

GUIDE TO FARMING SUCCESSFULLY DURING EL NIÑO

El Niño Forecast



El Niño will not fall evenly across Mozambique. The south dries, the north floods, and the centre swings between the two, so the right decision in Gaza might be the wrong one in Niassa.

SEED CO AGRONOMY TEAM • MOZAMBIQUE RAINFALL OUTLOOK • 26/27 SEASON
OCTOBER 2026 - JANUARY 2027

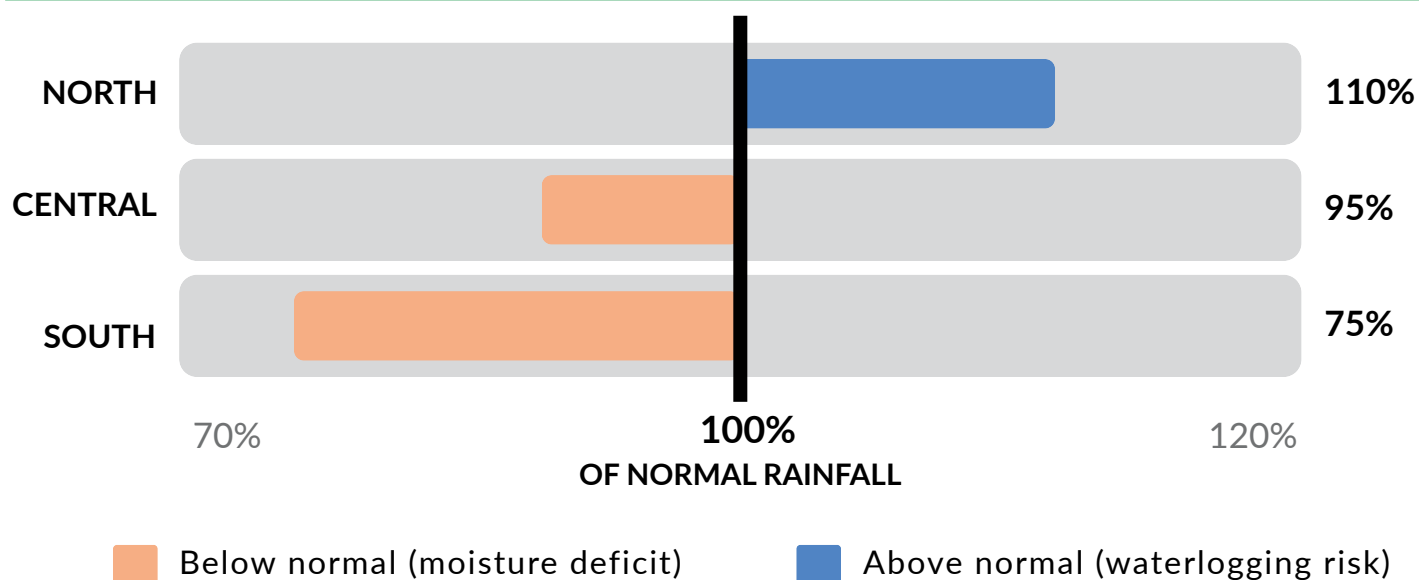
Climate forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of El Niño conditions during the coming season. Across much of Southern Africa, El Niño is typically associated with below-average rainfall, higher-than-normal temperatures, delayed onset of rains, and prolonged dry spells. These conditions can significantly affect crop production if farmers are not adequately prepared.

El Niño does not mean there will be **no rainfall, or that production is impossible. It means rainfall arrives **unevenly**, excessive in some areas and well below average in others.**

To minimise the risk of crop losses, protect your investment and safeguard household food security, use high quality certified seed and agricultural technologies matched to your own district's outlook, not to the national picture.

Rain outlook by region

Share of normal seasonal rainfall



Bars measure the distance from normal seasonal rainfall, not the total. A short bar is a small departure; the direction tells you which way the season leans.

Expected Challenges

Six risks to plan around

A delayed onset of the rainy season shortens the growing season.

Lower seasonal rainfall and longer dry spells reduce soil moisture.

Poor germination and crop failure; lower yields under moisture stress

Higher temperatures increase pest and disease pressure

Reduced water availability for livestock and irrigation

Lower household income and increased food insecurity

Three Regions, Three Strategies

SOUTH

DRIEST OUTLOOK

WHAT TO EXPECT

The districts below are expected to be among the most affected by irregular rainfall associated with El Niño, with the deepest moisture deficit in the country.

