



Date: 9th May 2016

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN-DAY PERIOD  
VALID 10<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**

**REVIEW OF THE RAINFALL OVER THE LAST WEEK (2<sup>ND</sup> TO 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016) AND THE PREVIOUS WEEK (25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL TO 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2016)**

The month of April is the peak rainfall month during the March-April-May (MAM) seasonal rains. As such, April was the wettest among March to May 2016. The analyses below show the performance of April 2016 and the long term means of the same on different stations. The previous week (25<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2016) which was the last week of April 2016 was very wet as earlier forecasted by Kenya Meteorological Department. As compared to last week (2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2016) the previous week was wetter.

In order of decreasing rain intensities during last week, Kangaita Tea Farm station reported the highest amount of rainfall followed by Castle Forest, Gathambi Coffee Factory, Kerugoya WRMA, Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme, Njuki-ini Forest, Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi and MIAD-Kandongu stations. Last week, therefore, was generally drier than the previous week. This can be seen in Table 1 and Figure 1 below.

*Table1: Rainfall intensities in order of decreasing wetness during last week (2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2016)*

Station No.	Station Name	Last Week	Previous Week
	Kangaita Tea Factory/Farm	55.3	68.9
9037115	Castle Forest Station	45	104.4
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	34.3	94.7
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	21.2	196.6
9037174	Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme	14.7	168.4
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	8.2	246.9
9037110	Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi	6.7	219.3
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	5.4	196.4

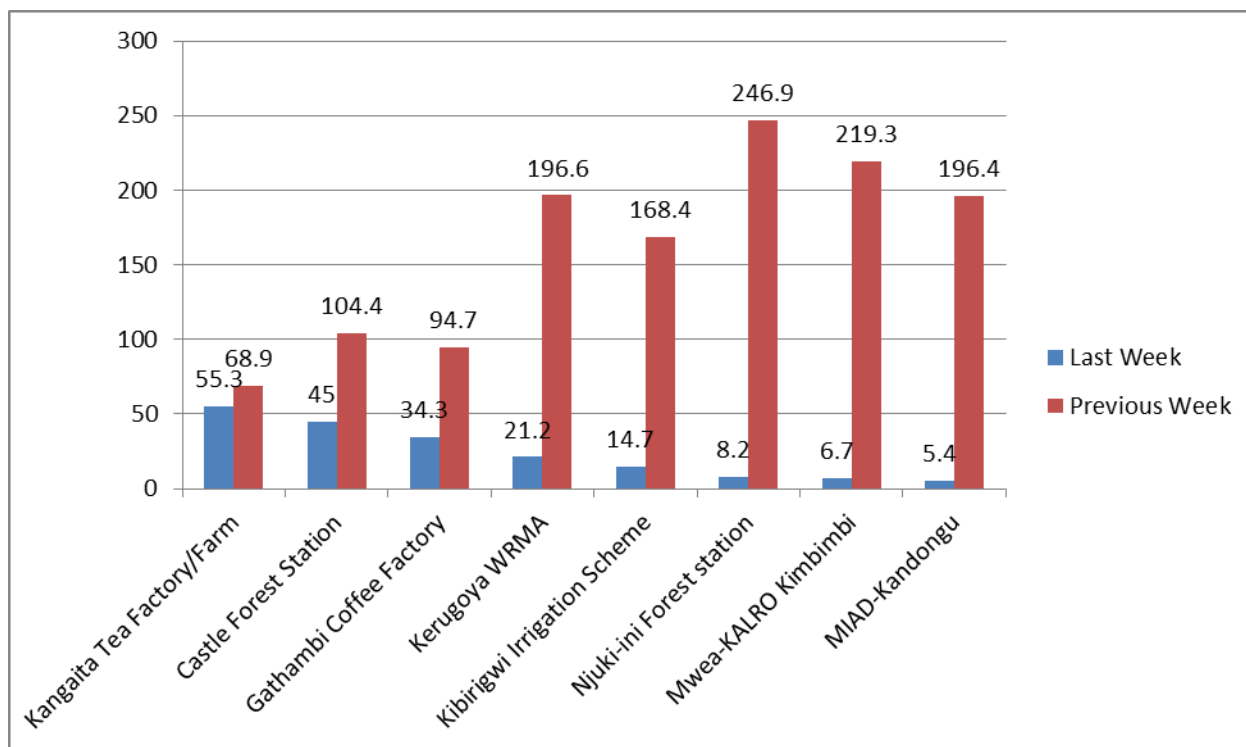


Fig. 1: Rain performance comparison between the last week (2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016) and the previous week (25<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016).

