



REPORT

KITUI COUNTY OND 2026 PARTICIPATORY SCENARIO PLANNING (PSP)

County Climate Outlook Forum (CCOF)

"Enhancing Preparedness and Early Action for the OND 2026 Rainfall Season under Evolving El Niño Conditions in Kitui County"



Venue: San Marino Hotel, Kitui Town

Dates: 9th – 11th September 2026



Contents

I. Acknowledgement	3
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....	7
1.1 Background and Rationale	7
1.2 Objectives of the PSP/CCOF	7
1.3 Expected Deliverables.....	8
CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	9
2.1 Approach	9
2.2 Venue, Dates and Theme	9
2.3 Selection of Officials for the Meeting	9
2.4 Sector Working Groups	9
CHAPTER THREE: DAY 1 PROCEEDINGS.....	10
3.1 Registration and Opening.....	10
3.2 Welcome and Opening Remarks	10
<i>World Vision Kenya (WVK).....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS).....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>CARITAS Kitui/CDOK and ADSE.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>County Government of Kitui.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>NDMA County Drought Coordinator (CDC).....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>KMSA County Director's Office.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Opening Speech of the Ag. Director General, KMSA.....</i>	<i>11</i>
3.3 Overview and Objectives of PSP	11
3.4 Traditional Forecast Perspectives (Indigenous Traditional Knowledge)	12
3.4.1 Presentation by Mrs. Jemimah Kyenzeku (ITK)	12
3.4.2 Presentation by Mr. Benjamin Kwinga (ITK)	12
3.4.3 Questions and Discussion	12
3.5 OND 2026 Forecast Summary (KMSA).....	13
3.5.1 Review of MAM 2026 Rainfall Performance	13
3.5.2 Understanding El Niño	13
3.5.3 Onset and Cessation	13
3.5.4 Potential Impacts of the OND 2026 Rains	14
3.5.5 Weekly Forecast Summary (Further Advisories).....	14
3.6 Integrating Scientific and Traditional Forecasts/Plenary Discussion	14
3.7 Sectoral Group Work: Translating Forecasts into Action	14
CHAPTER FOUR: DAY 2 PROCEEDINGS.....	15
4.1 Presentation of Seasonal Forecasts	15
4.2 Dissemination of Ward-Specific Advisories	15
<i>(a) Disaster Management (Floods and Other Hazards) and Peace/Security</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>(b) Agriculture, Livestock and Environment.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>General Farm Activities Advisory</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>When to Plant and How</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>General Livestock Sector Actions.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Environmental Sector Key Message</i>	<i>17</i>

(c) Water, Health/Nutrition & Education	17
(d) Energy, Transport, Communication & Urban Planning	17
<i>Urban Planning — flood risk is often created before the rain arrives</i>	17
<i>Energy — rain can protect water resources, but storms can also knock power out</i>	18
<i>Community: 10 Things to Do Now</i>	18
4.3 Plenary Discussion: Farmer Feedback	18
4.4 Community Action Planning: Linking Forecasts to Response	18
CHAPTER FIVE: CLOSING SESSION	19
CHAPTER SIX: KEY OUTCOMES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	20
6.1 Key Outcomes	20
6.2 Challenges	20
6.3 Recommendations	20
CHAPTER SEVEN: CONCLUSION	22
ANNEXES	23
Annex 1: Program Schedule	23
<i>Day 1 – Wednesday, September 9, 2026 (Theme: Bridging Knowledge Systems – Co-Production of Climate Forecasts)</i>	23
<i>Day 2 – Thursday, September 10, 2026 (Theme: Dissemination, Advisory Development and Community Uptake)</i>	24
Annex 2: Selection of Officials for the Meeting	25
Annex 3: Sector Working Groups Membership	25
Annex 4: Traditional Forecasting Indicators (ITK) – Compiled Summary	26
Annex 5: Specific Agro-Weather Advisories by Agro-Ecological Zone	27
Annex 6: Additional Notes from Participants	29
<i>The Nuu Ward Roads</i>	29
Annex 7: Keynote Speech — Ag. Director General, KMSA	30
Annex 8: Photo Gallery	32

I. Acknowledgement

The successful delivery of the Kitui County OND 2026 Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) / County Climate Outlook Forum (CCOF) was made possible through the strong collaboration of the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) Kitui County Office, the Kenya Meteorological Service Authority (KMSA), the County Government of Kitui (CGoKTI), World Vision Kenya (WVK), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), the Caritas Kitui, the Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE), Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK), and other key stakeholders (Drought Field Monitors, farmers).

Special appreciation goes to the leadership of the County Government of Kitui, and all sector leads who guided the sectoral group work, representatives of WVK, KRCS Kitui, Caritas Kitui, and ADSE. Finally, we commend the farmers drawn from wards across Kitui County for their active participation, candid feedback, and commitment to putting the resulting advisories into practice for the benefit of their communities.

We further thank the NDMA County Drought Coordinator (CDC), Madam Eunice Nzilani, for her leadership before, during and after the forum, and the KMSA technical team - led on the day by Ezekiel M. Njoroge, Deputy Director, Forecasting Services, and Dr. Mbithi (County Director, KMSA) - for presenting the scientific OND 2026 seasonal outlook that anchored the deliberations. We equally recognize the holders of Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge (ITK), notably Jemimah and Benjamin Kwinga, whose presentations enriched the forum with locally-grounded forecasting indicators and grounded the scientific outlook in lived community experience.

II. Executive Summary

A three-day Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) forum, also constituted as the Kitui County Climate Outlook Forum (CCOF), was held at San Marino Hotel, Kitui Town, from 9th to 11th September 2026, under the theme “Enhancing Preparedness and Early Action for the OND 2026 Rainfall Season under Evolving El Niño Conditions in Kitui County.” The forum brought together the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the Kenya Meteorological Service Authority (KMSA), the County Government of Kitui, humanitarian and development partners (World Vision Kenya, World Food Programme, Kenya Red Cross Society, Caritas Kitui/CDOK, ADSE), Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge (ITK) holders, and farmers from across the county's wards.

Day 1 (theme: Bridging Knowledge Systems - Co-Production of Climate Forecasts) opened with remarks from partners, the County Government and the NDMA County Drought Coordinator, followed by a reading of the KMSA Director's speech. The day's technical core comprised presentations of Traditional Forecast Perspectives (ITK) by local ITK experts, the KMSA scientific OND 2026 forecast summary (including a review of MAM 2026 performance, an explainer on El Niño/ENSO, onset-and-cessation dates and potential impacts), and a joint session integrating scientific and traditional forecasts. Participants then split into four sectoral groups - (1) Disaster Management and Peace/Security, (2) Agriculture, Livestock and Environment, (3) Water, Health/Nutrition and Education, and (4) Energy, Transport, Communication and Urban Planning - to translate the forecast into sector-specific priority actions, key messages, resource gaps and coordination needs.

Day 2 (theme: Dissemination, Advisory Development and Community Uptake) was structured principally as a recap and wider dissemination of Day 1 outcomes, since additional farmers from various wards joined the forum on day 2. The morning session repeated introductions and opening remarks for their benefit, recapped Day 1's key agreements, and re-presented the seasonal forecast in simplified, locally-accessible language. This was followed by dissemination of ward-specific agro-weather advisories (by agro-ecological zone), a plenary session for farmer feedback, and a Community Action Planning session on Linking Forecasts to Response, during which participants flagged the absence of a bridge over River Enziu (Endau-Malalani Ward) as a priority community risk requiring urgent infrastructural response. The forum closed with remarks from the NDMA County Drought Coordinator, Madam Eunice Nzilani, who thanked all participants and partners, summarized the advisories produced across seven thematic areas, and outlined the way forward through a planned County Steering Group (CSG) meeting after the report and action plans had been drafted to be presented before the cabinet of the Kitui County government for ratification.

