



Agrometeorological Bulletin N° 04, Dekad1, February (01– 10) 2021 Issued on 12th February 2021

Summary

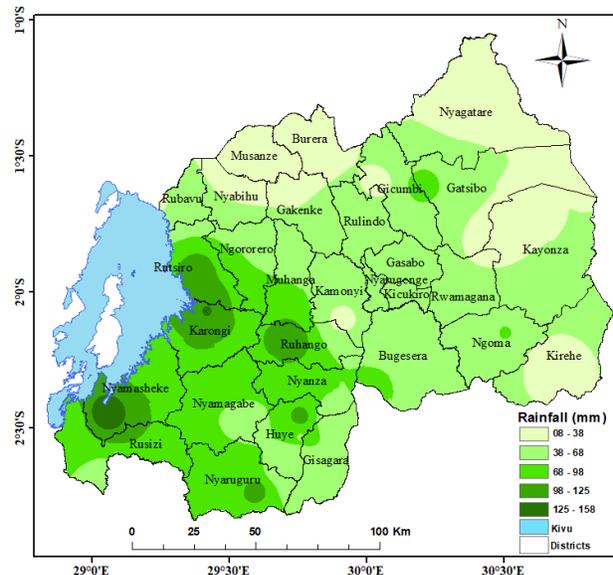
The first Dekad of February 2021 from 1st to 10th, showed that the country characterized by wet weather conditions. Above normal rainfall was recorded in most parts of the country. The highest rainfall amount was recorded in Western Province at Ntendezi station with 157.5mm in 7 rain-days, followed by Rubengera station with 129.6mm in 4 rain-days and Byimana Station located in Southern Province with 123.8mm in 4 rain-days. The lowest rainfall less than 10mm was recorded at Kagitumba station in Eastern Province. The temperature was generally within the range of Long Term Mean. The main activity during the first dekad was post-harvesting activities in most parts of the country.

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

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

1.1 Rainfall Amount

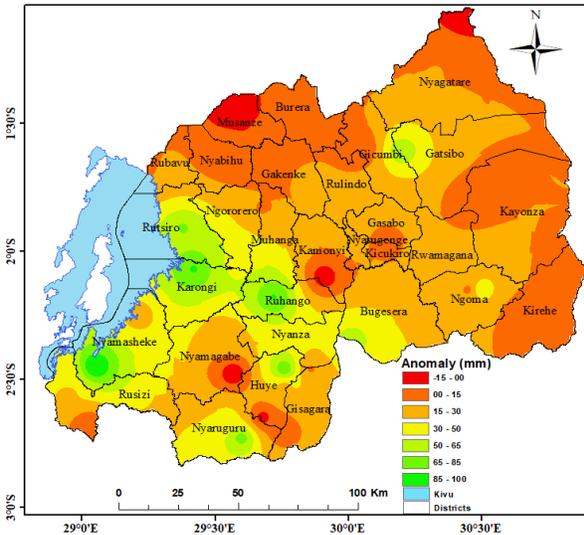
The actual total rainfall amount recorded in the first dekad of February, 2021 is presented in Map 1, it was observed that this dekad was wet and most stations across the country recorded above normal rainfall. The highest rainfall amount was recorded in Western Province at Ntendezi station with 157.5mm in 7 rain-days, followed by Rubengera station with 129.6mm in 4 rain-days and Byimana station with 123.8mm in 4 rain-days.



Map 1: Rainfall amount during 1st Dekad of February 2021

1.2 Rainfall Anomaly (Deficity and Surplus)

The rainfall anomaly as shown in map 2, shows that most stations across the country experienced surplus rainfall except few stations of the Eastern, Northern and Southern Provinces.



Map 2: Rainfall anomaly during 1st Dekad of February 2021

1.3. Comprison of Observed rainfall with Long Term Mean for the dekad 1.

The comparison of recorded rainfall amount and long term mean records for the 1st dekad across the country are shown in figure 1 and 2. Above normal conditions were experienced across the country in this dekad.

