



Agrometeorological Bulletin N° 28, Dekad1, October (01– 10) 2020 Issued on 12th October 2020

Summary

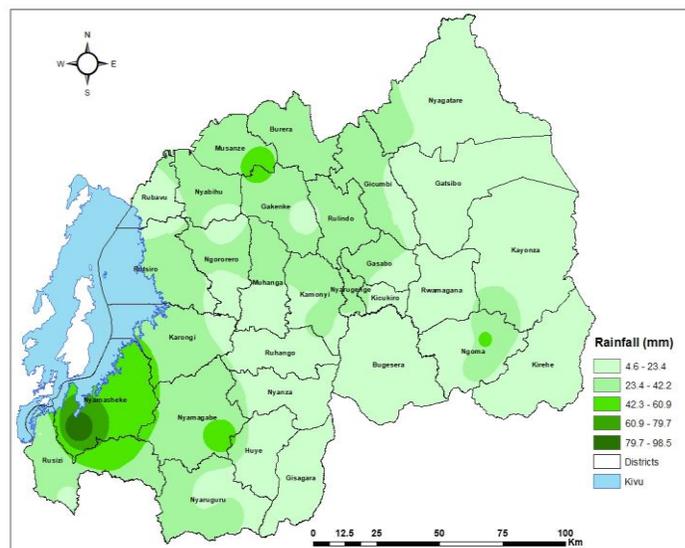
The first Dekad (01- 10) of October 2020; indicated that the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is located over our region and rainfall activities are well established across the country even though the rainfall is very scattered and presented with localized long dry spells. Normal to below normal rainfall was recorded in most parts of the country. The Western Province was relatively wet compared to other parts of the country. The highest rainfall amount was recorded in Western Province at Ntendezi station with 98.5mm in 7 rain-days, followed by Nyamagabe station with 59.6mm in 5 rain-days, Muramba station with 58.7 in 6 rain-days and Kirimbi station with 58.6mm in 7 rain-days. The lowest rainfall less than 10mm was recorded at many places of the Southern province including Byimana, Kansi, Nyakibanda, Rubona and Save. The temperature was within the range of Long Term Mean. The maximum temperature ranged between 21.3°C at Gicumbi and 31.6°C at Bugarama stations. Minimum temperature ranged between 11.0°C at Busogo and 19.1°C at Bugarama stations respectively. The soil moisture contents was favorable for seed planting and other agriculture activities.

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

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

1.1 Rainfall Amount

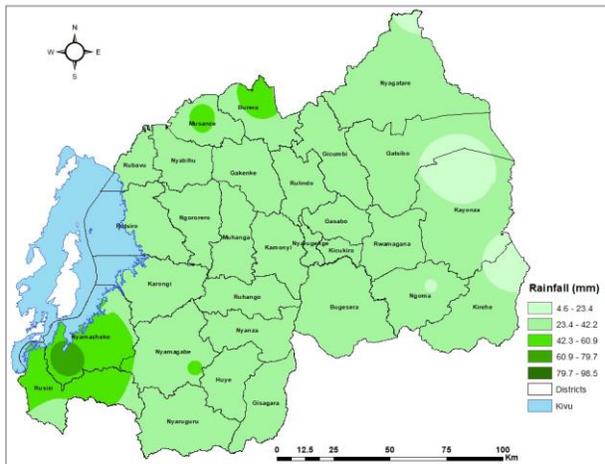
The actual total rainfall amount recorded in the first dekad of October, 2020 is presented in Map 1. On daily basis it was observed that this dekad received light to moderate rainfall in most parts of the country. The Western Province received much rainfall compared to the other parts of the country. The accumulated rainfall in ten days ranged between 4.6mm at Save station to 98.5mm at Ntendezi station respectively.



Map 1: Rainfall amount during 1st Dekad of October 2020

1.2 Rainfall climatology for the 1st dekad of October

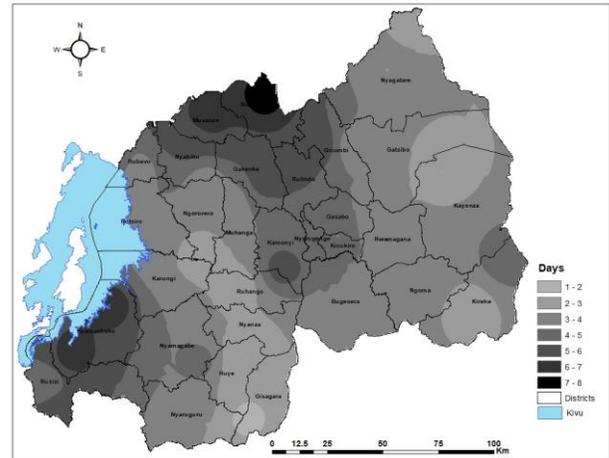
The rainfall climatology for the 1st dekad of October is shown in map 2, and it indicates that normally the rainfall ranges from 14.8 to 74mm across the country. Comparing to the 1st dekad of October 2020 and the Long Term Mean (LTM) for the same period; it was observed that in all parts of the country, the first dekad was below the LTM rainfall in most parts of the country except in southern parts of Nyamasheke District.



Map 2: Rainfall amount during 1st Dekad of October (LTM)

1.3. Number of Rain Days

The Map 3 shows the distribution of number of raindays across the country. A rainy day is defined as a day with at least 0.85mm of rainfall. As it is shown in map 3, most parts of the country had 3 to 8 rainy days except few parts in the Southern and Eastern Province of the country that had 1 to 2 rain-days within the dekad.



