



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
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Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE NEXT SEVEN-DAY PERIOD  
VALID 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

**REVIEW OF THE RAINFALL OVER THE LAST WEEK (29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY TO 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016) AND THE PREVIOUS WEEK (22<sup>ND</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016)**

Last week (29<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016) was wetter than the previous week (22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016) despite the fact that Castle Forest Station in Kirinyaga County was the wettest in the whole country. Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme sometimes referred to as KIFCO near Sagana township emerged the wettest last week with 60.5 mm of rain. It was followed by Kangaita Tea Farm, Castle Forest, Gathambi Coffee Factory, MIAD-Kandongu, Kerugoya-WRMA and Njuki-ini Forest stations in that order. This is as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1 below.

*Table 1: Rainfall intensities in order of decreasing wetness during last week (29<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016)*

Station No.	Station Name	Last week	Previous week
9037174	Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme	60.5	0
	Kangaita Tea Factory/Farm	38.8	26.7
9037115	Castle Forest Station	25.5	37
9037264	Gathambi Coffee Factory	21.9	9.9
9037112	MIAD-Kandongu	19	0.9
9037031	Kerugoya WRMA	14.5	6
9037140	Njuki-ini Forest station	12.8	4
9037110	Mwea-KALRO Kimbimbi	8.8	3.2
9037125	Kangaita Tea Research Foundation	0	0

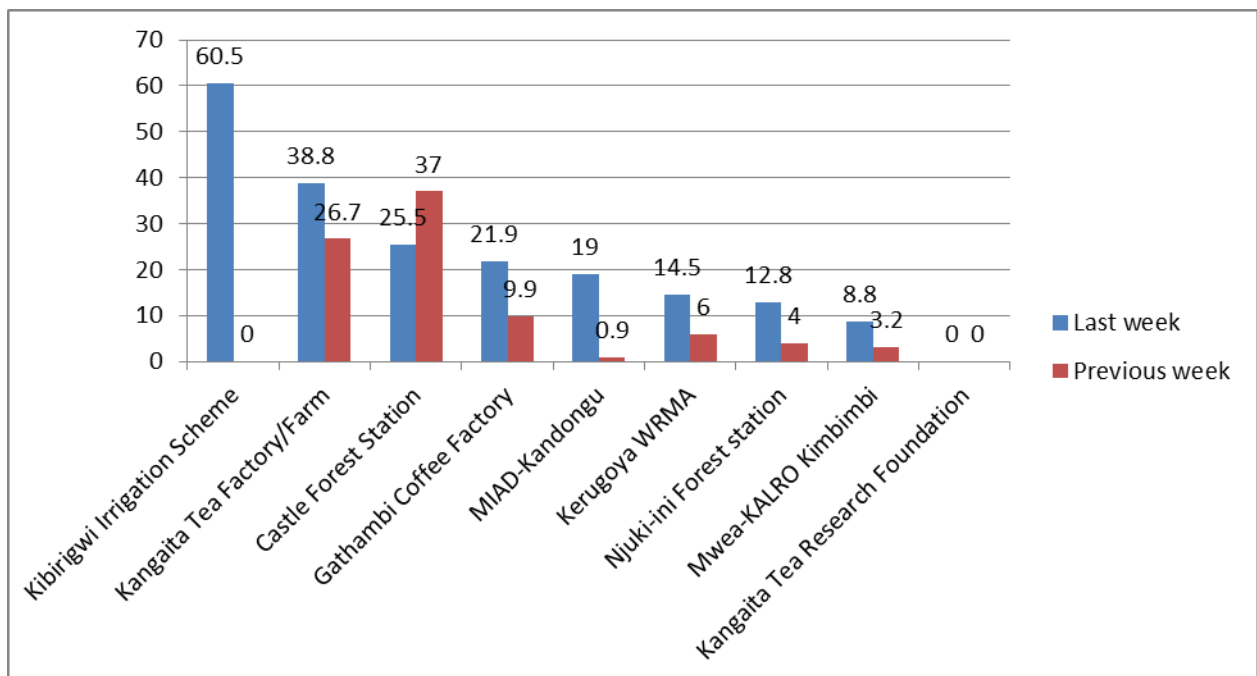


Fig. 1: Rain performance comparison between the last week (29<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016) and the previous week (22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016).

