



Almost mature Sorghum in the field



Green grams in the field

# KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (KMD) IN COLLABORATION WITH KENYA CEREALS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS (KCEP CRAL)

## TAITA TAVETA COUNTY METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

### Weather Advisories for October – November – December 2021 Short Rains

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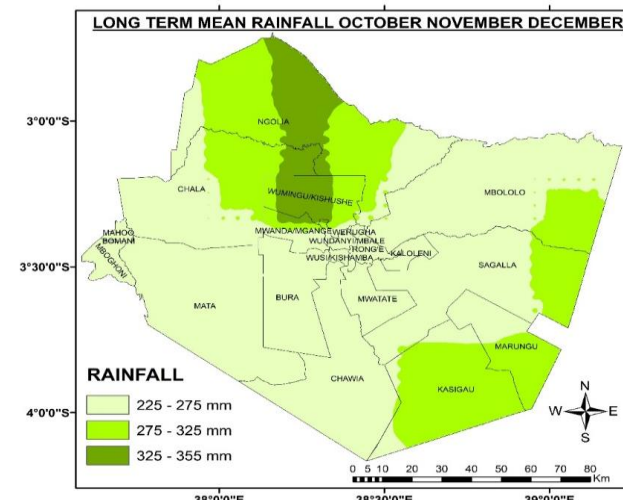


Figure 1: October-November-December 2021 Long term mean Rainfall

Most parts of the county have long term mean rainfall of between 225 and 275 mm of rainfall which is the normal while a few places around the hills and bordering Kwale County have long term mean rainfall of between 275 and 325 mm. Some parts of the County especially over Taita Sub County have long term mean rainfall of between 325 and 355 mm over the October to December season.

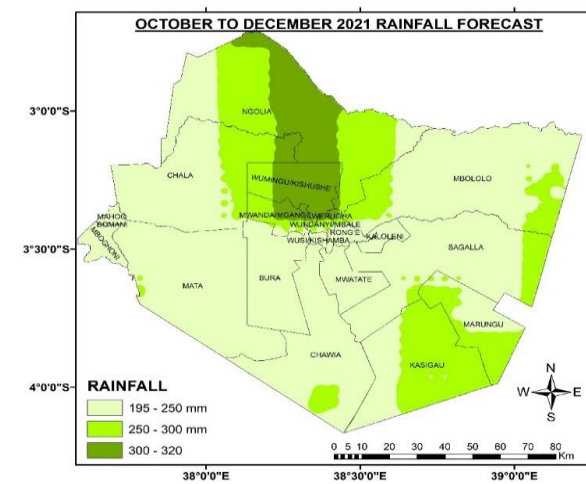


Figure 2: Forecast for October-November-December 2021 Short Rains Season



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## FORECAST FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021 SHORT RAINS SEASON

Figure 2. Shows that most parts of the county are expected to experience near normal tending to below normal rainfall over the October November December 2021 short rains season.

Rainfall onset is expected around the 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2021.

Rainfall distribution is expected to be poor both in space and time.

Rainfall cessation is expected around the 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2021.

Rainfall duration is 4 to 6 weeks

## GREEN GRAMS AND SORGHUM MANAGEMENT

1. Set aside half acre of land for green gram and a half an acre for sorghum cultivation.
2. Practice soil and water conservation and water harvesting technologies such as; Zai pits, retention ditches, terraces, grass strips, surface runoff, roof catchment, farm ponds.
3. Prepare land for planting of the green grams and sorghum observing conservation agriculture.
4. Practice conservation agriculture i.e. minimum tillage, cover cropping/ mulching and crop rotation
5. Practice kitchen gardening for improved nutrition-multi-storey gardens, gunia gardens.
6. Buy certified seed from credible Agro dealers.
7. Plant early maturing crop varieties – KS20, N26, Gadam.
8. Prepare farrows according to the specified spacing by the experts.
9. Plant before the rains or dry planting for that matter.
10. While planting observe instructions from the Agricultural officers to ensure the fertilizers and the seeds do not come into contact.
11. After germination, prepare to control weeds and pests that may adversely affect the crop.
12. Apply top dressing fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides at the right time.
13. Sorghum is eaten by birds when the seeds are at milk stage and beyond.
14. Farmers have to come up with ways of scaring birds from eating the sorghum. They need to make scarecrows, use of bells, catapults, and farmer's presence in the fields.
15. Prepare for harvesting when the crop is mature and ready for harvesting.

16. Thresh the harvested crop, sun dry the crop, check on the moisture content, finally store in hermetic bags.
17. Farmers to come together and form a group to enable them sell as a unit to avoid exploitation from middle men.
18. Crops are supposed to be taken to aggregation centers where the price might be higher.

## LIVESTOCK 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.
- WATER HARVESTING FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS.
- Urge farmers to desilt water pans before the rains.
  - Encourage farmers to harvest water on farm ponds, roof top water harvesting.