much further away. There's no reason that the market can't be supplied regionally."

Rethinking aquaponics at scale

For growers considering commercial aquaponics, Ryno is quick to caution against oversimplification. "The most common misconception is believing the fish will take care of everything," he says. "That mindset almost guarantees failure somewhere in the system."

At Oribi, precision management replaces assumptions. The team has developed a custom production-tracking system that monitors every variable, enabling consistent cropping cycles and up to 11 lettuce harvests per year.

Fish health remains essential, but even a well-managed tilapia population does not eliminate the need for intervention. "One of our biggest lessons was recognising that fish waste doesn't supply every micronutrient plants require," Ryno explains.



Oribi Aquaponics' commercial operation near Okahandja, supplying fresh produce to Namibia's growing local market. (Image source: www.hortidaily.com)



With enhanced systems and increased capacity, Oribi Aquaponics is ready to meet growing market demand. (Image source: www.hortidaily.com)

"Supplementation is simply part of commercial aquaponics if you want optimal growth."

Operating in Namibia's arid climate adds another layer of complexity. Water quality and salt accumulation must be managed carefully within a closed-loop system. "Like hydroponics, nutrients are salt based, so buildup needs to be controlled," says Ryno. "At times, the system needs flushing, but that has to be done responsibly within a circular model."

Crop selection is also strategic. While herbs such as basil and mint thrive in the aquaponic environment, others, including rosemary, are grown in soil systems supplemented with compost produced on-site.

Building more than volume

With expanded capacity and refined systems, Oribi Aquaponics is positioning itself among the largest operational aquaponics farms on the continent. Yet for Ryno, size alone is not the ultimate benchmark of success.

"It may sound impressive to say you're one of the biggest," he

concludes. "But what really matters is producing a consistently high-quality product, creating employment, satisfying your customers and contributing to a stronger, more resilient regional food system. That's the model we're committed to building."

For more information about Oribi Aquaponics, watch the video [here](#).

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2026 Seasonal forecast for Africa's farms:

Rain, risks and smart farming decisions

by Natasha Pretorius

Although you cannot predict the weather 100%, ProagriMedia has tried to give African farmers a glimpse of what the predicted weather in Africa will be in 2026. Weather predictions allow African farmers to plan their harvest.

Significant weather patterns affecting Africa

One of the main climate influences that will be affecting Africa is the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). This means the weather changes between El Niño and La Niña with neutral weather in between.

El Niño is often linked to dry conditions in southern Africa, while La Niña typically brings wetter, rainier weather. ENSO is neither El Niño nor La Niña which means the weather tends to be closer to average.

For the 2025 to 2026 season, forecasters have been seeing a La Niña weather pattern forming. This will likely persist into early 2026. This may mean more rain in many parts of southern and central Africa during the summer cropping season. La Niña's influence has already been noted by regional weather services and climate outlooks.

However, forecasts also suggest that La Niña may weaken and shift towards neutral conditions later in the season, especially after January and February 2026. This means rainfall could reduce later in 2026 or settle into more normal patterns.

What weather models are predicting for 2025/'26 Rainfall expectations across seasons

The Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-31), a collaboration of meteorological agencies, has released a detailed seasonal forecast that covers October 2025 to March 2026.

This forecast is as follows:

October to December 2025: Most of southern Africa is likely to see normal to above-normal rainfall. Only the western fringes of Namibia and some island states, such as the Comoros, may receive below-normal rain.

January to March 2026: Rain is still expected to be normal to above-normal in most places, but northern parts of the region (e.g. Angola, DRC, Tanzania) may see normal to below-normal rainfall. This means many farming areas,

including maize belts in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique, can expect helpful rain through most of the growing season.

Temperatures

Temperatures are forecast to be mostly above long-term averages across the region during this rainy season, except in some central areas where temperatures may be closer to average.

