



Agrometeorological Bulletin No.15, Dekad3, May (21–31) 2020 Issued on 02nd June 2020

Summary

The third Dekad (21-31) of May 2020; most parts of the country received no rainfall and station which recorded light rainfall was below the Long Term Mean (LTM) except at Kamembe Aero (22.4mm) station which recorded rainfall which was slightly above LTM. The temperature was within the range of LTM. The maximum temperature ranged between 21.5°C in Gicumbi District and 31.6°C in Rusizi District at Gicumbi and Bugarama stations respectively. Minimum temperature ranged between 10.9°C at Musanze and 18.9°C in Rusizi District at Bugarama station.

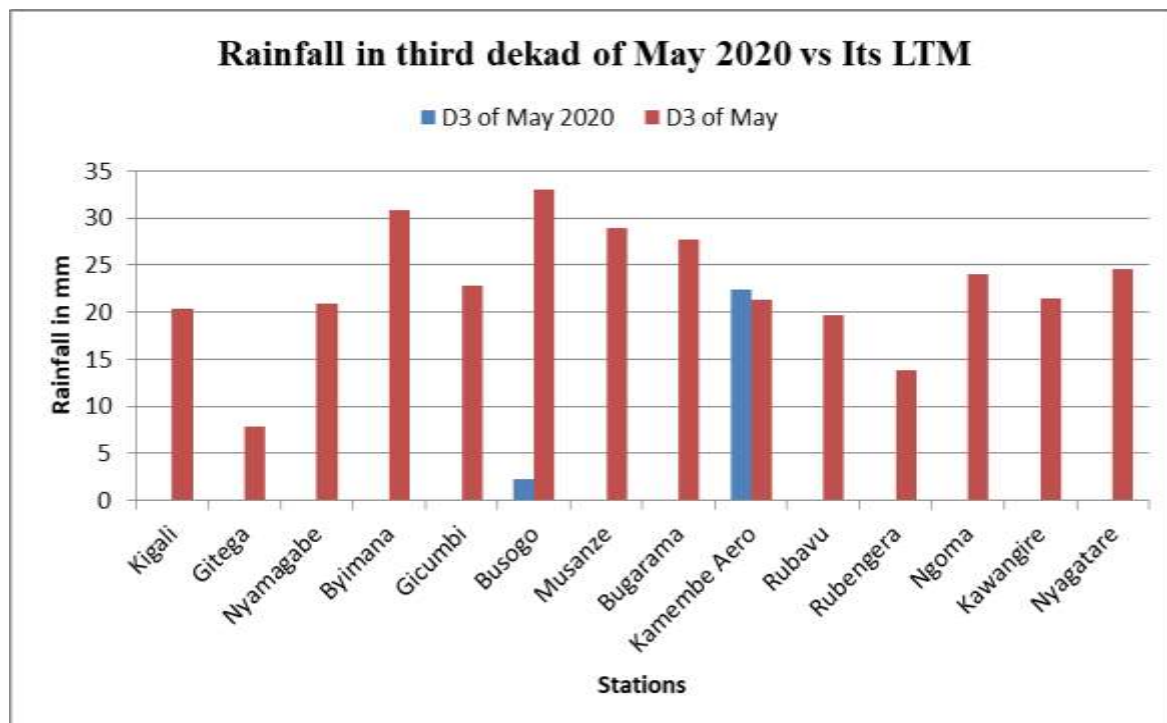


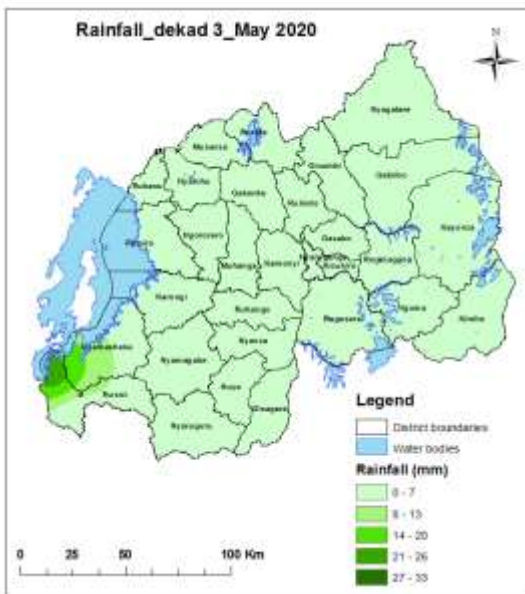
Figure 1: Rainfall performance as Compared to the LTM

