



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES**  
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Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN-DAY PERIOD  
VALID 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TO 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

**REVIEW OF THE RAINFALL OVER THE LAST WEEK (21<sup>ST</sup> TO 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016) AND THE PREVIOUS WEEK (14<sup>TH</sup> TO 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016)**

Kirinyaga County is still experiencing dry and sunny weather scenario as indicated by the fact that last week (21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March 2016) was generally drier than the previous week (14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016) which was also drier than the week that had passed before it (7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016). The County Meteorological Services Office, Kirinyaga had forecasted that the onset (start of rains) will be during any time between the fourth week of March and the first week of April 2016 meaning that we can get the seasonal rains any time from now.

As forecasted last week, only very few stations in Kirinyaga County reported rains last week. All the stations in the county reported less rainfall last week than the previous week. Only two stations recorded some rain. These are Kangaita Tea Farm and Castle Forest stations which recorded 11.2mm and 4.9mm respectively. Kangaita Tea Farm was wetter than the previous week but Castle received fewer amounts last week than the previous week. All the other stations that reported, received nil. Table 1 and Fig. 1 below show the foregoing facts.

*Table 1: Rainfall intensities in order of decreasing wetness during last week (21st to 27th March 2016)*

Station No.	Station Name	Last week (mm)	Previous week (mm)
	Kangaita Tea Factory/Farm	11.2	10.7
9037115	Castle Forest Station	4.9	7
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	0	0
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	0	1.1
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	0	0
9037110	Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi	0	1.6
9037174	Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme	0	0

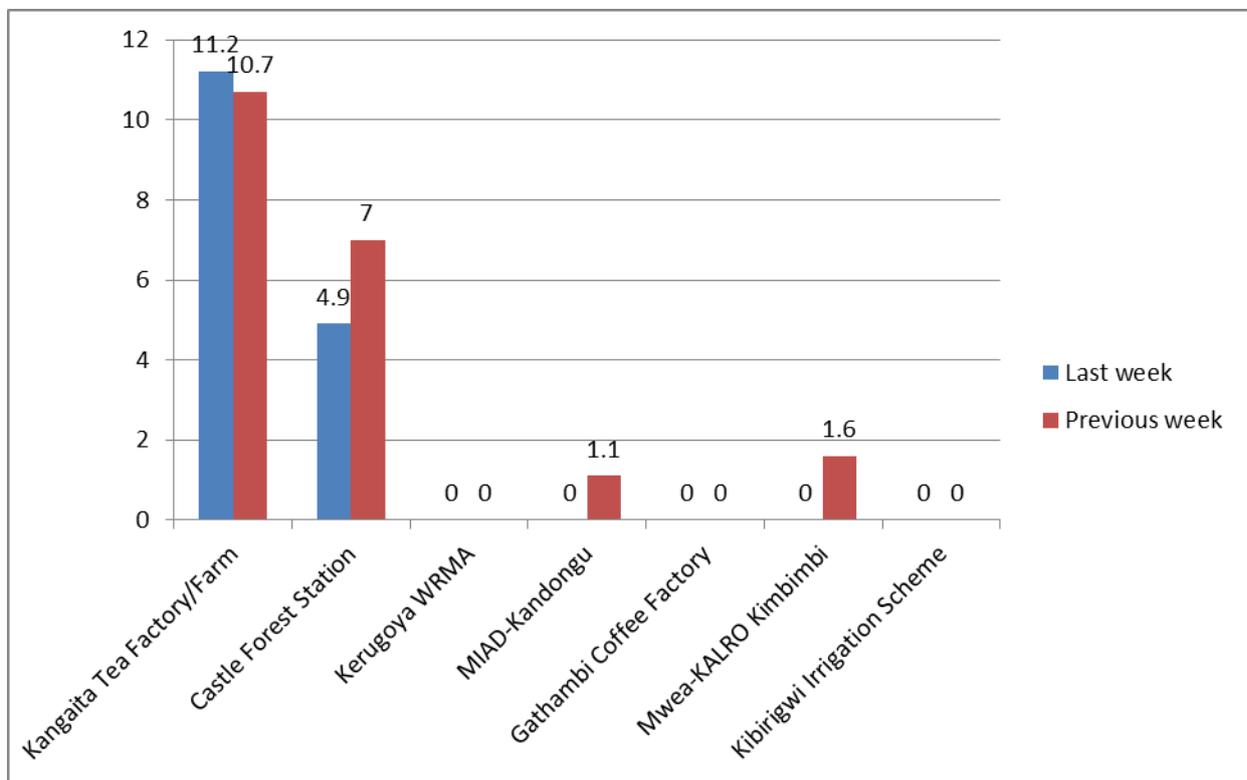


Fig. 1: Rain performance comparison between the last week (21st to 27th March 2016) and the previous week (14th to 20th March 2016).

