

Kenya update

PRISE pest information focuses on some of the most damaging pests of tomatoes, maize and beans. Always be on the lookout for other pests.

Remember to always check for these pests in the field before alerting farmers.

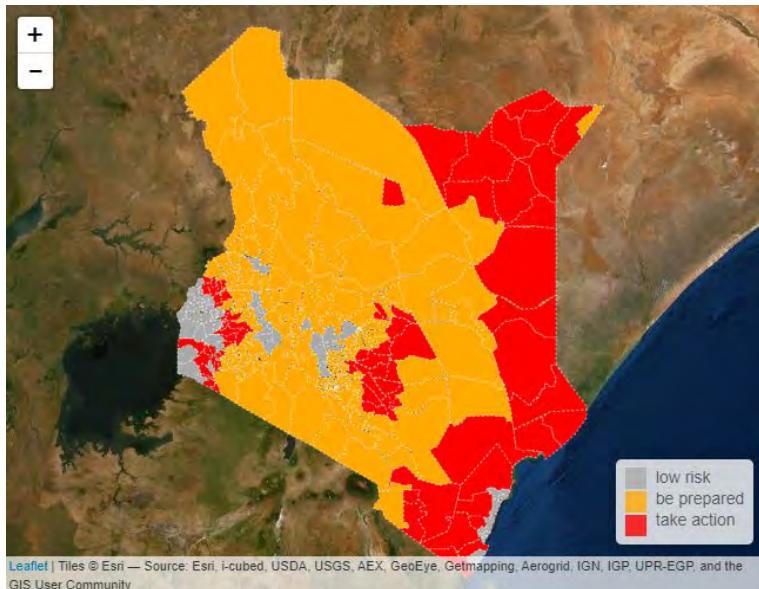
Maize

Crop overview

Delay of rains and severe early and mid-season dryness has meant that production prospects look poor, particularly for the Central region of the country.

Pest management actions to take now

Fall armyworm in Kenya

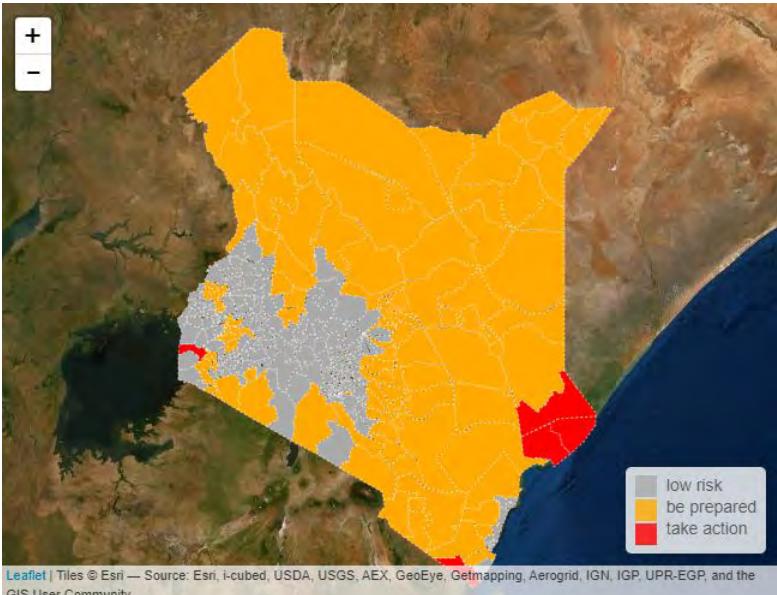


It is likely that there are **fall armyworm** caterpillars on maize now. If you find fall armyworm on maize:

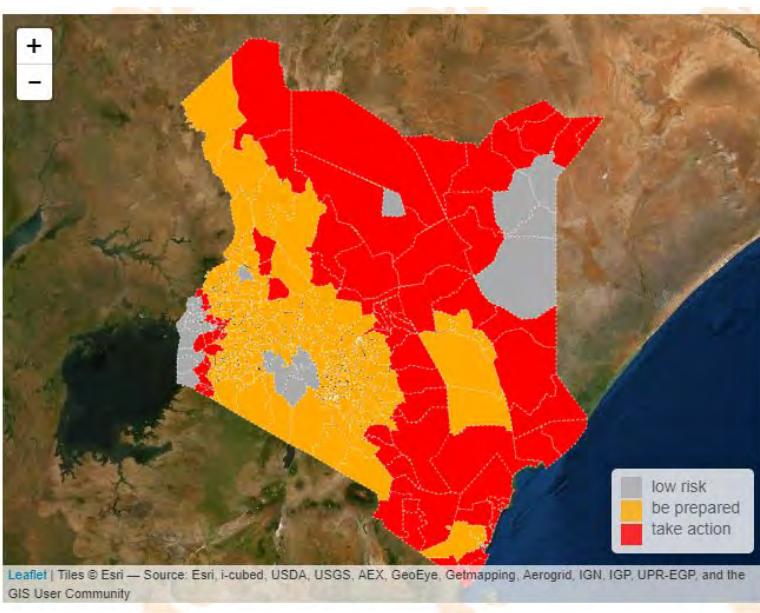
- Handpick and destroy caterpillars (e.g. in hot water).
- Insecticides are most effective on young larvae and before they enter the funnel and ears.
- Spray only according to needs identified by monitoring.

