



Agrometeorological Bulletin N° 06, Dekad3, February (21– 28) 2021
Issued on 03rd March 2021

Summary

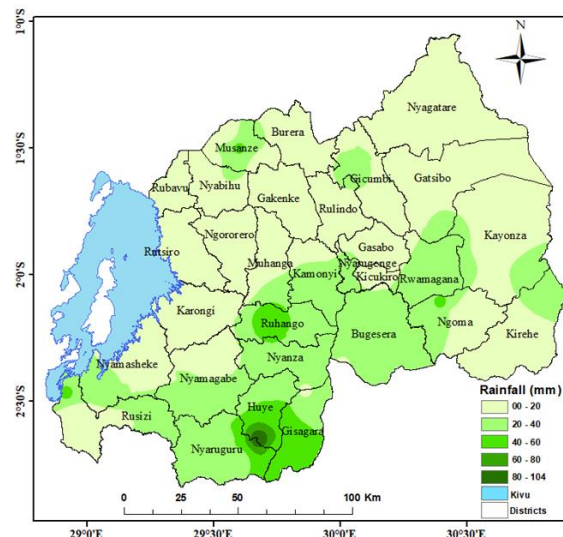
The Third dekad of February 2021 from 21st to 28th, showed that the country characterized by wet weather conditions in many parts of Southern Province and some parts of Eastern Province while in the remaining parts of the country the rainfall is suppressing especially in Northeastern and Western Provinces compared to the 3rd dekad of climatology. Above normal rainfall was recorded in some parts of Southern Province and some parts of Eastern Province. The highest rainfall amount was recorded in Southern Province at Nyakibanda station with 104.1 mm in 4 rain-days, followed by Byimana station with 62.5 mm in 3 rain-days and Kansi Station with 51.3 mm in 3 rain-days. The lowest rainfall less than 05mm was recorded at Mwiri, Kirehe and Kagitumba stations located in Eastern Province and at Nyange and Rubengera stations located in Western Province. The temperature was generally within the range of Long Term Mean(LTM). The main agricultural activity during the third dekad was farming preparation in most parts of the country.

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

This section provides the overview of recorded rainfall amount, rainfall anomalies, comparison of observed rainfall with LTM, rainy-days and available soil moisture.

1.1 Rainfall Amount

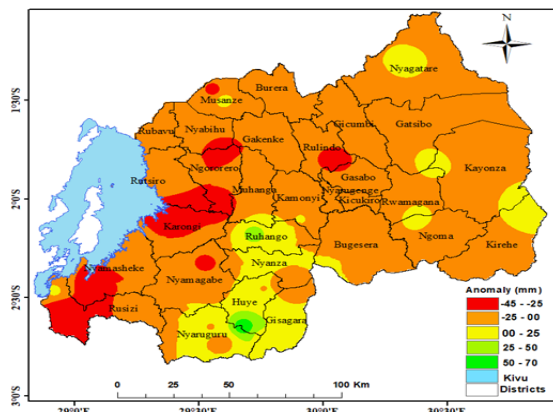
The actual total rainfall amount recorded in the third dekad of February, 2021 is displayed in Map 1, it was observed that during this dekad many parts of Southern region recorded above normal rainfall. The highest rainfall amount was recorded in Southern Province at Nyakibanda station with 104.1 mm in 4 rain-days, followed by Byimana station with 62.5 mm in 3 rain-days and Kansi Station with 51.3 mm in 3 rain-days.



Map 1: Rainfall amount during 3rd Dekad of February 2021

1.2 Rainfall Anomaly (Deficit and Surplus)

The rainfall anomaly is represented by map 2. It shows that many parts of southern Province and few places of Eastern Province received enhanced rainfall while some parts of Western Province experienced deficit rainfall. The remaining parts over the country were in range with the normal rainfall.



Map 2: Rainfall anomaly during 2nd Dekad of February 2021

1.3. Comprison of Observed rainfall with Long Term Mean for the dekad 3 of February.

The comparison of recorded rainfall amount and long term mean records for the 3rd dekad across the country are shown in figure 1 and 2. During this dekad above normal rainfall conditions were experienced specifically in Southern Provinces, and in some parts of Northern Province at Musanze and Western Province at Kamembe.

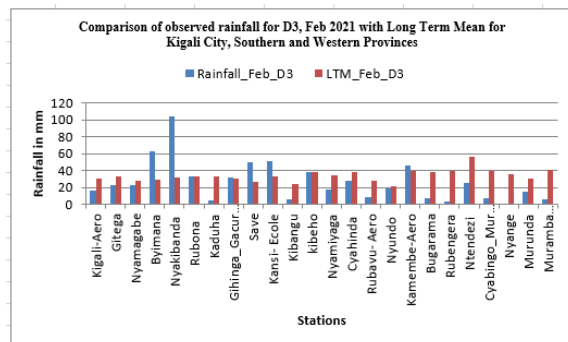


Figure 1: Comparison of observed rainfall with long term mean for the dekad 3 in Kigali City, Southern and Western Provinces.

