



Highlights:

- **The cumulative rainfall** for January_2017 was generally below the Long Term Mean (LTM) except for the localized places like Rubavu, Muhanga and Kigali that recorded rainfall that is slightly above LTM.
- **Satellite derived soil moisture index** showed a general decrease during the first two dekads of January which slightly enhanced during the third dekad.
- The rainfall during February_2017 is expected to **increase towards the end of the month.**

I. Introduction

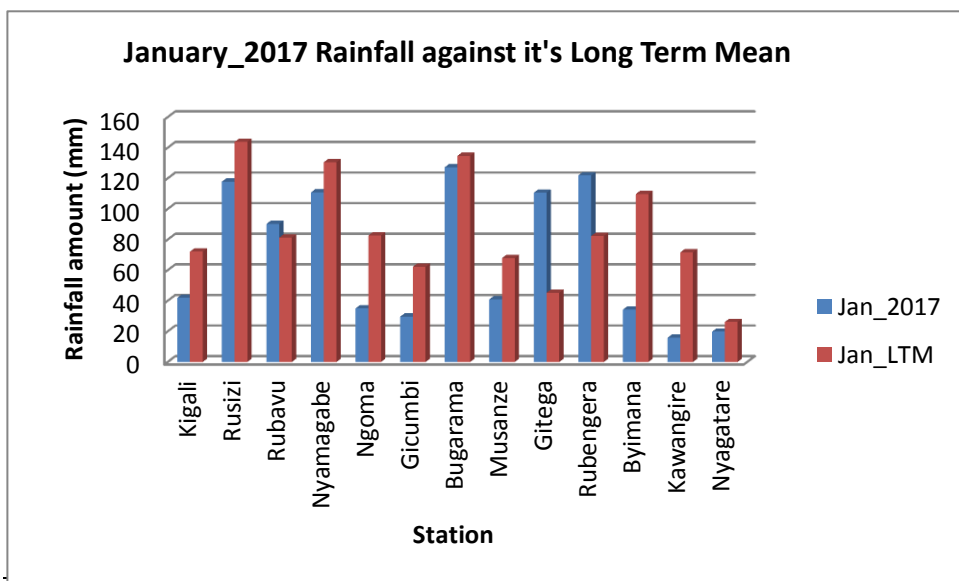
The Northern and Eastern parts of the country during January_2017 recorded rainfall which was below the Long Term Mean (LTM); other parts of the country recorded rainfall which was slightly above LTM.

a) The table and histogram below indicates the rainfall recorded during January_2017:

Cumulative rainfall (in mm) recorded at different stations

Station	Jan_2017	Jan_LTM
Kigali (Kanombe)	41.9	72.1
Rusizi (Kamembe)	117.8	143.8
Rubavu (Gisenyi)	90.2	81.2
Nyamagabe (Gikongoro)	110.8	130.5
Ngoma (Kibungo)	35	82.6
Gicumbi (Byumba)	29.6	62.2
Bugarama	127.2	134.7
Musanze (Ruhengeri)	40.9	67.9
Gitega	110.6	45.2
Rubengera	121.9	82.3
Byimana	34.2	109.7
Kawangire	15.8	71.6
Nyagatare	19.8	26.1

