



Date: 21st March 2016

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN-DAY PERIOD
VALID 22ND TO 28TH MARCH 2016**

REVIEW OF THE RAINFALL OVER THE LAST WEEK (14TH TO 20TH MARCH 2016) AND THE PREVIOUS WEEK (7TH TO 13TH MARCH 2016)

Last week (14th to 20th March 2016) was generally drier than the previous week (7th to 13th March 2016) which confirms to the weather and climate information stakeholders that it was not yet the start of the March-April-May (MAM) - “Long” rains as some of the stakeholders had believed in the beginning of March 2016. The County Meteorological Services Office, Kirinyaga had been insisting, since 1st March 2016 when the Director of Kenya Meteorological Services released the MAM forecast nationally, that the onset (start of rains) will be during any time between the fourth week of March and the first week of April 2016.

All the stations in the county reported less rainfall last week than the previous week. Last week, Njuki-ini Forest station led all the stations by recording 19.2mm. Njuki-ini was followed by Kangaita Tea Farm, Castle Forest, Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi and MIAD-Kandongu in that order. Kerugoya WRMA, Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme and Gathambi Coffee Factory stations reported nil last week. Table 1 and Fig. 1 below show the foregoing facts.

Table 1: Rainfall intensities in order of decreasing wetness during last week (14th to 20th March 2016)

Station No.	Station Name	Last Week	Previous Week
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	19.2	63
	Kangaita Tea Factory/Farm	10.7	33.9
9037115	Castle Forest Station	7	25.4
9037110	Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi	1.6	33.4
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	1.1	51.8
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	0	59.4
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	0	33.1
9037174	Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme	0	40.4