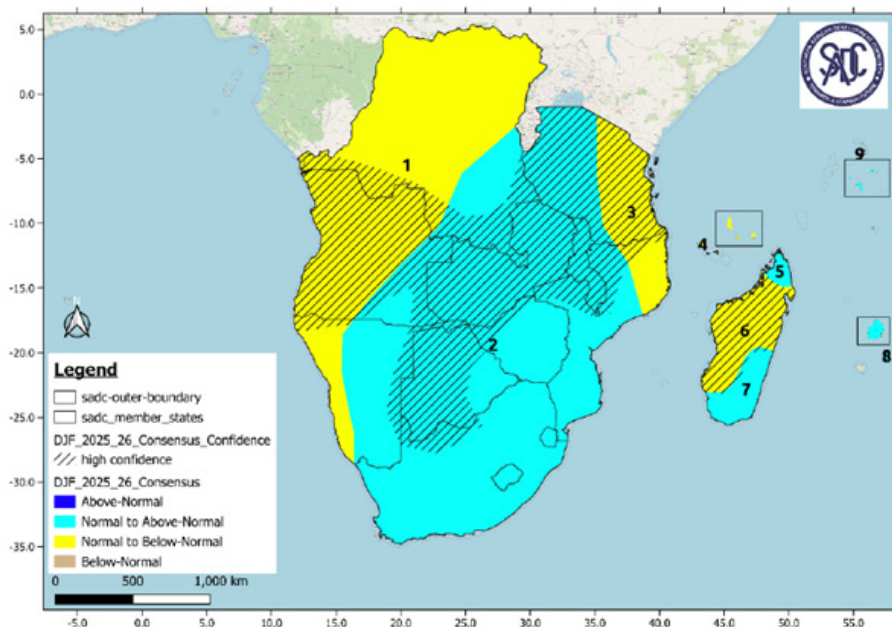
Warmer temperatures can increase evaporation, leading to water loss from soil and plants and potentially speeding up crop development. So, good rain will continue into the heart of the season.

What does this mean for farmers?

With La Niña's influence and the regional outlook, early-season rains that lasted until December 2025 should have helped with soil moisture and planting. Good early rains are also vital for crops such as maize, sorghum and groundnuts.

Mid-season, from January to March 2026, is also likely to see helpful rain across large parts of southern and central Africa, which supports crop growth and filling of grains.

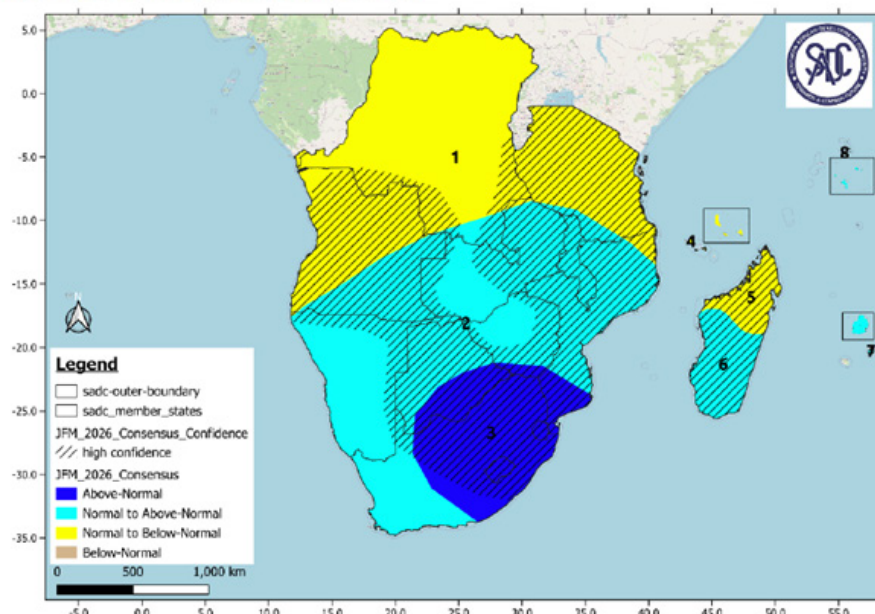
DECEMBER 2025, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2026



