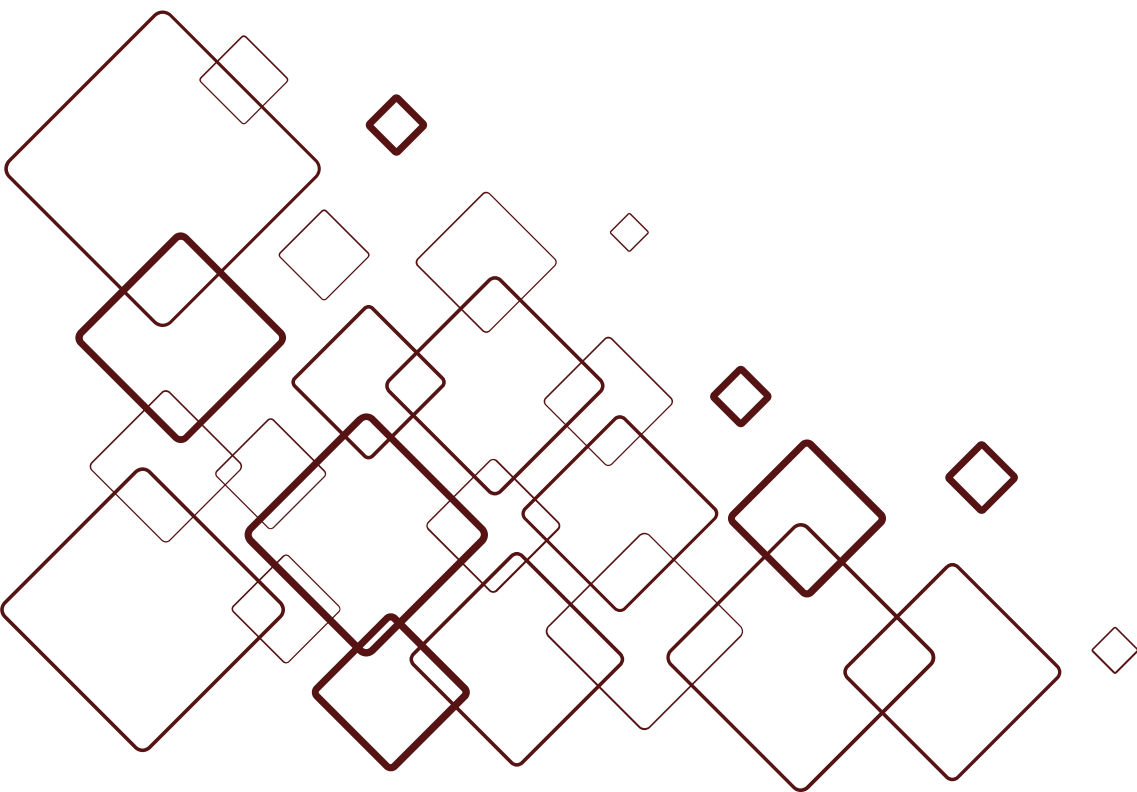




2026

Climate Outlook for Southwest Nigeria

Navigating Weather Patterns for Resilience and Growth



Manager of Western Nigeria Integration Agenda

Preface

Agriculture remains the backbone of livelihoods across the Southwest region, supporting millions of smallholder farmers, pastoralists, processors and agribusiness operators who depend on the season's rhythm to plan, plant, and harvest. Yet the climate is no longer as predictable as it once was. Shifts in rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and increasingly erratic dry spells are creating new vulnerabilities that, without timely and accessible information, can translate into crop failures, livestock losses, and ultimately food insecurity.

It is against this backdrop that the Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN) Commission presents this 2026 Southwest Climatic Outlook. Drawing on seasonal climate predictions from the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMet) document, this publication extracts Southwest forecast data that farmers, extension officers, agribusiness investors, and policymakers across Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Oyo States can act upon.

The 2026 season presents a mixed but manageable picture for the Southwest. While most states can expect broadly normal conditions, significant risks are concentrated in specific areas, particularly in the northern parts of Oyo and Ogun States, where below normal rainfall, shorter growing seasons, and severe dry spells demand early and deliberate action. Above normal temperatures forecast across the entire region from January through May add a further layer of stress for the agricultural subsectors. At the same time, favourable conditions in coastal areas offer opportunities that, with proper planning, can be fully realised.

