

7.3 AEZ C: South West parts of Tharaka, northern parts of Kiomo, Eastern parts of Kyuso, western parts of Mumoni, Nguutani, South and South West of Migwani, Kauwi, Mutonguni, Kithumula/Kwa Mutonga, Matinyani, central parts of Yatta/Kwa Vonza wards

- Expected rainfall amount range: 301 - 450 mm.
- Expected dates of onset and cessation: 21st - 31st March 2022 and 10th - 21st May 2022 respectively.
- Expected distribution: Fair to good distribution in time and space.

	RECOMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Hazards and Risks	Flash floods, pests and diseases outbreak, strong winds.	MDAs
Opportunities	General water harvesting	MAWI
Advisories for Maize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sungura, Duma43 • Planting dates-immediately rain sets • Pest and disease control-farmers should monitor and manage pests and diseases • Weed control-early and timely to avoid competition 	MAWI
Advisories for Beans	KB1, Nyota	MAWI
Advisories for Sorghum	Gadam, Sila, Seredo, Serena, Advanta	MAWI
Advisories for Green Grams	N26 (Nylon) & KS20 (Makueni), Biashara, Karembo	MAWI
Advisories for Cow peas (Nzooko)	M66, K80, KVV-27-1 & KENKUNDE, Local variety (Nzamba)	MAWI
Advisories for Dolichos (Mbumbu/Nzavi)	DL1002	MAWI
Other advisories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare land early • Harvest water by following methods-roof top, terraces, cut-offs • Practice the following conservation agriculture methods-tilling and manuring, repair of soil and water conservation structures 	Farmers/Agricultural extension officers

Table 3. Agro-weather advisory for Zone C with 301-450mm of rainfall



Fig 2. Value chain livelihoods supported by KCEP-CRAL in Kitui County



Additional Information

- Farmers are encouraged to make use of compost and farm yard manure where they cannot afford commercial fertilizers to increase productivity.
- Farmers are encouraged to seek advice and additional information on application of climate information from the local Agriculture extension office situated at Ward offices in their area.
- Farmers are encouraged to preserve and store pasture/fodder for their animals. They should also preserve and store farm produce after harvesting to ensure food security and improved nutrition.



Important Note

- This information provided here is based on the March- April-May 2022 seasonal weather forecast issued by Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD).
- The information should be used in conjunction with the forecast updates issued by KMD and technical advice provided by the nearest agricultural extension office.

For additional information and updates, contact: Kenya Meteorological Department in Kitui and the nearest Ministry of Agriculture extension officers at Ward level.

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This advisory is a collaborative effort of the following institutions



Kenya Meteorological Department-Kitui



**Ministry of Agriculture,
Water and Irrigation-Kitui County**

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



Investing in rural people



Adaptation for
Smallholder
Agriculture
Programme

ASAP

SEASONAL WEATHER ADVISORIES FOR KITUI COUNTY MARCH, APRIL AND MAY SEASON

1. Agro-weather advisory:

This advisory was developed on 14th March, 2022 by a team from Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), KCEP CRAL, Kitui County Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation, value chain actors (VCA), community voluntary observers (CVO) and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) experts. 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 March, April and May (MAM) 2022.

The advisory is mainly aimed at supporting farm level decision making in Kitui County in planning agricultural activities for MAM 2022 rainfall season.

