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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
RWANDA METEOROLOGY AGENCY



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Summary

In the first Dekad (01-10) of February 2020, most parts of the country received light to moderate rainfall which was above the Long Term Mean (LTM) in some parts of the country, except Rubavu, Nyamagabe, Busogo and Kawangire Stations with below normal rainfall. In this dekad, high rainfall amount was recorded at Byimana station (126.1mm), Kanombe-Aeroport station (85.5mm). While less rainfall was received at Rubavu station (6.7mm). Generally Southern province and Kigali city were wet compared to the other regions of the country. The temperature was in normal range. The maximum temperature ranged between 30.8°C in Bugarama and 22.2°C in Gicumbi. Minimum temperature ranged between 18.9°C at Bugarama and 11.9 °C at Busogo station.

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

This section provides the observed rainfall amount, rainy-days and available soil moisture for the first dekad of February 2020.

1.1 Rainfall Amount

The total rainfall amount for the first dekad of February, 2020 is presented in figure 1. On a daily basis observation, light to moderate rains were recorded in most parts of Rwanda. The accumulation of rainfall in ten days ranged from 126.1mm (Byimana) which is the highest and the lowest is 6.7mm at Rubavu station. The Southern, western province and Kigali city were wet compared to other regions of the country.

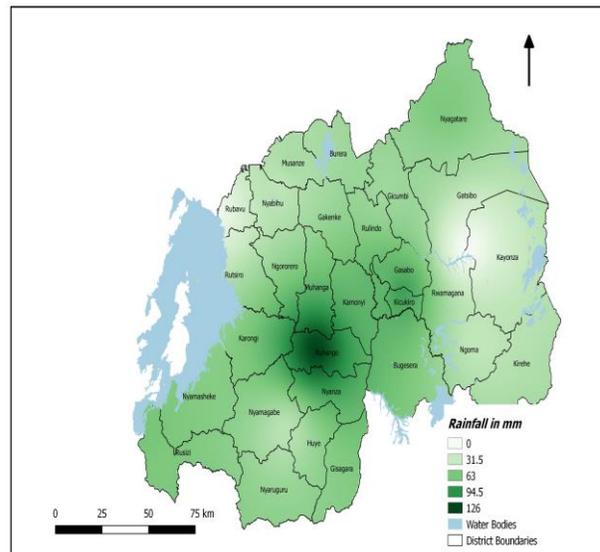


Figure 1: Rainfall amount

1.2 Rainfall climatology in the 1st dekad

The rainfall climatology for the 1st dekad of February is shown in figure 2 below, which indicates that rainfall usually range from 45mm to 10.5mm across the country. Comparing the current dekad and the Long Term Mean (LTM) for the same period, it was observed that rainfall in the 1st dekad of February 2020 was above the LTM in most parts of the country leaving Rubavu, Nyamagabe, Busogo and Kawangire stations with the below normal to the Long Term Mean (LTM).

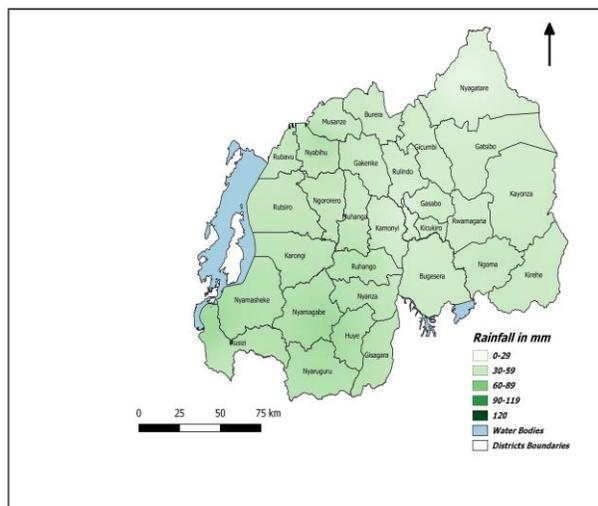


Figure 2: Rainfall distribution in long term

1.3. Number of Rain Days

Figure 3 below shows the distribution of number of rain-days for the 1st dekad of February 2020. A rainy day is defined as a day with rainfall of 0.85mm or more. A total of 3 to 6 days were observed across the country. It can be seen that most parts of the country had days ranged between 3 to 5 days of rainfall. A minimum of 3 days was observed at Rubavu, Busogo, Bugarama and Kawangire stations. The maximum of 6 days were received at Musanze and Gitega stations.