Rainfall forecast for December 2025, January-February 2026

- Zone 1:** Bulk of DRC, Angola and western fringes of Namibia
Normal rainfall with increased chances of below-normal rainfall (Confidence)
- Zone 2:** Eastern half of Tanzania, southernmost DRC, Malawi, Zambia, most of Mozambique, southeastern Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini
Normal rainfall with increased chances of above-normal rainfall (Confidence)
- Zone 3:** Eastern half of Tanzania and most of northeastern Mozambique
Normal rainfall with increased chances of below-normal rainfall (Confidence)
- Zone 4:** Comoros – Normal rainfall with increased chances of below-normal rainfall
- Zone 5:** Northern Madagascar – Normal rainfall with increased chances of below-normal rainfall
- Zone 6:** Central Madagascar – Normal rainfall with increased chances of below-normal rainfall (Confidence)
- Zone 7:** Southern Madagascar – Normal rainfall with increased chances of above-normal rainfall
- Zone 8:** Mauritius – Normal rainfall with increased chances of above-normal rainfall
- Zone 9:** Seychelles – Normal rainfall with increased chances of above-normal rainfall

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026



Rainfall forecast for January-February-March 2026

- Zone 1:** DRC, Angola, northern tip of Zambia and Tanzania
Normal rainfall with increased chances of below-normal rainfall (Confidence)
- Zone 2:** Southern DRC, southeastern Angola, most of Zambia, Malawi, most of Mozambique, most of Zimbabwe, most of Botswana, Namibia and western South Africa
Normal rainfall with increased chances of above-normal rainfall (Confidence)
- Zone 3:** Southeastern Botswana, extreme south of Zimbabwe, most of South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini and southern Mozambique
Increased chances of above-normal rainfall
- Zone 4:** Comoros – Increased chances of below normal rainfall
- Zone 5:** Northern Madagascar – Normal rainfall with increased chances of below-normal rainfall
- Zone 6:** Bulk of Madagascar – Normal rainfall with increased chances of above-normal rainfall
- Zone 7:** Mauritius – Normal rainfall with increased chances of above-normal rainfall
- Zone 8:** Seychelles – Normal rainfall with increased chances of above-normal rainfall



Some areas, especially those farther north or on the western edges, might see less rain than hoped for, which means these farmers should be ready for possible dry spells.

Although rain can be an answered prayer, heavy rain is not always good.

Too much water can cause:

- Flooding in low-lying fields
- Soil erosion
- Crop damage
- Difficulty harvesting on time

As rain increases, so does the chance of flooding in areas such as river valleys and poorly draining soils. Many farmers should plan for drainage or field layout that avoids waterlogging.

The South-West Indian Ocean cyclone season that occurs between November 2025 and April 2026, overlaps with the rainy season.

Cyclones, which are strong tropical storms, can result in very heavy rain and destructive winds. These storms can affect parts of eastern and southeastern Africa, especially coastal regions as well as islands.

Farmers in coastal and near-coastal regions should be alert to cyclone warnings and know where to find updates locally.

Tips for farm planning in 2026

With the right planning and preparation, farmers can be prepared

for heavy rain and dry seasons. Here are some tips to keep in mind.

Before or at start of season

- Check soil moisture before planting.
- Plan your planting dates around early rains.
- Use improved seeds that are suited to wetter conditions if available.

During growing season

- Prepare to manage water pooling in the case of heavy rains.
- Watch for pests and diseases that thrive during moist weather (e.g. fall armyworm).
- Monitor crop health often, especially after big rains.

Late season and harvest

- Keep an eye on forecasts for dry spells late in the season, especially if La Niña weakens.
- Harvest earlier if heavy rain is predicted.
- Protect harvested grain from moisture damage.