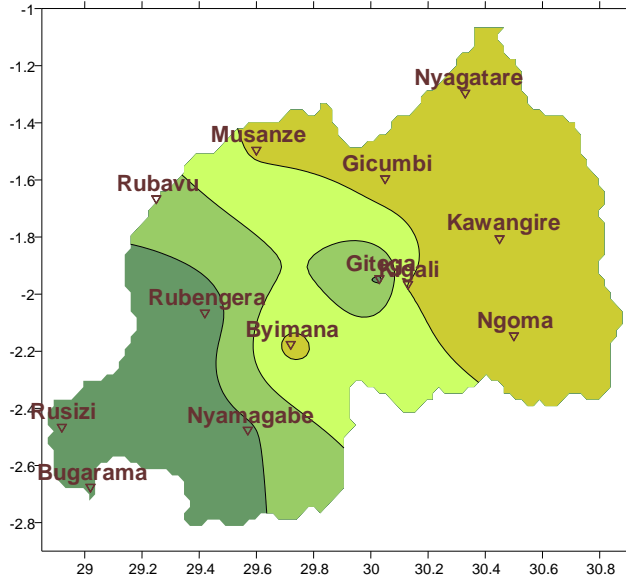
Table1



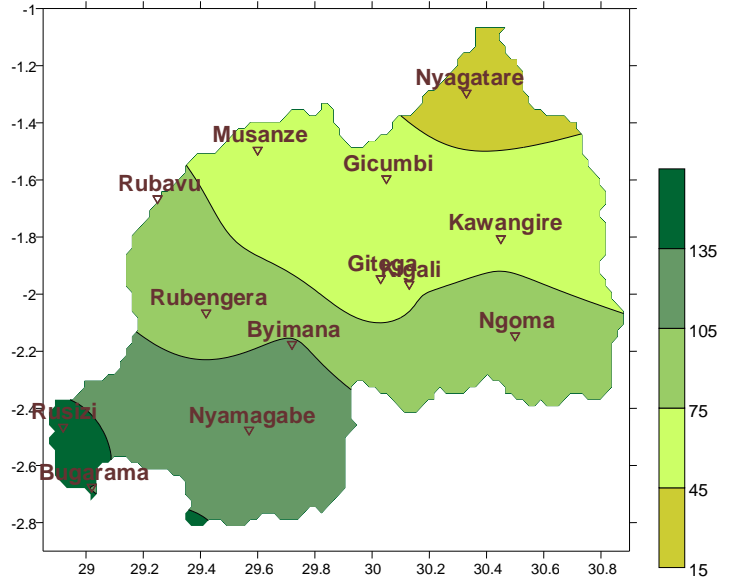
Plot1

b) **Rainfall analysis:** The maps “**Map 1 and 2**” below show the cumulative rainfall recorded during January_2017 and its long term mean (LTM) of cumulative rainfall. Generally the LTM mean was more enhanced as opposed to the rainfall recorded during the month of January 2017. The maps “**map 3 and 4**” show the cumulative rainfall recorded during December_2016 and its LTM of cumulative rainfall. The month of December 2016 recorded highest rainfall than the LTM of the same period.

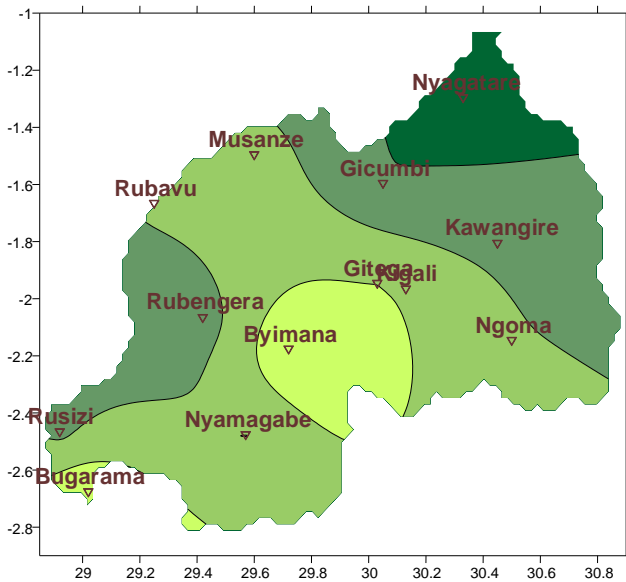
Map1: Total Rainfall (mm): Jan_2017



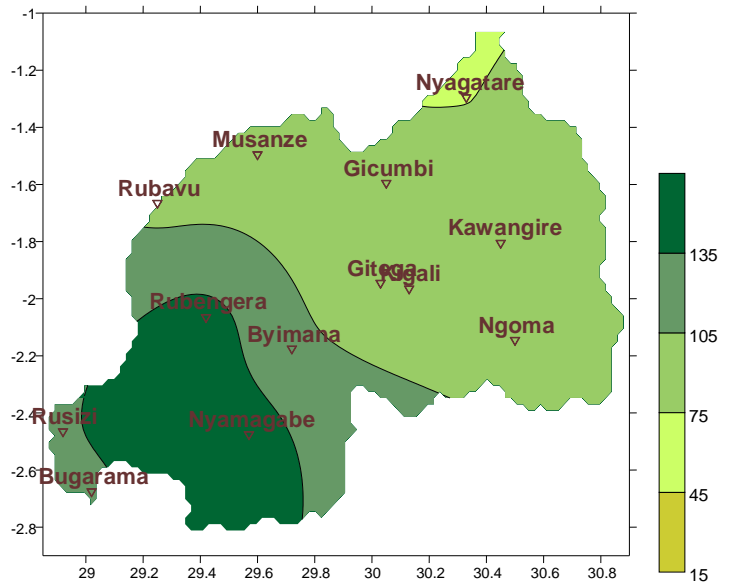
Map2: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): Jan_LTM