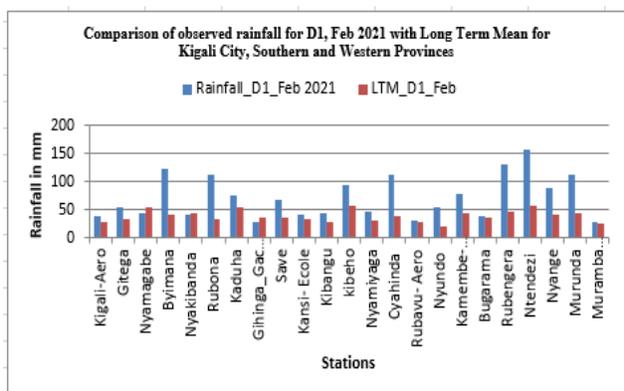


Figure 1: Comparison of observed rainfall with long term mean for the dekad 1 in Kigali City, Southern and Western Provinces.

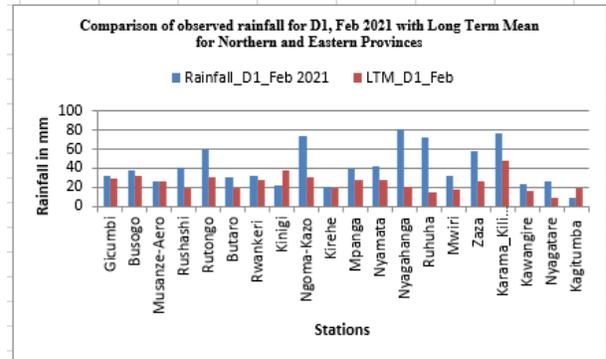
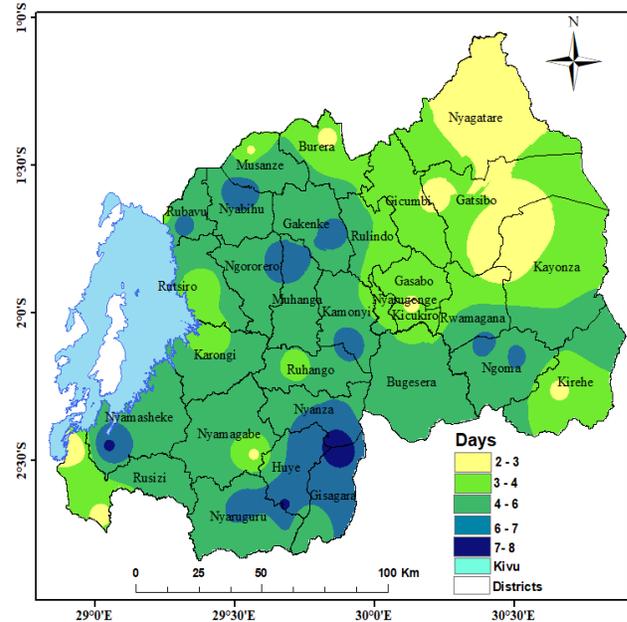


Figure 2: Comparison of Observed rainfall with long term mean for the dekad 1 in Northern and Eastern Provinces.

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 2 and 7 rainy days over many stations in the country except Nyamiyaga station that had 8 rainy days. The distribution of rain days affected post-harvesting activities in many parts of the country. Rainy days are expected to vary between four (4) and eight (8) days in the second dekad of February 2021.



