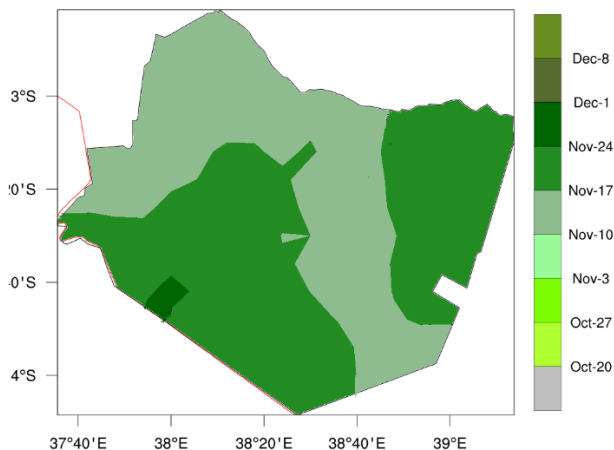




## Taita\_Taveta OND 2021: Onset dates (Ens Mean)



- Rainfall onset is expected during the second to the third week of November or 8<sup>th</sup> to 24 Nov 2021.
- The rainfall onset will come late during the season.
- The rainfall distribution is expected to be poor both in space and time.
- The peak rainfall is expected in the month of November 2021
- The rainfall cessation is expected during the second to the third week of December or 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of Dec 2021
- The rainfall duration is likely to be between four to six weeks during the short rains season.

Figure 2. Expected rainfall onset dates across the county.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The seasonal climate outlook for Taita Taveta County is periodically updated by forecasts issued by the Kenya Meteorological department from time to time in the form of Monthly, weekly and severe weather forecasts.
- The weather forecasts made are usually disseminated to the end users through emails, sms's WhatsApp, telegram, KMD website, Radio and occasionally the TV. Radios in use include the local FM'S radios, Citizen and Musyi FM.
- During this season brochures and posters are to be printed and send out to end users through chief's barazas facilitated by the Ward Agricultural Extension Officers.

### 3 Agronomic advisories

- Plant drought tolerant crops e.g. greengrams, sorghum, groundnuts, cowpeas, pigeon peas & Cassava
- Plant early maturing crop varieties – KS20, N26, Gadam.
- Early land preparation and early planting
- Timely purchase of certified farm inputs.
- Practice soil and water conservation and water harvesting technologies such as; Zai pits, retention ditches, grass strips, surface runoff, roof catchment, farm ponds
- Practice conservation agriculture i.e. minimum tillage, cover cropping/ mulching and crop rotation
- Practice kitchen gardening for improved nutrition- multistorey gardens, gunia gardens
- Preservation of green vegetables for use during dry periods e.g. cowpeas leaves, leafy African vegetables/indigenous vegetables
- Timely weeding, control of pests and diseases, use of IPM (Good Agricultural Practices).
- Planting chillies or keep bees in areas surrounding the park to keep away wildlife such as elephants.

### ADVISORIES ON ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

- Early land preparation before the rains
- Look for suitable grass seeds and plant before the rains.
- Sensitize farmers on how to conserve fodder for the livestock.
- Encourage farmers to harvest grass after the rains and conserve it using modern methods like keeping in bales.
- Silage conservation using nylons bags or underground conservation.
- Encourage farmers to stock animals according to the available pastures.
- Sensitize farmers to stock animals like poultry and rabbits which are not heavy water users.
- Encourage farmers seek advice from the livestock farmers on animal management.
- to monitor animal vaccinations and also water on any possible disease outbreak.

### 3.1 LOWLANDS TAITA, MWATATE AND VOI SUB COUNTIES

- Expected rainfall amount will range between 195 to 250 mm of rainfall within the season.
- Expected dates of onset between 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2021 and cessation 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- Expected distribution is likely to be poor both in space and time. The peak rainfall is likely during the month of November 2021.

	Recommended actions	Responsible
Hazards and Risks	Flooding due to occurrence of flash floods	Farmers
Opportunities	Water harvesting during the rainfall season	Farmers & CG
Advisories for Sorghum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gadam buy from Agrovets certified seeds.</li> <li>○ Plant before the rains using recommended fertilizers.</li> <li>○ Pest control using integrated pest management practices</li> <li>○ Weed control done on time before the weeds overgrow</li> <li>○ Control of any likely plant diseases.</li> <li>○ Before harvesting be on the lookout for the birds.</li> </ul>	Farmers CG or Extension Officers Accredited Agrovets
Advisories for Green Grams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gadam buy from Agrovets certified seeds.</li> <li>○ Plant before the rains using recommended fertilizers.</li> <li>○ Pest control using integrated pest management practices</li> <li>○ Weed control done on time before the weeds overgrow</li> <li>○ Control of any likely plant diseases.</li> <li>○ Before harvesting be on the lookout for the birds.</li> </ul>	Farmers CG Dept of Agriculture. Extension Officers Accredited Agrovets
Other advisories <b>(add rows for each if necessary)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prepare land early before rainfall onset</li> <li>○ Harvest water by desilting water pans, roof catchment, and farm ponds, zai pits, terraces and water retention trenches.</li> <li>○ Use of conservation agriculture like minimum land tillage and mulching.</li> </ul>	CG Farmers

Robinson Asira

County Director of Meteorology

Taita Taveta County