

YOUR 5-STEP SURVIVAL GUIDE • 2026/27 SEASON

BUMPER HARVEST OR BUST?

Warmer nights, unpredictable rains and dry spells that arrive without warning. Farmers who plan smart don't just survive a tough season they out-yield it.



SEED CO MALAWI

SOURCE: DEPT. OF CLIMATE CHANGE & METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

2026/27 SEASON

Every farming season comes with its own weather story. This time, the story is one of extremes. The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services has confirmed that Malawi's weather patterns are shifting, with this winter recording more warm episodes than the cold snaps we are used to.

Forecasters are also flagging a strong El Niño influence heading into 2026/27, which for Malawi has historically meant one thing: unpredictability.

Sometimes it's rain that refuses to fall when your maize is flowering. Sometimes it's downpours so heavy they wash your fertilizer and topsoil clean off the field.

Malawi Has Been Here Before

Each time, the farmers who prepared came out ahead

2000/02

EL NIÑO

2004/05

EL NIÑO

2009/10

EL NIÑO

2015/16

EL NIÑO

2018/19

EL NIÑO

2023/24

EL NIÑO

2026/27

FORECAST

This is your chance to be one of the farmers who came out ahead.

Know Your Region, Know Your Risk

Weather stress does not hit every part of the country the same way

SOUTH DOUBLE THREAT

Drought in some pockets, flooding in others, often in the same season, sometimes in the same district.

CENTRAL MIXED BAG

Dry spells punctuated by sudden heavy downpours. Neither can be planned for in isolation.

NORTH MOISTURE STRESS

Deals mainly with moisture stress, the classic El Niño signature for the region.

Wherever your farm sits, the response is the same: prepare early, plant smart, and protect what you grow.

The 2026/27 season will reward the farmer who prepared before the first effective rains, not the one who waited to see what the sky would do.

1

Cast your net wide with the right seed

Recycled or traditional seed struggles when the weather turns unpredictable. Spreading your risk across a mix of maturity groups and crop types gives you insurance against whatever the season throws at you. Seed Co's climate smart range covers every angle:

MAIZE

Kalulu - ultra early

Kanyani - early

Mbidzi - early

Mkango - medium

Njovu - late

RICE

Nerica 4 - upland

Kilombero - paddy

SORGHUM

SC XH102 - red

SC Sila - white

SOYA BEANS

Saga

Signal

Serenade

DRY BEANS

Nua 45

2

Plant early, timing is everything

Don't wait and see. Get seed into the ground with the **first effective rains** so your crop has the best chance to mature before dry spells set in.

3

Harvest the water before it harvests you

Moisture management can make or break your season. **Mulching, swales and tied ridges** lock moisture into your soil during dry spells. Trenches and raised seedbeds protect your fields when the rain comes down hard and fast.

4

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Hardy crops like **sweet potatoes, cassava, sorghum, rice and legumes** alongside your maize spread your risk and your income across the season.

5

Get ahead of pests and disease

Warmer nights and longer dry spells mean pest and disease pressure will likely be higher this season. Regular field scouting and early stocking of crop protection inputs will save you costly surprises later.

The Bottom Line

Difficult weather doesn't have to mean a difficult harvest

Farmers who plant early, choose the right seed mix, manage their water, diversify their crops and stay ahead of pests are the ones who protect their yields and their livelihoods no matter what the season brings.

Prepare early.

Farm smart.

Secure your harvest.

SEED CO MALAWI - Climate Smart Seed for a Season of Extremes

Talk to your nearest Seed Co stockist about building a seed mix across maturity groups and crop types before the first effective rains arrive.