What to look out for and where to get updates

The weather can change fast, and local conditions may vary from larger regional forecasts. Here's where farmers can find regular updates:

- National Meteorological Services (official weather forecasts and warnings).

- Local radio and SMS alerts from agricultural extension services.
- Farm groups and cooperatives that share weather info.
- Seasonal forecasts give you a broad roadmap, but daily and weekly weather predictions can help you make shorter-term decisions.

The 2025/'26 rainfall season looks cautiously hopeful for many African farming regions.

With La Niña expected to influence weather patterns, above-normal rains in many areas can boost crop growth and farm yields.

At the same time, farmers must be prepared for heavy rain, potential flooding, and storms – and be aware that rainfall may change later in the season as conditions shift.

Use forecasts to guide planning, but combine them with what you see on your own land.

Your experience and careful timing are as important as the weather outlook itself.

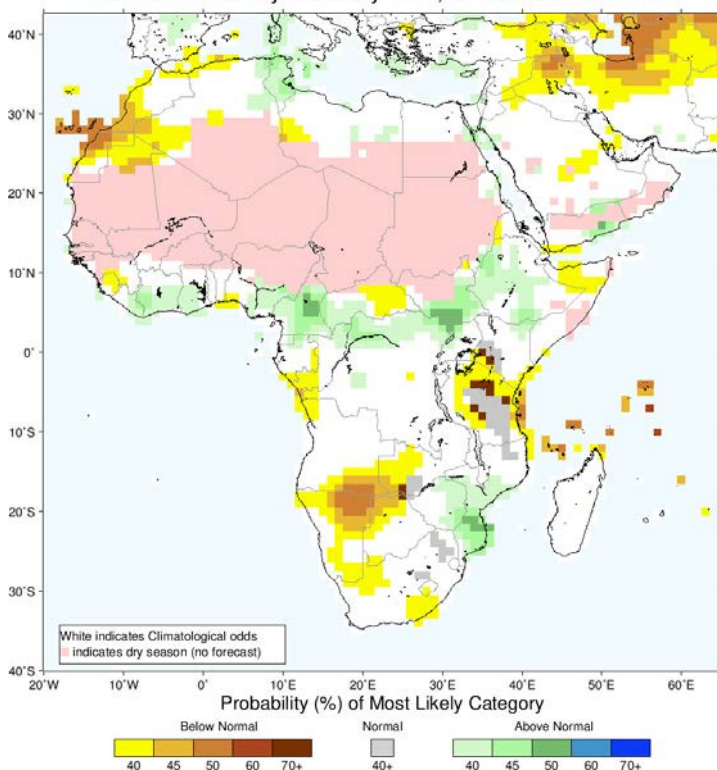
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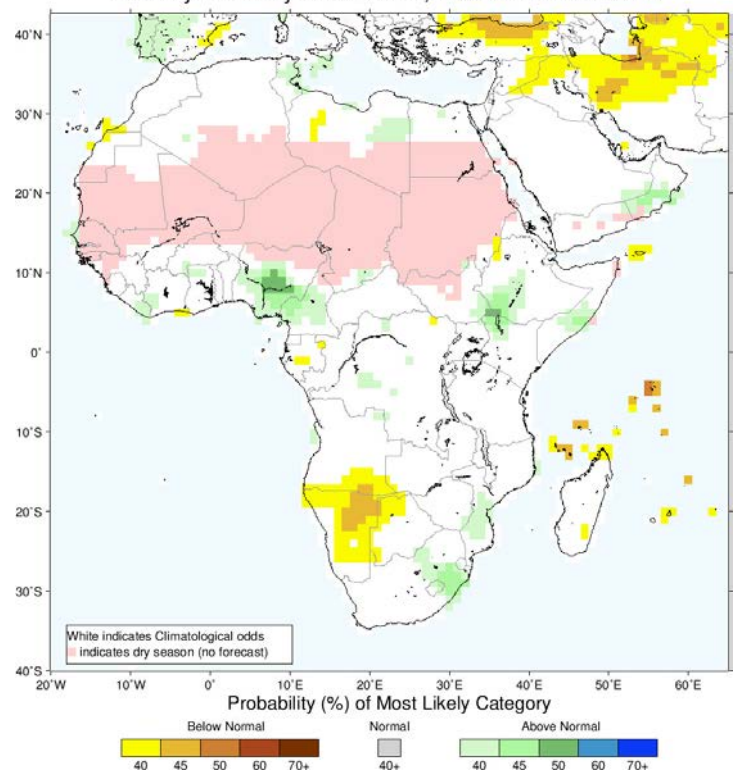
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IRI Multi-Model Probability Forecast for Precipitation for December–January–February 2026, Issued November 2025



