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###### UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY

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**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE**

**DG-PILOT PROGRAMMATIC PARTNERSHIP**

**1½ Minute Radio Early Warning Message for April-May 2024:**

*URGENT Weather Advisory for Farmers, Pastoralists, Homesteads and Business Owners.*

*Weather Alert:*

Attention, everyone! We have critical information regarding the weather for April and May 2024. Currently, showers and thunderstorms are sweeping through our areas, signaling the onset of seasonal rains. These rains are expected to hit the peak around Mid-April and are already showing signs and will persist until early June.

Here are vital steps you must take to prepare and protect yourselves, your farmlands, livestock, and your businesses:

*For Farmers and Cultivators:*

* **Early Planting:** Opt for early maturing crops with a gestation period of around two months to align with the short duration of the rainy season.
* **Land Use:** Consider shifting settlement and agricultural activities away from wetland buffers near the lake to mitigate the risk of flooding. Close trenches from main rivers to gardens to prevent waterlogging and erosion.
* **Water Management:** Implement water storage initiatives like ground water harvesting and container storage to prepare for the dry season ahead.

*For Pastoralists:*

* **Livestock Care:** Harvest fodder such as hay or silage to ensure an adequate food supply for your cattle during the rainy season and beyond.
* **Hygiene Practices for animals:** Improve hygiene and sanitation measures to safeguard the health of your animals amidst increased moisture and potential waterborne diseases.

*For Business Owners:*

* **Asset Protection:** Secure business assets and documents by reinforcing structures and implementing protective measures.

The changing weather patterns might impact your operations. Stay adaptable and have contingency plans in place to mitigate any disruptions caused by the seasonal rains. Additionally, consider leveraging opportunities that arise from increased agricultural activities during this period.

For Homesteads in Areas with High Water Table and Prone to Hailstorms:

**Roof Reinforcement:** Strengthen roofs and reinforce houses to withstand potential hailstorms and heavy rainfall. Ensure that gutters and drainage systems are clear to prevent water accumulation

**Hygiene and sanitation:** ensure there is good family hygiene, good drainage system, and sanitation in areas prone to floods and high water table to control risks like cholera like Busaana.

Remember, early action is key to minimizing the impact of severe weather events on your livelihoods and communities.

Stay tuned to local radio stations and community announcements for further updates and advisories.

Let's unite and prepare together to navigate through the challenges posed by nature.

SUMMARISE-in (1-MINUTE)