\*\*\*\*\* 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**

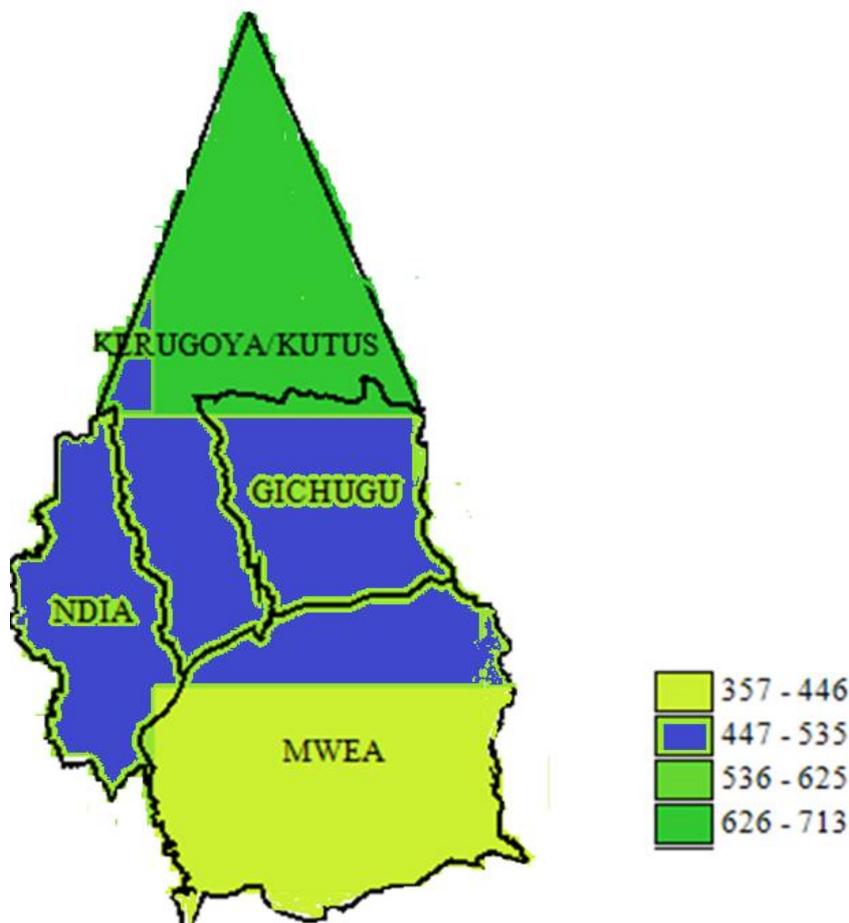


Fig. 2: Downscaled County Seasonal Forecast for March-April-May 2016. The figures are likely to have been an underestimation. The blue shaded region deserve approximately 700mm while the green shaded areas deserve more than 800mm.

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

### **KIRINYAGA COUNTY WEEKLY FORECAST**

FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS (29<sup>th</sup> MARCH TO 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016):

- Dry and sunny weather expected over most parts of the county at the beginning of the forecast period.
- Friday marks the start of rainfall over most parts of the county as the season sets in.
- As the rains set in the high temperatures observed are expected to cool down.

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON/EVENING
TUESDAY 29/3/2016	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals
WEDNESDAY 30/3/2016		
THURSDAY 31/3/2016		
FRIDAY 1/4/2016	Rains over few places	showers expected over few places
SATURDAY 2/4/2016		
SUNDAY 3/4/2016		
MONDAY 4/4/2016		

#### 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**

### **PSP Advisory**

Weather/climate advisory from PSP workshop (see below) is 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. 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.

## **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 was privileged to host the National WMD 2016 at General Kago Stadium - Kangema, Murang'a County. The Kirinyaga County Meteorological Services invited a total of six schools from Kirinyaga to attend the celebrations but only four which attended. These were: Kabare Girls High school, Ng'araria High School, Ngaru Girls High School, Dr. Babla Kang'aru Secondary School.

Meteorological instruments were be exhibited and the students and pupils had a chance to interact with Meteorological personnel who answered 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](mailto:meteorological@kirinyaga.go.ke) or [cdmkirinyaga@meteo.go.ke](mailto:cdmkirinyaga@meteo.go.ke), or [jgathura@yahoo.com](mailto:jgathura@yahoo.com)

We in Kirinyaga County held the Participatory Scenario Planning-PSP on 7<sup>th</sup> 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** \*\*\*\*\*

O.k.  
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