



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & FORESTRY
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT
Dagoretti Corner, Ngong Road, P. O. Box 30259-00100, GPO, Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254 (0) 20 38567880-7, +254 724 255 153-4
E-mail: director@meteo.go.ke, info@meteo.go.ke Website: <http://www.meteo.go.ke>

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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of the Rift Valley, South Eastern Lowlands and the Coast.

DEKAD 8 PERIOD: 11TH - 20TH MARCH 2024.

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

Most parts of the Country remained dry except over coastal region and central Region Several stations reported less rainfall amounts than in the previous dekad.

- Voi reported the highest amount of rainfall 143.9 mm, followed by Thika which recorded 46.4 mm (Figures 3.1 and 3.3).
- Mean air temperature increased over most parts of the country though some areas reported lower mean air temperatures than in the previous dekad (Figures 3.2 and 3.4).
- Total pan evaporation decreased over most stations relative to the previous dekad.
- During the next ten days, rainfall will be expected over several parts of the country with likeliness of heavy rainfall events in some parts of the Highlands East and West

2.0 WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW FOR THE 11TH – 20TH MARCH 2024.

2.1 WESTERN AND NYANZA REGION

Most stations in the region reported less rainfall compared to the previous dekad. Mean air temperature in the region ranged between 23.4 °C to 25.4 °C. Scattered cloud cover dominated the region throughout the dekad. Rainfall expected to continue from February.

2.2.1 KAKAMEGA:

The station remained dry, which was way below its long-term dekadal mean of 45.0 mm.

The average mean air temperature at the station increased from 23.2 °C to 23.9 °C from the previous dekad. The station reported scattered cloud cover throughout the dekad.

Most farmers are now preparing their land for next planting season.

2.2.2 KISII:

The station recorded 1.21 mm of rainfall, which was below the long term dekadal mean of 55.4mm. The mean air temperature recorded at the station was 23.4°C.

The station reported scattered cloud cover during the morning and broken cloud cover in the afternoon hours throughout the dekad.

Planting is ongoing in lower parts of the county. Over the high-ground areas, most farmers have completed harvesting maize, and are preparing their farms for the next crop.

RIFT VALLEY REGION

The region reported a decrease in rainfall received compared to the previous dekad.

Mean air temperature in the region ranged between 18.6°C to 32.4 °C. Scattered cloud cover was observed in the region throughout the dekad.

2.3.1 KITALE:

The station remained dry over the dekad which was below its dekadal mean of 25.8 mm. The mean air temperature slightly increased from 21.7°C to 21.8°C during the current dekad.

The station reported few cloud cover during the morning hours and scattered cloud cover in the afternoon hours throughout the dekad

Land preparations for the next cropping season are ongoing.

2.3.2 KERICHO:

The station remained dry which was below normal during the dekad. The mean air temperature slightly decreased from 19.8°C from the previous reported value of 19.6 °C.

Farmers are preparing their farms for the next season.

2.4 CENTRAL AND NAIROBI REGION.

Most stations reported a decrease in rainfall amount compared to the previous dekad (Fig 3.3). Mean air temperatures in the region ranged

between 16.7°C and 23.1°C Scattered cloud cover dominated the region throughout the dekad.

1

2.4.1 NYERI:

The station reported a cumulative rainfall amount of 0.6mm which way was below the long term dekadal mean. Mean air temperature slightly decreased from 21.2°C to 21.0°C during the dekad.

The station cloud cover was scattered during the morning increasing to broken in the afternoon throughout the dekad.

Farmers are harvesting and normal yield is expected. Land preparation is also ongoing.

2.4.2 THIKA:

The station received a rainfall amount of 46.4 mm and total pan evaporation was 58.4 mm. The station reported broken cloud cover during the morning hours and scattered cloud cover in the afternoon throughout the dekad.

Most farmers have completed harvesting their maize crop. Land preparation is ongoing in some parts.

