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SEASONAL FORECAST FOR MARCH TO MAY (MAM) 2016. N°43

Rwanda Meteorology Agency (METEO RWANDA) hereby releases the seasonal rainfall forecast for March to May 2016.

Regional and international Climate scientists involved in prediction of seasonal rainfall converged in KENYA, Nairobi at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC), from 15 -20 February to analyze and deliberate on the historical data of rainfall and temperature from across the ten countries (Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda). Several world research Centre's were represented and after deliberations the scientists came up with a consensus forecast for the IGAD region and the affiliated countries of Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi.

For Rwanda we used historical rainfall and temperature data for more than 45 years from different stations across the country with sea surface temperatures from global oceans (Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Ocean).

From the Statistical and Dynamical analysis done for each zone, the seasonal forecast is as follows: The Eastern Province (Ngoma, Gatsibo, Bugesera, Kirehe, Rwamagana, Kayonza and Nyagatare), Kigali City (Nyarugenge, Kicukiro and Gasabo) and Southern Province (Kamonyi, Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyanza, Huye, Gisagara, Nyaruguru and Nyamagabe) are expected to have a normal rainfall season with tendency to slight above normal in few places.

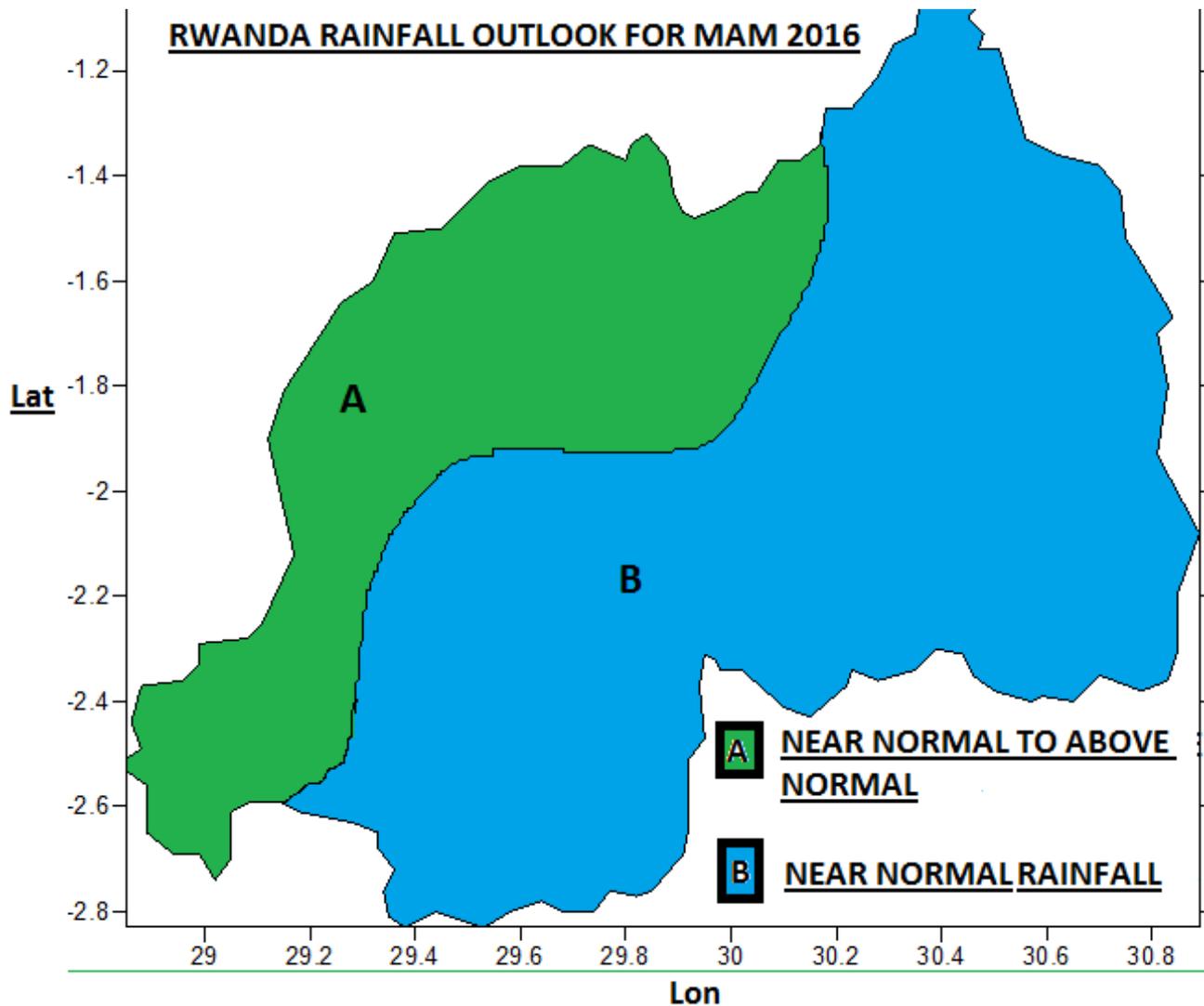
The Western Province (Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Rubavu, Nyabihu and Ngororero), and Northern Province (Rulindo, Musanze, Bulera, Gicumbi and Gakenke) are expected to have normal to above normal rainfall in many places.

The Rainfall distribution is divided into two categories which are: above normal and normal to slight above rainfall according to the cumulative range of rainfall amounts during March to May rainfall seasons:

Above Normal= >400 mm;

Normal= 350-400 mm.

RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR MARCH TO MAY 2016



The powerful 2015-2016 El Niño has passed its peak but remains strong and will continue to influence the global climate, according to the latest update from the World Meteorological Organization. It is expected to weaken by May 2016. It is too early to predict whether there will be a swing to La Niña (the opposite of El Niño) after that and we will continue to provide you with updates.

THE EXPECTED IMPACTS IN VARIOUS SECTORS

The normal to above normal rainfall expected during the March to May rainfall season may cause floods and other related disasters such as landslides, destruction of houses and others. Therefore relevant authorities responsible for infrastructures and other vulnerable institutions should put in place both preventive and mitigative strategies to minimize loss of life and property.

The favorable rainfall performance during the season may result into:

- Floods and landslides over some parts of the country.
- Reduced agricultural activities in some areas due to landslides, floods and water logging in some area.
- Damage to Infrastructure in some parts of the country.
- Increased for diseases due to water borne diseases Weather/Climate.

N.B This outlook is supplemented by daily updates of different timescales (24-hours, 3-days, 5-days and 10-days forecasts and regular monthly updates) and advisories issued by Rwanda Meteorology Agency.

Done on 29th February, 2016.