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OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2020, N°56

Based on the current and expected climate systems January to March 2020 (JFM) constitutes part of important season for the country, there is a chance of above normal to normal rains over most parts of the country.

The National climate outlook for January to March 2020 season indicates that North western and South western parts of the country are likely to experience slightly enhanced rainfall (above average) which is more associated with the topographic nature of the area. The Key factors that are expected to influence the rainfall pattern of the region during JFM 2020 seasonal forecast are positive Indian Ocean Dipole (+IOD) and convergence over the region. The rainfall slight reduction is expected towards the end of the forecasting period due to more weakening of IOD with neutral El Nino Southern Oscillation Index (ENSO).

The forecast for the specific outlooks is as follow:

- **Rainfall ranging between 200-300 mm** is expected in Nyagatare, Gatsibo and big part of Kayonza districts.
- **Rainfall ranging between 300-400 mm** is expected in City of Kigali, Northern Province, Bugesera, Ngoma, Southern part of Kayonza, Rwamagana, Kirehe, Gisagara, Huye, Nyanza, Ruhango, Muhanga, Kamonyi, Ngororero, Rubavu, Rutsiro and Nyabihu districts.
- **Slightly above normal rainfall ranging between 400-500mm** is expected in Rusizi, Nyamashe, Karongi, Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru districts.



Rainfall forecast for January to March 2020 and its Long Term Mean (LTM)

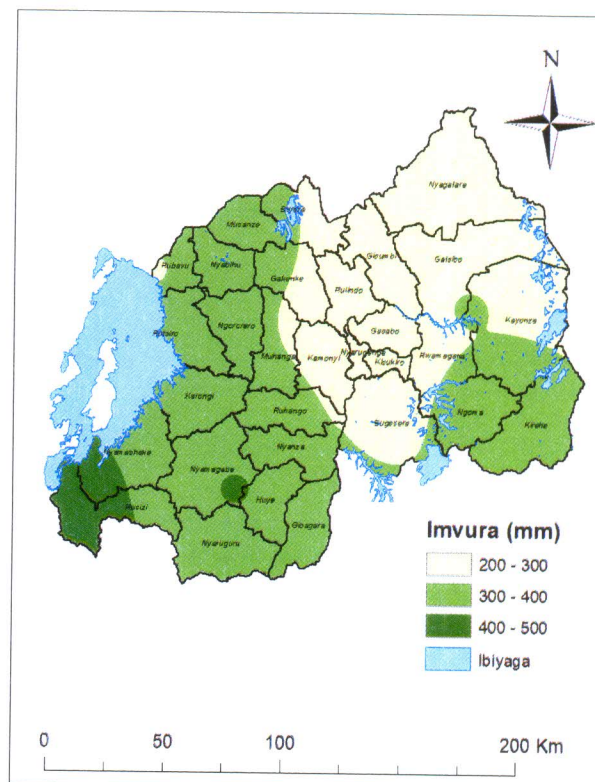
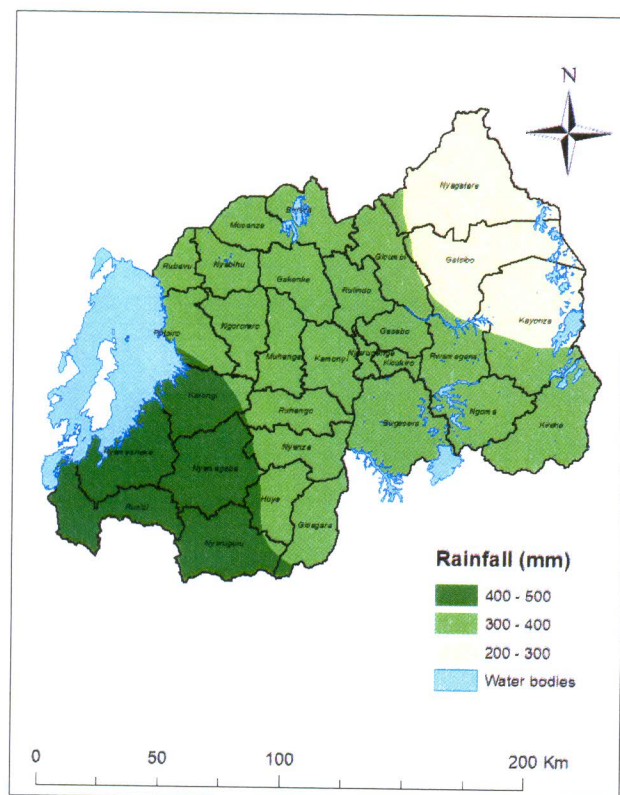


Fig1 : Rainfall forecast for January to March 2020

Fig 2 : Rainfall forecast for January to March Long Term Mean

The expected rainfall may affect the post-harvest handling activities and ongoing infrastructure projects. Therefore relevant authorities are advised to put in place both preventive and mitigative strategies to cope with the aforementioned effects.



Review of the rainfall performance of September to December 2019 with the September to December Long Term Mean

Most parts of the country experienced enhanced rainfall during the season of September to December 2019 compared to its Long Term Mean.