## 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

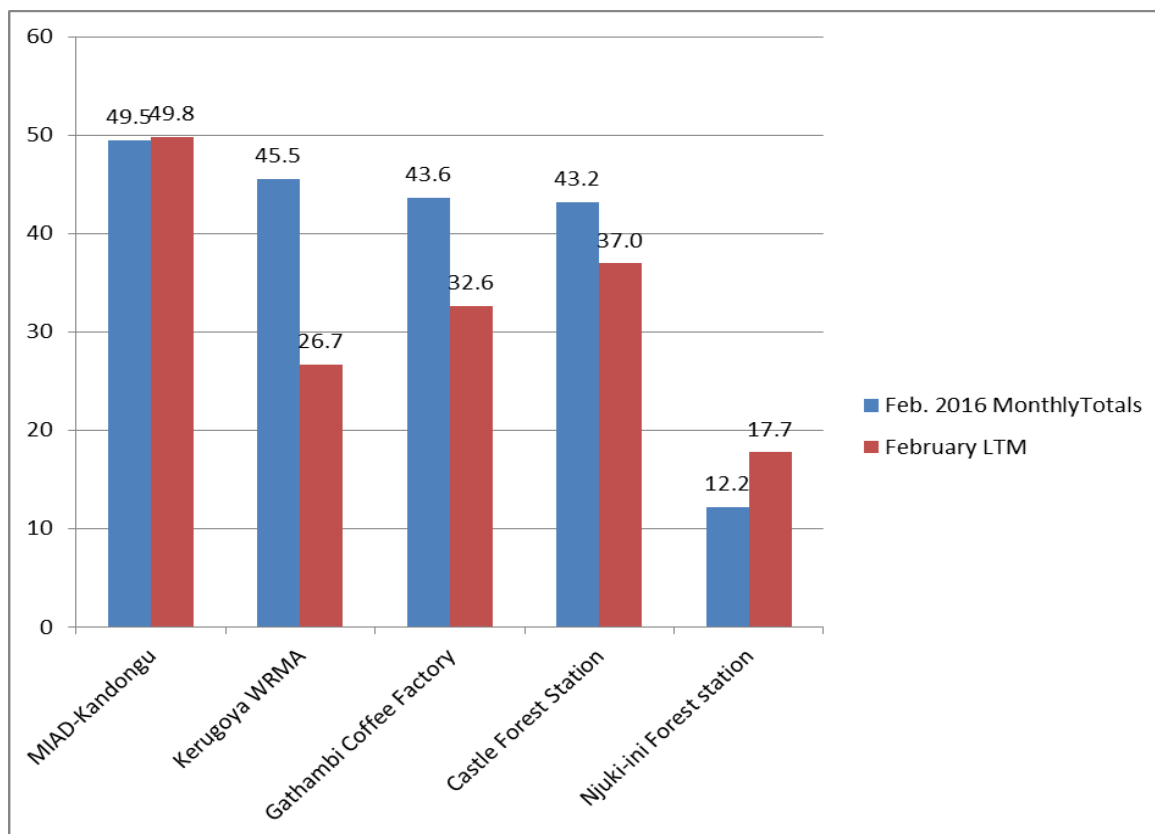


Fig. 2: Rain performance during the month of February 2016 as compared to the Long Term Mean of February

