



Highlights:

- **The cumulative rainfall** for dekad1_March_2018 was enhanced country wide ranging in the above range in comparison with the Long Term Mean (LTM) rainfall amount;
- The heavy rains during the start of March induced a drastic increase of soil moisture country wide;
- The rainfall during dekad2_March_2018 is expected to **be well distributed country wide and within the range of the climatology of each region.**

I. Introduction

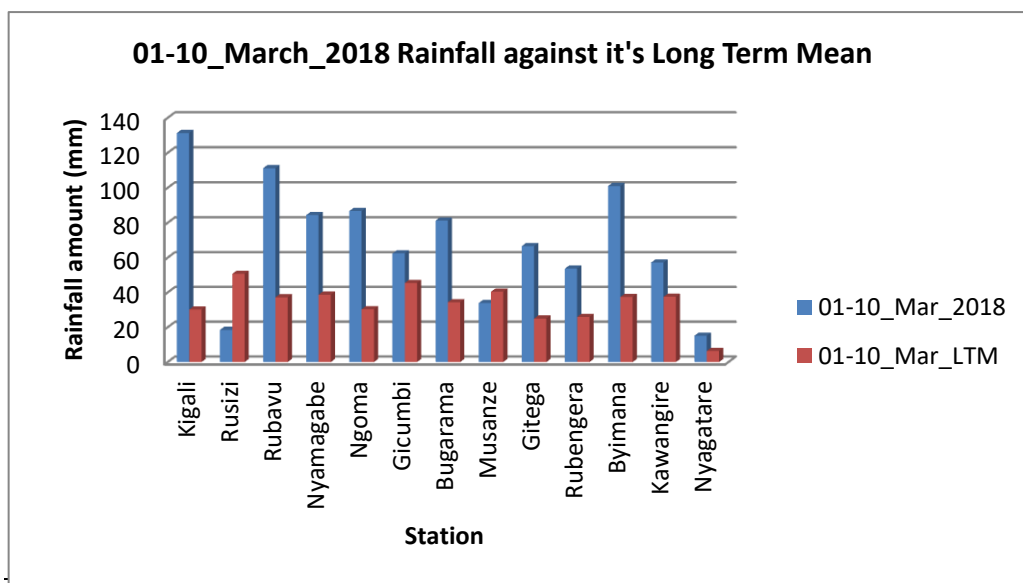
The rainfall during dekad1_March_2018 was everywhere above the range of LTM (Long term Mean) due to enhanced rainfall amount that we received resulting from the Indian Ocean perturbation that was favoring our region to have wet days of heavy precipitation.

a) The table and histogram below indicates the rainfall recorded during dekad1_March_2018 and its LTM:

Cumulative rainfall (in mm) recorded at different stations

Station	01-10_Mar_2018	01-10_Mar_LTM
Kigali	131.3	30.2
Rusizi (Kamembe)	18.5	50.7
Rubavu (Gisenyi)	111.2	37.2
Nyamagabe (Gikongoro)	84.4	38.7
Ngoma (Kibungo)	86.7	30.3
Gicumbi (Byumba)	62.4	45.4
Bugarama	81.2	34.4
Musanze (Ruhengeri)	33.9	40.4
Gitega	66.6	25.0
Rubengera	53.7	25.9
Byimana	101.0	37.4
Kawangire	57.2	37.5
Nyagatare	15.1	6.4