Map3: Total Rainfall (mm): Dec_2016



Map4: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): Dec_LTM



II. Detailed observed rainfall during the January_2017

Cumulative rainfall for January_2017 was suppressed in the east, northern and southeastern parts of the country while the central parts moving towards the west had enhanced rainfall during the month (see **Map1&2**). The month of December_2016 recorded more rainfall than the LTM which was contrary to the following month of January (see **Map3&4**).

a) Eastern Province

All the stations recorded rainfall was below the LTM for the month of January_2017(see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

b) Northern Province

The stations recorded rainfall which was below the LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

c) Southern Province

The areas near Nyungwe Forest recorded rainfall which was comparable to the LTM while the rest of the area the province was suppressed (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

d) Western Province

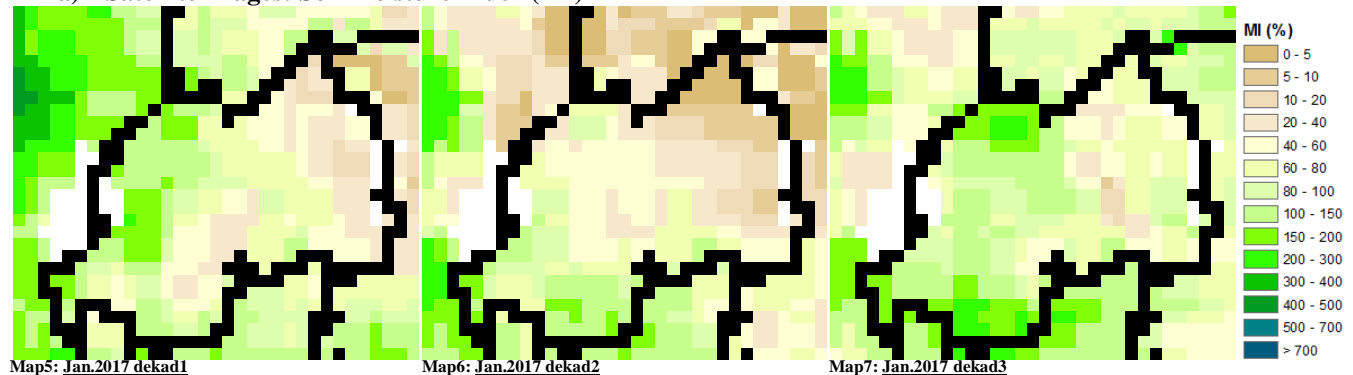
The stations in the Western Province recorded rainfall which was within the LTM range (140mm; see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

e) Kigali City

The central part of the country had slightly localized wetter conditions over some place while the rest recorded below LTM rainfall (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

III. Agricultural impact.

a) Satellite images: Soil Moisture Index (MI)



During January_2017 the satellite derived moisture index indicated more reduced moisture during second dekad and slightly increased in the third dekad especially near the Nyungwe Forest and the Volcano areas (**Map 5, 6&7**)

The distribution of rains during February_2017 is expected to increase towards the end the month of February. Farmers are advised to take an opportunity of rains to prepare farms.

Rainfall forecast for February_2017

We expect reduce rain distribution to slightly increase towards the end of the month

Kigali City; Will experience cloudy conditions with slightly light rain towards the end of this month.

Eastern Region; Will experience cloudy conditions with slightly light rain towards the end of this month.

Western Region; Will experience cloudy condition associated with light rain.

Northern region; Will experience cloudy conditions with likelihood rainy conditions over most parts of the region.

Southern Region; The region will experience light rain more especially near Nyugwe Forest.

N.B: This forecast should be used in conjunction with the daily (24-hour), Three (3), Five (5) and Seven (7) days forecasts issued by the Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Meteo Rwanda)