Key forecast highlights: the SPI forecast for OND 2026 indicates a low probability of mild, moderate or severe drought over most of Kitui County, with a 15–20% chance of a mild drought event confined to the far eastern sector of Mutha Ward and Tsavo East National Park. Onset of the rains is expected in the 3rd to 4th week of October 2026 across all agro-ecological zones, continuing into January 2027, with fair to good distribution expected countywide. Mean temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average.

III. Acronyms

ADSE:	Anglican Development Services Eastern
ACMAD:	African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development
CCOF:	County Climate Outlook Forum
CDC:	County Drought Coordinator
CDOK:	Catholic Diocese of Kitui
CGoKTI:	County Government of Kitui
CSG:	County Steering Group
DRR:	Disaster Risk Reduction
ENSO:	El Niño Southern Oscillation
GEDSI:	Gender, Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion
IOD:	Indian Ocean Dipole
ITK:	Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge
KMSA:	Kenya Meteorological Service Authority
KRCS:	Kenya Red Cross Society
NDMA:	National Drought Management Authority
OND:	October – November – December (rainfall season)
PSP:	Participatory Scenario Planning
RONI:	Relative Oceanic Niño Index
SPI:	Standardized Precipitation Index
WASH:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP:	World Food Programme
WVK:	World Vision Kenya

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

Kitui County lies within Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and remains highly vulnerable to recurrent drought, erratic and poorly distributed rainfall, and, increasingly, flash floods associated with intense short-rain events. With evolving El Niño conditions shaping the outlook for the October–November–December (OND) 2026 rainfall season, KMSA, NDMA Kitui and county partners convened a three-day Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) forum — doubling as the County Climate Outlook Forum (CCOF) — to bring producers and users of climate information together, interpret the seasonal outlook, assess likely impacts, and translate the forecast into practical, ward-level preparedness and early action.

The forum deliberately paired the scientific seasonal forecast with Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge (ITK) held by local drought monitors and community elders, recognizing that co-produced, locally-owned advisories are more likely to be understood, trusted and acted upon by farming communities.

1.2 Objectives of the PSP/CCOF

The overall aim of the Kitui CCOF/PSP is to enhance climate resilience by providing timely, accurate and actionable climate information to key stakeholders, enabling informed decision-making and effective risk management. It is a tool for promoting resilience at the community and county level. The specific objectives were:

- **Assess Past Climate Performance:** Evaluate the impacts of the MAM 2026 rainfall season on agriculture and food security, environment, livestock and pastoral livelihoods, public health, water resources and disaster risk management, among other sectors, and identify lessons to inform future planning and adaptation.
- **Anticipate Climate Conditions for the Coming Season:** Develop a consensus-based climate outlook for the OND 2026 season based on climate models, indicators and expert assessment, and quantify potential impacts on key sectors and regions.
- **Co-develop Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies:** Facilitate the joint development of tailored adaptation, mitigation and response strategies for climate-sensitive sectors.
- **Strengthen Stakeholder Collaboration:** Foster collaboration among government agencies, academia, humanitarian organizations, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, and enhance stakeholders' capacity to use and interpret climate information for decision-making.
- **Disseminate Climate Information and Early Warnings:** Develop and disseminate timely, user-friendly climate information products — including the OND 2026 seasonal forecast, early warnings and impact assessments — and engage media and other channels in accurate reporting.
- **Integrate Gender, Equity, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI):** Ensure vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, the elderly, women and youth) are involved across all value chains of the climate information services and DRR processes, in line with the EW4ALL Initiative.

1.3 Expected Deliverables

The Kitui CCOF (PSP) was expected to deliver:

- Tailored climate information — development of the county's OND 2026 seasonal outlook.
- Documented impacts and lessons of the MAM 2026 season across sectors.
- User feedback on the usefulness of climate products and level of understanding among users.
- Sectoral action plans — sectoral advisories and action plans for the OND 2026 season, focusing on climate-sensitive sectors.
- Media briefings and messaging for the OND 2026 rainfall season to seamlessly inform all stakeholders.
- Protection of vulnerable groups against the impacts of extreme weather and climate.

CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

The forum adopted a participatory, three-day approach combining plenary presentations, indigenous knowledge sharing, and facilitated sectoral group work, structured around three complementary daily themes: Day 1 focused on co-producing the forecast by bridging scientific and indigenous knowledge systems, while Day 2 focused on disseminating the resulting advisories to a wider farmer audience and on community-level action planning.

2.2 Venue, Dates and Theme

Venue: San Marino Hotel, Kitui Town. Dates: 9th – 11th September 2026. Theme: “Enhancing Preparedness and Early Action for the OND 2026 Rainfall Season under Evolving El Niño Conditions in Kitui County.”

2.3 Selection of Officials for the Meeting

To guide the smooth running of the sessions, participants selected officials as follows:

Role	Assigned To
Time Keeper	Emmanuel Ndunda (Community Member/Farmer)
Welfare	Kawira (Farmer)
Spiritual Leader	Francis Kiteme (DFM/Farmer)
Energizer	Samuel Wambua (DFM)
Chairperson	Benjamin Kwinga (ITK)

2.4 Sector Working Groups

For the sectoral group work on Day 1 (Translating Forecasts into Action), participants organized themselves into four sector groups as follows:

No.	Sector Group	Members
1	Disaster Management (Floods and other possible hazards) and Peace/Security	KMSA, CGoKTI (Disaster), NDMA, KRCS, WVK
2	Agriculture, Livestock and Environment	KMSA, Agriculture and Livestock Dept., WVK, DFM
3	Water, Health/Nutrition & Education	KMSA, Water Dept., Health Rep., ADSE, DFM
4	Energy, Transport, Communication & Urban Planning	KMSA, CGoKTI., CARITAS, KRCS

Each group worked through a common template covering: priority preparedness actions; key messages/advisories to communities; resources required/gaps; coordination or support required; and other relevant information.

CHAPTER THREE: DAY 1 PROCEEDINGS

Theme: Bridging Knowledge Systems (Scientific vs. Indigenous) – Co-Production of Climate Forecasts

3.1 Registration and Opening

Coordination of the meeting was led by the NDMA Secretariat. The meeting formally started at 09:30AM., with introductions led by Joel Mutiso, followed by opening prayers.

3.2 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Partner remarks were given by representatives of World Vision Kenya (WVK), the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), CARITAS-County Diocese of Kitui (CDoK), the Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE), the County Government of Kitui (CGoKTI), the Water, Agriculture and Livestock departments, and the NDMA County Drought Coordinator (CDC), before the KMSA Director's message was read.

World Vision Kenya (WVK)

Kimani Gibson, introducing WVK and giving opening remarks, stated that the agenda for the day had been informed by County Steering Group (CSG) discussions held the previous week, themselves prompted by the advisory on the looming El Niño rains. He emphasized the need for unity of mind and action so that the county could be better prepared, expressed WVK's delight to be part of the meeting, and invited his colleagues to introduce themselves.

Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)

Alex Ngala, the KRCS Kitui Manager, stated that KRCS was transitioning from response to preparedness — aiming to be proactive rather than reactive, especially given the onset of El Niño — and invited his team to introduce themselves.

CARITAS Kitui/CDOK and ADSE

Caritas Kitui was represented and gave brief opening remarks. A representative of the Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE) described the county's organization and how ADSE operates in and its mandate, and highlighted ADSE's ongoing sensitization process with farmers regarding the onset of El Niño.

County Government of Kitui

Joel Ndingi, representing H.E. the Deputy Governor's office, stated his delight at being part of the meeting and explained its purpose: to prepare for the onset of the El Niño rains and to reduce their negative impacts. He noted that he was representing the Deputy Governors who was also leading the conversations on the expected El Niño rains. He then introduced his team, and formally declared the meeting opened at 9:55 a.m. A county official present reiterated the need for accountability and proactiveness in converting challenges into opportunities while capitalizing on those already available. Mr. Thomas, on behalf of the Agriculture department, affirmed the readiness to partner with all stakeholders to turn the challenges to the county's benefit.

Sector-specific remarks followed: Mr. Nzula (Water) outlined the water sector's mandate and described the anticipated rains as a blessing, urging the harvesting of rainwater. Mr. Moffat (Agriculture) outlined the sector's mandate around crop production — what to plant and when — to maximize benefit from the rains and safeguard Kitui's food security. Madam Jackline (Livestock), after

outlining the sector's mandate, noted that September is the period when farmers are advised to deworm and vaccinate their animals in anticipation of the heavy rains (the period when livestock typically pick up worms), and that restocking advice was also being rolled out; she expressed anticipation of a positive engagement.

NDMA County Drought Coordinator (CDC)

Madam Eunice welcomed all participants and commended everyone for their commitment to the meeting, noting that the forum's purpose was to ensure preparedness for the coming heavy rains. She thanked WFP, WVK and Caritas for their support in facilitating the meeting, and also thanked the local radio and TV stations (Radio Thome and Mutongoi TV) for agreeing to broadcast the forum's findings free of charge. She stated that a report was expected to be ready by Friday for presentation to the County Cabinet for adoption, and urged the farmers present to take the lessons from the forum and share them with other farmers so the wider community could benefit.

KMSA County Director's Office

Dr. Mbithi welcomed all participants, stating that the purpose of the forum was to arrive at an advisory that would benefit the community — noting that “a forecast without an advisory does not help much.” He said he looked forward to the involvement of everyone present and that the outcome would be owned by all in agreement, for maximum benefit.

Opening Speech of the Ag. Director General, KMSA

The Ag. Director General, KMSA (Edward M. Muriuki), sent a speech that was read on his behalf by Mr. Ezekiel M. Njoroge, Ag. Deputy Director, Forecasting Services. The Director noted Kitui County's (and the country's) continued vulnerability to floods, droughts, landslides, strong winds and other hydro-meteorological hazards, and underscored the role of the CCOF as a platform bringing together producers and users of climate information to interpret the seasonal forecast, assess risk and translate climate information into practical preparedness and early action. He linked the forum to the objectives of the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS), emphasized that forecast information becomes most valuable when translated into timely decisions and actions before a hazard escalates into a disaster, and called for strong partnership between KMSA, NDMA, the county government, humanitarian agencies, development partners, technical institutions and communities. He urged particular attention to vulnerable communities exposed to floods, drought or other climate-related risks, and closed by wishing participants fruitful deliberations.

Mr. Njoroge, also outlined his own mandate in assisting the County Director to provide the best possible forecast, and noted that the Director-General and other stakeholders were touring counties to assess the level of preparedness.

3.3 Overview and Objectives of PSP

Mr. Njoroge from KMSA HQs presented the overview and objectives of the PSP process and its link to resilience building, covering the CCOF/PSP aim, the six specific objectives (see Chapter One), the integration of GEDSI considerations, and the expected deliverables of the Kitui CCOF.

3.4 Traditional Forecast Perspectives (Indigenous Traditional Knowledge)

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) experts and drought monitors presented local, indigenous forecasting indicators, in Kamba, drawing on close observation of trees and plants, birds, insects, livestock and other animal behavior, and celestial and weather signs.

3.4.1 Presentation by Mrs. Jemimah Kyenzeku (ITK)

Jemimah explained that trees change how they sway with the change of weather. During the dry season trees shed their leaves, sprouting again in August, and more vigorously with the short rains, when they produce their own seeds and grow rapidly. The tamarind tree shows reddish leaves at the onset of rains — a process observed to be underway at the time of the forum. Another tree that grows in dry areas (Kyoo) signals approaching rains when its seeds/fruits develop. The baobab sheds its leaves in the dry season but grows new leaves as rains approach. Birds — sparrows and swallows — appearing from nowhere and circulating are also signs of rains.

On insects, she noted that bee swarms migrating from the north-east affect bean/crop growing directions and show where and when the rains will start. Dragonflies (Minzai) being seen indicate the rains are about to come. Safari ants (Nguaku/Nthwaku) in plenty indicate the rains are approaching and will be plentiful.

On sky signs, she described stars, clouds and the moon's corona as indicators of cold weather, alongside Kikame (a distinctive night-time sound pattern), frogs and millipedes becoming active, and Kivuna (whirlwinds/dust devils) — an indication that rains will pass through the home or farm where they are observed. She noted that in Mutito, a fire is observed in the forest during the onset of the rains, understood to mean that the rains are approaching to put out the fire (consistent with the community account of the Sacred Fire of Mutitu wa Ndoa Hill — see Annex 6).

3.4.2 Presentation by Mr. Benjamin Kwinga (ITK)

Mr. Kwinga described animal-based indicators used by ITK holders: when livestock become jumpy/unusually happy, rains are considered near — with a caution to farmers near rivers to take extra care. Insects and bees passing in swarms indicate the rains will be heavy, with their direction of flight indicating where the rains are coming from and cautioning farmers to prepare; dragonflies flying lower than usual reinforce this signal. Other insects becoming jumpy around homes and rivers likewise indicate approaching rains. Safari ants (Nguaku/Nthwaku) seen in plenty indicate the rains are near and will be plentiful.

On celestial signs, he described the skies (astronomy — Kalwanza) and winds (associated with lightning) from the south-west, morning and evening, as an indication of plentiful rains; the Kiemea star constellation as indicating a lot of rain; and a halo/ring of light around the moon as indicating heavy rains. He noted that the unusually cold weather in August and September had caused confusion among the indicator trees, which were flowering out of season, and observed that the same cold pattern had preceded the 1997 El Niño, when early planting and timing were key to high yields. The icy peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro (Kayolaa), visible morning and evening, was cited as a further indication of heavy rains.

3.4.3 Questions and Discussion

- Q: If a bird cries in the morning, what kind of danger does this indicate? A: A lot of rain.
- Q: What does a bee swarm passing above one's head indicate? A: An indication of heavy rains.

- Q: Is it true that some communities deliberately burn forests so that rains will come? Participants noted that this practice has many different versions and interpretations across communities.
- Concurrence: Traditionally, the community agreement is that rain is indicated once certain signs are observed, but since not all the expected signs had yet been seen at the time of the forum, the rains were not yet imminent but great caution recommended in order to be prepared for the onset of the expected heavy rains.
- Anthony (Agriculture Department) clarified that agricultural advice to farmers depends on the forecast: if above normal, the rains are considered adequate. Early land preparation — including clearing terraces — and seed selection were emphasized as priorities before anything else.
- Amos Kitauka (Agriculture Officer) added that when heavy rains are expected, timing matters: farmers are advised to plant three weeks before the expected onset but not the entire farm; the remainder should be planted after the heavy rains begin, to avoid waterlogging. Early planting of only part of the farm, to observe the level of the rains, was agreed as the scientifically supported approach.