MOST AFFECTED DISTRICTS

GAZA Mapai • Massangena • Chigubo

INHAMBANE Mabote • Massinga • Jangamo

WHAT TO PLANT

Diversify beyond maize. Seed Co climate-resilient alternatives can still deliver a harvest in a short, unreliable season.

SESAME

SORGHUM

PEARL MILLET

CENTRAL

UNEVEN & UNRELIABLE

WHAT TO EXPECT

Close to normal in total, but that total arrives badly distributed. Uneven rainfall and prolonged dry spells are likely to reduce crop productivity across these districts.

MOST AFFECTED DISTRICTS

MANICA Machaze • Macossa • Tambara

SOFALA Chemba • Caia • Marromeu

TETE Changara • Mágoè • Mutarara • Doa

ZAMBÉZIA Morrumbala • Nicoadala • Inhassunge

WHAT TO PLANT

Early maturing varieties that finish before the dry spells bite, backed by drought tolerant alternative crops.

EARLY MATURING MAIZE

SESAME

PEARL MILLET

SORGHUM

NORTH

NORMAL TO ABOVE NORMAL

WHAT TO EXPECT

The opposite problem. Near to above normal rainfall raises the likelihood of localised flooding, waterlogging and a higher incidence of crop disease; so drainage, not drought tolerance, is the priority.

MOST SUSCEPTIBLE DISTRICTS

NAMPULA Angoche · Moma

CABO DELGADO Montepuez · Chiúre · Ancuabe

NIASSA Cuamba · Mandimba · Marrupa · Maúa

WHAT TO PLANT

Seed Co late maturity varieties well adapted to local conditions, paired with proper field drainage and good agricultural practice.

LATE MATURITY MAIZE

Best agronomic practices

Seven recommendations

PRACTICE 01

Plant early

Prepare land before the rains begin so planting can take place immediately after effective rainfall. Early planting lets crops take full advantage of the soil moisture that is available.

PRACTICE 02

Choose draught tolerant varieties

Select certified Seed Co varieties adapted to your agro ecological region. Early maturing and medium maturity options both perform better under moisture stress and reduce production risk.

PRACTICE 03

Use certified seeds

High-quality certified seed gives better germination, vigorous plants, strong early growth, uniform establishment and improved yield potential.

Avoid poor quality recycled seed; reduced vigour, reduced yield.

PRACTICE 04

Conserve soil moisture

Moisture conservation becomes critical in an El Niño season. Practise minimum tillage where appropriate, retain crop residues as mulch, control weeds early, and improve water infiltration through good land management.

PRACTICE 05

Apply fertilizer efficiently

Use fertilizer according to soil test recommendations wherever possible.

- Apply basal fertilizer at planting.
- Split top dressing applications.
- Avoid excessive nitrogen during severe moisture stress.
- Ensure balanced crop nutrition.

PRACTICE 06

Maintain correct plant population

Avoid overcrowding in dry seasons. Recommended spacing allows crops to use available soil moisture more efficiently while maximising yield potential.

Monitor pests and diseases

Higher temperatures favour certain insect pests and diseases. Regular scouting helps identify problems early and apply timely control measures.

Ready to support farmers

Preparing for an El Niño season starts with the right seed choice. Visit your nearest Seed Co agent or dealer to access certified varieties suited to your production environment. Representatives can help you match a hybrid to rainfall expectations, maturity period and local growing conditions.

OUR AGRONOMISTS WILL ADVISE YOU ON

VARIETY SELECTION

PLANT POPULATION

FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

CLIMATE SMART PRACTICES

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

El Niño seasons present challenges. The right varieties, conserved moisture, efficient nutrition and expert advice are what turn a difficult season into a **survivable one.**

Do not hesitate. Visit your nearest Seed Co outlet, contact our team, and buy your certified Seed Co seed today. Invest in quality and secure a more productive, resilient and successful farming season.

At Seed Co, we remain committed to helping farmers grow successful crops, whatever the season brings.

SEED CO - Growing Prosperity Together

Find your nearest Seed Co outlet or dealer for certified seed and district-level guidance ahead of the 2026/27 season.