We encourage farmers, state ministries, agricultural development programmes, farmer cooperatives, and private sector actors to use the Local Government Areas (LGA) level forecasts contained herein to align input supply, farm calendars, and contingency plans ahead of the season. Climate information is only valuable when it is used and used early. DAWN remains committed to ensuring that the people and institutions of the Southwest have the knowledge they need to build a more resilient and productive agricultural future.



State-by-State Risk Summary

The table below provides a consolidated, at-a-glance overview of the 2026 seasonal climate forecast for each State, drawing on the detailed LGA-level projections that follow.

State	Rainfall Onset Date	Seasonal Length (Days)	Annual Rainfall (mm)	Dry Spell Risk	Little Dry Season Intensity	Overall Risk
Ekiti	Normal (18–25 Apr)	203–214	1,610–1,772 (Normal)	Moderate (up to 15 days, Mar–May)	Severe (>27 days)	Moderate
Lagos	Normal–Early (21 Mar–1 Apr)	244–250 (Longer than normal)	1,908–2,010 (Normal–Above)	Mild (10 days, Mar–May)	Severe (>27 days)	Low–Moderate
Ogun	Normal (5–19 Apr)	219–246	1,296–1,743 (Below–Normal)	Severe (15+ days Mar–May)	Severe (>27 days)	Moderate–High
Ondo	Normal (29 Mar–19 Apr)	218–252	1,289–1,868 (Normal)	Moderate (Mar–May)	Moderate	Moderate
Osun	Normal (13–25 Apr)	212–227	1,197–1,431 (Normal)	Moderate (Mar–May)	Moderate	Moderate
Oyo	Early–Late (Apr–May in north)	190–228 (Shorter in north)	976–1,445 (Below normal in north)	Severe (21 days Jun–Aug in north)	Severe (>27 days)	High

TEMPERATURE

Temperature

Temperatures are expected to be generally above the long-term average across the country. Both daytime and nighttime temperatures are predicted to be warmer than the long-term average over most parts of the country in January, February, March, April, and May 2026.

Nighttime Temperature

In January, Ekiti is expected to record 12°C and 17°C and Lagos 20°C nighttime temperature. Nighttime temperature for March 2026 are expected to range from 17°C to 26°C across the country.

Daytime Temperature

The daytime temperature in February 2026 is predicted to be normal in the Southwest states except parts of Lagos, Oyo, Osun. The daytime temperatures for various locations across Southwest are expected to range between 30°C and 38°C.



Day-Time Temperature °C

Night Temperature °C

State	Location	January	February	March	April	May	January	February	March	April	May
	Ado-Ekiti	33.6	34.9	34.3	32.5	31.5	19.6	21.7	23	22.6	22.5
	Ise Orun	31.5	32.4	32.1	31.3	30.1	19.7	21.6	22.8	23.7	23.3
	Ijero	32.4	33.5	33.1	32	30.5	19.3	21.6	22.8	23.7	23.3
	Ikole	33.4	34.6	34.7	33.7	31.7	19.8	21.9	23.4	24.2	23.7
	Badagry	30.5	30.5	30.2	30.2	29.7	24.8	25.9	26.1	26.7	26.4
	Ikeja	33.9	34.2	34	32.9	32	23.8	24.8	25.4	24.9	24.5
	Ikorodu	30.2	30.3	30.1	30	29.5	24.7	25.9	26.2	26.9	26.5
	Lagos Island	32.1	32.6	32.8	31.8	31	25.2	25.9	26.5	26	25.6
	Abeokuta	35.7	36.7	36.2	34.4	33.2	23	24.5	25.2	24.8	24.5
	Ijebu Ode	33.9	34.8	34.6	32.9	32.1	23	24	24.5	24.2	24
	Imeko Afon	32.2	32.8	32.1	31.6	30.6	21	22.9	23.6	24.3	24
	Ipokia	31.3	31.3	30.7	30.5	29.8	24.8	25.9	26.1	26.6	26.2
	Ogun Waterside	30.1	30.5	30.1	29.9	29.3	23.7	25.1	25.7	26.3	26



