



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES
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Date: 30th May 2016

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN-DAY PERIOD
VALID 31ST MAY TO 6TH JUNE 2016**

REVIEW OF THE RAINFALL OVER THE LAST WEEK (23RD TO 29TH MAY 2016) AND THE PREVIOUS WEEK (16TH TO 22ND MAY 2016)

Last week was the fourth week of May 2016 and it clearly marked the cessation of the March-April-May 2016 seasonal rains. In fact during the rainfall review, it emerged that only three stations that reported very little rainfall out of the seven that sent their rainfall reports to the County Meteorological Services last week (23rd to 29th May 2016) as compared to the high amounts of rainfall that was reported by most of the stations during the previous week (16th to 22nd May 2016).

Among the three stations that reported rainfall last week, Castle Forest Station received the highest amount, followed by Kangaita Tea Farm and Kerugoya WRMA stations. All the other stations that reported, had received no rainfall. The foregoing can be seen in Table 1 and Figure 1 below.

Table1: Rainfall intensities in order of decreasing wetness during last week (23rd to 29th May 2016)

Station No.	Station Name	Last Week	Previous week
9037115	Castle Forest Station	13.1	69.8
	Kangaita Tea Factory/Farm	5.4	48.9
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	5.4	82.8
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	0	89.5
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	0	84.8
9037110	Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi	0	66.5
9037174	Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme	0	109.5

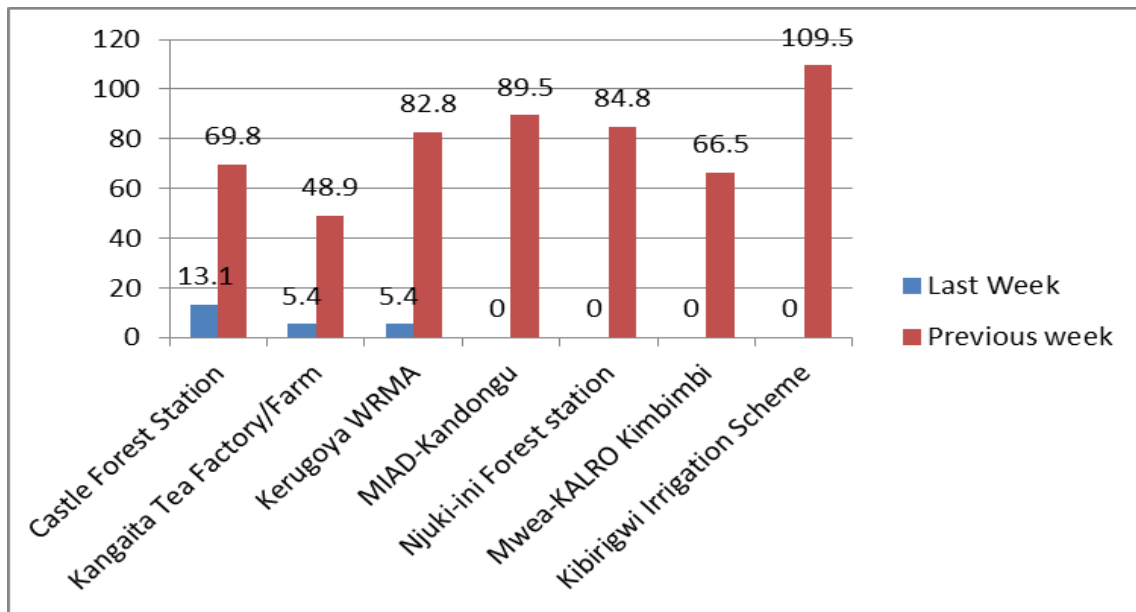


Fig. 1: Rain performance comparison between last week (23rd to 29th May 2016) and the previous week (16th to 22nd May 2016)