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

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

1.1 Rainfall Amount

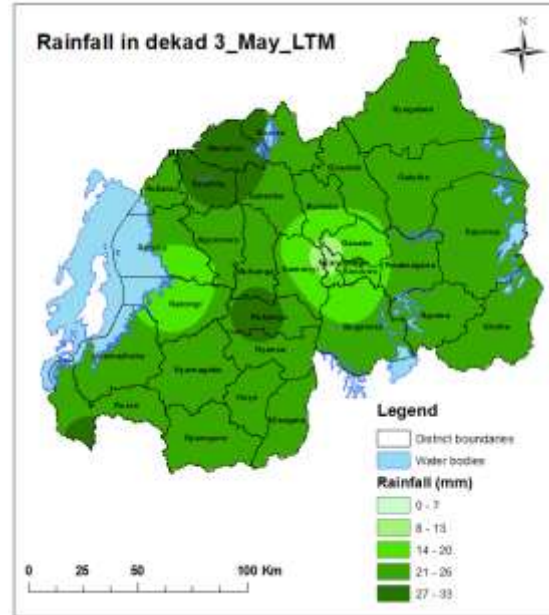
The total rainfall amount for the third dekad of May, 2020 is presented in map 1. On daily basis it was observed that many parts of the country received no rain except at Busogo station in Musanze District of the Northern province which received 2.3mm and Kamembe Aero station in Rusizi District of Western Province which received 22.4 mm.



Map 1: Rainfall amount during 3rd Dekad of May 2020

1.2 Rainfall climatology for the 3rd dekad of May

The rainfall climatology for the 3rd dekad of May is shown in map 2, which indicates that rainfall ranged from 7.8mm to 33.1mm across the country. Comparing the 3rd Dekad of May 2020 and the Long Term Mean (LTM) for the same period; it was observed that rainfall was below the LTM in most parts of the country except at Kamembe Aero station which recorded above the normal rainfall.

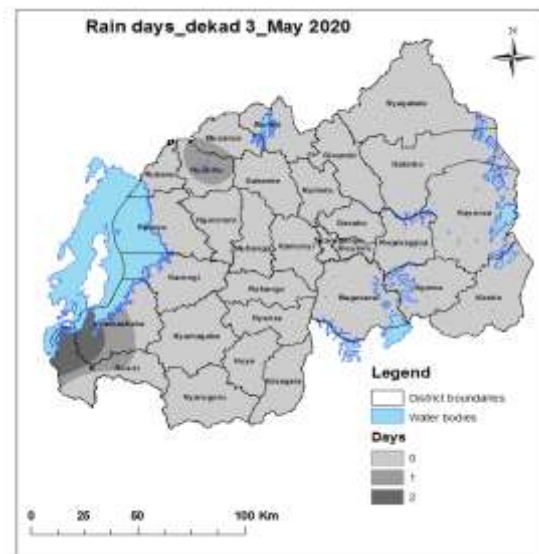


Map 2: Rainfall amount during 3rd Dekad of May(LTM)

1.3. Number of Rain Days

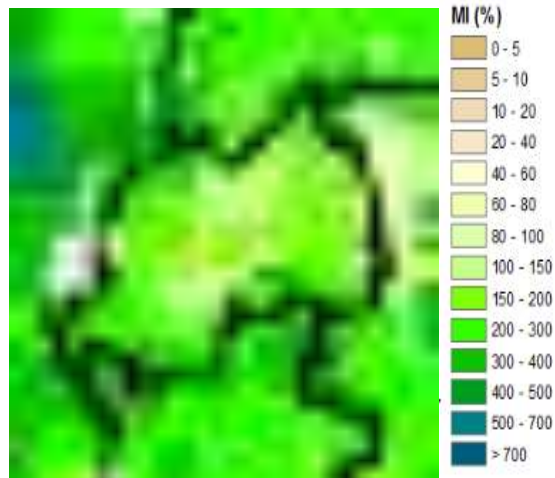
Map 3 shows the distribution of number of rain-days. A rainy day is defined as a day with rainfall of 0.85mm or more.

One day was observed at Busogo station and two days were observed at Kamembe Aero station, the rest of the country received no rainfall.



Map 3: Rainy days

1.4 Soil moisture index



Map 4: Soil Moisture Index

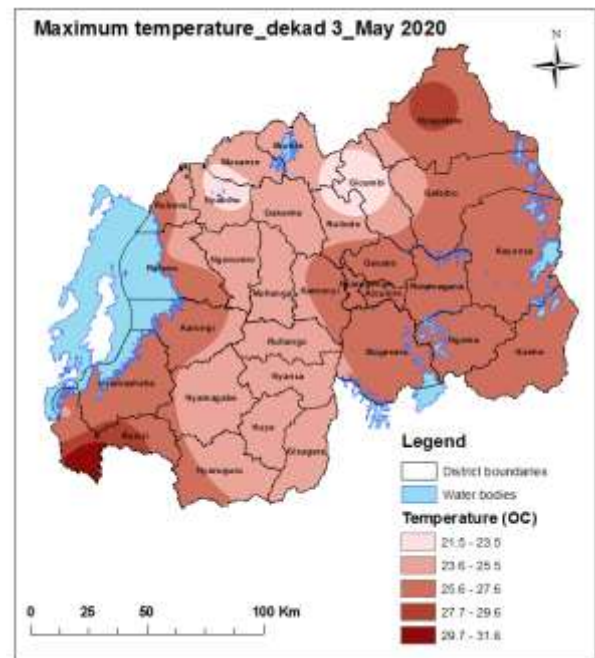
The distribution of available soil moisture across the country is shown in Map 4. Soil moisture decrease over most parts of the country due to dry weather conditions experienced during third dekad of May 2020. The soil moisture will continue to decrease during the first dekad of June 2020 due to the expected persistence of dry weather conditions.