Day-Time Temperature °C



Night Temperature °C

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State	Location	January	February	March	April	May	January	February	March	April	May
	Akoko Northwest	31.5	32.4	32.1	31.3	30.1	19.7	21.6	22.8	23.7	23.3
	Akure	33.7	35	34.4	32.6	31.6	19.7	21.8	23.1	22.7	22.6
	Ilaje Eseodo	30	30.3	30.1	30	29.3	23.7	25.2	25.8	26.4	26.1
	Ondo	33.5	34.5	33.8	32	31.4	22.3	23.4	23.9	23.4	23.2
	Ose	30.9	31.3	30.8	30.5	29.9	20.3	22.1	23.2	24.1	23.9
	Atakumosa East	31	31.8	31.3	30.5	29.6	19.7	21.7	22.7	23.6	23.2
	Ifedayo	32.4	33.5	33.1	32	30.5	19.3	21.6	22.8	23.7	23.3
	Ife North	31.2	31.8	31.1	30.6	29.7	21.3	23.1	23.8	24.6	24.3
	Osogbo	34.2	35.4	34.9	32.7	31.7	19.8	21.9	23.4	23	22.8
	Ibadan	34.4	35.5	35.1	33.3	32.2	22.8	23.9	24.3	23.7	23.5
	Iseyin	34.8	35.8	35.3	33	31.8	21.3	22.5	23.4	23	22.8
	Iwajowa	32.6	33.5	32.9	32	30.8	20.2	22.3	23.3	24.1	23.8
	Oluyole	31.4	31.6	31	30.7	30.1	22	23.6	24.2	24.9	24.6
	Saki	34.4	35.7	35.5	33.1	31.7	20.2	22.1	23.1	22.6	22.5

RAINFALL

Rainfall Onset Dates

The 2026 prediction indicates that earlier-than-normal onset of the rainy season in Nigeria is likely to occur over Oyo State; while most other parts of the Southwest are forecasted to have normal onset dates.

Rainfall Cessation Dates

Most parts of the Southwest will experience a normal end (cessation) of the 2026 rainy season. However, parts of Lagos, Ogun States are expected to have a delayed cessation, meaning that the 2026 rainy season will likely end later than usual. Conversely, the cessation dates in some parts of Ogun, Osun, Ondo States are predicted to end earlier than the long-term average cessation dates, with the rainfalls stopping sooner than usual.

In the inland States of Southern Nigeria such as Ogun, Oyo, Osun and Ekiti, cessation of rainfall is expected to occur between 7th November and 1st December 2026. Coastal areas such as Lagos State and parts of Ondo State are predicted to experience rainfall cessation between 9th and 17th December 2026.

Length of Rainy Season

The predicted length of the rainy season in 2026 is expected to be normal across most parts of the country. The forecast also reveals that Lagos and parts of Ogun, Oyo States are likely to have longer than-normal length of rainy season this year. These deviations from the normal rainy season length could affect agricultural planning and water resource management in the affected regions. States such as Lagos as well as Ogun, Oyo, Ekiti, Osun are expected to have lengths of rainy season ranging from 210 to 290 days in 2026.

***Coastal Opportunity Note

While much of the risk narrative in this outlook centres on drought and dry spells, the longer-than-normal rainy seasons forecast for Lagos and parts of southern Ogun (Ogun Waterside LGA) and Ondo States (Ese-Odo, Ilaje, and Irele LGAs) present genuine agricultural opportunities that deserve deliberate planning. With rainy seasons extending to 248–252 days and annual rainfall reaching up to 2,000 mm and above, farmers and agribusiness operators in these areas are well positioned to pursue second season cropping, extend aquaculture stocking periods, and invest in high value horticulture (leafy vegetable production) that benefits from sustained soil moisture.

Rainfall Amounts

The 2026 seasonal forecast indicates that total rainfall is likely to be below normal in parts of Oyo, and Ogun States relative to their long-term averages. The remaining parts of the Southwest are expected to experience normal rainfall conditions. The inland States of the South such as Ogun, Oyo, Osun and Ekiti may experience annual rainfall in the range of 1,150 to 2,400 mm, while the coastal States of Lagos are anticipated to receive between 1,650 and 3,030 mm.

Dry Spells

The Prediction shows that in the March – May season, there is a likelihood of a severe dry spell lasting more than 15 days after the establishment of rainfall in Oyo and Ogun States. A moderate dry spell, lasting up to 15 days, may occur in Ekiti, Osun, Ondo, Ogun too. Invariably, Lagos may experience a mild dry spell lasting 10 days.