Map 3: Rainy days for dekad 1 of February 2021

1.5 Soil moisture condition

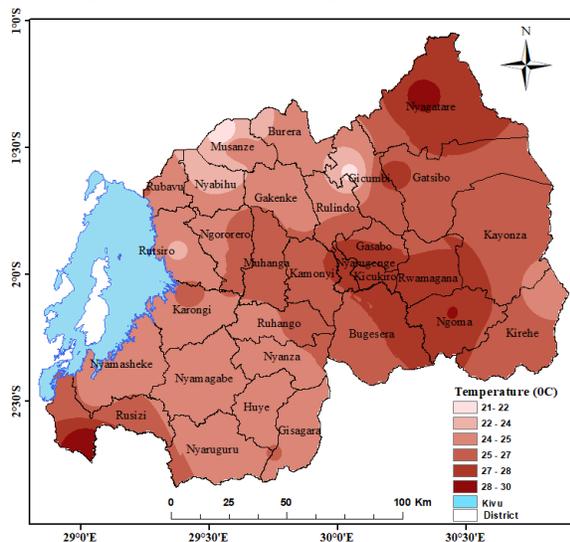
This section shows the available soil moisture content across the country. The soil moisture was increased over most parts of the country due to wet weather conditions experienced. The soil moisture content will continue to increase in the second dekad of February 2021 due to wet weather conditions expected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

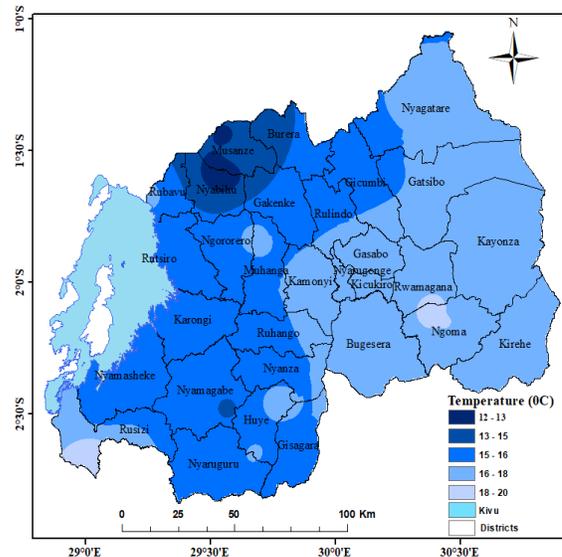
Map 4 shows the actual mean maximum temperature distribution across the country which indicates that the southwestern parts, Kigali City, northern and southern parts of the Eastern Province were warmer than the rest of the country. The mean maximum temperature ranged between 21.0°C and 29.7°C at Kinigi and Bugarama stations respectively.



Map 4: Mean Maximum Temperature for dekad1 February 2021

2.2 Minimum Temperature

The average minimum temperature across the country is shown in Map 5. The Northern part experienced colder temperature than the other parts of the country. The minimum temperature ranged between 11.6°C and 19.6°C at Busogo and Bugarama stations respectively. The minimum temperature increased in most parts of the country in this dekad compared to the previous one.



Map 5: Mean Minimum Temperature for dekad1 February 2021

3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural advisories for the second dekad (11-20) February, 2021.

3.1 Weather Outlook for the second dekad of February 2021.

Rainfall expected between 11th and 20th February 2021 will range between 40 and 160 mm across the country. Wet weather conditions are expected in most parts of the country with considerable increase of rainfall amount and the expected rainfall will be above the Long Term Mean of dekad 2 rainfall countrywide. Rainy days are expected to vary between four (4) and eight (8) days. Rainy days are distributed in the dekad from the beginning to the end of the dekad.

The expected rainfall is due to the shifting of northward migration of Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). The distribution of the rainfall across the country is highlighted below:

Kigali City: Rainfall ranging between 80 and 140 mm is expected. South eastern Gasabo and central Kicukiro are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 80 and 100mm. Small part of north western Gasabo is expected to receive rainfall ranging between 120 and 140 mm. The remaining parts of the City are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 100 and 120mm.