2.4.3 DAGORETTI

The station reported a rainfall amount of 6.5mm which is below its long term dekadal mean. The mean air temperature decreased from 21.8 °C to 21.4 °C during the dekad. The station reported scattered cloud cover throughout the dekad.

Land preparation is ongoing.

2.4.4 KABETE:

The station reported a cumulative rainfall amount of 12.5 mm during the dekad. The mean air temperature at the station slightly decreased from 20.9°C to 20.7°C. The station reported broken cloud cover during the morning and few cloud cover during the afternoon throughout the dekad.

2

Some farmers have started land preparation for the next season.

2.4.5 NYAHURURU:

The station remained dry during the dekad. The mean air temperature at the station slightly increased from 16.5°C to 16.7°C. The station reported scattered clouds cover during the morning, broken in the afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Land preparations are still ongoing.

2.5.0 EASTERN REGION:

Most stations reported a decrease in rainfall amount compared to the previous dekad (Fig 3.2). Mean air temperature ranged between 21.4°C and 27.2°C. scattered cloud cover dominated the region throughout the dekad.

2.5.1 MERU:

The station recorded a rainfall amount of 4.7mm. The mean air temperature decreased from 21.6°C to 21.4 °C. Few cloud cover dominated the station throughout the dekad.

2.5.2 EMBU:

The station reported a cumulative rainfall amount of 3.0mm during the dekad. The mean air temperature during the dekad was 22.9°C. The station reported scattered cloud cover throughout the dekad

Farmers have started land preparations process the next crop cycle.

2.5.3 KATUMANI:

The station reported 1.11 mm of rainfall during the dekad. Broken cloud state was observed at the station throughout the dekad.

Land preparation and planting ongoing.

2.6 COASTAL REGION:

Generally, the region received high rains during the current dekad. The mean air temperature ranged between 28.7°C and 31.0°C.

2.6.1 MTWAPA:

The station recorded a rainfall amount of dry over the period. Mean air temperature slightly increased from 30.3°C to 30.4°C. Scattered cloud cover was observed during the dekad.

Land preparation ongoing.

2.6.2 MSABAHA:

The station reported a rainfall amount 0.7 mm during the dekad. The mean air temperature slightly increased from 30.5°C to 30.7°C. Broken cloud cover was observed at the station during the morning hours reducing to few during the afternoon hours.

Land preparations are ongoing.

2.7 NORTH EASTERN REGION:

Most stations in the region remained dry during the dekad Mean air temperature ranged between 25.1°C to 33.2 °C.

Cloud cover was few at Mandera, scattered at Wajir and Garissa.

Pasture and forage conditions have deteriorated, watering points reducing posing danger to both livestock and wildlife in the region.

DEKAD 8 2024 RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE MAPS/ CHARTS & TABLES