While for the June- August Season: A severe dry spell that may last up to 21 days is predicted for some parts of Oyo State. The following Local Government Areas are predicted for: Irepo, Orelope, Saki, Olorunsogo, Atisbo, Itesiwaju, Ore-Ire, Ogbomoso, Atiba, Iseyin, Kajola and Iwajowa.

Little Dry Season (LDS)

The prediction shows that the Little Dry Season is likely to commence between the 26th and 30th of July. However, signs of the LDS season may begin to manifest by mid-July. The dry conditions that characterise the season are expected to be quite severe in and around Lagos, Ogun, Ekiti, and parts of Oyo states. The length of the season in those places is expected to last more than 27 days. In Ondo, the intensity is expected to be moderate. The predicted dates for LDS in Abeokuta (23rd of July), Ado-Ekiti (23rd of July), Akure (24th of July), Ibadan (31st of July), Ijebu-Ode (25th of July), Ikeja (23rd of July), Iseyin (29th of July), Lagos Island (30th of July), Saki (23rd of July).

Food Security Implications

The 2026 seasonal forecast carries significant implications for food availability and prices across the Southwest. The most acute food security risks are concentrated in the northern LGAs of Oyo State particularly Irepo, Olorunsogo, Orelope, Saki East, and Saki West where a combination of late onset (as late as 8 May in Irepo), the shortest growing seasons in the region (as few as 190 days), below-normal annual rainfall (some areas receiving under 1,000 mm), and severe dry spells lasting up to 21 days in the June–August period creates a compounding risk to staple crop production. These are areas where maize, cassava, sorghum, and cowpea production could face significant shortfalls, with knock-on effects on local food availability and market prices.

Parts of Ogun State face similar pressures, with below-normal rainfall in several inland LGAs and severe dry spells predicted in the March–May planting window. Food crops are particularly vulnerable to soil moisture deficits during establishment. State agricultural development programmes in Oyo and Ogun should prioritise early distribution of drought-tolerant seed varieties. Market monitoring systems should also be activated early to track price movements in vulnerable LGAs.

State	City	Onset date	Season end	Length Days	Annual Rainfall mm
 Ekiti	Ado-Ekiti	20-Apr	17-Nov	211	1721
	Efon	21-Apr	17-Nov	209	1704
	Ekiti East	22-Apr	16-Nov	208	1678
	Ekiti Southwest	20-Apr	18-Nov	212	1744
	Ekiti West	22-Apr	17-Nov	209	1696
	Emure/Ise/Orun	18-Apr	18-Nov	214	1772
	Aiyekire (Gbonyin)	21-Apr	17-Nov	210	1718
	Ido/Osi	24-Apr	15-Nov	205	1641
	Ijero	23-Apr	16-Nov	206	1658
	Ikere	19-Apr	18-Nov	213	1758
	Ikole	24-Apr	15-Nov	205	1637
	Ilejemeje	25-Apr	15-Nov	204	1621
	Irepodun/Ifelodun	22-Apr	16-Nov	209	1693
	Ise/Orun	18-Apr	18-Nov	214	1772
	Moba	25-Apr	14-Nov	203	1610
	Oye	24-Apr	15-Nov	205	1642
 Lagos	Agege	21-Mar	2-Dec	245	1923
	Ajeromi/Ifelodun	29-Mar	3-Dec	249	1991
	Alimosho	31-Mar	2-Dec	246	1937
	Amuwo-Odofin	28-Mar	3-Dec	250	2007
	Apapa	28-Mar	3-Dec	250	2009
	Badagry	28-Mar	3-Dec	250	2010
	Epe	29-Mar	3-Dec	249	1984
	Eti-Osa	28-Mar	3-Dec	250	2002
	Ibeju/Lekki	28-Mar	3-Dec	250	2005
	Ifako-Ijaye	1-Apr	1-Dec	244	1908
	Ikeja	31-Mar	2-Dec	246	1932
	Ikorodu	31-Mar	2-Dec	246	1935
	Kosofe	31-Mar	2-Dec	246	1938
	Lagos Island	30-Mar	2-Dec	248	1968
	Lagos Mainland	29-Mar	3-Dec	248	1974
	Mushin	30-Mar	2-Dec	247	1957
	Ojo	29-Mar	3-Dec	249	1999
	Oshodi-Isolo	30-Mar	2-Dec	247	1952
	Shomolu	30-Mar	2-Dec	247	1956
	Surulere	29-Mar	3-Dec	248	1912