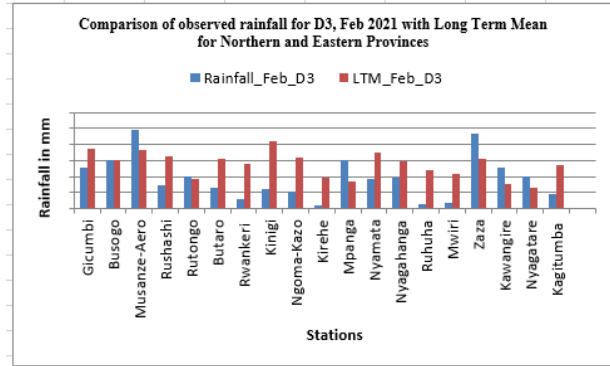
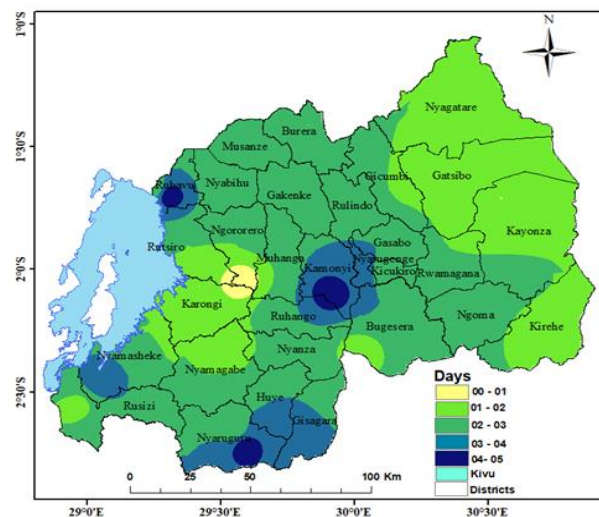


Figure 2: Comparison of Observed rainfall with long term mean for the dekad 3 in Northern and Eastern Provinces.

1.4 Number of Rain Days

The Map 3 shows the distribution of number of rain days across the country. A rainy day is defined as a day with at least 0.85mm of rainfall.

The distribution shows that rainy days ranged between 1 and 5 rainy days over many stations in the country. The distribution of rain days affected post-harvesting activities in many parts of the country. Rainy days are expected to vary between three (3) and six (6) days in the first dekad of March 2021.



Map 3: Rainy days for dekad 3 of February 2021

1.5 Soil moisture condition

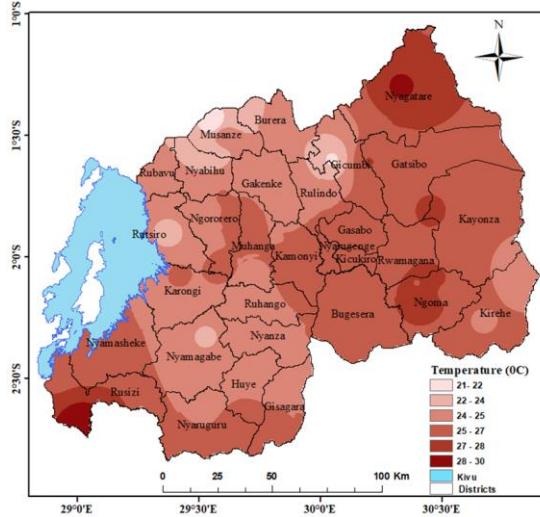
This section shows the available soil moisture content across the country. The soil moisture was increased over most parts of the country due to wet weather conditions experienced. The soil moisture content will continue to increase in the first dekad of March 2021 due to expected rainfall in the next dekad.

2.0 Temperature observation

The average maximum and Minimum temperature across the country is highlighted in the section below.

2.1 Mean Maximum Temperature

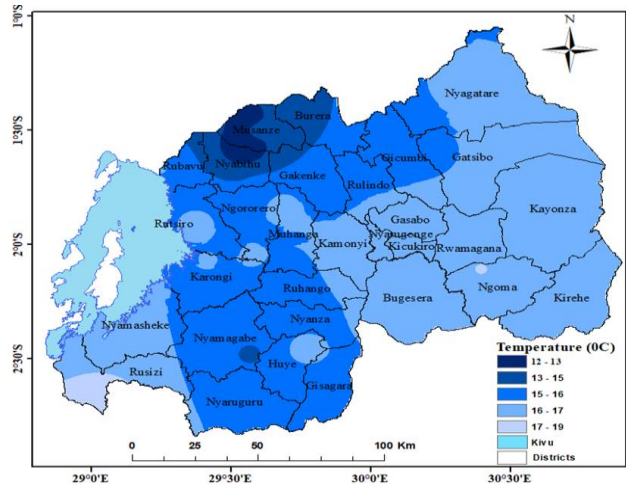
Map 4 represents the mean maximum temperature distribution across the country during 3rd dekad of February. It indicates that the, Eastern Province and Kigali City and at some parts of Southwestern were warmer than the rest of the country. The mean maximum temperature ranged between 22.2^oC and 29.6^oC was recorded at Gicumbi and Bugarama stations respectively.