3.5 OND 2026 Forecast Summary (KMSA)

3.5.1 Review of MAM 2026 Rainfall Performance

KMSA opened its technical session with a review of the MAM 2026 season's performance across Kitui County. Stations recording over 700 mm included Ithumula (887.2 mm), Kavalula (853.0 mm), Matinyani (770.0 mm), Kitui Met. (745.5 mm) and Muselele (and 727.9 mm). Stations recording below 300 mm included Ngunguni (240.4 mm) in Mumoni Ward, Kalambani (267.8 mm) in Mutha Ward and Tulia (294.6 mm) in Mutonguni Ward; the rest of the county received over 300 mm.

3.5.2 Understanding El Niño

KMSA explained that El Niño is not rainfall itself, but a natural climate pattern across the tropical Pacific Ocean that swings back and forth every 2–7 years on average, and is one of three phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO): El Niño (warm phase), Neutral (normal phase) and La Niña (cool phase). ENSO alters global atmospheric circulation, influencing temperature and precipitation worldwide; in Kenya, both El Niño and La Niña are associated with extreme weather mainly during the OND season. El Niño is characterized by a positive Relative Oceanic Niño Index (RONI) of +0.5°C or greater, sustained for at least five consecutive overlapping three-month seasons to be classified as a full-fledged episode. Under normal conditions, trade winds blow west along the equator, carrying warm water from South America towards Asia, and Pacific sea-surface temperatures (SSTs) stay close to average; during El Niño, trade winds weaken and warm water is pushed back east toward South America, with SSTs warmer than average in the central and eastern Pacific.

El Niño events are classified by RONI temperature anomaly as Weak (+0.5°C to +0.9°C), Moderate (+1.0°C to +1.4°C), Strong (+1.5°C to +1.9°C) and Very Strong ($\geq +2.0^\circ\text{C}$); since 1950 the world has experienced five Very Strong El Niño events.

3.5.3 Onset and Cessation

The expected onset and cessation dates by agro-ecological zone are as follows: for the Lower Zone (<300–400 mm), Middle Zone (400–500 mm) and Upper Zone (>500 mm) alike, onset is expected in the 3rd to 4th week of October, with cessation continuing into January 2027, and distribution expected to be fair to good across all zones.

3.5.4 Potential Impacts of the OND 2026 Rains

The enhanced rainfall expected during October–December is expected to have both negative and positive impacts across various sectors, to be detailed by sector leads. The SPI forecast for the OND 2026 season indicates that the probability of mild, moderate or severe drought events is low over most of the County. There is, however, a 15–20% chance of a mild drought event in the far eastern sector of Mutha Ward and Tsavo East National Park. Mean temperatures are predicted to be warmer than average during the season.

3.5.5 Weekly Forecast Summary (Further Advisories)

Partly cloudy conditions in the mornings are expected to break into sunny intervals for the rest of the day across Kitui County, with a chance of light rain over high-ground areas around the weekend. Maximum temperatures are expected to range from 25–35°C, and minimum temperatures from 13–22°C, both predicted to be warmer than average throughout the county. Strong southerly to south-easterly winds, with speeds exceeding 25 knots (12.86 m/s), are expected to occur intermittently in parts of the county. Community members were advised to inculcate a culture of being “weather-ready, climate-smart and water-wise” to navigate the changing climate and mitigate its adverse effects, and farmers were further advised to consult local extension officers at ward and sub-county level for detailed advice on farm harvesting, post-harvest practices and farm preparation for the expected OND 2026 short rains.

3.6 Integrating Scientific and Traditional Forecasts/Plenary Discussion

A joint session brought KMSA, NDMA and ITK experts together to reconcile the three knowledge streams into a single harmonized message, followed by open plenary discussion:

- Q: What does “fair to good” distribution mean in practice? A: Dr. Mbithi clarified that while the rains are expected to be heavy with good distribution overall, certainty cannot be guaranteed; room must be left for eventualities, and some parts of the county could still experience poor or reduced rainfall.
- Q: Farmers with resource constraints asked whether there was room to provide more detailed distribution information, given how important this variable is for planning. A: What is presented is a summary; a closer look reveals dry spells and finer variation. A gap in technical know-how in cascading this information down to farmer level was acknowledged, and it was agreed that more needs to be done to get such information down to the level of the farmer.
- Q: What should be fast-tracked before the rains arrive? A: Dissemination of information.
- Q: Have the hotspots (drought/flood risk areas) been mapped? A: This will be included in the advisories.

3.7 Sectoral Group Work: Translating Forecasts into Action

Participants split into the four sector groups listed in Section 2.4 to translate the forecast into concrete, sector-specific advisories using a common template (priority preparedness actions; key messages/advisories to communities; resources required/gaps; coordination or support required; other relevant information). The detailed outputs of each group — later disseminated to the wider farmer audience on Day 2 — are presented in Section 4.6 and Annex 5.

CHAPTER FOUR: DAY 2 PROCEEDINGS

Theme: Dissemination, Advisory Development and Community Uptake

Day 2 opened with a word of prayer at 8:30 a.m., followed by introductions from participants. Additional farmers from various wards across Kitui County joined the forum on this second day, considerably widening the reach of the dissemination exercise. Because of these new participants, further introductions and opening remarks from stakeholders and partners were repeated for their benefit, and the morning session was structured principally as a recap of Day 1's key outcomes and agreements, rather than the presentation of new content.

4.1 Presentation of Seasonal Forecasts

KMSA and the ITK Experts jointly explained the OND 2026 rainfall patterns and their implications in local (Kamba) language, in a simplified format accessible to the wider farmer audience. This included a recap discussion on the traditional forecasting indicators for the benefit of the new participants:

- Q: How do the observations from stars, animals and trees (ITK) help tell the weather — how is this knowledge acquired? A: All of it is understood as the plan of the Creator (the Lord), and comes after a long period of observation of habits and patterns throughout the seasons.
- Q: How does ITK use wind direction to tell where the rains are coming from? A: The direction from which the wind is blowing indicates where the rains are coming from.
- Q: Farmers mostly prefer highly productive maize varieties — which would be recommended for this period? A: Farmers were advised to plant the ecologically suitable, certified varieties listed in the agro-weather advisories (see Section 4.2 and Annex 5), noting that varieties expected to extend the growing period to February are not encouraged, as they tend to be highly susceptible to wind damage; where such varieties are already grown, wind breaks should be established.

4.2 Dissemination of Ward-Specific Advisories

KMSA, together with the Agriculture, Livestock, Water/Health/Education and Energy/Transport/Urban Planning sector leads, translated the forecast into practical, ward-specific advice for crops, livestock and water management, drawing on the sectoral group outputs developed on Day 1. The advisories disseminated are summarized below by sector, with the full agro-ecological zone crop-variety tables reproduced at Annex 5.