State	City	Onset date	Season end	Length Days	Annual Rainfall mm
 Ogun	Abeokuta North	11 - Apr	28 - Nov	230	1675
	Abeokuta South	10 - Apr	28 - Nov	232	1699
	Ado-Odo/Ota	2 - Apr	3 - Dec	244	1901
	Egbado North	10 - Apr	28 - Nov	233	1713
	Egbado South	5 - Apr	1 - Dec	240	1829
	Ewekoro	7 - Apr	30 - Nov	237	1774
	Ifo	4 - Apr	1 - Dec	241	1845
	Ijebu East	6 - Apr	30 - Nov	238	1802
	Ijebu North	4 - Apr	1 - Dec	241	1843
	Ijebu North East	8 - Apr	29 - Nov	235	1755
	Ijebu Ode	5 - Apr	1 - Dec	240	1837
	Ikenne	7 - Apr	30 - Nov	237	1786
	Imeko-Afon	17 - Apr	24 - Nov	221	1541
	Ipokia	2 - Apr	3 - Dec	244	1901
	Obafemi-Owode	7 - Apr	30 - Nov	237	1775
	Odeda	12 - Apr	27 - Nov	229	1658
	Odogbolu	5 - Apr	1 - Dec	240	1824
	Ogun waterside	30 - Mar	4 - Dec	249	1988
	Remo North	8 - Apr	29 - Nov	236	1759
	Shagamu	5 - Apr	1 - Dec	240	1825
 Ondo	Akoko North-East	18-April	25-Nov	221	1326
	Akoko Southeast	16-Apr	25-Nov	223	1360
	Akoko Southwest	16-Apr	26-Nov	224	1376
	Akoko Northwest	19-Apr	24-Nov	218	1289
	Akure North	13-Apr	27-Nov	228	1433
	Akure South	13-Apr	27-Nov	228	1442
	Ese-Odo	31-Mar	4-Dec	248	1790
	Idanre	10-Apr	29-Nov	233	1523
	Ifedore	15-Apr	26-Nov	225	1394
	Ilaje	29-Mar	6-Dec	252	1868
	Ile-Oluji-Okeigbo	14-Apr	27-Nov	227	1417
	Irele	4-Apr	2-Dec	242	1686
	Odigbo	6-Apr	1-Dec	239	1617
	Okitipupa	4-Apr	2-Dec	242	1676
	Ondo East	11-Apr	28-Nov	231	1491
	Ondo West	12-Apr	29-Nov	232	1511

State	City	Onset date	Season end	Length Days	Annual Rainfall mm
Ondo	Ose	11-Apr	28-Nov	231	1490
	Owo	10-Apr	28-Nov	230	1469
Osun	Atakunmosa East	15-Apr	26-Nov	225	1397
	Atakunmosa West	18-Apr	25-Nov	221	1332
	Aiyedade	15-Apr	26-Nov	225	1399
	Aiyedire	18-Apr	25-Nov	221	1326
	Boluwaduro	23-Apr	22-Nov	213	1213
	Boripe	22-Apr	22-Nov	214	1236
	Ede North	20-Apr	23-Nov	217	1277
	Ede South	19-Apr	24-Nov	219	1297
	Egbedore	21-Apr	23-Nov	216	1258
	Ejigbo	21-Apr	23-Nov	216	1255
	Ife East	18-Apr	26-Nov	225	1396
	Ife North	14-Apr	27-Nov	227	1430
	Ife South	13-Apr	27-Nov	227	1431
	Ife Central	17-Apr	25-Nov	223	1356
	Ifedayo	23-Apr	21-Nov	212	1205
	Ifelodun	23-Apr	22-Nov	213	1217
	Ila	23-Apr	21-Nov	212	1206
	Ilesha East	18-Apr	24-Nov	220	1315
	Ilesha West	19-Apr	24-Nov	219	1300
	Irepodun	22-Apr	22-Nov	214	1233
	Irewole	16-Apr	26-Nov	224	1380
	Isokan	14-Apr	27-Nov	227	1418
	Iwo	19-Apr	24-Nov	219	1300
	Obokun	21-Apr	23-Nov	216	1260
	Odo-Otin	24-Apr	21-Nov	212	1197
	Ola-Oluwa	20-Apr	23-Nov	217	1270
	Olorunda	22-Apr	22-Nov	215	1238
	Oriade	17-Apr	25-Nov	221	1335
	Orolu	22-Apr	22-Nov	214	1225
	Osogbo	21-Apr	23-Nov	216	1264