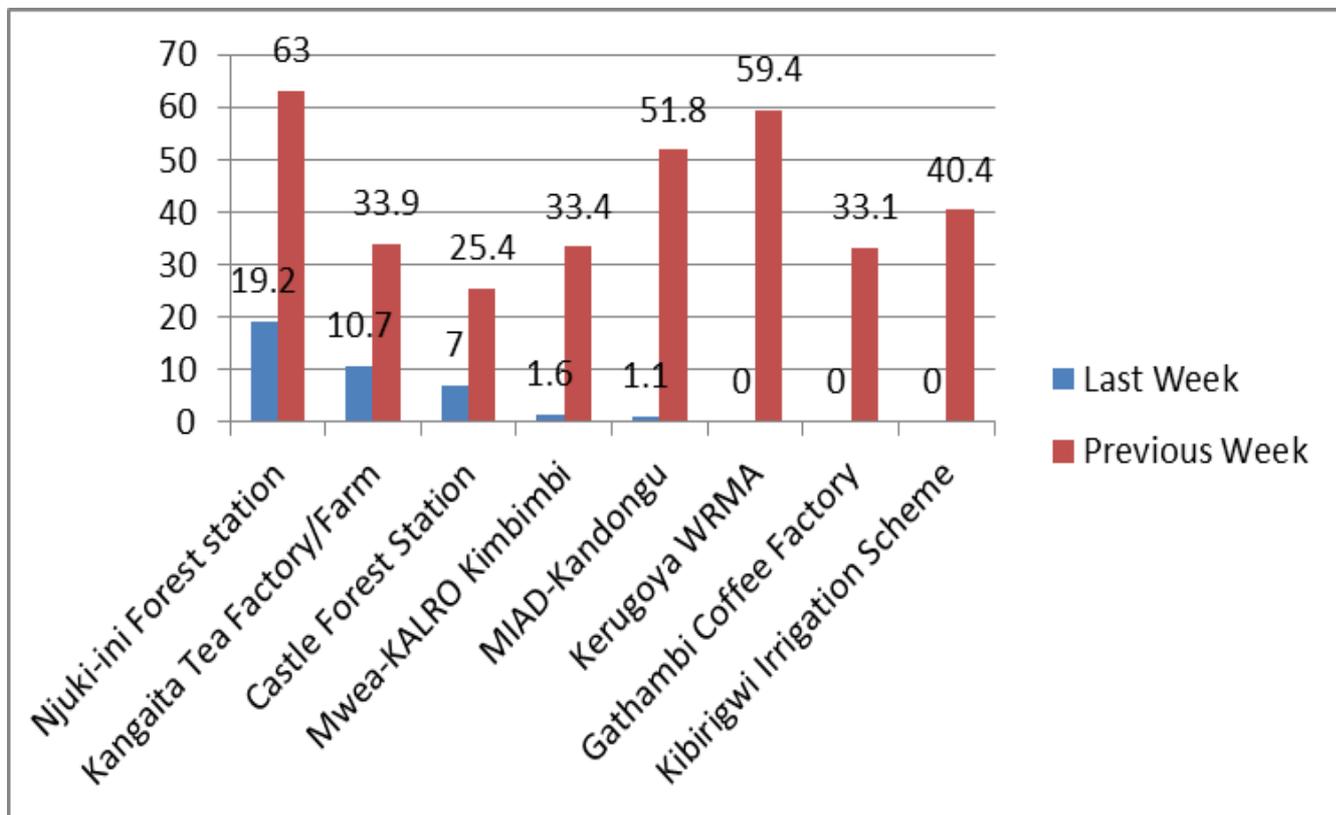


Fig. 1: Rain performance comparison between the last week (14th to 20th March 2016) and the previous week (7th to 13th March 2016).

Note that the rains that are recorded in the above table and bar chart occurred generally from last Thursday to last Sunday that is from 17th to 20th March 2016 as forecasted last week.

***** START OF RETAINED IMPORTANT INFORMATION *****

SEASONAL FORECAST

March-April-May (MAM)-“Long” Rains 2016 forecast is as given on Table 2 and Figure 2 below.

Kirinyaga County is likely to receive near normal (average) rainfall.

Table 2: Seasonal Forecast

REGION	START OF MAM RAINS	END OF MAM RAINS
Central highlands including KIRINYAGA COUNTY	4th week of March to 1st week of April 2016	3rd to 4th week of May

Poor temporal distribution of the seasonal rainfall expected

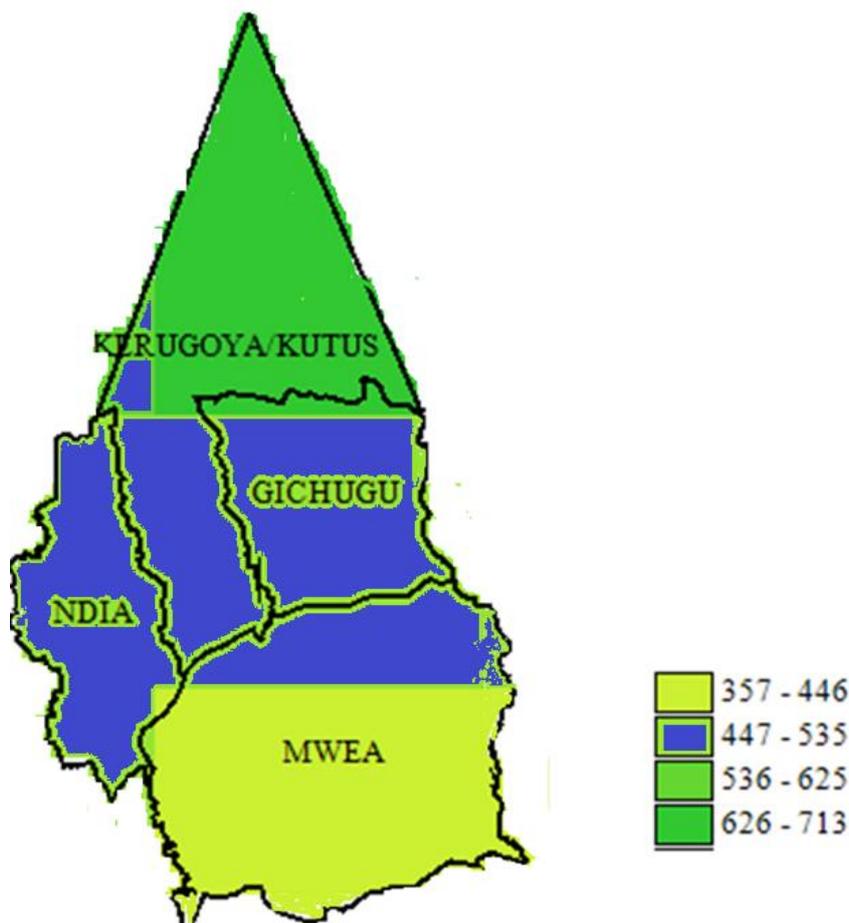


Fig. 2: Downscaled County Seasonal Forecast for March-April-May 2016. The figures are likely to have been an underestimation. The blue shaded region deserve approximately 700mm while the green shaded areas deserve more than 800mm.