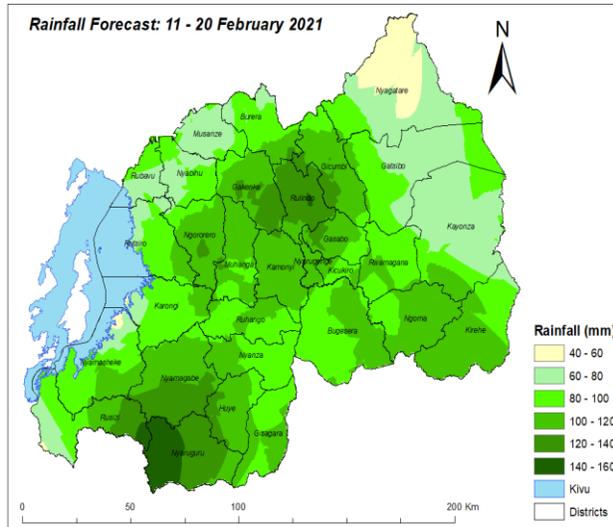
Southern Province: Expected rainfall is ranging between 80 and 160 mm. Rainfall ranging between 80 and 100 mm is expected in western and eastern Ruhango, central and eastern Nyanza, northern and some parts of southern Gisagara, some parts of central and southern Muhanga, north eastern Huye and Nyamagabe districts. Rainfall ranging between 100 and 120 mm is expected in Kamonyi district, remaining parts of Muhanga, Ruhango, Huye and Gisagara, western Nyanza and western, northern and central Nyamagabe and small part of eastern Nyaruguru district. Rainfall ranging between 120 and 140 mm is expected in central and northern parts of Nyaruguru and in southern of Nyamagabe district while rainfall ranging between 140 and 160 mm expected in western Nyaruguru district.

Western Province: Expected rainfall is ranging between 60 and 160 mm. Rainfall ranging between 60 and 80 mm is expected central Nyabihu, southern Rubavu, north-western Rutsiro, south western Karongi, northern part of Nyamasheke and some part of western Rusizi. Rainfall ranging between 80 and 100 mm is expected in remaining parts of Nyabihu and Rubavu, most of Rutsiro and Karongi, small part of northern Ngororero, western and some part of central and eastern Nyamasheke and some part of western Rusizi.

Rainfall ranging between 100 and 120 mm is expected in most part of Ngororero, some part of eastern Rutsiro, Karongi and central part of Rusizi district. Rainfall ranging between 120 and 140 mm is expected in most part of eastern Rusizi while rainfall ranging between 140 and 160 expected in south eastern part of Rusizi district.

Northern Province: Expected rainfall is ranging between 60 and 140 mm. Rainfall ranging between 60 and 80 mm is expected in most parts of Musanze district and in some pockets of north eastern and north western Burera. Rainfall ranging between 80 and 100 mm is expected in northern parts of Gicumbi and Gakenke districts, most parts of Burera and south eastern parts of Musanze. Rainfall ranging between 100 and 120 mm is expected in remaining parts of Gicumbi and most parts of western, central and eastern Gakenke. Rainfall ranging between 120 and 140 mm is expected in most part of Rulindo and southern part of Gakenke.

Eastern Province: Expected rainfall is ranging between 40 and 120 mm. Rainfall ranging between 40 and 60 mm is expected in northern, central and north western Nyagatare. Rainfall ranging between 60 and 80 mm is expected in some parts of south-western and eastern Nyagatare, northern, central and southern parts of Gatsibo, northern, central and south-eastern Kayonza. Rainfall ranging between 80 and 100 mm is expected in south western and small part of south eastern Nyagatare, western and eastern Gatsibo, some part of southern and north eastern Kayonza, north eastern Kirehe, most of Rwamagana district, north western Ngoma and western Bugesera. Rainfall ranging between 100 and 120 mm is expected in western, southern and central of Kirehe, most of Ngoma, small part of southern Kayonza, eastern Bugesera and some parts of central Rwamagana.



Map 6: Rainfall Forecast for the second dekad of February 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 the March-May rainy 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.