(a) Disaster Management (Floods and Other Hazards) and Peace/Security

Priority risk flagged: overflowing waters/rivers is expected. Priority preparedness actions communicated to the community included:

- Preposition emergency supplies and relief food.
- Conduct household assessments to ensure everything is in order ahead of the rains.
- Put in place proper water drainage systems.
- Fence (wall) homes, settlements and schools.
- Be home early — community members were advised to return home early to avoid being locked out by heavy rains.
- Ensure that elderly persons are well protected.

- Ensure school-going children are not left out and are informed of protection measures.

(b) Agriculture, Livestock and Environment

General Farm Activities Advisory

- Early land preparation: complete before 15th October.
- Repair soil and water conservation structures (terraces).
- Repair water storage structures: desilting of farm ponds, weirs, water tanks and gutters.
- Deep ploughing or sub-soiling to allow water to percolate.
- Pre-germination (seed soaking) and seed preparation.
- Practice scattered planting and, if need be, relay planting for pulses.
- Scale up manure and fertilizer application (basal and top dressing).
- Timely weed control; use selective herbicide if monocropped.
- Timely and proper pest and disease surveillance and control.
- Proper spacing of crops.
- Plant ecologically suitable, certified seeds as indicated by zone.
- Establish fruit and forest tree nurseries.

When to Plant and How

- Dry-plant during the onset week.
- Wet-plant to coincide the crop with the period of low/no rains during harvesting.
- Farmers were advised to plant three-thirds (2/3) of the farm at onset and the remaining one-third (1/3) later, to spread the risk.

Specific agro-weather advisories — recommended crops, varieties and spacing — were issued for each of the county's three agro-ecological zones (Upper Zone: above 500 mm; Middle Zone: 400–500 mm; Lower Zone: below 300 mm), covering maize, beans, cow peas, pigeon peas, dolichos, cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum, millets, green grams, sunflower, and (for the upper and middle zones) mango and citrus varieties. The full tables are reproduced at Annex 5.

General Livestock Sector Actions

(i) Feed resources management:

- Bush clearing and land management for pasture establishment.
- Rehabilitation of existing, and establishment of new, water-harvesting structures.
- Timely planting and harvesting of improved pastures and fodder, including grasses, lucerne, fodder trees and feed crops.
- Fodder and pasture conservation through hay and silage making.
- Construction/repair of hay barns to avoid post-harvest losses.
- Adopt off-farm feed formulation using locally available raw materials.
- Ration feeding/paddock/conservative feeding.

(ii) General livestock sector actions (continued):

- Restocking with young animals and culling old stock (cows, goats, sheep).

- Local breed improvement through local selection or cross-breeding with exotic breeds.
- Deworming alongside multivitamin administration to strengthen immunity.
- Keeping young animals in a warm environment to control hypothermia, and isolating any animal showing signs of disease.
- Vector control through spraying or dipping (e.g. cypermethrin).
- Vaccination of animals against endemic diseases, especially vector-borne ones (ticks, mosquitoes, tsetse flies, houseflies).
- Improved biosecurity — adequate fencing and housing for livestock protection against predators and theft, and maintaining a clean environment.
- Rehabilitation and restocking of fish ponds.

Environmental Sector Key Message

- Afforestation of denuded lands.
- Gully repair and rehabilitation.
- Collection of waste along waterways.
- Establish new and repair existing soil and water conservation structures.

(c) Water, Health/Nutrition & Education

- Take advantage of the expected rains to harvest water for future use.
- Ensure drinking water is free from contamination through treating and storing it in clean, covered containers.
- Do not draw drinking water from the same sources used by livestock, especially surface water sources.
- Drain all stagnant water in schools, homes and their environs.
- Avoid crossing swollen rivers and streams (both adults and children).
- Report any structure at risk of failing, for action.
- Enhance the homegrown school feeding programme.
- Strengthen good WASH practices in schools and at community level.
- Encourage consumption of traditional vegetables to enhance nutrition.

(d) Energy, Transport, Communication & Urban Planning

Urban Planning — flood risk is often created before the rain arrives

What can go wrong: blocked/undersized drainage; waterlogged foundations; collapse of weak/unapproved buildings; displacement and disease risk; damage to public facilities and waste systems.

Do this before the rain: unclog major drainages; fix gutters and leaking roofs; map high-risk settlements; reclaim/protect wetland zones; move residents from high-risk riverine areas; consider a temporary stop on new building permits in flood zones.

The trigger: ≥ 50 mm rainfall in 24 hours → issue 7-day evacuation notices for riverine residents, intensify monitoring, and displace residents to safe areas where necessary. Lead: Municipality/Disaster Department.

Energy — rain can protect water resources, but storms can also knock power out

Hazards: loose/hanging wires; rotting wooden poles; lightning strikes to transformers; debris at hydropower intakes; trees across power lines.

Early action: replace vulnerable wooden poles with concrete poles; clear trees within 10 m of lines; pre-position diesel generators at Level-4 hospitals; unplug appliances during storms; pre-position backup power at critical sites.

Public safety: never touch fallen wires; during storms, stay away from power lines, protect essential equipment from surges, and report faults quickly. Lead: KPLC/KenGen; Others: County Health, NDMA.

Community: 10 Things to Do Now

- Know your nearest safe area.
- Keep drains and waterways clear.
- Do not build or settle in flood-risk areas.
- Avoid crossing flooded rivers, bridges and drifts.
- Keep children away from floodwater and electrical hazards.
- Secure roofs, loose structures and household items.
- Save emergency contacts offline.
- Keep phones/power banks charged when storms are expected.
- Follow verified weather and county alerts.
- Act early — do not wait until water reaches your home.

4.3 Plenary Discussion: Farmer Feedback

- Q: Why not use solar (energy)? A: During El Niño, solar power is not quite sustainable owing to persistent cloud cover, hence the continued need for grid backup and pre-positioned generators at critical sites.
- Farmers with resource constraints reiterated the request for more detailed distribution information to support their planning; sector leads reaffirmed that this would be strengthened as hotspot mapping and dissemination channels improve.

4.4 Community Action Planning: Linking Forecasts to Response

NDMA, KMSA, CGoKTI and county sector representatives worked with farmers to draft simple, ward-level action points translating the sectoral advisories into locally owned commitments. A specific community risk area was raised for priority action:

- River Enziu (Endau-Malalani Ward, Twambui Sub-location, Malalani Location): the river was identified as a recurrent hazard causing loss of life among both people (including children) and livestock, because there is no bridge linking Enziu market to village households on the opposite bank. Participants recommended that this risk area be escalated for infrastructural intervention (bridge construction) ahead of the anticipated OND 2026 rains.

General action commitments agreed for Ward-level adoption included:

- Adhere to the sectoral advisories issued during the forum.
- Monitor rivers for sweeping/flooding; avoid crossing or driving through swollen rivers.

- Declutter homesteads ahead of the rains.
- Dig trenches/drainage at farms prone to waterlogging (flat farms).
- Treat drinking water before use.
- After the forum, a County Steering Group (CSG) meeting will be convened for leaders to disseminate the resolutions further.
- Sectors were urged to start implementation early, mobilize resources for dissemination, and be ready for the coming weeks, with each sector acting on its part.
- All partners — including relevant county sector departments and KPLC — are to be represented in follow-up coordination.

CHAPTER FIVE: CLOSING SESSION

In her closing remarks, the NDMA County Drought Coordinator, Madam Eunice Nzilani, thanked all participants for their engagement over the three days, specifically appreciating the Office of the Governor, the County Commissioner, the Kenya Meteorological Service Authority, county government officers, development partners and farmers for their contribution to the forum's success.