IRI Multi-Model Probability Forecast for Precipitation for January–February–March 2026, Issued November 2025



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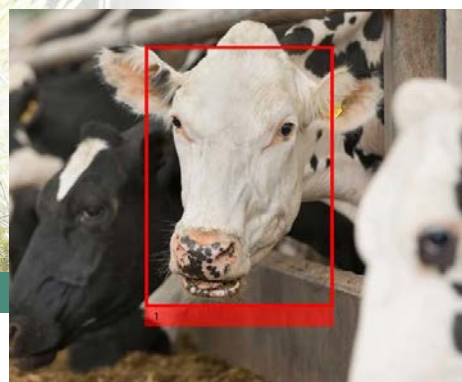
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AI, drones and biotechnology will transform agriculture in 2026

by Natasha Pretorius



The agricultural industry stands on the brink of a new era. By 2026, it is predicted that technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), drones, the Internet of Things (IoT), bioengineering, and digital tracking will no longer be mere additions to farming practices but the very core of how we produce food and ensure sustainability. These advancements bring not only greater efficiency but also a shift towards regenerative and accountable farming that restores soil and ecosystems.

Predictive AI

Globally, 2026 is expected to be the year when predictive AI plays an increasingly significant role in agriculture. According to farmonaut.com, more than 65% of farms worldwide will use AI for tasks such as

crop analysis as well as weather and market forecasting. Although it may sound unusual and feel as though it is still in the distant future, AI is now being integrated into existing systems so seamlessly that the transition often goes unnoticed.

Plantix, for example, is a free AI app that diagnoses plant diseases, pests, and nutrient deficiencies from a photo. The app also suggests steps that can be taken to resolve the problem.

Taranis is a drone-based AI platform that surveys fields using ultra high-resolution imaging to detect pests and insects on crops.

CropX is a soil analysis and irrigation optimisation platform that helps farmers save water and improve yields.

Cainthus uses computers and facial recognition software to monitor livestock health and behavior.

With Agremo, you can perform crop forecasting, crop health analysis, and field mapping through aerial imagery.

John Deere See & Spray is an AI-powered precision spraying system that reduces pesticide use by targeting only weeds.

Granular is farm management software that uses AI for financial and operational planning in agriculture.

When the right AI systems are applied on a farm, they can lead to cost savings, improved precision farming, data-driven decision-making, and proactive responses before problems arise.

Drones, AI, IoT

In 2026, drones, AI, and IoT will form the backbone of precision agriculture. These systems will work together to provide data-driven insights, ensure task automation, and manage resources more optimally for higher yields and sustainability.

AI

- Analyses massive datasets from sensors, drones and satellites.
- Predicts crop yields, detects diseases and provides recommendations for precision interventions.
- Automate decision-making, reducing reliance on guesswork.

IoT (Internet of Things)

- Connects soil moisture sensors, weather stations and smart irrigation systems.
- Provides continuous, real-time





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monitoring of farm conditions.

- Issues alerts and forecasts for challenges such as water stress or pest outbreaks.

Drones

- Capture aerial images for crop health, soil mapping and drainage analysis.
- Deliver targeted spraying of pesticides or fertilisers.
- Reduce labour costs by automating scouting and monitoring.