2.0 Temperature observation

The average maximum and Minimum temperature across the country during the 3rd dekad of May 2020 is highlighted in the section below.

2.1 Mean Maximum Temperature

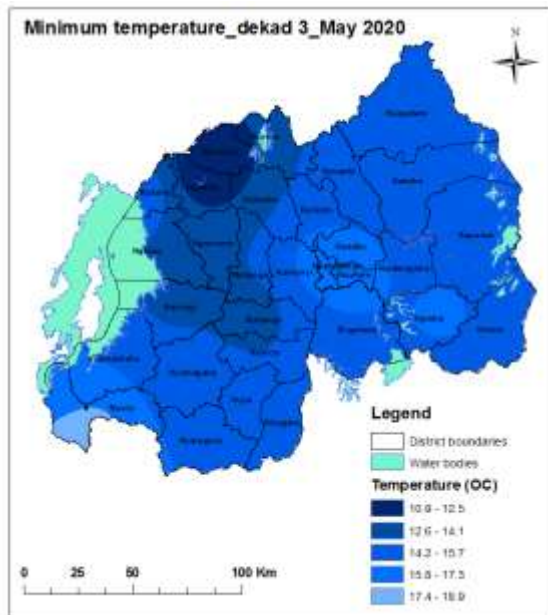
Map 5 shows the actual mean maximum temperature distribution across the country which indicates that the South Western, Kigali City and Eastern Provinces were warmer compared to Northern and Southern Provinces. However, in most parts of the country the mean maximum temperature ranged between 21.5⁰C and 28.1⁰C with exceptional case of 31.6⁰C at Bugarama station.



Map 5: Mean Maximum Temperature for dekad 3 May 2020

2.2 Minimum Temperature

The average minimum temperature across the country is shown in Map 6. The Northern parts experienced colder temperature compared to other parts of the country, even though the minimum temperature decreased a bit compared to the previous dekad. The minimum temperature ranged between 11.8⁰C at Gicumbi to 18.9⁰C at Bugarama.



Map 6: Mean Minimum Temperature for dekad3 of May 2020

3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural advisory for the 1st dekad (01-10) June, 2020.

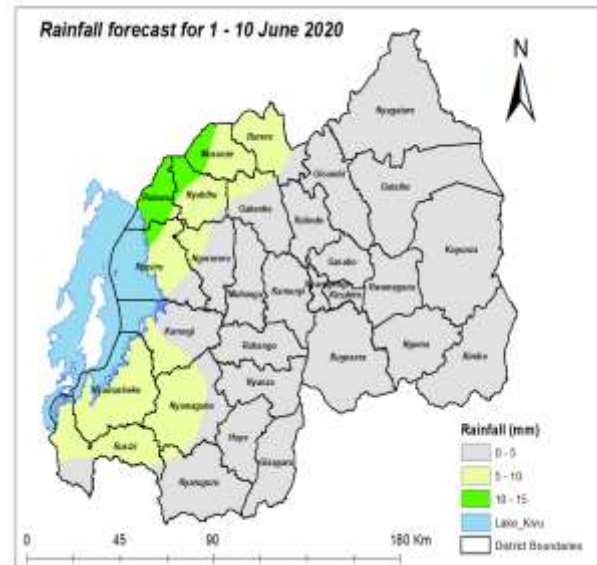
3.1 Weather Outlook for the 1st dekad of June 2020.

Comparing with the last two dekads (2nd and 3rd) of May 2020, a decrease of rainfall amount during the 1st dekad of June 2020 is expected. The reduced rainfall marks March to May seasonal rainfall cessation and the start of June to August dry season. Rainfall expected will range between 0 and 15mm countrywide. Spatial distribution (detailed in map below) shows that rainfall will be ranging between 10 and 15mm is expected in Rubavu District, small parts of Rutsiro, Nyabihu, and Musanze Districts.

Rainfall ranging between 5 and 10mm is expected in the remaining parts of Rutsiro, Nyabihu and Musanze Districts, Nyamasheke District as well as parts of Burera, Ngororero, Karongi, Nyamagabe and Rusizi Districts. The remaining parts are expected to experience rainfall less than 5mm.

Light rain is expected on 4th and 5th June 2020 which will mainly result from local effects.

The rainfall expected in the dekad 1 of June 2020 will be slightly below Long Term Average of first dekad of June across the country. The Long Term Average for the month of June dekad 1 normally ranges between 0mm and 30mm.



Map 7: Rainfall Forecast for first dekad of June 2020

3.2 Agricultural Activity/Advisories

There is a widespread of rainfall cessation across the country, farmers are advised to start using irrigation where necessary and harvesting. Farmers are also advised to work closely with Agriculture Extension Officers for more information. For more meteorological information about weather forecast you can visit Meteo Rwanda's website: www.meteorwanda.gov.rw.