September to December (SOND 2019) seasonal rainfall analysis indicates that the whole country received above normal rainfall which resulted from strong positive Indian Ocean Dipole and convergence of winds over the region.

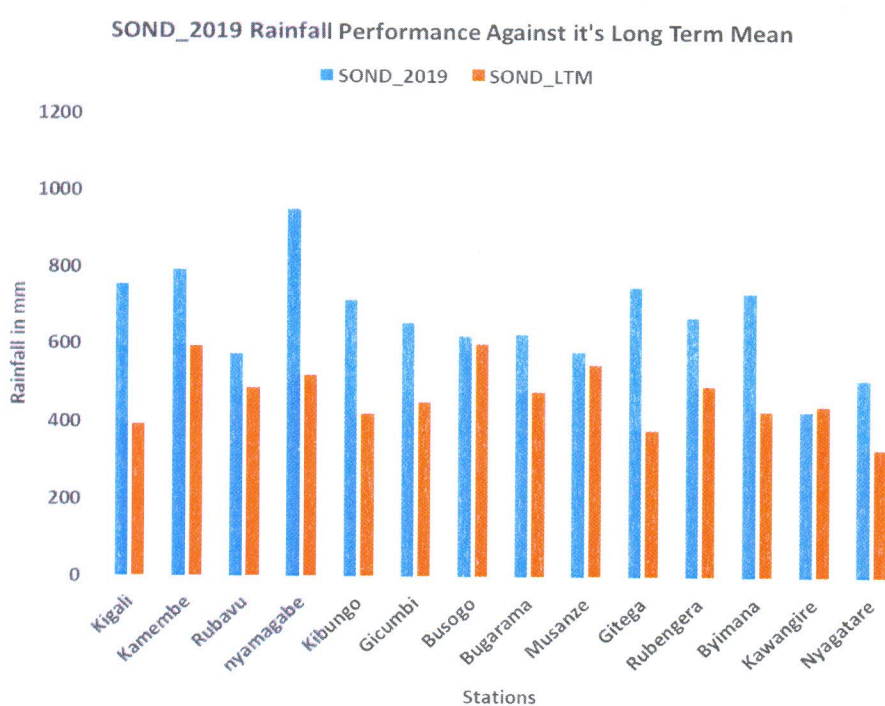


Fig3: SOND_2019 Rainfall performance Against its Long term Mean



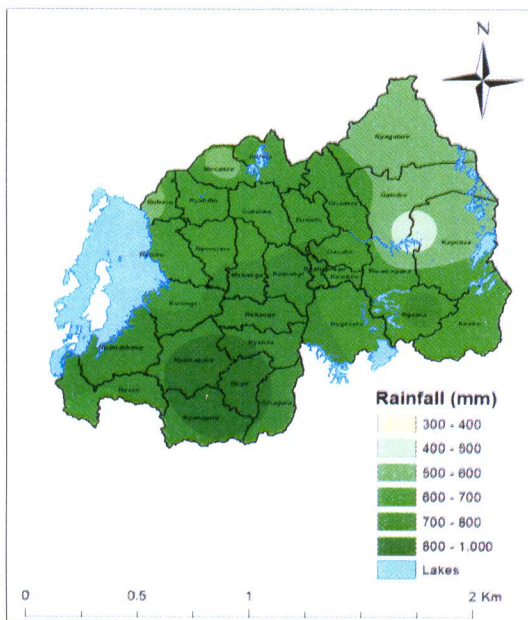


Fig3: Observed Rainfall during September to December (SOND 2019)

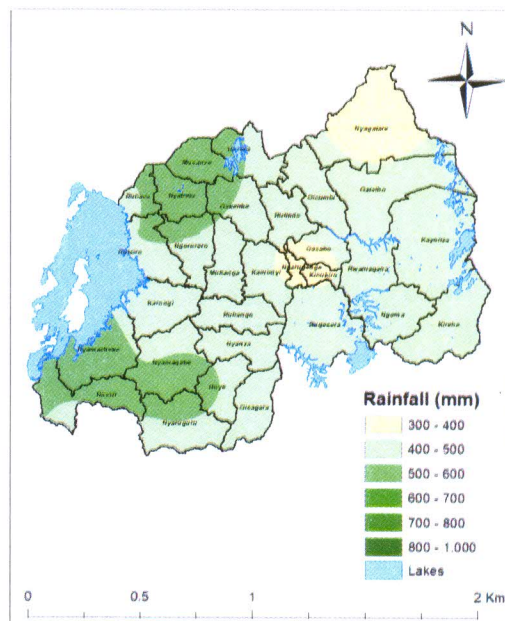



Fig4: September to December Long Term Mean (SOND_LTM)

This outlook is supplemented by daily updates of different timescales (daily, 3 days, 5 days and 10 days forecasts and regular monthly updates) and advisories issued by Rwanda Meteorology Agency. For more information, please contact our Toll Free number 6080.

Done, on 10th January, 2020.


Aimable GAHIGI
Director General