Regenerative farming

Already in 2025, there was a strong emphasis on regenerative farming. In 2026, sustainable farming techniques are expected to become the cornerstone of agriculture worldwide. Unlike traditional sustainable farming, regenerative practices improve soil and ecosystems rather than merely maintaining them. The focus is on restoring soil health through techniques such as cover crops, crop rotation and reduced tillage.

Healthy soil acts as a carbon sink, helping to mitigate climate change. Improved soil structures increase water retention and reduce vulnerability to drought, while the integration of livestock, diverse crops and natural habitats strengthens ecosystems.

Regenerative farming practices worldwide have triggered a shift in the way farming is conducted, with governments and agri-businesses increasingly investing in these methods. Beyond healthier soil and more sustainable farming practices, consumers are also leaning towards products grown sustainably.

Automation and robotics

The world is moving towards more automated processes, and robotics is taking over tasks and simplifying production processes. In 2026, this trend is increasingly extending into agriculture. Farming is becoming a

sector increasingly driven by data; efficiency is becoming more important, and practices that require less labour are gaining popularity.

Farmers worldwide are already seeing how self-driving tractors, robotic harvesters, and AI-powered drones are becoming standard tools rather than experimental prototypes. Self-driving tractors and harvesters equipped with GPS and AI guidance are used for precision planting and irrigation, reducing waste while improving yields. Robotic harvesters pick fruits and vegetables, reducing reliance on seasonal labour.

These machines are particularly useful in crops such as strawberries, apples and tomatoes. Weed-control and spraying robots are AI-enabled machines (e.g. FarmWise, John Deere See & Spray) that identify weeds and spray only where necessary.

With drone integration, herbicide use can be reduced by up to 90%. Drones scout fields, monitor crop health and deliver targeted spraying.

When drones are combined with robotics, a complete air-ground automating system is created. Robotic milk systems and automatic feeders improve efficiency in dairy and poultry farming, while AI systems monitor animal health and behaviour at the same time. These machines not only execute tasks, but also make decisions and predictions.

Bioengineering and biotechnology

By 2026, bioengineering and biotechnology will have transformed agriculture into a science-driven, climate-resilient, and resource-efficient system. These technologies are no longer niche; they are already embedded in seed development, crop protection, livestock management, and even food supply chains.

We're already seeing this type of biotechnology in the breeding

of genetically modified crops that are resistant to drought and pests. Engineered soil microbes improve nutrient uptake and reduce dependence on fertilisers, while biofertilisers and biopesticides lower chemical inputs and environmental impact.

Genetic selection and biotechnological vaccines in livestock improve animal health and productivity, while precision breeding reduces disease risks and increases feed efficiency. Crops are already being engineered to withstand extreme weather conditions such as heat, floods and drought. Crops are also bred to address malnutrition, including vitamin-enriched maize and iron-rich beans.

Digital traceability and data analysis

With the rapid changes brought by technology, traceability in 2026 is one of the core aspects demanded by consumers. Traceability and advanced data analysis ensure transparency, efficiency and sustainability throughout the food chain. Farmers, agri-businesses, and consumers benefit from these insights and traceable records that make farming smarter and more accountable.

The challenges

Although all this technology and progress may sound like a fairy tale for the agricultural sector, it is not something that can only be implemented in 2026. Challenges such as access to the internet in remote areas, especially regarding AI and IoT systems, the costs associated with implementing these technologies, as well as training to analyse and apply the data obtained, play a long-term role.

The climate also does not always cooperate, and even with predictive technology, anything can happen. Transitioning from a conventional farm to a regenerative farm requires time, insight, and upfront investment. Consistent and reliable markets will help farmers adopt more of these new technologies.

What agriculture holds for 2026 is exciting and innovative, and can contribute to the sustainability of the soil we farm on – as well as our food security.





