



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES**  
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Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN-DAY PERIOD**  
**VALID 15<sup>TH</sup> TO 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016**

**REVIEW OF THE RAINFALL OVER THE LAST WEEK (7<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016) AND THE PREVIOUS WEEK (29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016)**

Last week (7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016) was generally wetter than the previous week (29<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016) making farmers think that the March-April-May- “Long” rains have started. On the contrary, the MAM rains will start during any time between the fourth week of March and the first week of April 2016. Apart from Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme and Kangaita Tea Farm stations, which were drier last week than the previous week, most of the other stations received more rainfall than what they experienced the previous week. Castle Forest Station in the high altitude zone of Kirinyaga County maintained what it received the previous week. Sagana Technical Training Institute (STTI) near Sagana Township reported 77mm of rainfall on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 meaning that it was the wettest in the whole county during last week. Due to inconsistency in of data reception from the STTI, it could not be included in the weekly analysis. Coming second to STTI was Njuki-ini Forest station followed by Kerugoya WRMA, MIAD-Kandongu, Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme, Mwea-KALRO, Gathambi Coffee Factory and Castle Forest stations in that order. Table 1 and Fig. 1 below shows the foregoing facts.

*Table 1: Rainfall intensities in order of decreasing wetness during last week (7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016)*

Station No.	Station Name	Last week	Previous week
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	63	12.8
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	59.4	14.5
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	51.8	19
9037174	Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme	40.4	60.5
	Kangaita Tea Factory/Farm	33.9	38.8
9037110	Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi	33.4	8.8
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	33.1	21.9
9037115	Castle Forest Station	25.4	25.5

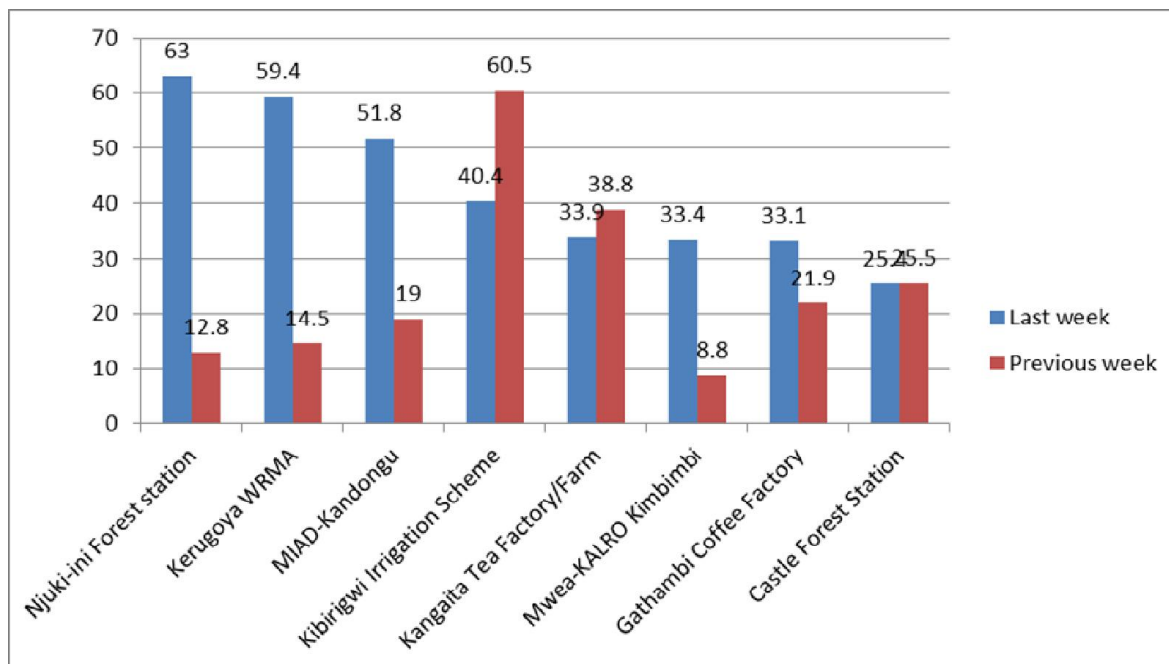


Fig. 1: Rain performance comparison between the last week (7th to 13th March 2016) and the previous week (29th February to 6th March 2016).