For more information, read the pest management decision guide on the Plantwise Knowledge Bank:
<https://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/pmdg/20177801310>

Spotted stem borer in Kenya



African stalk borer in Kenya



Many areas of the country are now at risk from **African stalk borer** and **spotted stem borer**. If you find stalk or stem borer larvae on maize:

- Put handful of soil into leaf funnel of infested plants- this suffocates the larvae
- Put one bottle cap of ash dust into leaf-funnel of young plant
- Apply ground neem powder – a pinch per plant onto the funnel of young plants
- Apply hot pepper + ash – rate 50gm/2kg ash and put a pinch per funnel onto knee-high young plants

For more information, read the pest management decision guide on the Plantwise Knowledge Bank:
<https://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/pmdg/20137804329>

Do you know the difference between fall armyworm and other maize stalk borers?
[Take this quiz to find out.](#)

Pest outlook for this season

Continue to monitor maize for any caterpillars and advise farmers accordingly.

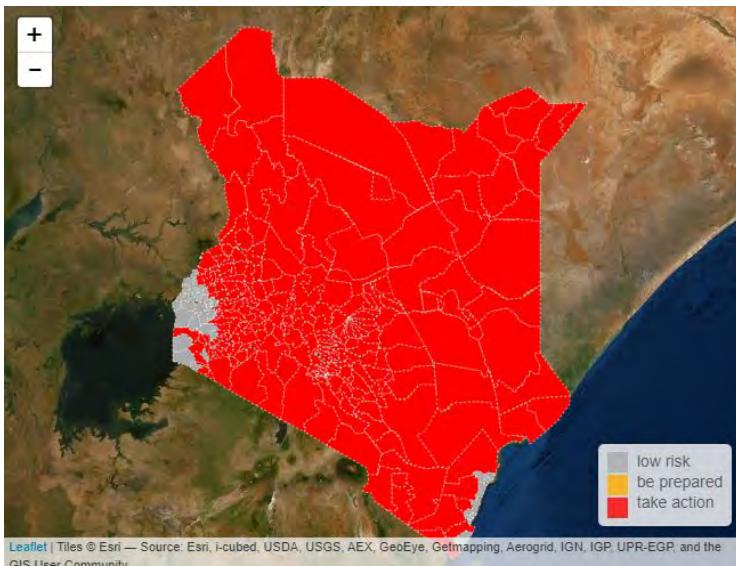
Tomatoes

Crop overview

Tomatoes in the field have not done so well this season due to lack of rainfall.

Pest management actions to take now

Tuta absoluta in Kenya

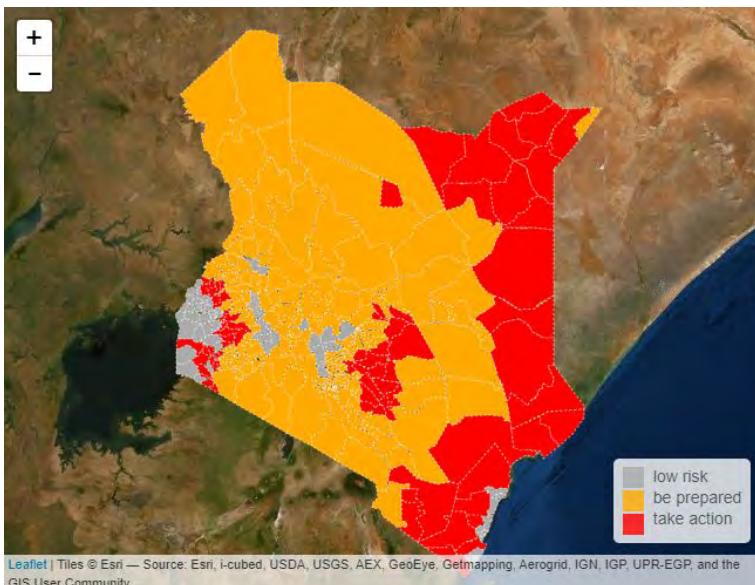


Tuta has developed fast this season. If you find *Tuta* on tomatoes:

- Use pheromone water traps (e.g. Pherodis at 4 packets per acre supplied by Koppert Biological Systems Kenya, Tutrack found at Kenya Biologics) to capture and kill adult moths.
- Physically crush larvae by hand once signs of tunnelling are observed.
- Bury infested fruits and foliage 50-100 cm deep to destroy any larvae present.
- Use of fungicides (e.g. *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria bassiana*) to control eggs, larvae and adult infestations on crops.
- Use screen vents in roofs and on the sides of the greenhouse to reduce insect pest migration.