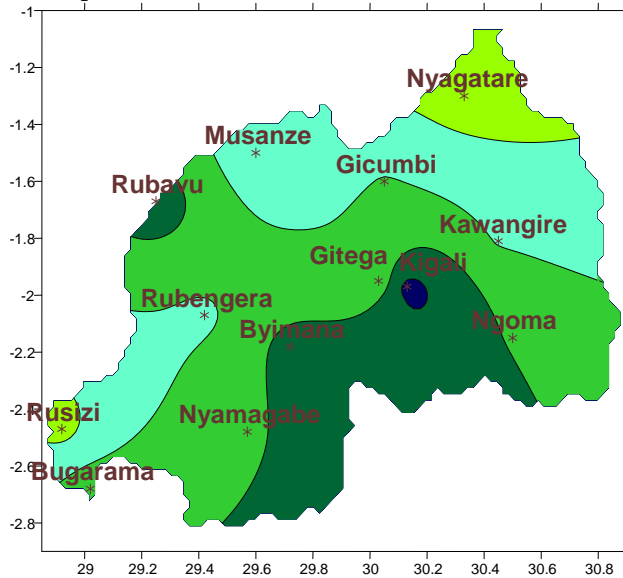
Table1



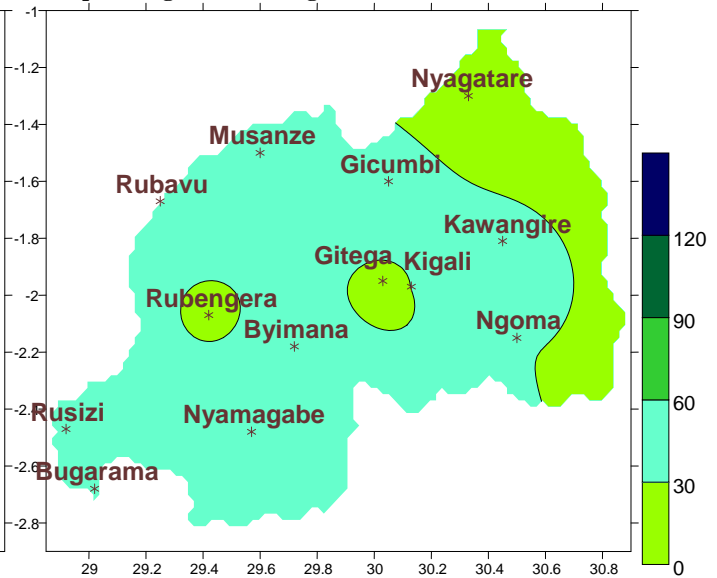
Plot1

- b) **Rainfall analysis:** The maps “**Map 1 and 2**” below show the cumulative rainfall recorded during dekad1_March_2018 and the cumulative rainfall for the same period
The maps “**Map 3 and 4**” show the cumulative rainfall recorded during dekad3_February_2018 the cumulative rainfall for the same period

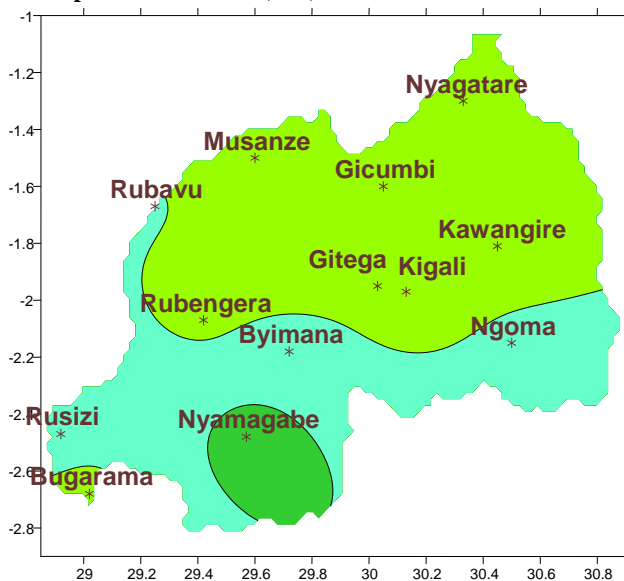
Map1: Total Rainfall (mm): dekad1_Mar_2018



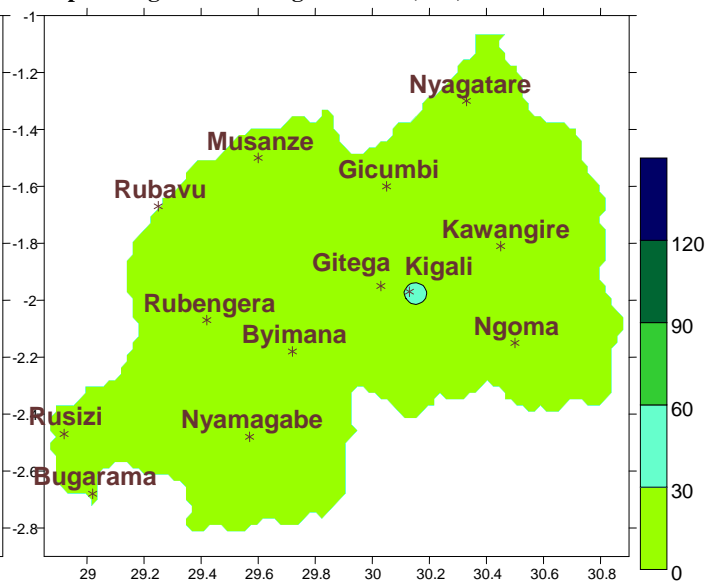
Map2: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): dekad1_Mar_LTM