She noted that, over the days, the forum had produced practical advisories across seven thematic areas — Agriculture, Water, Livestock, Urban Planning, Energy, Health and Education — and urged all stakeholders to now put these advisories into practice and to share the information as widely as possible within their communities. She reaffirmed that NDMA and KMSA would continue to provide early warning updates, and encouraged participants to keep listening to radio broadcasts and attending forums for updates, remaining alert to any further advisories issued ahead of the season's onset.

Among the specific directives she highlighted for adherence to the advisories were: monitoring rivers for sweeping/flooding and avoiding crossing or driving through them when swollen; decluttering homesteads; digging trenches and drainage at farms prone to waterlogging; and treating drinking water before use.

On the way forward, she announced that a County Steering Group (CSG) meeting would be convened to disseminate the forum's resolutions to leaders, drive early implementation, mobilize resources for dissemination, and ensure readiness for the coming weeks, with every sector expected to act promptly on its part. She emphasized that all partners should be represented in such follow-through, underscoring that the overarching goal was to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the Kitui community. She closed the forum with words of gratitude and expressed hope for continued collaboration for the people of Kitui.

CHAPTER SIX: KEY OUTCOMES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Key Outcomes

- Successful co-production of a harmonized OND 2026 forecast message bridging scientific (KMSA) and Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge (ITK), with participants reaching consensus that, while several traditional signs of approaching rains had been observed, not all expected signs were yet present at the time of the forum.
- Seven comprehensive sectoral advisories — Agriculture, Livestock, Environment, Water, Health/Education, Energy, and Transport/Urban Planning/Disaster Management — developed and disseminated to farmers drawn from across Kitui County's wards, including the additional farmers who joined on Day 2.
- A priority community risk area (the absence of a bridge over River Enziu in Endau-Malalani Ward) identified through Community Action Planning and flagged for infrastructural response.
- Renewed commitments from NDMA, KMSA, the County Government of Kitui, and partners (WVK, KRCS, WFP, CARITAS Kitui/CDOK, ADSE) to continue collaborating on Early Warning and Early Action, including free broadcast support from a local radio station.
- Agreement to convene a County Steering Group (CSG) meeting as the immediate next step to disseminate resolutions, mobilize resources and drive implementation.

6.2 Challenges

- A gap in technical know-how in cascading detailed, localized rainfall-distribution information down to the level of the individual farmer.
- Resource constraints among farmers that may limit practical uptake of some of the recommended advisories (e.g. certified seed, water storage infrastructure).
- Existing infrastructural gaps — such as the missing bridge over River Enziu — that heighten the county's exposure to loss of life during the rains.
- The need for collaboration with other key state departments (KPLC/KenGen, KeNHA, KeRRA, etc) and other partners to bridge the gaps identified.
- Logistical constraints caused by limited resources.

6.3 Recommendations

- Fast-track dissemination of the sectoral advisories to communities ahead of the anticipated onset of rains in the 3rd – 4th week of October 2026.
- Formalize ward-level hotspot mapping to guide more targeted, localized early warning and response planning.
- Convene the planned County Steering Group (CSG) meeting promptly to finalize and ratify the forum's report and to mobilize resources for implementation.
- Prioritize infrastructural interventions — notably the construction of a bridge over River Enziu in Endau-Malalani Ward — to prevent further loss of life.
- Continue to integrate ITK with scientific forecasting in future CCOF/PSP forums, given its value in building community trust and understanding of the seasonal outlook.

- Sustain the media/radio partnership (e.g. with Radio Thome) to ensure wide, free dissemination of forecast findings and advisories.
- Strengthen sector-level preparedness across all seven thematic advisory areas, with each sector encouraged to act early and be ready ahead of the coming weeks.

CHAPTER SEVEN: CONCLUSION

The Kitui County OND 2026 Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP)/County Climate Outlook Forum (CCOF), held on 9th – 10th September 2026 at San Marino Hotel, Kitui Town, under the theme “Enhancing Preparedness and Early Action for the OND 2026 Rainfall Season under Evolving El Niño Conditions,” successfully brought together scientific and indigenous knowledge holders, national and county government, humanitarian and development partners, and farmers from across the county to co-produce a shared understanding of the coming rainfall season and translate it into actionable, ward-specific advisories.

With the season's onset expected in the last week of October 2026, continuing into January 2027 with fair to good distribution across the county's agro-ecological zones, the forum's outputs — spanning agriculture, livestock, environment, water, health, education, energy, transport and urban planning, and disaster management/peace and security — now form the basis for county-level preparedness and early action ahead of the season.

The identification of the missing River Enziu bridge as a priority community risk area, through the Community Action Planning session on Linking Forecasts to Response, underscores the practical value of grounding forecast information in locally-owned action planning. Sustained collaboration between NDMA, KMSA, the County Government of Kitui, partners and communities — anchored by the planned County Steering Group follow-up meeting — will be essential to translate the forum's advisories into resilience on the ground for the people of Kitui.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Program Schedule

Day 1 – Wednesday, September 9, 2026 (Theme: Bridging Knowledge Systems – Co-Production of Climate Forecasts)

Time	Session	Lead/Facilitator	Objectives / Key Activities
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	NDMA Secretariat	Participant registration and distribution of workshop materials
09:00 – 09:10	Opening Prayers and Introductions	ADDCPR NDMA	Official opening prayers and self-introductions
09:10 – 10:00	Welcome & Opening Remarks (Partner Remarks – 5 mins each): NDMA, KMSA, CGoKTI, WVK, WFP, KRCS, CDOK/Caritas Kitui, ADSE; County Commissioner Official Opening	CDC NDMA	Highlight purpose of PSP and expected outcomes
10:00 – 10:15	Overview and objectives of PSP	KMSA HQs	Introduce PSP process and its link to resilience building
10:10 – 10:40	Traditional Forecast Perspectives	ITK Experts/Drought Monitors	Presentation of local/indigenous forecasting indicators
10:40 – 11:00	Health Break	All	Tea/Networking
11:00 – 11:30	OND 2026 Outlook Summary	KMSA	Presentation of scientific seasonal forecast data and uncertainties
11:30 – 12:30	Integrating Scientific & Traditional Forecasts	KMSA + NDMA + ITK	Joint discussion to co-produce a harmonized forecast message
12:30 – 13:00	Plenary Discussion	Moderated by NDMA ADDCPR	Group reflections, gaps, and consensus-building
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	All	
14:00 – 15:30	Sectoral Group Work: Translating Forecasts into Action	All (in sectoral groups)	Each sector defines implications and recommended advisories
15:30 – 16:00	Day 1 Wrap-Up and Reflection	Rapporteur/NDMA/KMSA	Summary of key agreements, announcements for Day 2
16:00 –	Health Break and end of Day 1	All	

Day 2 – Thursday, September 10, 2026 (Theme: Dissemination, Advisory Development and Community Uptake)