For more information, read the pest management decision guide on the Plantwise Knowledge Bank:
<https://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/pmdg/20157800311>

Bollworm on tomato in Kenya



Many areas should be prepared for **bollworm on tomato** now. To monitor for bollworm:

- Monitor the pest + symptoms 1-2 times/week from emergence-harvest
 - Adults: Moth wingspan 35-40 mm wide. Forewings are yellow/brown, hindwings are white. Use pheromone (4-8/acre)/light (2/acre) traps to detect adults
 - Look for small larvae on leaves below highest open flowers + fruit bases. Consider taking actions when detected
 - Look for small, dark entry holes at base of the tomato, near stem + under base leaves of flower. Open fruit to confirm
 - Large caterpillars: 35-40 mm long. Vary from yellow/green/brown/red with grey-black stripes along the body when fully grown.
- When large larvae are inside fruits, sprays do not help as caterpillars are protected
- Note the no. of eggs, small/large caterpillars, % defoliation of plant on 30 random plants. If a large number of small larvae are detected apply control measures
 - Necessary to open the fruits + flowers often as larvae are hidden within

For more information, read the pest management decision guide on the Plantwise Knowledge Bank:

<https://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/pmdg/20177801291>

Pest outlook for this season

Advise farmers to continue to monitor pests on tomato.

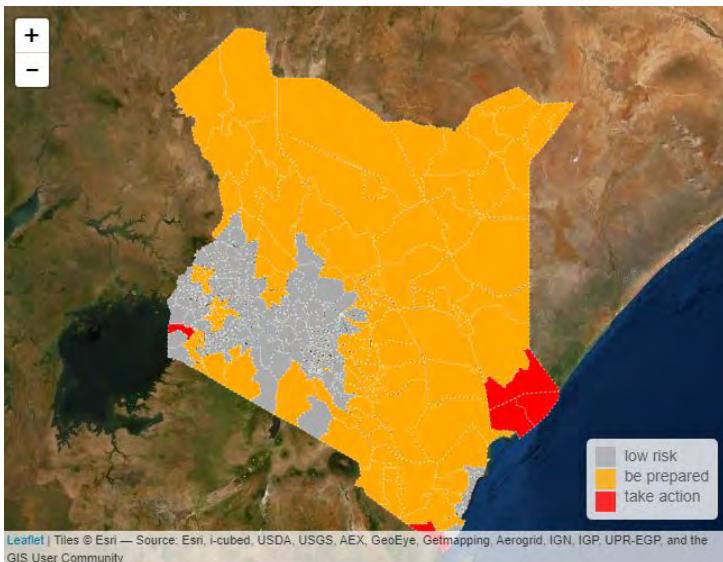
Beans

Crop overview

Most areas report that bean crops are doing well, except for in areas where insufficient rain has led to poor emergence of rain, e.g. Nyahururu.

Pest management actions to take now

Bean leaf miner in Kenya



Leaf miners may be present on beans. If you find leaf miner on beans:

- Hand pick heavily infested leaves with many leaf miner tunnels, and destroy them by crushing or burying them, or feeding them to cattle.
- Spray neem extract against larvae onto leaves in the early morning or late evening. Add a sticker such as liquid soap to the neem water mix. Reach good leaf coverage. Neem slightly enters the leaves and reaches some of the larvae inside the tunnel.
- If possible cover soil under infested plants with plastic sheets to prevent larvae from reaching the ground and pupating

For more information, read the pest management decision guide on the Plantwise Knowledge Bank:

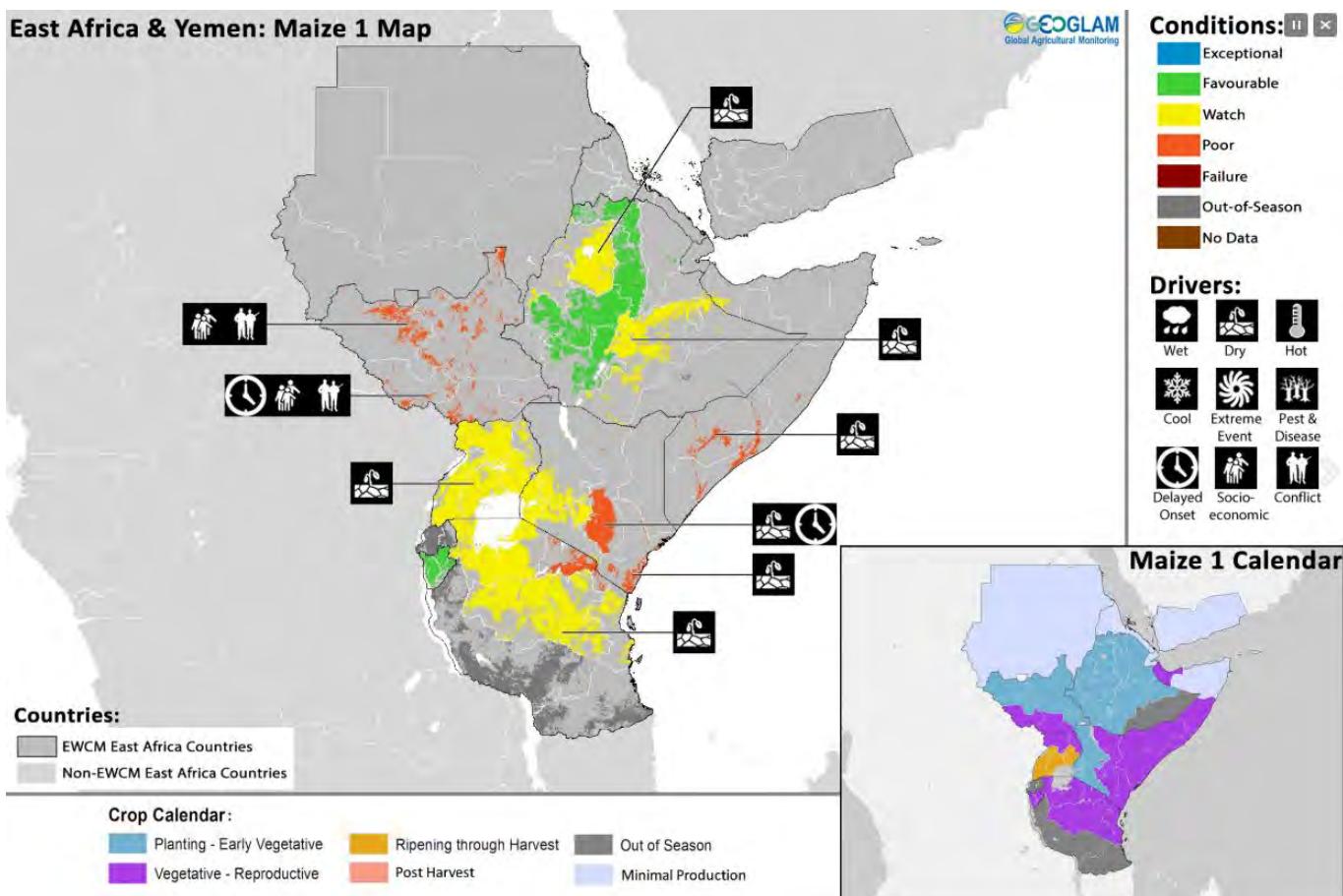
<https://www.plantwise.org/KnowledgeBank/pmdg/20177800763>

Pest outlook for this season

Beans are now in flowering stage for many farmers. Advise farmers to continue to monitor weekly.

Overview from GEOGLAM Crop Monitor

Production prospects are poor for main season cereals across Kenya due to a delay of onset rains and severe early and mid-season dryness.



Weather from Kenya Meteorological Department

Rainfall activities are still on a decreasing trend in both intensity and spatial distribution in most areas.

The outlook for May 2019 indicates that several parts of the country will continue to experience generally dry conditions. However, the counties in the Lake Basin Region, Western Kenya and parts of Central Rift Valley are likely to receive near-average rainfall with a tendency to above average rainfall (enhanced rainfall). The Coastal Strip (Mombasa, Mtwapa, Kilifi, Malindi, Msabaha, and Lamu) is likely to receive near-normal rainfall with a tendency to below normal (depressed rainfall). The North-Eastern, Eastern, Southern-Eastern regions are expected to experience generally sunny and dry conditions for most of the month. Cool/cold and cloudy/foggy conditions with occasional light rains/drizzles are expected to dominate over counties in the Central highlands of the country and Nairobi area.

To find out more details specific to your county, [visit the Kenya Met website](#).