Note that the rains that are recorded in the above table and barchart occurred generally on 7<sup>th</sup> , 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The other days (10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016) were dry.

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

## FEBRUARY 2016 MONTHLY RAINS REVIEW

The month of February in Kirinyaga County is generally dry but the analysis shows that during this year, 2016, Kirinyaga County has experienced a wetter than normal February. In order of Monthly totals for February, 2016, MIAD-Kandongu, although it did not exceed its long term mean, led all the stations that reported. It was followed by Kerugoya-WRMA, Gathambi Coffee Factory, Castle Forest and Njuki-ini Forest stations in that order. Apart from MIAD-Kandongu and Njuki-ini Forest stations, all the other stations exceeded their long term means (LTM). The facts above are as shown in Table 2 and Figure 2 below.

Table 2: Rain intensities during the month of February 2016 as compared to the Long Term Mean of February

Station No.	Station Name	Feb. 2016 Monthly Totals	February LTM
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	49.5	49.8
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	45.5	26.7
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	43.6	32.6
9037115	Castle Forest Station	43.2	37.0
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	12.2	17.7

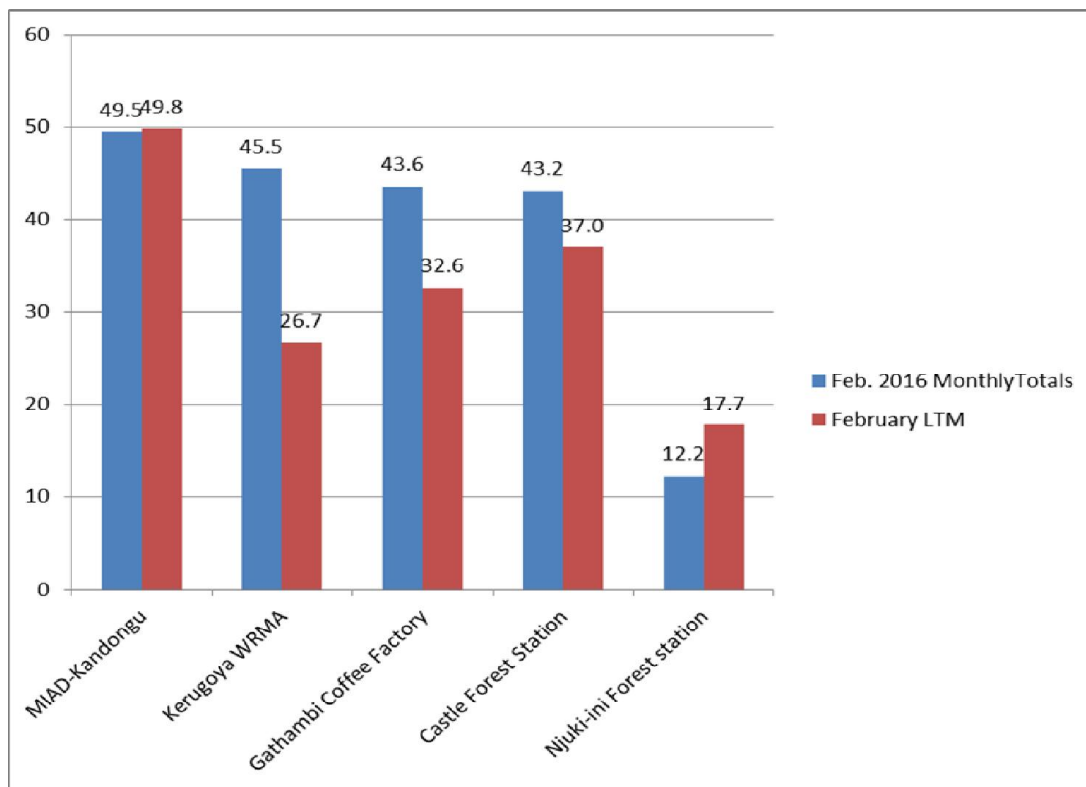


Fig. 2: Rain performance during the month of February 2016 as compared to the Long Term Mean of February

