



Date: 17th May 2016

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN-DAY PERIOD
VALID 17TH TO 23RD MAY 2016**

REVIEW OF THE RAINFALL OVER THE LAST WEEK (9TH TO 15TH MAY 2016) AND THE PREVIOUS WEEK (2ND TO 8TH MAY 2016)

The cessation of the March-April-May (MAM) seasonal rains is drawing near as it had been forecasted that the rains will cease from third to fourth week of May 2016. Nevertheless, last week (9th to 15th May 2016) was generally wetter than the previous week (2nd to 8th May 2016). Most of the stations reported higher amounts last week than the previous week. Only Kangaita Tea Farm and Gathambi Coffee factory stations that reported less rainfall last week as compared to the previous week.

In order of decreasing rain intensities during last week, Kangaita Tea Farm station reported the highest amount of rainfall followed by Castle Forest, Kerugoya WRMA, Gathambi Coffee Factory, Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme, MIAD-Kandongu, Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi and Njuki-ini Forest stations. Last week, therefore, was generally wetter 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 (9th to 15th May 2016)

Station No.	Station Name	Last week	Previous week
	Kangaita Tea Factory/Farm	54.3	55.3
9037115	Castle Forest Station	53.2	45
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	30.6	21.2
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	28.9	34.3
9037174	Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme	24.6	14.7
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	21.2	5.4
9037110	Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi	19.2	6.7
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	11	8.2

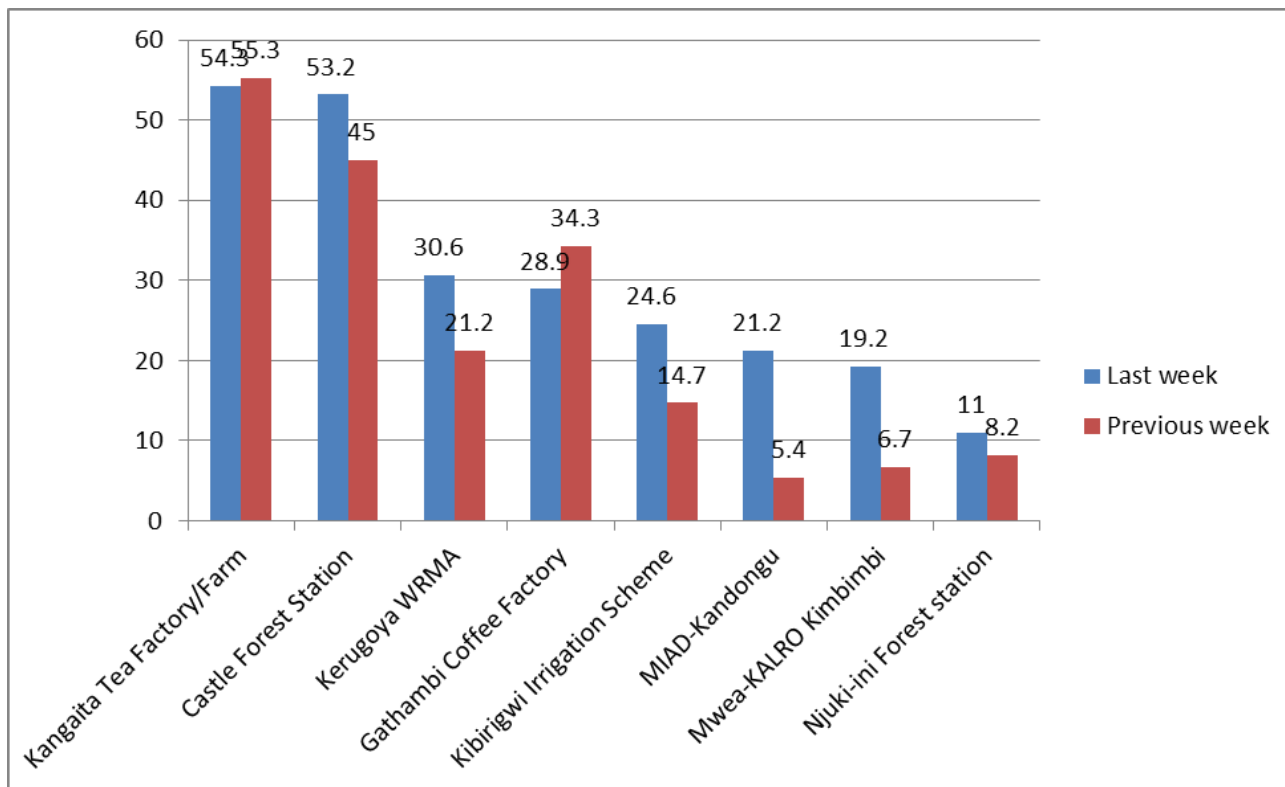


Fig. 1: Rain performance comparison between the last week (9th to 15th May 2016) and the previous week (2nd to 8th May 2016).