***** END OF RETAINED IMPORTANT INFORMATION *****

KIRINYAGA COUNTY FORECAST

FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS (22nd TO 28th MARCH 2016):

- Mainly dry and sunny weather expected throughout the country for much of the forecast period.
- Continuation of relatively warmer temperatures expected especially during nights

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON/EVENING
TUESDAY 22/3/2016	Cloudy morning giving way to sunny intervals	Mainly sunny intervals with showers expected over very few places
WEDNESDAY 23/3/2016		
THURSDAY 24/3/2016		
FRIDAY 25/3/2016		
SATURDAY 26/3/2016		
SUNDAY 27/3/2016		
MONDAY 28/3/2016		

KEY OF SCIENTIFIC WORDS USED

Most Places: Between 66% and 100% of Kirinyaga County

Several Places: Between 33% and 66% of Kirinyaga County

Few Places: Between 0 and 33% of Kirinyaga County

OTHER INFORMATION

Weather/climate advisories from PSP workshop (see below) are being disseminated to all stakeholders. Although funds scarcity is holding us back, we are doing the best we can at the prevailing conditions so that we finish doing it before the onset of March-April-May rains. We are calling upon potential sponsors to assist us in this noble exercise.

KENYA IS NOT EXPERIENCING A HEAT WAVE

As far as it concerns rumours about “Heat Wave”, please read the following link: <http://citizentv.co.ke/news/Kenya-meteorological-department-disputes-equinox-heat-wave-rumours-118914/>

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2016

Theme: Hotter, drier, wetter. Face the future

Each year, on 23rd March, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), its 188 members and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day around a chosen theme. This day commemorates the entry into force, on that date in 1950, of the WMO convention creating the organization.

The 2016 theme, “Hotter, drier, wetter. Face the future”, has been chosen to illustrate the reality of climate change. The overall goal is to contribute to a better understanding of climate variability and climate change, as well as to the development of the much needed climate applications to address some of the challenges of this century.

As a result of heat trapping greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, land and sea surface temperatures are rising. The frequency and intensity of extreme events like heat waves and heavy rainfall is increasing. Without urgent action to cut carbon dioxide emissions, this trend will accelerate.

Murang’a County is privileged to host the National WMD 2016 at General Kago Stadium - Kangema, Murang’a County. The Kirinyaga County Meteorological Services has invited a total of six schools from Kirinyaga to attend the celebrations but only four which have confirmed to attend. Please note that the management committee had requested participation by invitation due to other logistics.

Meteorological instruments will be exhibited and the students and pupils will have a chance to interact with Meteorological personnel who will be ready to answer their questions.

***** START OF RETAINED IMPORTANT INFORMATION *****

If you are reading this and you know of a rainfall recording station in or near your area and it is not included in the above analysis, kindly inform the County Meteorological Services (CMS) Office through P.O. Box 533 10300 Kerugoya, Kirinyaga, or through email via meteorological@kirinyaga.go.ke or cdmkirinyaga@meteo.go.ke, or jggathura@yahoo.com

We in Kirinyaga County held the Participatory Scenario Planning-PSP on 7th March 2016. PSP is a process of developing weather/climate advisories based on the seasonal forecast. These advisories are then distributed to the stakeholders in various value chains. Remember the main three value chains in Kirinyaga County are Dairy, Banana and Rice. The advisories were developed by the people of Kirinyaga with guidance of the professionals in the Environment Thematic Working Group (TWG) as established by Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) of Kirinyaga. The PSP which was held at ROSWAM Hotel was proudly sponsored by ASDSP and CARE International (Kenya). The guest of honour agreed with the stakeholders in the workshop that it was important to install Automatic Weather Systems in the five sub-counties of Kirinyaga, although he insisted that the installation depended heavily on availability of funds. The request of the AWS had been requested by the County Meteorological Services (CMS) office and supported by the participants who had been drawn from all parts of Kirinyaga County.

******* END OF RETAINED IMPORTANT INFORMATION *******

I wish you happy Easter Holidays.

O.k.

James Gichuki Gathura

County Director of Meteorological Services