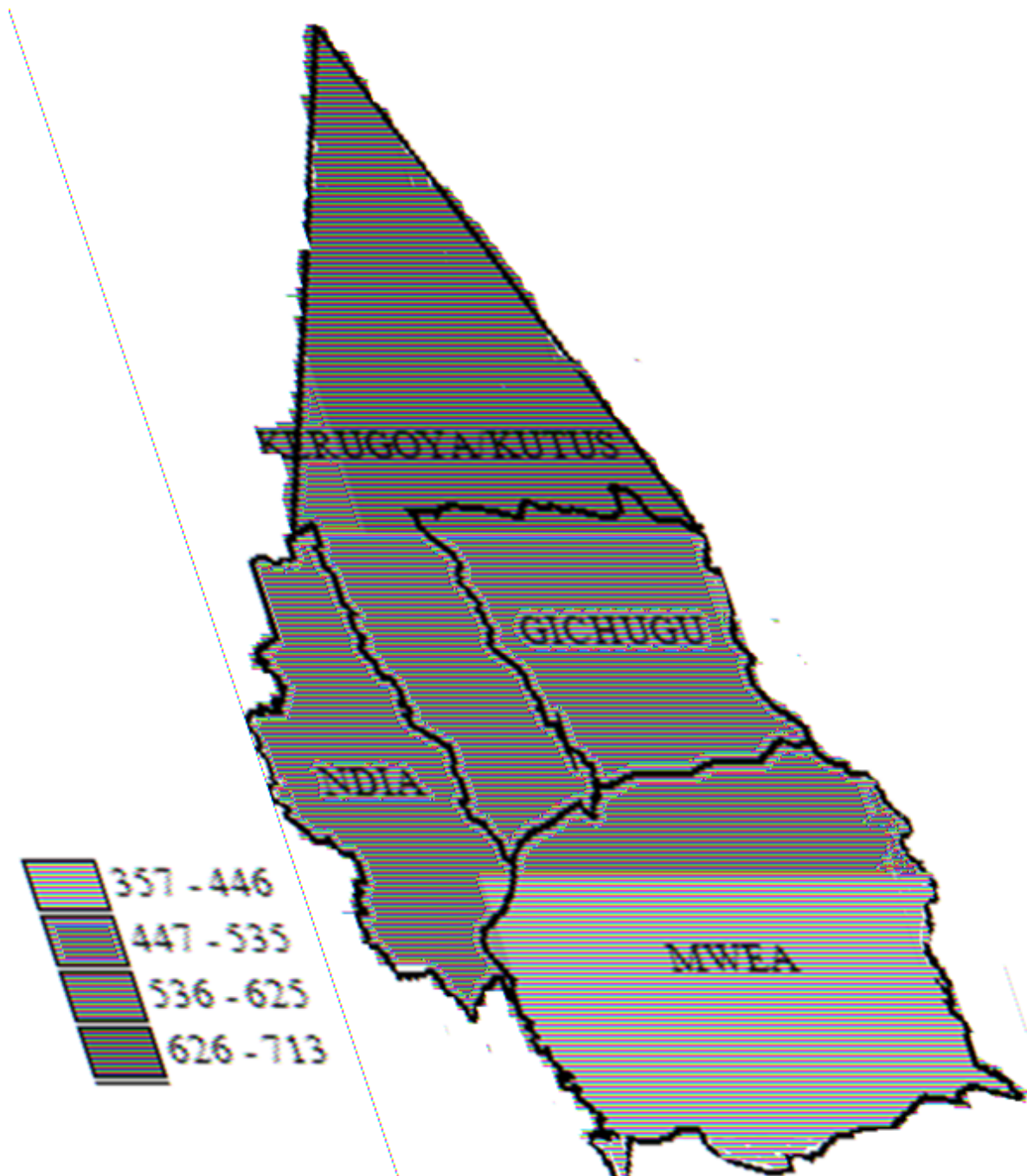
## SEASONAL FORECAST

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.*

**KIRINYAGA COUNTY FORECAST**  
**FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS (8<sup>TH</sup> TO 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016):**

- *Rainfall is expected over several parts of Kirinyaga County at the beginning of the forecast period and expected to clear as the period progresses.*

<i>DAY</i>	<i>MORNING</i>	<i>AFTERNOON/EVENING</i>
TUESDAY 8/3/2016	Cloudy morning giving way to sunny intervals	Showers are expected over several places
WEDNESDAY 9/3/2016		
THURSDAY 10/3/2016		
FRIDAY 11/3/2016		
SATURDAY 12/3/2016		
SUNDAY 13/3/2016		Sunny intervals
MONDAY 14/3/2016		

**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**

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.

We were able to invite three volunteer observers during the workshop on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016. These were volunteer observers from Kerugoya-WRMA, Gathambi Coffee Factory, KARLO-Kimbimbi Mwea and Kibirigwi Irrigation Scheme (KIFCO). Unfortunately, only the observers from Kibirigwi and KALRO Mwea who showed up. I request the other volunteer observers, who were not invited on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to be patient because we, at the County Meteorological Services Office have a plan of inviting them elsewhere so that they can have more information in weather, climate and climate change and therefore appreciate their daily effort of observing the atmosphere for all of us and future generations.

O.k.

James Gichuki Gathura  
**County Director of Meteorological Services**