**Oyo**

Afijo	21-Apr	23-Nov	216	1263
Akinyele	18-Apr	25-Nov	221	1333
Atiba	27-Apr	19-Nov	206	1120
Atisbo	29-Apr	18-Nov	204	1094
Egbeda	15-Apr	26-Nov	224	1382
Ibadan North	16-Apr	26-Nov	224	1372
Inadan Northeast	15-Apr	26-Nov	225	1385
Ibadan Northwest	16-Apr	26-Nov	224	1375
Ibadan Southeast	15-Apr	26-Nov	225	1397
Ibadan Southwest	15-Apr	26-Nov	225	1390
Ibarapa Central	16-Apr	25-Nov	223	1362
Ibarapa East	19-Apr	24-Nov	219	1306
Ibarapa North	19-Apr	24-Nov	219	1298
Ido	17-Apr	25-Nov	222	1344
Irepo	8-May	13-Nov	190	993
Iseyin	22-Apr	22-Nov	215	1239
Itesiwaju	26-Apr	20-Nov	207	1138
Iwajowa	24-Apr	21-Nov	212	1198
Kajola	24-Apr	21-Nov	210	1197
Lagelu	17-Apr	25-Nov	222	1350
Ogbomosho North	26-Apr	20-Nov	208	1147
Ogbomosho South	25-Apr	20-Nov	209	1167
Ogo Oluwa	23-Apr	21-Nov	212	1205
Olorunsogo	5-May	15-Nov	194	983
Oluyole	13-Apr	27-Nov	228	1445
Ona-Ara	14-Apr	27-Nov	227	1421
Orelope	5-Apr	15-Nov	194	976
Ori Ire	28-Apr	19-Nov	204	1100
Oyo East	22-Apr	22-Nov	214	1227
Oyo West	23-Apr	22-Nov	213	1219
Saki East	4-May	16-Nov	196	1003
Saki West	2-May	17-Nov	198	1030
Surulere	25-Apr	21-Nov	210	1169

Policy and Programme Callout

The 2026 seasonal forecast points to a clear set of actions that state governments, agricultural development programmes, and development partners should initiate now, ahead of the season. The following are priority interventions directed at policymakers and programme managers across the Southwest.

- **Emergency Seed and Input Pre-positioning:** States should immediately initiate pre-positioning of drought-tolerant and early-maturing certified seed varieties especially in the high risk northern LGAs of Oyo and Ogun identified in this outlook.
- **Dry Spell Contingency Funds:** State Governments, particularly in Oyo, Ogun, and Ekiti are advised to activate contingency budget lines for dry spell response ahead of the June–August window. They can provide supplementary irrigation support, emergency livestock water supply, and rapid-response crop insurance mechanisms. Development partners and donors supporting agricultural resilience programmes in the Southwest should align disbursement/ farm support timelines with the June–August high-risk window rather than releasing funds after losses have already occurred.
- **Farmer-Herder Conflict Prevention:** The severe dry spell conditions predicted for northern Oyo covering LGAs such as Irepo, Orelope, Atisbo, Iseyin, and Saki historically correlate with increased farmer-herder tensions as pasture and water sources become scarce. All hands must be on deck to prevent conflict. Early intervention is significantly more cost-effective than post-conflict response.

Recommendations towards 2026 Seasonal Climate Prediction for Agriculture

Crop production

- Plant certified, early-maturing and drought-tolerant varieties strictly aligned to the predicted LGA onset dates to avoid false onset crop failure; do not plant until rains are fully established except irrigation is in place
- Adopt water conservation practices such as mulching, tied ridges, and rainwater harvesting across all farms regardless of whether rainfall is forecast above or below normal.
- Apply organic matter and compost to improve soil water-holding capacity
- Adjust all planting calendars to avoid the February–April peak heat window; delay dry spell-sensitive crops until conditions are stable

Poultry production

- Prioritise heat stress management from February to April: improve house ventilation, use misters or sprinklers, avoid overstocking, and shift feeding to the cooler parts of the day.
- Fortify drinking water with electrolytes and vitamins (A, C, D, E) throughout the hot season to sustain egg and broiler meat production and reduce mortality.
- Strengthen biosecurity at season onset and adjust litter management during peak rains to prevent coccidiosis and respiratory disease outbreaks.