Time	Session	Lead/Facilitator	Objectives / Key Activities
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival & Registration for Day 2	NDMA Secretariat	Check-in for farmers and day's participants
09:30 – 09:45	Opening Prayer & Day 1 Recap	Rapporteur/NDMA	Quick recap of key outcomes from Day 1
09:45 – 10:00	Farmers' Introduction & Expectations	CGoKTI Agriculture Office, NDMA, KMSA	Capture farmers' expectations for PSP dissemination
10:00 – 10:15	Overview and objectives of PSP	KMSA HQs	Introduce PSP process and its link to resilience building
10:15 – 10:45	Presentation of Seasonal Forecasts (Simplified)	KMSA/ITK Experts	Explain OND 2026 rainfall patterns and implications in local language
10:45 – 11:00	Health Break	All	Networking
11:00 – 12:00	Dissemination of Ward-Specific Advisories	KMSA	Translate forecasts into practical advice for crops, livestock, and water management
12:00 – 13:00	Plenary Discussion: Farmer Feedback	Agriculture/Livestock/Sectors	Collect feedback and validation from farmers' representatives
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	All	
14:00 – 14:30	Community Action Planning: Linking Forecasts to Response	NDMA, KMSA, CGoKTI, and County Sectors	Draft simple action points for ward-level adoption
14:30 – 15:00	Closing Session	Director Agriculture/CDC NDMA	
15:00 –	Tea and Departure	All	

Annex 2: Selection of Officials for the Meeting

Role	Assigned To
Time Keeper	Emmanuel Ndunda (Community member/Farmer)
Welfare	Kawira (Farmer)
Spiritual Leader	Francis Kiteme (Drought Field Monitor)
Energizer	Samuel Wambua (Drought Field Monitor)
Chairperson	Benjamin Kwinga (ITK)

Annex 3: Sector Working Groups Membership

No.	Sector Group	Members
1	Disaster Management (Floods and other possible hazards) and Peace/Security	CGoKTI (Disaster), NDMA, KRCS, WVK
2	Agriculture, Livestock and Environment	Agriculture and Livestock Dept., WVK, DFM
3	Water, Health/Nutrition & Education	Water dept., Health Rep., ADSE, DFM
4	Energy, Transport, Communication & Urban Planning	CGoKTI., KMSA, CARITAS, KRCS

Annex 4: Traditional Forecasting Indicators (ITK) – Compiled Summary

Category	Traditional Indicator and Meaning
Trees & Plants	Tamarind tree develops reddish leaves at the onset of rains. Trees shed leaves in the dry season, sprouting again in August and, more vigorously, at the short rains. The Kyoo tree (grows in dry areas) fruiting/seeding signals approaching rains. Baobab sheds leaves in dry season and re-leafs as rains approach. Trees "confused" (flowering out of season) in 2026 attributed to unusually cold weather. Sacred fire at Mutitu wa Ndoa Hill during onset of the Nthwa (Oct–Dec) rains is believed to be extinguished only by the rains themselves.
Birds	Sparrows and swallows appearing and circulating signal approaching rains. Nyange (a large bird) camping around trees/homes signals big rains coming. Kathekya Maia bird humming beautifully indicates rains and food are coming. Mboicyakwa bird indicates rains are coming and food will be available.
Insects	Bee swarms migrating (observed from the north-east) and flying low indicate heavy rains approaching; their direction of flight indicates where the rains are coming from. Dragonflies (Minzai) seen flying lower than usual caution farmers that rains are approaching. Safari ants/Nthwaku seen in plenty indicate rains are near and will be plentiful.
Livestock & Other Animals	Livestock becoming jumpy/unusually happy signals rains are near — also a caution to farmers near rivers to take care. Other insects and birds becoming jumpy around homes and rivers likewise signal approaching rains.
Sky & Celestial Signs	The Kiemea star constellation indicates plentiful rains. A halo/ring of light around the moon indicates heavy rains. Winds from the south-west (Kalwanza), morning and evening, indicate plentiful rains. The icy peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro (Kayolaa), visible morning and evening, indicates heavy rains. Cold weather during the normally hot months of August–September (as observed in 2026) is read as an indication that rains will be prolonged and heavy, echoing patterns observed before the 1997 El Niño.
Other Signs	Kikame – a distinctive night-time sound pattern; frogs and millipedes becoming active; Kivuna (whirlwinds/dust devils) passing over a home or farm indicate rains will pass through that area.
Scientific Reference	Cross- KMSA linked some indicators to physical science: cloud condensation nuclei (dust, sea salt, smoke particles); the Niño 3.4 Index and ENSO status; and, during OND under El Niño conditions, a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) associated with near surface seafood/marine activity as an additional signal.
Consensus Reached	Participants agreed that, traditionally, the presence of some signs indicates that rains are coming, but since not all signs had yet been observed at the time of the forum, the rains were not yet certain or imminent in the strictest sense.

Annex 5: Specific Agro-Weather Advisories by Agro-Ecological Zone

Upper Zone (above 500 mm) — Wards: Miambani, Kyangwithya East, Township, Matinyani, Upper Mulango, Kyangwithya West, Nzambani, Chuluni, Mutito/Kaliku.

Probable OND 2026 amount: above 500 mm

Crop	Recommended Varieties / Spacing
1. Maize	Pioneer 2859, Panna 3m-01, Duma 43 & Duma 419, DK 8031, Tsavo 3106, Tsavo 4141, H533, Bazooka, Aminika 505, PH04, Sawa; Spacing 90x30cm
2. Beans	KATX56, KB1 (Ka Yellow), Nyota, Kat B9, Wairimu dwarf, GLP92 (Mwitmania), Rose coco GLP2, Kakuzru, Faida KMR13; Spacing 45x15cm
3. Cow Peas	M66, K80, KVU-27-1, Kunde Mboga & KENKUNDE, Local variety (Kalitho & Ndamba); Spacing 60x20cm
4. Pigeon Peas	Mituki, M-Pesa, Mbaazi 1, Mbaazi 2, Local varieties; Spacing 90x50cm
5. Dolichos	DL1002, DL100; Spacing 100cm x 50cm
6. Cassava	KME 1, Mucriveri, Tajirika, Karemba, KME 61, Karibuni, Shibe
7. Sweet Potatoes	Bungoma, Irene, Kenspo, Kemb 20, KSP 20, Mwapa 8, Orange flesh
8. Sorghum	Pato F1, Jasiri, Smart sorghum, Hummer, Ndume, Gadani, KARI Mtama 1, E 1291, Local varieties; Spacing 60x20cm to 75x20cm
9. Millets	KALRO U-15, P224, Finger millet, KPM 1 & 2, GULU 2, Biofortified millet; Spacing 60x20cm
10. Green Grams	KS20 (Makueni), N26 (Nylon), Karemba, Biashara, Ndengu Tosha, Local varieties; Spacing 45x15cm
11. Sunflower	Kenya Fedha, H998
12. Mango varieties	Apple, Van dyke, Kent, Tommy atkins, Ngowe, Keitt
13. Citrus varieties	Pixie, Washington navel, Blood orange, Cara cara, Mineola, Pomelo, Tangerines

Middle Zone (400–500 mm) — Wards: Upper Mutha, Kanziko, Ikutha, Athi, Mutomo, Voo, Kyaimu, Upper Endau, Malalani, Ngaai, Ikanga, Kyatune, Kanyangi, Yatta/Kwa Vonza, Kauwi, Zombe/Mwitika, Nzu, Ngomeni, Kyuso, Waita, Kivou, Tharaka, Tseikuru, Kisou, Kyethani, Kyome, Thaana, Mutonguni, Kisasi/Mui, Mumoni, Migwani, Ngutani, Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga, Lower Mulango.