### Rains Performance for the Month of April 2016 in Kirinyaga

As mentioned above, the month of April 2016 was quite wet and in order of reducing wetness, Njuki-ini Forest Station recorded the highest monthly total, followed by Kerugoya WRMA, Kangaita Tea Farm, Gathambi Coffee Factory, Kibirigwi Scheme, Castle Forest, Mwea KALRO Kimbimbi and MIAD-Kandongu stations. Table 2 and Figure 2 show the above.

Table 2: Rains Performance for the Month of April 2016 in Kirinyaga

Station No.	Station Name	April 2016 Monthly Totals
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	559.4
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	525.5
	Kangaita Tea Factory/Farm	443.7
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	440.7
9037174	Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme	422.1
9037115	Castle Forest Station	400
9037110	Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi	358.9
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	337.7

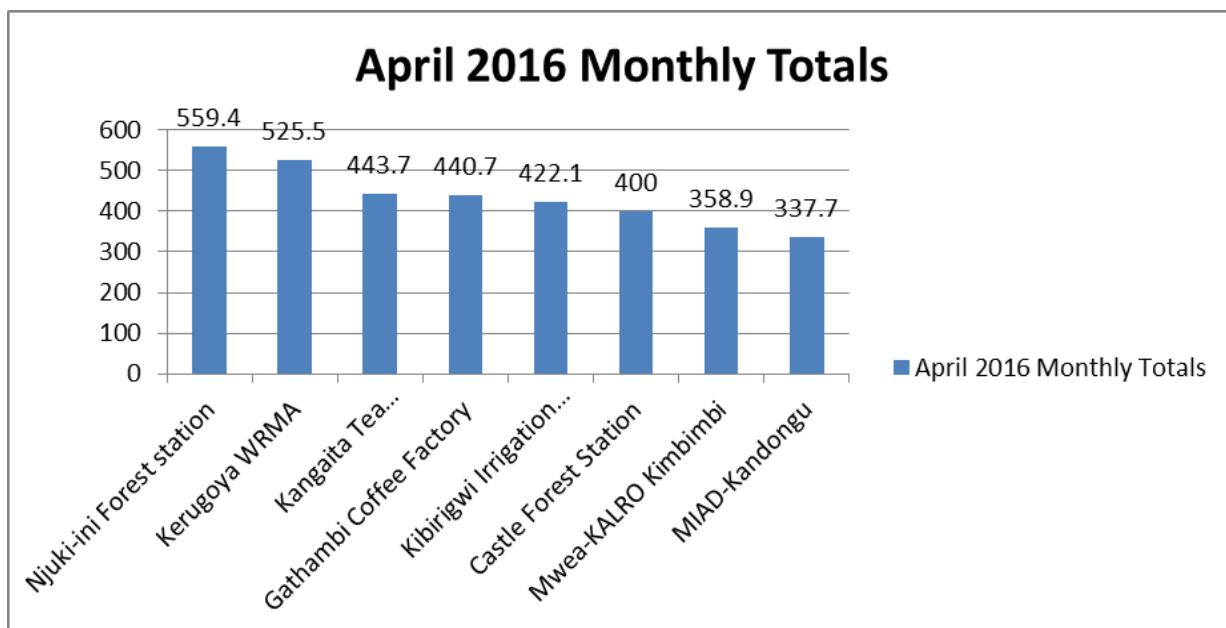


Fig. 2: Rains Performance for the Month of April 2016 in Kirinyaga

### Comparison between the April 2016 monthly totals and the Long Term Means

As compared to other months of April during past years, April of 2016 was generally wetter than the April average as calculated from previous years. All stations apart from Castle Forest Station, reported more than the long term mean. This means that the month of April 2016 received above normal rainfall as compared to the other months. Figure 3 and Table 3 show the foregoing.

