

Additional Information

- Farmers were encouraged to take advantage of subsidized farm inputs provided by the Government through the National Cereals & Produce Board (NCPB) and KCEP CRAL Program to improve productivity
- Farmers were encouraged to seek advice and additional information on application of climate information from the local Agriculture extension office situated in your area.

Important Note

The information provided here was based on the March-April- May 2021 seasonal forecast issued by Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD)

Farmers were advised to keep monitoring the monthly and weekly forecasts issued by Kenya Meteorological Department from time to time and make changes as required.

For additional information and updates, contact: the nearest Ministry of Agriculture extension officers

This advisory is a collaborative effort of the following institutions



Kenya Meteorological Department-Kitui



Kitui County Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Livestock Development
KCEP CRAL

Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme– Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihood (KCEP-CRAL)



Weather Based Agro-advisory for afore mentioned Wards in Kitui

October-December 2021

About this advisory

This advisory was developed on 8th October, Kitui County Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation and value chain platform members. Due consideration was also given to farmers' preferences and views on the adoptability and usefulness of these management practices. This advisory presents the potential options for OND season of 2021 mainly aimed at supporting the farm level decision making in Endau/Malalani, parts of Ikutha, Athi, Kanziko, Mutha, Nguni and Zombe Mwitika Wards in Kitui East, Kitui South and Mwingi Central Sub-

Performance of MAM 2021 Rain Season

- The long-term average rainfall for this regions during MAM season is 250 mm.
- Most parts of the County received rains that were below what is normally received in the region..
- The rains in the area ended in the 2nd week of May 2021

Outlook for Oct-Dec 2021 Rain Season

- The above mentioned areas are expected to receive near to below normal rainfall.
- The area is expected to realize the onset in the 2nd -3rd week(8th-15th) of November and cease before 30th December 2021
- Rainfall is predicted to be poorly distributed both in space and time .

Agricultural implications of forecast

- The seasonal forecast issued by the Kenya Meteorological Service indicates that there is a low probability to get sufficient rainfall to grow a crop that matures in 60-90 days;
- Farmers are advised to prepare their farms at the earliest opportunity to enable them to dry-plant crops of their choice by 2nd week of November on 50% of their farms. The rest of the farm should be planted at onset.
- It is recommended that farmers carry out soil conservation and water harvesting measures such as repairing their terraces, constructing ridges, mulching, , retention ditches, roof-water harvesting, road run-off harvesting to recharge water pans, earth dams;
- Farmers are encouraged to use manure and chemical fertilizers in consultation with extension service providers. DAP and other NPK fertilizers at planting and top-dressing with CAN is recommended;
- Farmers are encouraged to maintain their fruit orchards by constructing water harvesting structures (e.g. negarims, semi-circular bunds) around them to harvest water and apply manure before the start of the season;

Crop	Variety
Sorghum	Gadam, Seredo & Serena, local variety
Green grams	N26 & KS20 ,Karemba, Biashara,
Cowpea	M66, K80, KVVU-27-1 & KENKUNDE, local
Dolichos (Mbumbu/Nzavi)	DL1002
Pearl millet	KPM 1 & 2
Pigeon peas	Mbaazi 1, 2

- Other suitable crops include grain and leafy amaranthus (telele), black night shade (kitulu), butter nut, water melon (matikitiki) and pumpkins (malenge).
- Kales (Sukuma wiki), spinach and capsicum (hoho) can be planted.
- Farmers are advised to use certified seeds from reputed sources (Agro dealers).
- Plant , cowpea at 60x20 cm, sorghum at 75x20 cm for sole crops and 120x15 cm when intercropped with a row of legume, pearl millet at 75x15 cm for sole crop and 120x15 cm when intercropped with a row of legume, dolichos at 100x50 cm planted as pure stand, green grams at 45x15 cm,
- It is recommended that farmers consider planting pastures such as mbeetwa (*eragrostis superba*), ndaata kivumbu (*cenchrus ciliaris*), mbwea (*panicum spp.*) and Boma Rhodes; and legumes such as uthui (*Desmodium*), lucern.
- Farmers are encouraged to have their soils tested for proper farm decision on fertility management.
- Farmers are also advised to do timely weeding, watch out for aphids especially in cowpea and fruit trees; army worms; Quelea birds; shoot fly and stalk borers in sorghum and report outbreaks to agricultural extension officers.
- Farmers are advised to use foliar feeds for their legumes to increase production.
- It is recommended that farmers do timely harvesting, proper drying and dusting of grain ,storing in sisal bags in well ventilated stores to minimise aflatoxins contamination.
- At the peak of the rains there is a possibility of rift valley fever outbreak thus advised to boil meat properly.
- Farmers advised to ensure proper poultry housing
- Farmers are also advised to construct or renovate hay shades, de-worm and vaccinate their livestock, preserve and store animal feeds and cull old stock.
- Also advised to re stock their livestock as early as October.