Probable OND 2026 amount: 400–500 mm

Crop	Recommended Varieties / Spacing
1. Maize	Pioneer 2859, Panna 3M-01, Duma 43, Duma 419, DK 8031, DH04, DH02, KDV4, Sawa, SC Sungura, Haraka; Spacing 90x30cm
2. Beans	KATX56, KB1 (Ka Yellow), Nyota, Kat B9, GLP92 (Mwitmania), GLP1000 (Mwezi moja), Kakunzu; Spacing 45x15cm
3. Cow Peas	M66, K80, KVU-27-1, Kunde Mboga & KK1, Local variety (Kalitho & Ndamba); Spacing 60x20cm

Crop	Recommended Varieties / Spacing
4. Pigeon Peas	Mituki, M-Pesa, Mbaazi 1, Mbaazi 2, Local varieties; Spacing 90x50cm
5. Dolichos	DL1002, DL100; Spacing 100cm x 50cm
6. Cassava	KME 1, Mucriveri, Tajirika, Karemba, KME 61, Karibuni, Shibe
7. Sweet Potatoes	Bungoma, Irene, Kenspo, Kemb 20, KSP 20, Mwapa 8, Orange flesh
8. Sorghum	Pato F1, Jasiri, Smart sorghum, Hummer, Ndume, Gadam, KARI Mtama 1, E 1291, Local varieties; Spacing 60x20cm to 75x20cm
9. Millets	KALRO U-15, P224, Finger millet, KPM 1 & 2, GULU 2, Biofortified millet; Spacing 60x20cm
10. Green Grams	KS20 (Makueni), N26 (Nylon), Karemba, Biashara, Ndengu Tosha, Local varieties; Spacing 45x15cm
11. Sunflower	Kenya Fedha, H998
12. Mango varieties	Apple, Kent, Tommy Atkins, Ngowe, Keitt
13. Citrus varieties	Pixie, Washington navel, Blood orange, Mineola, Tangerines

Lower Zone (below 300 – 400 mm) — Wards: small parts of Mutha bordering Tsavo; small parts of Endau bordering Tana River.

Probable OND 2026 amount: below 300 – 400 mm

Crop	Recommended Varieties / Spacing
Maize	Haraka, Mituki, Sungura, Makueni (Kinyaanya), Local varieties; Spacing 90x30cm
Beans	KB1 (Ka Yellow), GLP1000 (Mwezi Moja), Kakunzu; Spacing 45x15cm
1. Cow Peas	M66, K80, KVVU-27-1, Ken Kunde, KK1, Local varieties (Kalitho and Ndamba); Spacing 60x20cm
2. Dolichos	DL1002; Spacing 100cm x 50cm
3. Green Grams	KS20 (Makueni), N26 (Nylon), Biashara, Karemba, Ndengu Tosha; Spacing 45x15cm
4. Sorghum	Gadam, Sila, Kari Mtama 1, Seredo, Serena; Spacing 60x20cm to 75x20cm
5. Millets	Finger millet, KPM 1 & 2, Biofortified millet; Spacing 60x20cm
6. Sunflower	Kenya Fedha, H998

Annex 6: Additional Notes from Participants

The Nuu Ward Roads

Participants also submitted, for the record, a list of roads within Nuu Ward requiring attention:

- Nuu town – Kathanze – Kyumbe
- Makuti – Mwambiu – Nyaani – Kithiituni
- Nuu – Kyatune – Kavindu – Nguuni
- Mutyangome – Kivundui – Kanyungu – Yatwa
- Nuu – Imwamba – Nzouni – Mwalili – Kalwa – Ndovoini
- Nuu – Nzanzu – Ndandini – Ngangani – Wingemi – Iviani
- Kaai – Kavindu – Ngangani
- Kaai – Kalesi – Kimongo – Matulani – Nuu
- Mwambiu – Mutulu – Kalalani – Imwamba

Annex 7: Keynote Speech — Ag. Director General, KMSA

County Climate Outlook Forum, Kitui — Wednesday, 9th September 2026. Opening speech, read by Mr. Ezekiel M. Njoroge (Ag. Deputy Director, Forecasting Services), on behalf of Mr. Edward M. Muriuki, Ag. Director General, KMSA.

Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. It is my great pleasure to join you at this important County Climate Outlook Forum convened to deliberate on the OND 2026 rainfall season and strengthen preparedness, anticipatory action and disaster risk management across the County.

I note the critical role played by the County Director of Meteorological Service (CDMS), in providing timely, accurate, and actionable weather and climate information in the county. Such information is essential for effective disaster preparedness, early warning, contingency planning, emergency response, and risk-informed decision-making at both County and community levels.

Kitui County, and indeed the whole country, remain vulnerable to a wide range of weather- and climate-related hazards, including floods, droughts, landslides, strong winds, and other hydro-meteorological events. The impacts of these hazards can be significant, affecting lives and livelihoods, infrastructure, agriculture, water resources, health, transport and other critical sectors of the economy.

In this context, the County Climate Outlook Forum provides an important platform for bringing together producers and users of climate information. It enables stakeholders to interpret the seasonal forecast, assess potential risks and translate climate information into practical preparedness and early actions. The Forum also contributes to the objectives of the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) by strengthening coordination and collaboration among institutions responsible for generating, communicating and using climate information at the county level.

The theme of this Forum, “Enhancing Preparedness and Early Action for the OND 2026 Rainfall Season under Evolving El Niño Conditions,” is particularly timely. The evolving climate conditions underscore the need for strengthened preparedness, continuous monitoring, effective early warning and timely anticipatory action. The information and recommendations emerging from this Forum should therefore go beyond understanding the forecast — they should guide concrete actions by county government, humanitarian organizations, development partners, communities and other stakeholders to reduce risks and minimize the impacts of potential weather and climate hazards.

The county government should therefore place strong emphasis on early warning early action. Forecast information becomes most valuable when it is translated into timely decisions and actions before a hazard escalates into a disaster. This requires effective coordination, clear communication, well-defined response mechanisms and preparedness measures that reach vulnerable populations at the last mile.

I therefore encourage all participants to actively engage in these deliberations and to identify practical actions that can be implemented before and during the OND 2026 rainfall season, with particular attention to vulnerable communities and areas that may experience increased exposure to floods, drought conditions or other climate-related risks.

The effectiveness of disaster risk management depends on strong partnerships. No single institution can adequately address the complex and evolving risks associated with weather and climate hazards. The continued collaboration between KMSA, NDMA, the county government, humanitarian agencies, development partners, technical institutions, communities and other stakeholders is therefore essential.

We appreciate the technical expertise and continued support provided by KMSA and our partners in strengthening early warning and disaster preparedness systems in the County, and look forward to further strengthening this collaboration to ensure that climate information is timely, accessible, understandable and actionable for decision-makers and communities across the country.

The deliberations and outcomes of this Forum will provide an important basis for strengthening preparedness and contingency planning for the OND 2026 season. I urge all stakeholders to ensure that the recommendations arising from this Forum are translated into concrete preparedness, anticipatory and early-action measures at the county and community levels. I wish you fruitful and productive deliberations. Thank you very much, and may God bless you all.

Mr. Edward M. Muriuki, Ag. Director General, KMSA

Annex 8: Photo Gallery



Day 1 Opening Sessions



Day 1 Group Works



Day 1 Group Works... Continuation



Day 2 Sessions in Progress (Dissemination)



Day 2 Group Photo (Dissemination)



Day 3 Sessions (report-shop)



Day 3 Sessions (Report-shop)