Table 3: Comparison between the April 2016 monthly totals and the Long Term Means

Station No.	Station Name	April 2016 Monthly Totals	April LTM
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	559.4	282.4
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	525.5	307.3
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	440.7	304.2
9037115	Castle Forest Station	400	414.2
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	337.7	263.5

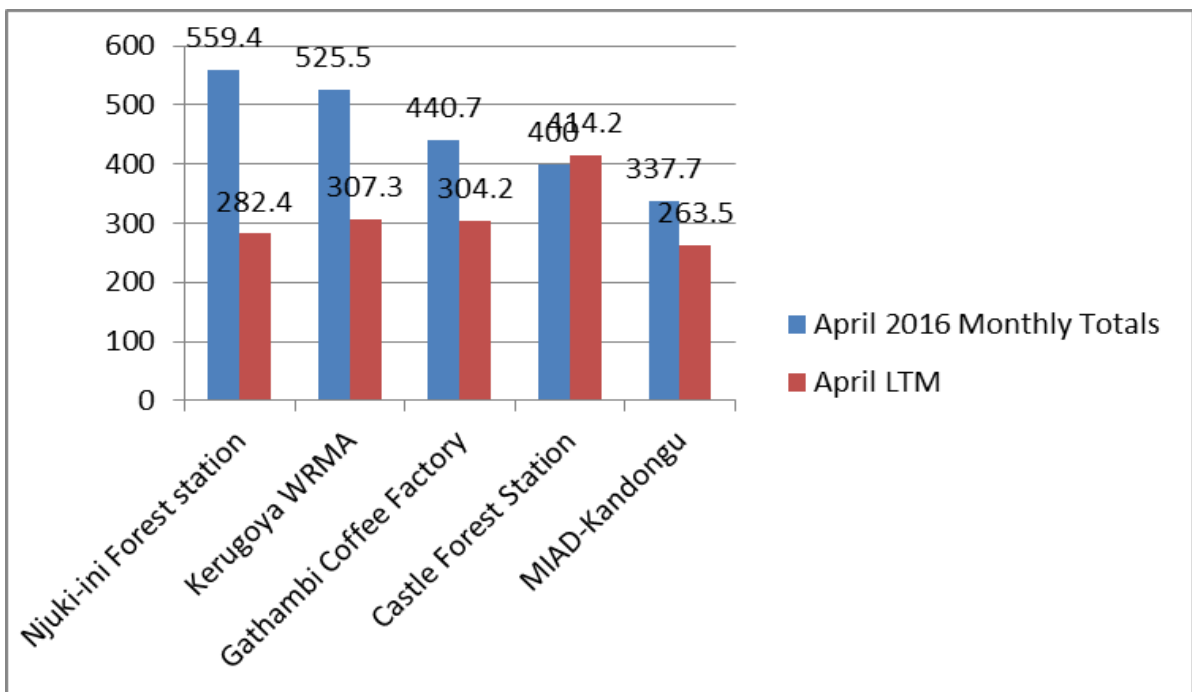


Fig 3: Comparison between the April 2016 monthly totals and the Long Term Means

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

**SEASONAL FORECAST**

March-April-May (MAM)-“Long” Rains 2016 forecast is as given on Table 4 and Figure 4 below.