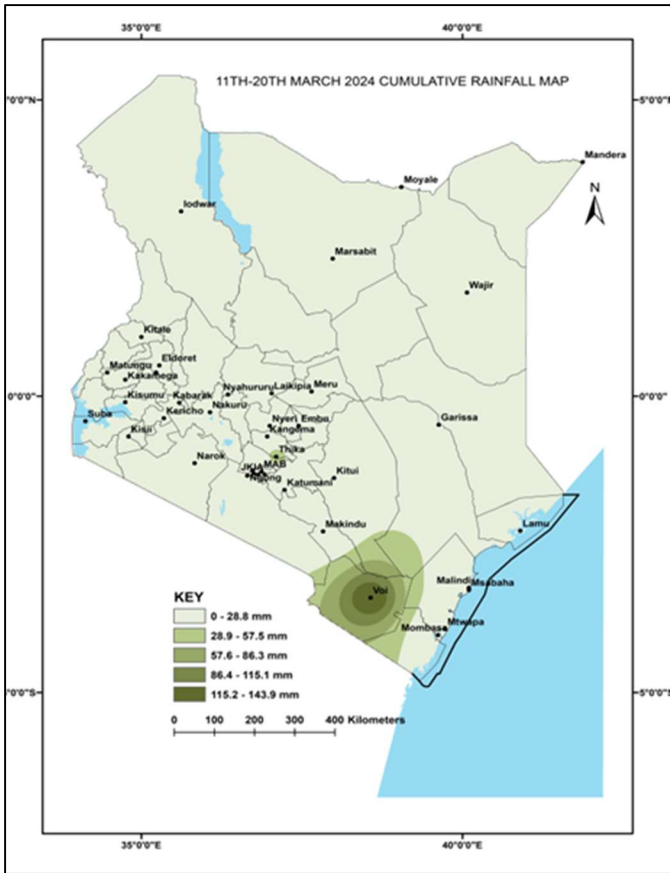


Fig 3.1

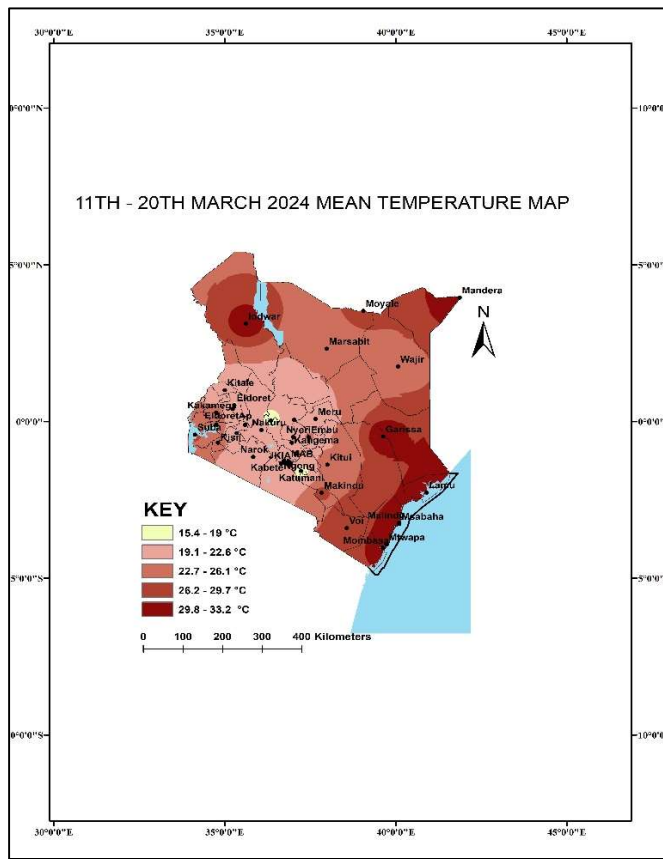


Fig 3.2

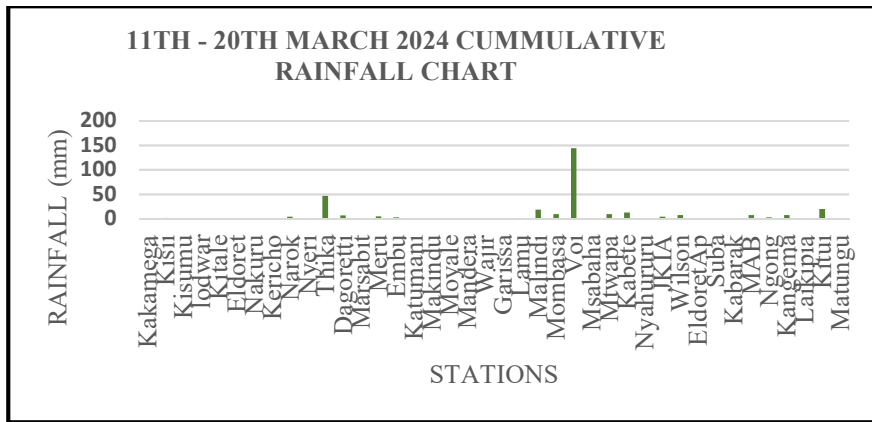


Fig 3.3

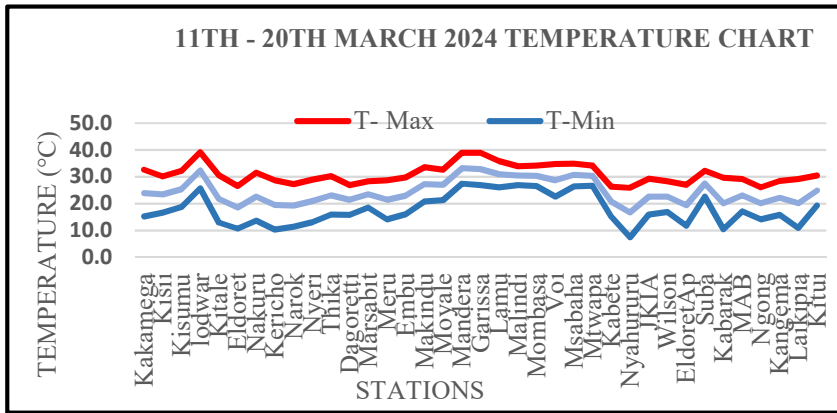


Fig 3.4

4.0 EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT TEN (10) DAYS; 11TH – 20TH MARCH 2024.

During the next ten days, most parts of the country are likely to realise heavy rainfall in Isolated areas; the Highlands East of and West of Rift Valley, the South Eastern lowlands and Coast region.

In the Western and Nyanza regions, morning rains are likely to occur over few places. Afternoon and night showers are expected over few places, spreading to several places during the forecasted period.

In the Central region and Nairobi County, morning rains are likely to occur over few places. Afternoon and night showers are expected over few places, spreading to several places during the forecasted period

North Western, morning rains are likely over few places as well as afternoon and night showers over few places during the first half of the forecast period

North Eastern, morning rains as well as afternoon and night showers are expected over few places. The morning rains and afternoon showers may occasionally spread to several places.

Southeastern lowlands and Coastal regions, morning rains as well as afternoon and night showers are expected over few places, spreading to several places

4.1 AGRO – ADVISORY:

- ❖ Farmers across the country are advised to plant various high yielding crops as the onset came early and the rains are expected to be above normal and last long enough according to the national forecast.