Map1: Total Rainfall (mm): dekad3_Feb_2018



Map2: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): dekad3_Feb_LTM

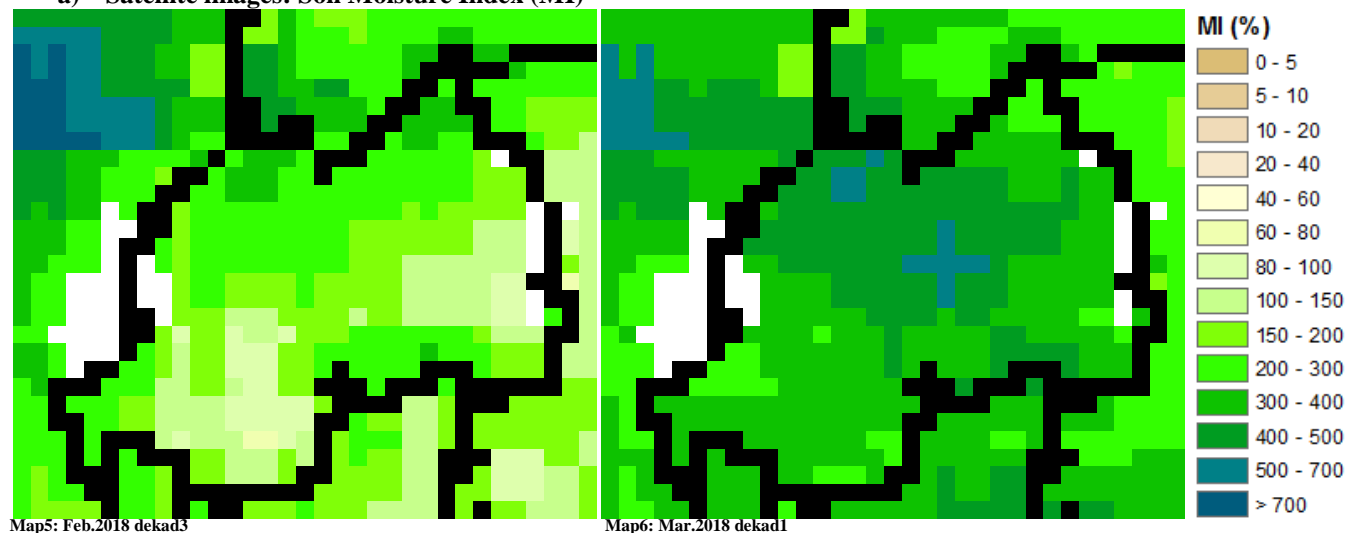


II. Detailed observed rainfall during the dekad1_March_2018

Cumulative rainfall for dekad1_March_2018 was higher than normal at every representative station especially at Kigali Station which recorded the highest with 131.3mm of rainfall (see **Map1&2** and **Table1**). During the third dekad3 of February_2018; the cumulative rainfall amount at each station was of the north-east, central and north was within the normal conditions while elsewhere within the country; we observe an above normal situation (see **Map3&4**)

III. Agricultural impact.

a) Satellite images: Soil Moisture Index (MI)

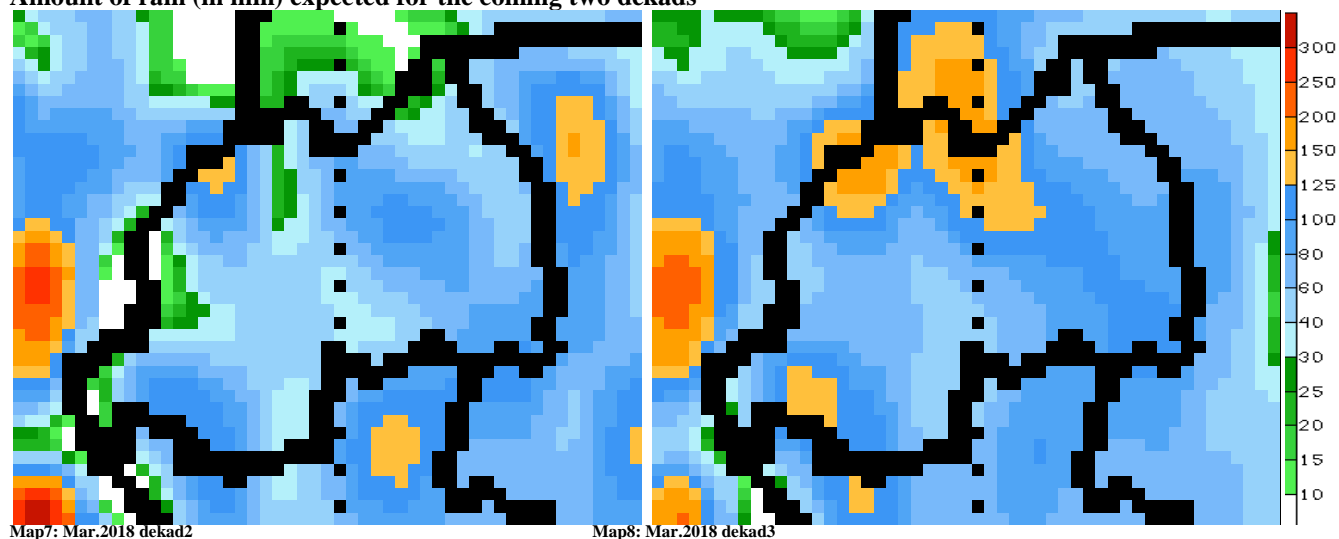


From the start of dekad3_February to end of dekad1_March_2018; the satellite derived moisture index shows a considerably high increase in soil moisture country wide; the state of the soil moisture ensures the soil that is favorable for a variety of crops for the whole country (see **Map 5&6**)

b) Rainfall forecast for dekad2 March_2018

The distribution of rains during dekad2_March_2018 is expected to reduce in comparison to what was observed during the first dekad of March_2018 at almost equal distribution while the 3rd dekad is expected to have more rains in the north and west than the rest of the country:

Amount of rain (in mm) expected for the coming two dekads



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)