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SEASONAL FORECAST FOR SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER (SOND) 2016, N°44

Rwanda Meteorology Agency (METEO RWANDA) hereby releases the seasonal rainfall forecast for September to December 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 -26 August 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 centers 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 up to 45 years from different stations across the country with sea surface temperatures from global oceans (Indian, Pacific and the Atlantic).

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) are expected to have a near normal rainfall season to below normal in most places.

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

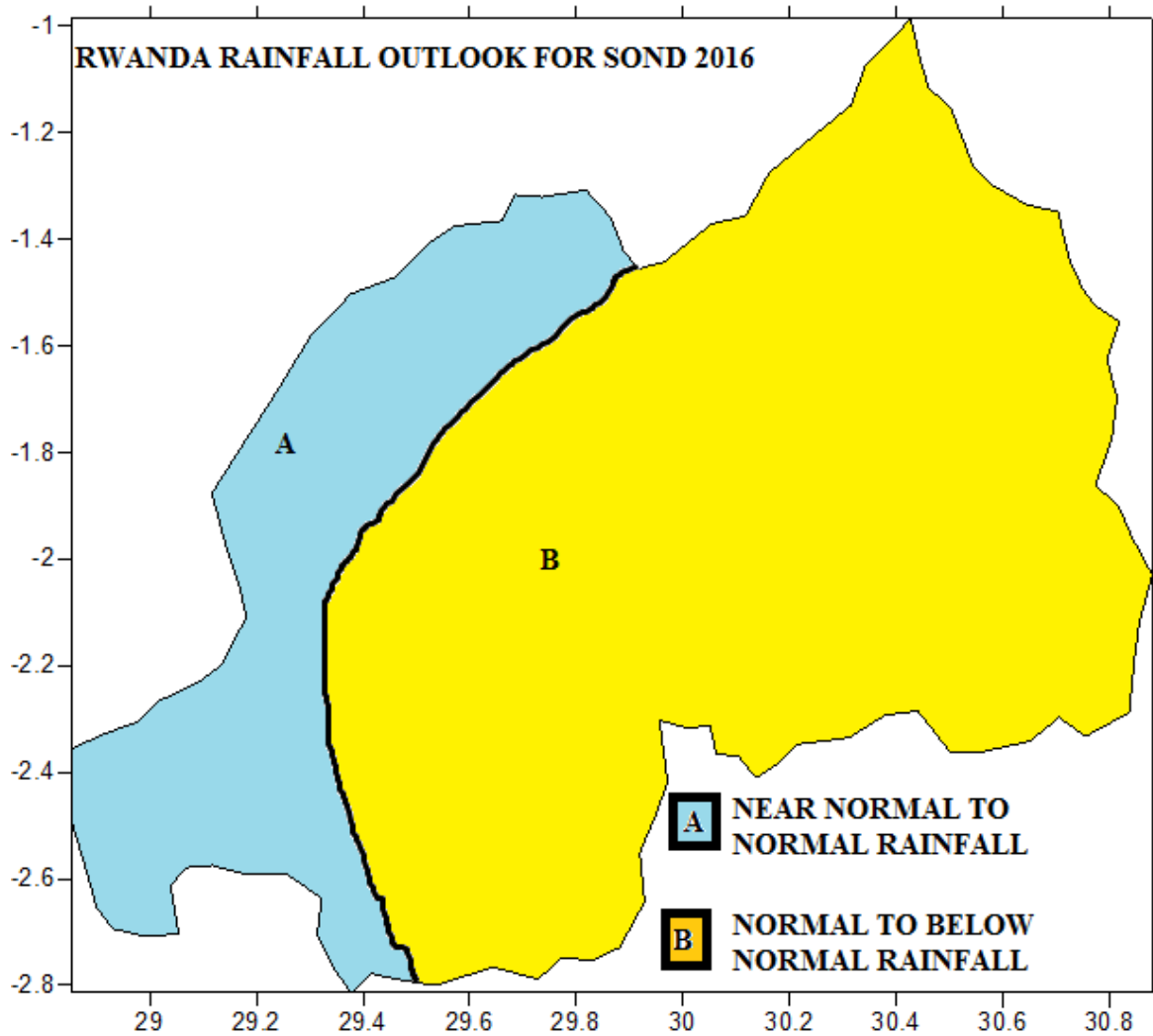
The Rainfall distribution is divided into two categories which are: below normal and normal rainfall according to the cumulative range of rainfall amounts during September to December 2016 rainfall season

Key

Near Normal= 350-450 mm

Below Normal = < 350

RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2016



THE EXPECTED IMPACTS IN VARIOUS SECTORS

The normal to below normal rainfall expected during the September to December rainfall season may cause unfavorable conditions for crop yield.

Therefore relevant authorities with activities that depend on rainfall and other vulnerable institutions should put in place both preventive and mitigative strategies

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

Done on 8th September, 2016.

John NTAGANDA SEMAFARA

Director General