2. Weather forecast for the March - May 2022 Season:

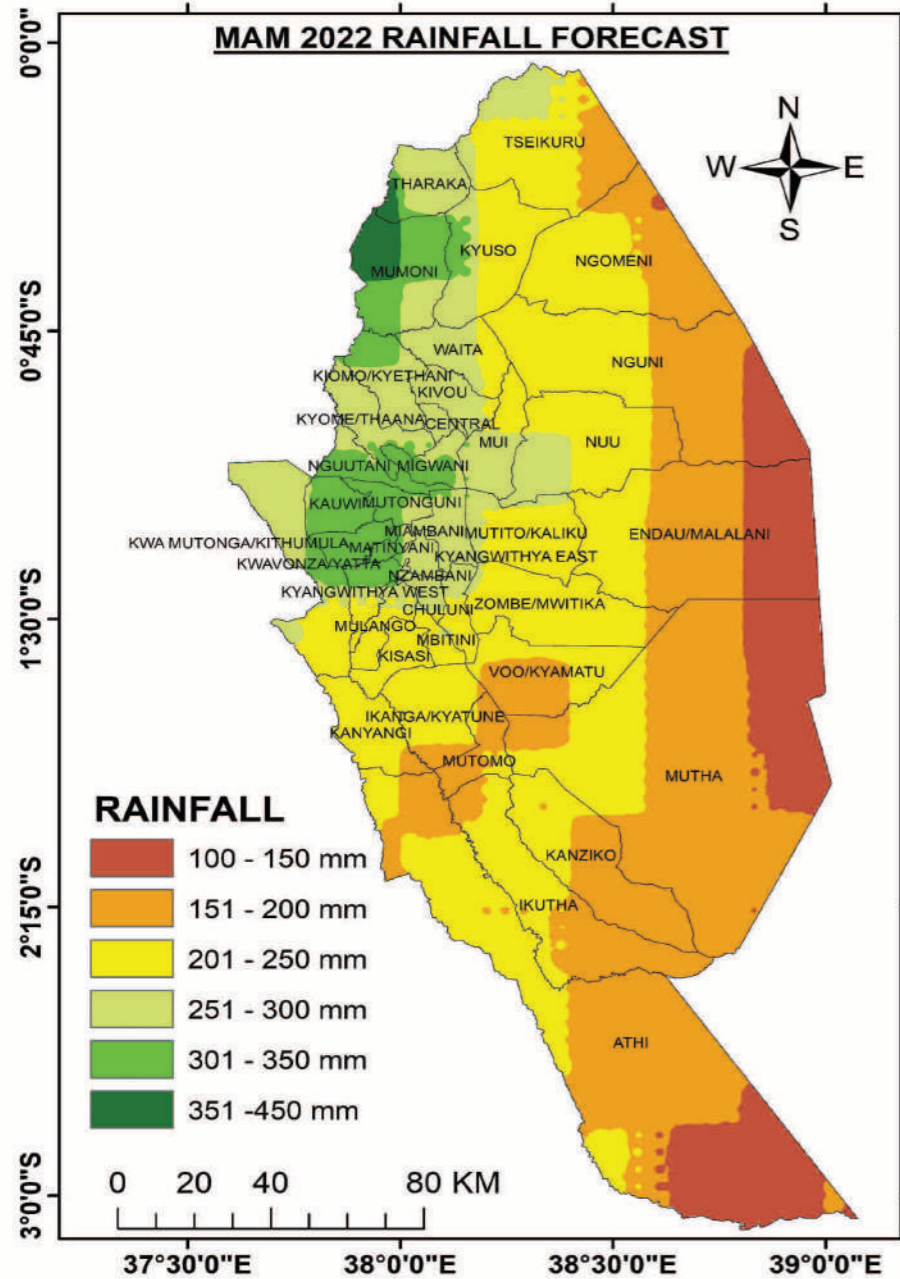


Fig 1. March, April & May (MAM) 2022 seasonal weather forecast for Kitui County

3. Performance of OND 2021 Rain Season:

- The wards were predicted to receive near to below normal rainfall.
- The rainfall was characterised by late onset in the 4th week of November followed with heavy downpour on the 2nd week of onset and fair distribution. The results were a general poor crop performance.
- The rains in the area ended in the 4th week of December 2021.

4. Outlook for MAM 2022 Rain Season:

- The above mentioned wards are expected to receive near normal to above normal rainfall.
- The areas are expected to realize the onset in the 3rd - 4th week of March, 2022.
- Rainfall is predicted to be fairly distributed both in space and time across the season with a peak in the month of April.
- The rains is predicted to end in the 2nd - 3rd week of May.
- Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) also indicates presence of safari ants which show the rainfall will be near normal to above normal.

5. Agricultural implications of forecast:

- The seasonal forecast issued by the Kenya Meteorological Department indicates that there is a high probability to get sufficient rainfall to grow a crop that matures early;
- Farmers are advised to prepare their farms at the earliest opportunity to enable them to dry-plant crops in 2nd week of March on 50% of their farms. The rest of the farm should be planted at onset. Legumes should also 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. 23.23.0 (DAP) and other NPK fertilizers at planting and top-dressing with CAN and foliage fertilizers especially legumes (for green gram use calcium catalyst) is recommended;
- Farmers are advised to use seed dresser (apron star, seed power), catalyst calcium and booster for increased productivity;
- Farmers are also encouraged to practice climate smart agriculture;
- 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;

6. Other suitable crops include:

- Grain and leafy Amaranthus (Telele), sweet potatoes (Yellow flesh), Cassava, black night shade (Kitulu), butter nut, water melon 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 spacing, Green grams at 45x15 cm, sorghum at 45x15 cm, cowpeas and beans at 45x15 cm, Dolichos at 90x30 cm and maize at 75x30 cm for mono-cropping to encourage use of herbicides.
- Farmers are encouraged to have their soils tested for proper farm decision on fertility management.
- Farmers are also advised to do timely weeding (use of herbicides i.e. governor for maize, sorghum), 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.