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

Rains Performance for the Month of April 2016 in Kirinyaga

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

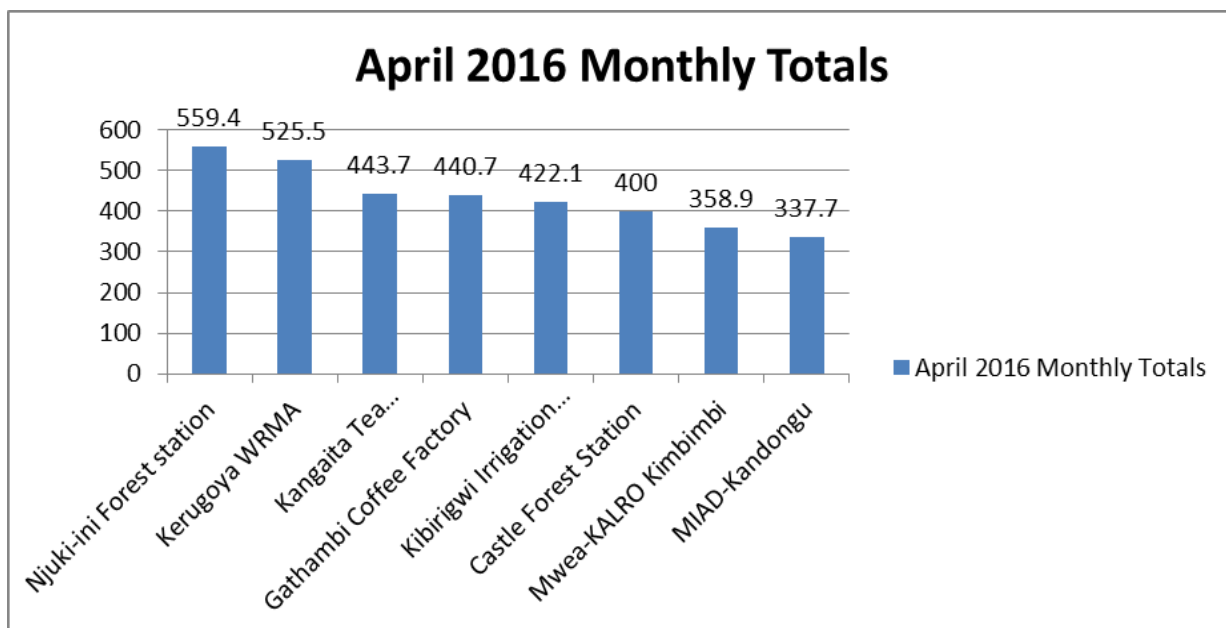


Fig. 2: Rains Performance for the Month of April 2016 in Kirinyaga

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

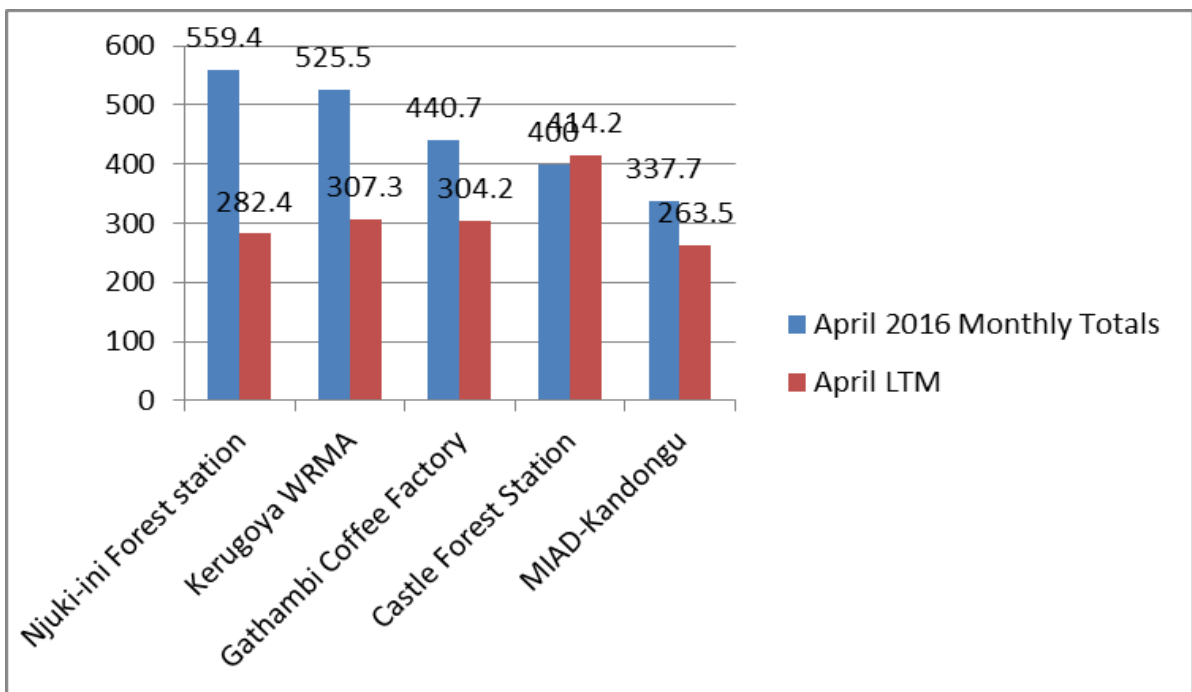


Fig 3: Comparison between the April 2016 monthly totals and the Long Term Means

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

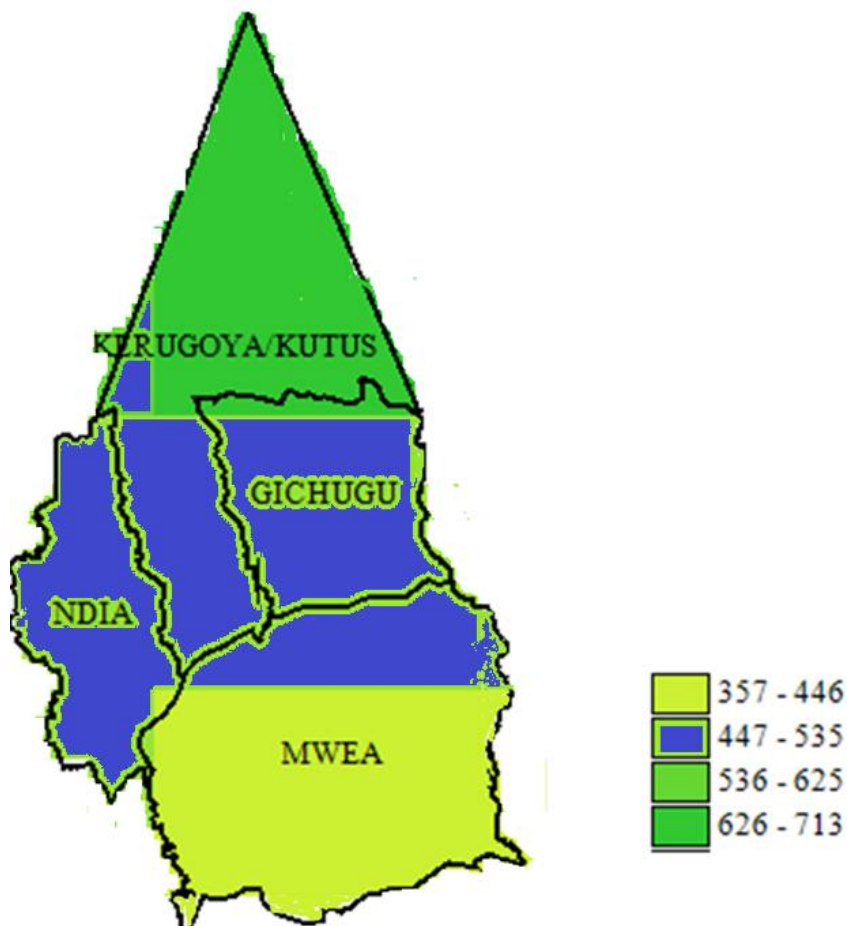


Fig. 4: Downscaled County Seasonal Forecast for March-April-May 2016. The figures are likely to have been an underestimation. The blue shaded region deserve approximately 700mm while the green shaded areas deserve more than 800mm.

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

KIRINYAGA COUNTY WEEKLY FORECAST

FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS (17th to 23rd May 2016):

- Kirinyaga County is expected to continue receiving rainfall throughout the forecast period.

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON/EVENING
TUESDAY 17/5/2016	Cool cloudy	Showers over few places
WEDNESDAY 18/5/2016	with	
THURSDAY 19/5/2016		
FRIDAY 20/5/2016		
SATURDAY 21/5/2016		
SUNDAY 22/5/2016		
MONDAY 23/5/2016	occasional rains	

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 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.

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County Director of Meteorological Services