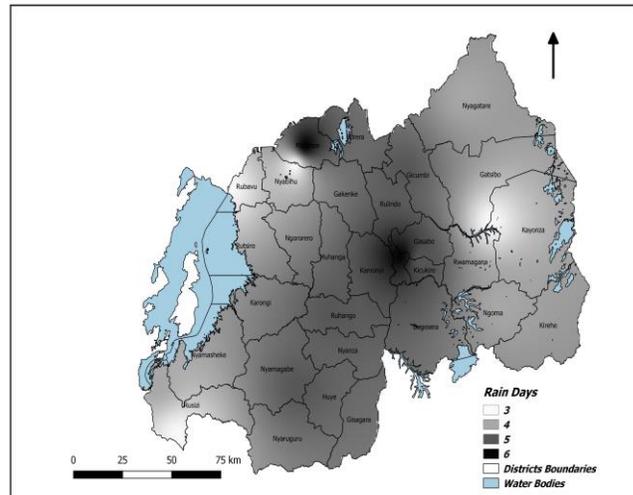


Figure 3: Rainy days

1.4 Soil moisture index

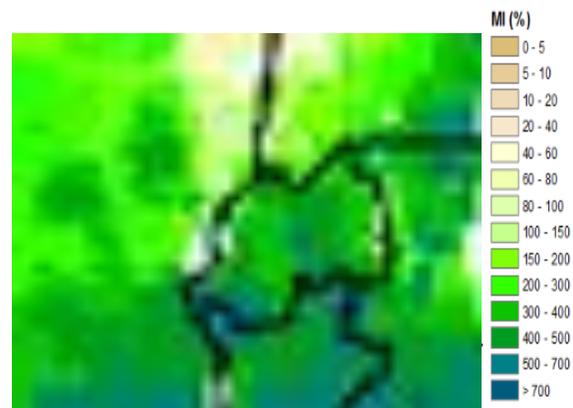


Figure 4: Soil Moisture Index

The distribution of available soil moisture across the country is shown in figure 4. Soil moisture decreased in most parts of the country especially in Central, South t due to dry days experienced during the 2nd part of 1st dekad. The expectation is that dry conditions will persist in the next dekad therefore, soil moisture across the country will be reduced.

2.0 Temperature observation

The average of maximum and Minimum temperature across the country during the 1st dekad is highlighted below in this section.

2.1 Maximum Temperature

Figure 5 below shows the actual mean maximum temperature distribution across the country which indicates that the Southwest, Kigali City and East provinces were warmer compared to Northern province and Southern province. However, in most parts of the country the maximum temperature was increasing and ranged between 22.2 and 28°C with the exception of Bugarama that recorded 30.8°C.

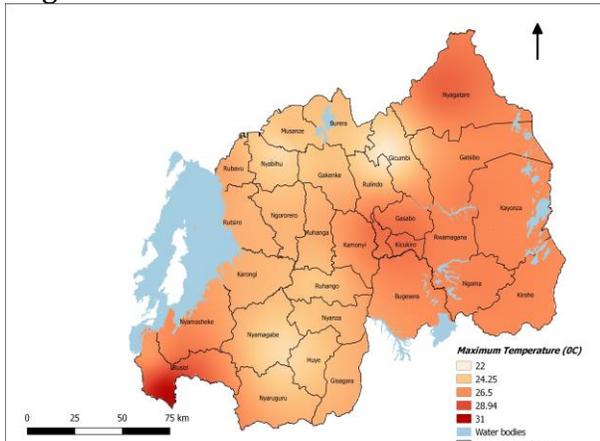


Figure 5: Mean Maximum Temperature

2.2 Minimum Temperature

The average minimum temperature across the country is shown in figure 6 below. The Northern and the southern regions experienced colder temperature compared to other regions of the country, even though the minimum temperature ranged between 11.4 °C (Busogo) and 18.9°C (Bugarama).

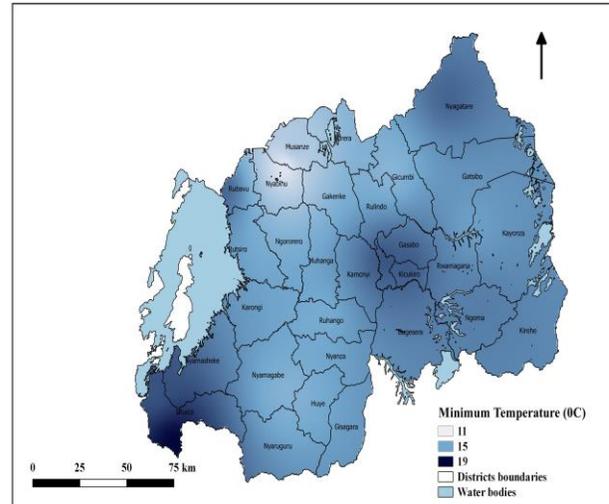


Figure 6: Mean Minimum Temperature

3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural for the 2nd t dekad (11-20) February, 2020.

3.1 Weather Outlook for the 2nd dekad of February 2020.

Compared to the 1st dekad of February 2020 and the 2nd dekad ; there will be a reduction of rainfall in the second dekad; light rainfall between 20 to 40mm is expected in the South western and North western part of the country, the rest of the country will experience less rainfall.

3.2 Agricultural Activity/Advisories

Dry conditions will dominate in the 2nd dekad of February 2020 from 11th to 20th , farmers are advised to prepare their fields for the next season and are also advised to work closely with Agriculture officers within their location. For more meteorological information you can visit Meteo Rwanda website: www.meteorwanda.gov.rw.