- Pastures plant Boma Rhodes.

- At the peak of the rains there is a possibility of rift valley fever farmers are advised to observe for storm abortions.

- Farmers advised to ensure proper poultry housing and vaccination against NCD, Marlex. Farmers are also advised to construct or renovate hay shades, vaccinate their livestock, preserve and store animal feeds and cull old stock.

- Farmers are advised to increase the frequency of vector control.

- It is recommended that farmers do timely harvesting, proper drying, stores grains in hermetic bags, and put them in well ventilated stores to minimise aflatoxins contamination.

- Avoid crop at harvesting and preserve for family consumption.

- This forecast is based on the existing conditions and there is always a possibility for the trends to change. Farmers are advised to keep monitoring the monthly and weekly forecasts issued by meteorological services from time to time and make changes as required.

Farmers are encouraged to plant appropriate crops as recommended below:

7. Agro-Weather Advisories:

7.1 AEZ A: Southern parts of Athi, Ikutha & Kanziku, Mutha, Endau/Malalani, Mutomo, Voo/Kyamatu, Eastern parts of Nguni & Ngomeni wards.

- Expected rainfall amount range: 100 - 200 mm.
- Expected dates of onset and cessation: 21st - 31st March 2022 and 10th - 21st May 2022 respectively.
- Expected distribution: Fair to good distribution in time and space.

	RECOMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Hazards and Risks	Drought, flash floods, pests and diseases outbreak, strong winds.	MDAs
Opportunities	General water harvesting	MAWI
Advisories for Sorghum	Gadam, Seredo, Serena and Sila	MAWI
Advisories for Green Grams	N26 & KS20, Karemba, Biashara	MAWI
Advisories for Cow peas (Nzooko)	M66, K80 & KENKUNDE	MAWI
Advisories for Dolichos (Mbumbu/Nzavi)	DL1002	MAWI
Advisories for Pearl Millets	KPM 1 & 2	MAWI
Other advisories	Pasture: Plant more grass (Nthaata kivumbu, Mbwea, Mbeetwa, Ikoka, etc)	Farmers/Agricultural extension officers

Table 1. Agro-weather advisory for Zone A with 100 - 200 mm of rainfall

7.2 AEZ B: Tseikuru, Kyuso, West of Ngomeni, Tharaka, West of Nguni, Nuu, Waita, Mui, Kivou, Mwingi Central, Kiomo/Kyethani, Kyome/Thaana, Miambani, Mutitu/Kaliku, Chuluni, Zombe/Mwitika, Mulango, Mbitini, Kisasi, Ikanga/Kyatune, Kanyangi, Kyangwithya East, Kyangwithya West, West of Mutha, North of Kanziko, Ikutha & Athi, South & North of Kwa Vonza/Yatta, North of Voo/Kyamatu wards.

- Expected rainfall amount range: 201 - 300 mm.
- Expected dates of onset and cessation: 21st - 31st March 2022 and 10th - 21st May 2022 respectively.
- Expected distribution: Fair to good distribution in time and space.

	RECOMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBLE
Hazards and Risks	Flash floods, pests and diseases outbreak, strong winds.	MDAs
Opportunities	General water harvesting	MAWI
Advisories for Sorghum	Gadam, Sila, Seredo, Serena, Kari Mtama 1	MAWI
Advisories for Green Grams	N26, KS20, Biashara & Karemba	MAWI
Advisories for Cow peas	M66, K80, KVVU-27-1, Ken Kunde	MAWI
Advisories for Cow peas	M66, K80, KVVU-27-1, Ken Kunde	MAWI
Advisories for Dolichos (Mbumbu/Nzavi)	DL1002	MAWI
Advisories for Pearl Millets	KPM 1 & 2, Bio fortified millet, Finger millet U15	MAWI
Other advisories	Pasture: Plant more grass (Nthaata kivumbu, Mbwea, Mbeetwa, Ikoka)	Farmers/Agricultural extension officers

Table 2. Agro-weather advisory for Zone B with 201 - 300 mm of rainfall