- ❖ Poultry farmers are advised to keep their birds warm to mitigate the effects of cold weather during the long rain season.
- ❖ Famers are advised to liaise with agricultural extension officers to use the right certified seeds and agricultural inputs in the required time frame.
- ❖ Pastoralists in North Western Kenya, North Eastern region, South Rift Valley, and certain areas of the South Eastern Lowland

are advised to ensure proper use of pasture, forage, and water resources.

- ❖ Where there are drainage challenges like flat lands; Mwea irrigation scheme, Along River Nzoia, etc. Farmers are advised to cut tunnels to remove stagnant waters in order to increase the air spaces in the soil thus improving aeration for enhancing root development, intense bacterial activity and promotion of oxidation processes.
 - ❖ Farmers are advised to establish robust collaborations with Meteorological staff and other technical personnel at the grassroots to deepen their understanding of weather patterns and their implications on agricultural activities.
 - ❖ The livestock farmers should be aware of the emerging livestock diseases influenced by enhanced rainfall; like Tick-borne diseases, respiratory diseases, and many other disease conditions. Farmers should contact veterinary personnel for more details on the part of prevention and cure.
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For inquiries or any clarification, please use the contacts on the letterhead.



Mary Githinji

**FOR: DIRECTOR OF
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES**

Kindly send feedback to
The director,
Kenya meteorological department,
P.O Box 30259 – 00100 Nairobi.
Email: Aqrometkenya@gmail.com