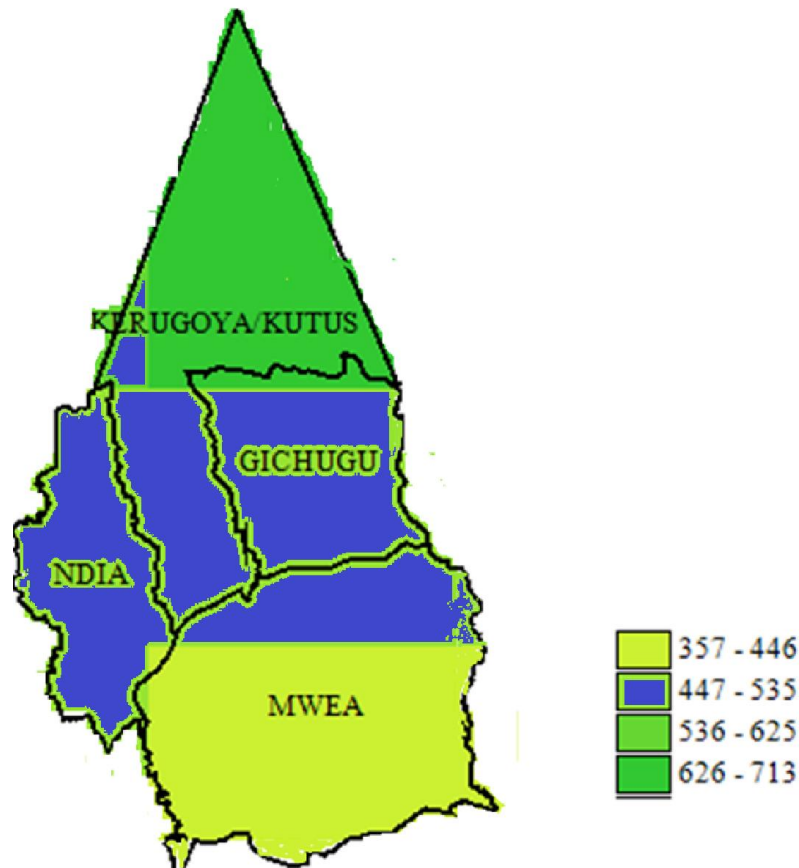
## SEASONAL FORECAST

March-April-May (MAM)-“Long” Rains 2016 forecast

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

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. 3: 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 (15<sup>TH</sup> TO 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016):*

- *Afternoon Showers are expected over few places from Thursday onwards in Kirinyaga County*

<i>DAY</i>	<i>MORNING</i>	<i>AFTERNOON/EVENING</i>
TUESDAY 15/3/2016	Cloudy morning giving way to sunny intervals	Sunny intervals
WEDNESDAY 16/3/2016		
THURSDAY 17/3/2016		
FRIDAY 18/3/2016		
SATURDAY 19/3/2016		
SUNDAY 20/3/2016		
MONDAY 21/3/2016		

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**

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 [jggathura@yahoo.com](mailto:jggathura@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.

UPDATE OF WEATHER/CLIMATE ADVISORIES FROM ABOVE MENTIONED WORKSHOP WILL BE DISSEMINATED VERY SOON TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS. ONLY LOGISTICS ARE HOLDING US BACK. WE SHALL DO THIS BEFORE THE ONSET OF MARCH-APRIL-MAY RAINS. IT WILL BE THROUGH HARD COPIES, PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA IF WE GO BY THE PSP COMMITTEE PLANS.

O.k.

James Gichuki Gathura

**County Director of Meteorological Services**