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West Africa Ivory Coast



Kedjenou is a dish prepared by slowly cooking chicken and vegetables in a clay pot. (Source: <https://travelfoodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)



Alloco is a popular street food consisting of ripe plantains cut into small slices, then fried and salted in palm oil. (Source: <https://travelfoodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)

The Ivory Coast is a country in western sub-Saharan Africa. The capital, Yamoussoukro, is located in the centre of the country, but the port city of Abidjan is the largest. Unlike other countries in the region, the Ivory Coast enjoys political stability.

The country is bordered by Guinea to the northwest, Liberia to the west, Mali to the northwest, Burkina Faso to the northeast, Ghana to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean's Gulf of Guinea to the south.

With 31,5 million inhabitants (2024), the country is the third-most populous in West Africa. The official language is French; religions include Islam, Christianity and traditional faiths, often entailing animism.

The Ivory Coast is the most biodiverse country in West Africa, with more than 1 200 animal species, including 223 mammals, 702 birds, 161 reptiles, 85 amphibians, and 111 species of fish, along with 4 700 plant species.

There are six terrestrial ecoregions, namely the Eastern Guinean forests, Guinean montane forests, Western Guinean lowland forests, Guinean forest-savanna mosaic, West Sudanian savanna and Guinean mangroves.

Nearly 65% of the land is agricultural land, with arable land (9,1%), permanent pastures (41,5%) and permanent crops (14,2%). The fertile land is mainly cultivated by small-scale farmers, who receive fair prices for their crops. About 55% of the income is generated by cocoa and coffee, as well as rubber exports.

The tropical climate with two rainy seasons and warm temperatures is geographically suitable for growing grains, peanuts and palm oil. The rainforest in the southern part limits agriculture, but the northern part's woodland and savanna provide fertile soil for these crops.

01 Cuisine

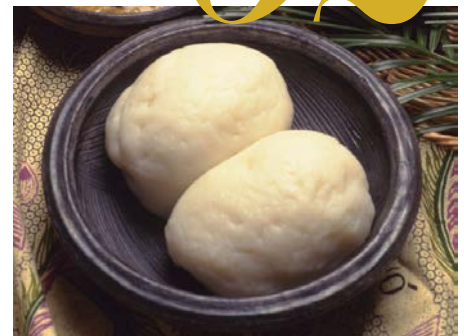
Traditional cuisine, which shows similarities with neighbouring countries, is influenced by the food produced, including staple ingredients such as tubers and grains, ground nuts, vegetables, fruit, spices, palm oil, as well as pork, chicken and seafood.

Street food

Ivorians have a particular kind of small, open-air restaurant called a *maquis*, which is unique to the region. A *maquis* normally offers braised chicken and fish covered in onions and tomatoes, which is served with *ach attiéké* (traditional Ivorian food made from fermented cassava root) or *kedjenou* (a spicy stew of chicken, vegetables and tomatoes, cooked in a sealed pot over fire or coals).

Alloco is a popular street food consisting of ripe, sliced plantains fried in palm oil and salted, served with a spicy sauce prepared with onions and chili. Alloco can be enjoyed on its own as a snack or as a side dish for braised chicken, freshly grilled fish or boiled eggs.

02



Fufu is a huge dumpling prepared by using a mixture of cassava and green plantain flour. (Source: <https://travelfoodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)

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03 Staples

Attiéké is prepared with grated cassava and palm oil, which is processed into a fine, grainy product similar in appearance and taste to couscous. It is eaten as breakfast, lunch and dinner – and most commonly paired with fried fish and vegetables.

Fufu or foutou, another staple, is a huge dumpling that is prepared by using a mixture of cassava and green plantain flour in equal portions with lukewarm water. The mixture is shaped into a ball and cooked in a pan over a low flame. The dish is eaten with one's fingers and is used to scoop up other foods on the plate, particularly sauces and soups.

Placali, which resembles fufu in appearance, is also prepared by using fermented cassava dough. It is slow cooked with water and then allowed to cool. It is usually eaten for lunch, accompanied by stew, sauce or soup prepared with palm nuts or peanuts.