Cattle/Small Ruminant (Sheep and Goats)

- Begin fodder harvesting and hay-making immediately, and cultivate early-maturing fodder crops to build feed reserves ahead of dry spell periods especially in northern Oyo and Ogun where growing seasons are shortest.
- Avoid long-distance movement during peak heat (February–April); secure alternative water sources now; and enter communal grazing agreements before onset to prevent farmer-herder conflict.
- Plan breeding to align calving, kidding, and lambing with peak pasture availability; prioritise feed and water access for pregnant and lactating animals; and increase disease surveillance for foot rot, parasites, and tick-borne illness during the rainy season.

Micro-Livestock (Rabbits & Grasscutters)

- Keep hutches in shaded, well-ventilated spaces; avoid overcrowding and minimise handling during heat peaks to prevent stress-related mortality.
- Maintain dry, clean bedding throughout the season and increase water supply during extreme heat to prevent disease and dehydration.

Aquaculture

- Monitor water temperature and dissolved oxygen closely from January to April; increase aeration and pond shading to prevent fish kills during the above-normal heat period.
- Use early onset in coastal areas to replenish ponds by April with proper drainage and embankments in place
- Adjust stocking densities in anticipation of dry spells in June to August that reduce water levels.

Seasonal Monitoring Triggers

Climate forecasts are probabilistic, not guaranteed. Farmers, extension officers, and programme managers should monitor actual conditions throughout the season and be ready to act when key thresholds are crossed. The table below provides practical decision triggers based on the 2026 forecast designed for use in the field.

Watch Period	What to watch for?	When to Act
March–April (Onset)	Rains have not arrived 2 weeks after predicted onset date for your LGA	Delay planting; activate supplementary irrigation if available; do not use stored seed on false onset rains
March–May (Dry Spell)	No rainfall for 10 or more consecutive days	Apply mulch; use tied ridges to conserve moisture;
Late July (LDS Onset)	LDS begins — dry conditions evident in Lagos, Ogun, Ekiti, and parts of Oyo	Secure livestock water before hand; hold off second-season planting until LDS ends if no alternative water source
June–August (Severe Dry Spell — Oyo North)	Dry spell exceeds 14 days in Irepo, Orelope, Saki, Iseyin, or Ogbomosho LGAs	Apply mulch (crop residues, grass, or leaves) around plants immediately to cut soil moisture loss by up to 50%, Direct any available supplementary irrigation to the crops, weed promptly and thoroughly, as weeds compete directly with crops for the limited moisture available, Avoid tillage during the dry spell as it breaks soil structure and accelerates moisture loss
November–December (Cessation)	Rains end earlier than predicted cessation date in any LGA	Accelerate late-season harvests; begin post-harvest storage; only plant new crops if there is irrigation.

Conclusion

The 2026 seasonal climate forecast for the Southwest region points to a year of mixed but manageable conditions, with the most significant risks concentrated in northern and inland parts of Oyo and Ogun States, where below-normal rainfall, shorter seasons, and prolonged dry spells are most likely. Coastal and southern areas, especially Lagos, can expect wetter and longer seasons but must remain prepared for the intense Little Dry Season in July–August. Elevated temperatures throughout the early part of the year represent a cross-cutting challenge for all agricultural sub-sectors. Timely action including early planting, adoption of drought-tolerant varieties, water harvesting, and adjusted livestock and fisheries management will be critical to minimising losses and taking full advantage of favourable conditions where they exist. Stakeholders are strongly advised to use the LGA-level onset and cessation data provided in this outlook to fine-tune farm calendars and input procurement, and to monitor updates from the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMet) throughout the season.

About DAWN Commission

The Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN) Commission is the think-tank established in July 2013 by the six Governments of the States of Southwest region of Nigeria to manage their regional integration and development agenda. Our mandate is to strengthen socio-economic competitiveness of the region by facilitating sustainable working relationships among state and non-state development stakeholders.

Operating on the five pillars of economic development, social and human development, infrastructure, building inclusive institutions, and homeland affairs, DAWN Commission is a valuable partner to development stakeholders and enthusiasts interested in leveraging the regional integration agenda to promote shared goals and objectives.

Data Source

Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet)

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