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

Table 4: 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**

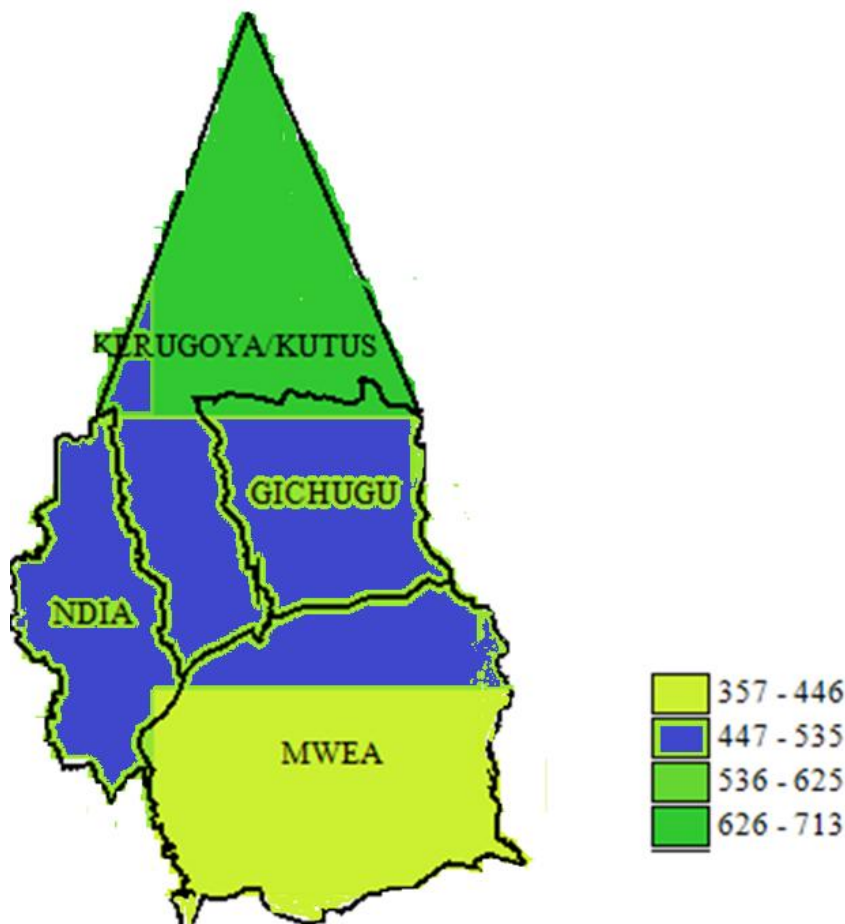


Fig. 4: Downscaled County Seasonal Forecast for March-April-May 2016. The figures are likely to have been an underestimation. The blue shaded region deserve approximately 700mm while the green shaded areas deserve more than 800mm.

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

## KIRINYAGA COUNTY WEEKLY FORECAST

FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS (10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016):

- A general reduction in rainfall amounts and intensities is expected over several parts of the country.
- There is a risk of flooding over low-lying areas and those with poor drainage. Since the soils are already saturated with runoff.
- Land-slides are likely on steep slopes.
- Roads are likely to be slippery thus motorists need to exercise caution.

<i>DAY</i>	<i>MORNING</i>	<i>AFTERNOON/EVENING</i>
TUESDAY 10/5/2016	Cool cloudy	
WEDNESDAY 11/5/2016		Showers
THURSDAY 12/5/2016	with	over
FRIDAY 13/5/2016		few
SATURDAY 14/5/2016		places
SUNDAY 15/5/2016	occasional rains	
MONDAY 16/5/2016		

**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**

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

**PSP Advisory**

Weather/climate advisory from PSP workshop has been disseminated to all stakeholders. Just like the other weather products, the PSP Advisory is attached in the link: <http://kirinyaga.go.ke/weather.html>

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please take your time and fill in the questionnaire which is attached alongside this forecast (if you have never filled it before). You are kindly requested to send the filled questionnaire to [meteorological@kirinyaga.go.ke](mailto:meteorological@kirinyaga.go.ke) for onward delivery to the research centre.

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

**Weather Link on the County Government of Kirinyaga website is:**

<http://kirinyaga.go.ke/weather.html>

You can access the weather products using this link on a smart phone.

O.k.

James Gichuki Gathura

**County Director of Meteorological Services**