Attiéké is a dish prepared using grated cassava that has a similar taste and consistency to couscous. (Source: <https://travel-foodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)



Mafé is a peanut butter stew consisting of meat and vegetables, as well as onion, garlic and peanuts, garlic, cabbage and leafy or root vegetables. (Source: <https://travelfoodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)



Placali is prepared with fermented cassava. (Source: <https://travelfoodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)

This dish is generally accompanied by white rice or fufu.

Poulet braisé is a chicken dish prepared like fish, namely marinated and slow cooked on the grill. It is usually eaten with a spicy chili sauce and is also a favourite street food.

Choukouya is the West African version of flame-grilled meat, which may be any meat, whether beef, chicken or goat. Once cooked, the meat is chopped up, topped with onions and served with a spicy sauce, fries or alloco.



Sauce kopé is prepared using crab, snails, fish or beef and okra, which gives the sauce a goey consistency. (Source: <https://www.chefspencil.com/top-24-foods-from-ivory-coast/>)

04 Meat

Kedjenou is a traditional dish prepared by slowly cooking chicken and vegetables in a clay pot called a canari. Traditionally, chicken or guinea fowl is used, but sometimes fish is used; however proteins can be omitted to make a vegetarian dish.

It is cooked without water or oil as the vegetables and chicken cook in their own juices. Vegetables may include tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers and spices, especially fresh ginger. Some ethnic groups cover the pot with banana leaves during cooking. The dish is served with rice or attiéké.

Mafé or peanut butter stew is prepared using meat, including chicken, lamb and beef, tomato, onion, peanuts, garlic, cabbage and leaf or root vegetables. There are many different versions – and they can also include okra, maize, carrots, cinnamon, hot peppers, paprika, black pepper, turmeric, cumin and other spices.

05 Fish

Garba is a widely consumed street food dish consisting of attiéké and deep-fried pieces of tuna. The dish is seasoned with tomatoes, chopped onions and peppers, with a bit of oil from the fried tuna – and seasoning. Sometimes garba, which is eaten at any time of the day, is served wrapped in a banana leaf.

Poisson braisé is a fish dish. Fresh fish is usually marinated in garlic, lemon, parsley and pepper, and cooked slowly on a hot grill. It is served topped with sautéed onions and tomatoes and served with attiéké or alloco.

Poisson en papillote is a fish dish cooked with lemon marinade and sometimes tomatoes, wrapped in foil.



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06 *Sauces*

Sauce kopè is prepared using crab, snails and fish or beef, okra and spices. The okra gives it a gooey consistency. The sauce is usually eaten with placali.

Gouagouassou sauce is prepared with aubergine and okra. The sauce is enjoyed with fufu.

Djoulblé is yet another sauce using fresh or dried okra as its base. The dish is served with fufu, banana, yam, rice or placali.

07 *Drinks*

Bissap, also known as roselle juice, is a drink prepared using the calyx, a group of sepals that forms the outermost whorl of the hibiscus flower. The drink is usually sweetened and chilled, but when it is consumed hot, it's known as hibiscus tea. Bissap is often served with mint leaves.

Gnamakoudji is a ginger-flavoured beverage consisting of ginger, water, spices and a sweetener. The ginger and spices are steeped in hot water, then removed, sweetened and chilled before serving.



Attiéké is a dish prepared using grated cassava that has a similar taste and consistency to couscous. (Source: <https://travelfoodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)



Bissap, also known as roselle juice, is a drink made of the flowers of the Roselle plant, a variety of hibiscus. (Source: <https://travelfoodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)



Souroundou is rice cooked with chicken or fish and tomato, onion, perci (a type of green pepper), potatoes and spices. (Source: <https://www.chefspencil.com/popular-foods-in-chad/>)



Gnamakoudji is a ginger-flavoured drink consisting of water, ginger, spices and a sweetener. (Source: <https://travelfoodatlas.com/ivorian-food>)

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