Map 3: Rainy days for dekad1 of October 2020

1.4 Soil moisture index

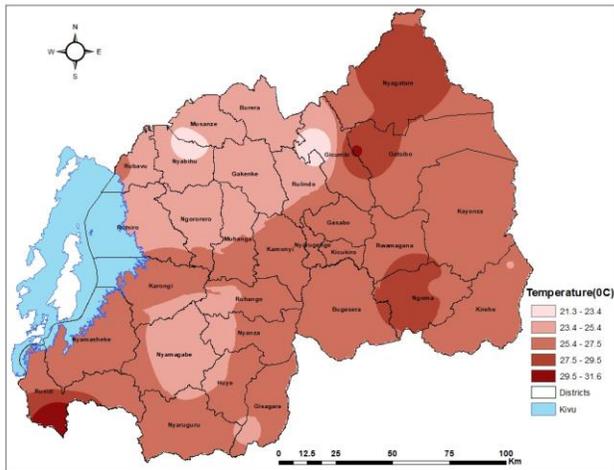
This section shows the available soil moisture across the country. The soil moisture showed an normal soil moisture over most parts of the country due to wet weather conditions and cloud cover experienced during the first dekad of October 2020. The soil moisture will continue to increase during the second dekad of October 2020 due to the expected wet weather conditions.

2.0 Temperature observation

The average maximum and Minimum temperature across the country during the first dekad of October 2020 is highlighted in the section below.

2.1 Mean Maximum Temperature

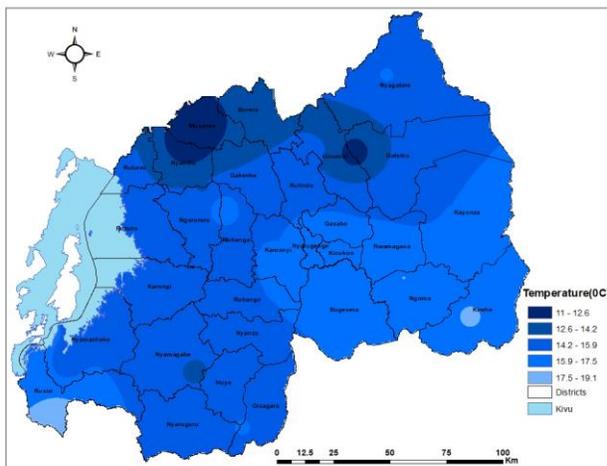
Map 4 shows the actual mean maximum temperature distribution across the country which indicates that the South Western parts, Kigali City, northern and southern parts of the Eastern Province were warmer than the Northern, Southern and the Western Provinces. However, in most parts of the country the mean maximum temperature ranged between 21.3⁰C and 28.9⁰C with exceptional case of slightly high temperature of 29.8⁰C and 31.6⁰C recorded at Nyagahanga and Bugarama stations.



Map 4: Mean Maximum Temperature for dekad1 October 2020

2.2 Minimum Temperature

The average minimum temperature across the country is shown in Map 5. The Northern parts experienced colder temperature than the other parts of the country. The minimum temperature ranged between 11.0°C at Busogo and 19.1°C at Bugarama stations respectively.



Map 5: Mean Minimum Temperature for dekad1 October 2020

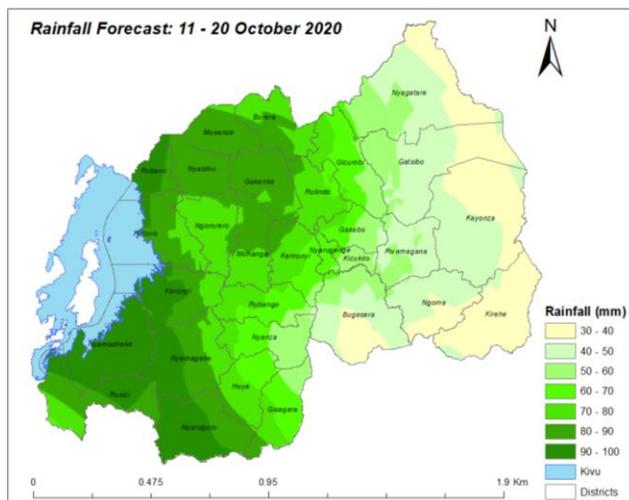
3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural advisories for the second dekad (11-20) October, 2020.

3.1 Weather Outlook for the second dekad of October 2020.

Rainfall expected between 11th and 20th October 2020 will ranging between 30 and 100mm across the country (map 6). The Eastern Province is expected to have rainfall ranging between 30 and 60mm, increasing from eastern to western parts of the province. Kigali City is expected to receive rainfall ranging between 50 and 70mm. Southern Province is expected to receive rainfall ranging between 50 and 100 mm. Western Province is expected to receive rainfall ranging between 70 and 100 mm while Northern Province is expected to get rainfall ranging between 50 and 90 mm.

Enhanced rainfall associated with strong winds and thunderstorms is expected on 12th, 13th, and 15th October 2020 respectively especially in several parts of Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Rutsiro, Nyabihu, Rubavu, Musanze, Gakenke and Muhanga districts.

The expected rain will result from the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone which is getting organized. Rainy days will be varying between 3 and 6 according to the areas with minimum number of rainy days in eastern and central parts of the country. The rainfall will be evenly distributed within ten days of the dekad. The expected rain will be slightly above the range of Long Term Average of October dekad2 rainfall.



Map 6: Rainfall Forecast for the second dekad of October 2020

3.2 Agricultural Activity/Advisories

The stakeholders in Agriculture sector are advised to fast track seed and fertilizers delivery to the farmers, timely planting in most parts of the country and agricultural practices that increases soil water holding capacity in the driest areas of the country are encouraged. In the next ten days, sowing of seeds and vegetables will continue as the main activity in the country. Farmers are advised to work closely with Agriculture Extension Officers for more 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.