Map 4: Mean Maximum Temperature for dekad 3 February 2021

2.2 Minimum Temperature

The average minimum temperature across the country is shown in Map 5. The Northern and Southern and most parts of Western Provinces experienced colder temperature than the other parts of the country. The minimum temperature ranged between 11.1^oC and 18.7^oC at Busogo and Bugarama stations respectively.



Map 5: Mean Minimum Temperature for dekad 3 February 2021

3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural advisories for the second dekad (1-10) March, 2021.

3.1 Weather Outlook for the first dekad of March 2021.

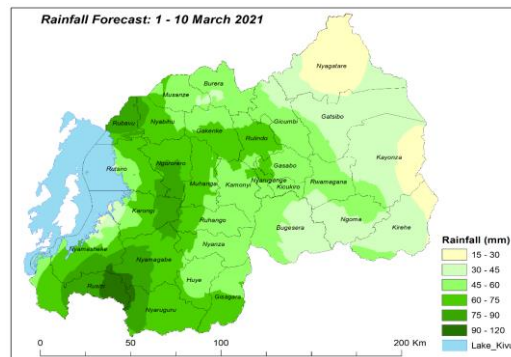
Rainfall expected from 1st to 10th of March 2021 will range between 15 and 120 mm across the country. Enhanced rainfall compared to the last dekad is expected. Normal rainfall conditions are expected during dekad 1 of March over the country. Rainy days are expected to vary between three (3) and six (6) days and are evenly distributed in the dekad. The expected rainfall will be associated with thunderstorms and moderate to strong winds, especially in Northeastern and South-western parts of the country. The distribution of the rainfall across the country is highlighted below:

Eastern Province: Rainfall ranging between 15 and 60 mm is expected. Rainfall ranging between 15 and 30 mm is expected in northern and central parts of Nyagatare, eastern parts of Kayonza and north eastern parts of Kirehe. Rainfall ranging between 45 and 60 mm is expected in many parts of Rwamagana, northern parts of Ngoma, south western parts of Kayonza, Kirehe and western parts of Bugesera. Remaining parts of the province are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 30 and 45 mm.

Kigali City: Rainfall ranging between 45 and 75 mm is expected in Kigali. Western parts of Gasabo and northern part of Nyarugenge are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 60 and 75 mm while between 45 and 60 mm of rainfall are expected in remaining parts of Kigali. **Southern Province:** Rainfall ranging 45 and 90 mm is expected in the province. Kamonyi district, eastern and central parts of Ruhango and Nyanza, southern eastern parts of Muhanga and northern parts of Huye and Gisagara districts are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 45 and 60 mm. Remaining parts of Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyanza, Huye, Gisagara and most parts of east, central and northern parts of Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru districts are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 60 and 75 mm. Western parts of Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru districts are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 75 and 90 mm.

Western Province: Expected rainfall will range between 30 and 90 mm. Rainfall ranging between 30 and 45 mm is expected in small part of north eastern Nyabihu. Rainfall ranging between 45 and 60 mm is expected in central and northern parts of Nyabihu, western parts of Rutsiro, Karongi and Nyamasheke districts. Rainfall ranging between 60 and 75 mm is expected in Ngororero, Rubavu, remaining parts of Nyabihu, Nyamasheke, Karongi and

Rutsiro and most parts of Rusizi except eastern part of Rusizi and Bugarama plain where rainfall ranging between 75 and 90 mm is expected. **Northern Province:** Expected rainfall will range between 30 and 75 mm. Rainfall ranging between 30 and 45 mm is expected in eastern parts of Musanze district and northern parts of Burera. Rainfall ranging between 45 and 60 mm is expected in remaining parts of Musanze and Burera, northern parts of Gakenke and most part of Gicumbi district. Rainfall ranging between 60 and 75 mm is expected in Rulindo district, small part of western Gicumbi and remaining parts of Gakenke.



Map 6: Rainfall Forecast for the first dekad of March 2021

3.2 Agricultural Activity/Advisories

Generally, in most parts of the country, seasonal crops are on post-harvesting period. The focus in these coming days should be on the farming preparation activities as we move towards start of the March-May rainy Season which corresponds to 2021B agricultural Season. Farmers are advised to work closely with Agriculture Extension Officers for detailed information which will support their agriculture activities. For more meteorological information you can visit Meteo Rwanda's website: www.meteorwanda.gov.rw or call the toll free number 6080.