***** **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

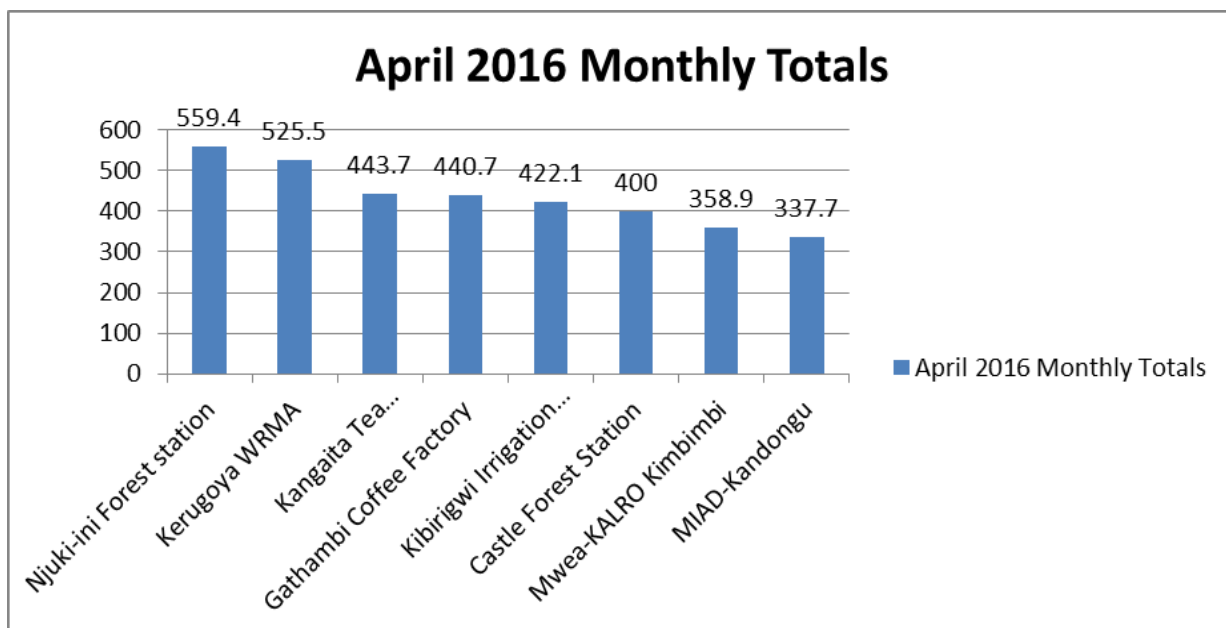


Fig. 2: Rains Performance for the Month of April 2016 in Kirinyaga

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

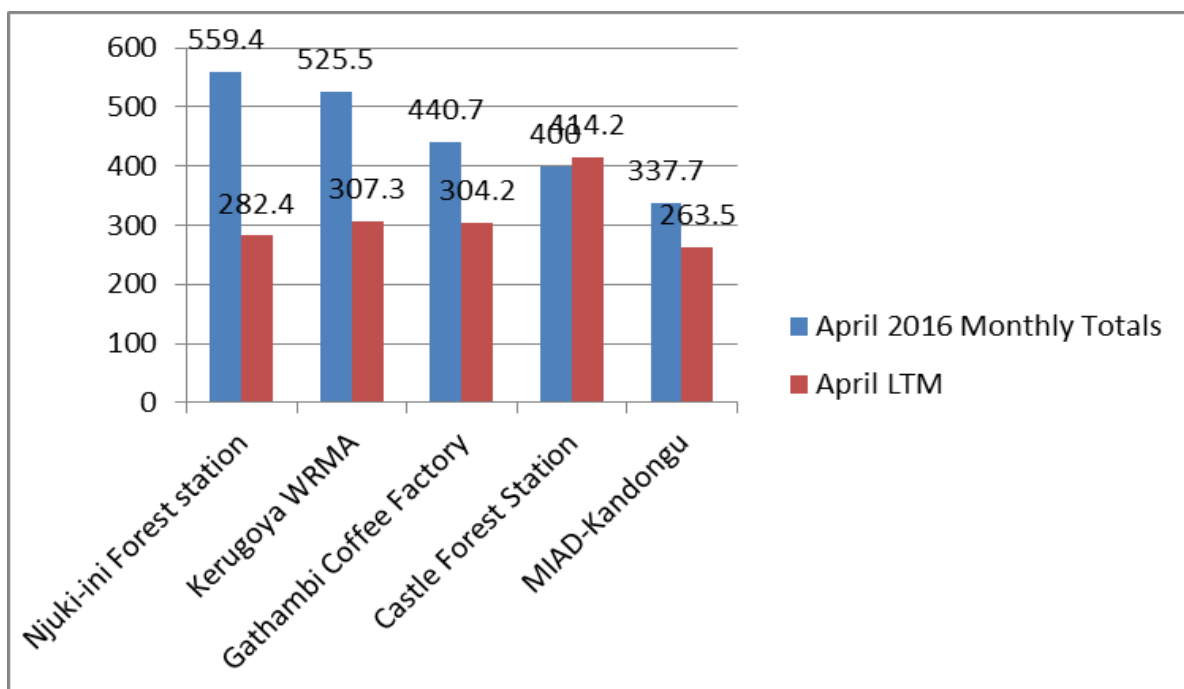


Fig 3: Comparison between the April 2016 monthly totals and the Long Term Means

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

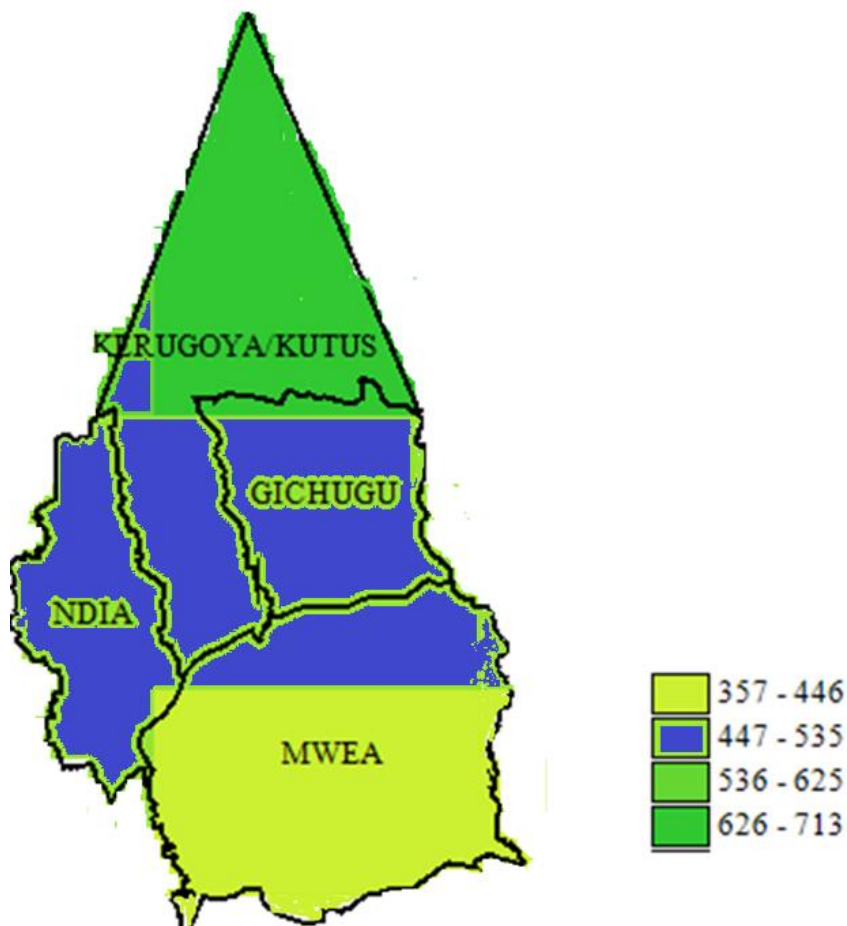


Fig. 4: Downscaled County Seasonal Forecast for March-April-May 2016. The figures are likely to have been an underestimation. The blue shaded region deserve approximately 700mm while the green shaded areas deserve more than 800mm.

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

KIRINYAGA COUNTY WEEKLY FORECAST

FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS 31st May to 6th June 2016):

Most of Kirinyaga County is expected to remain mainly dry although sometimes low temperatures will be experienced especially in the morning.

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON/EVENING
TUESDAY 31/5/2016	Cool (low temperatures)	Sunny
WEDNESDAY 1/6/2016	cloudy	
THURSDAY 2/6/2016	with	
FRIDAY 3/6/2016	occasional drizzles	intervals
SATURDAY 4/6/2016		
SUNDAY 5/6/2016	breaking to sunny intervals	
MONDAY 6/6/2016		

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 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