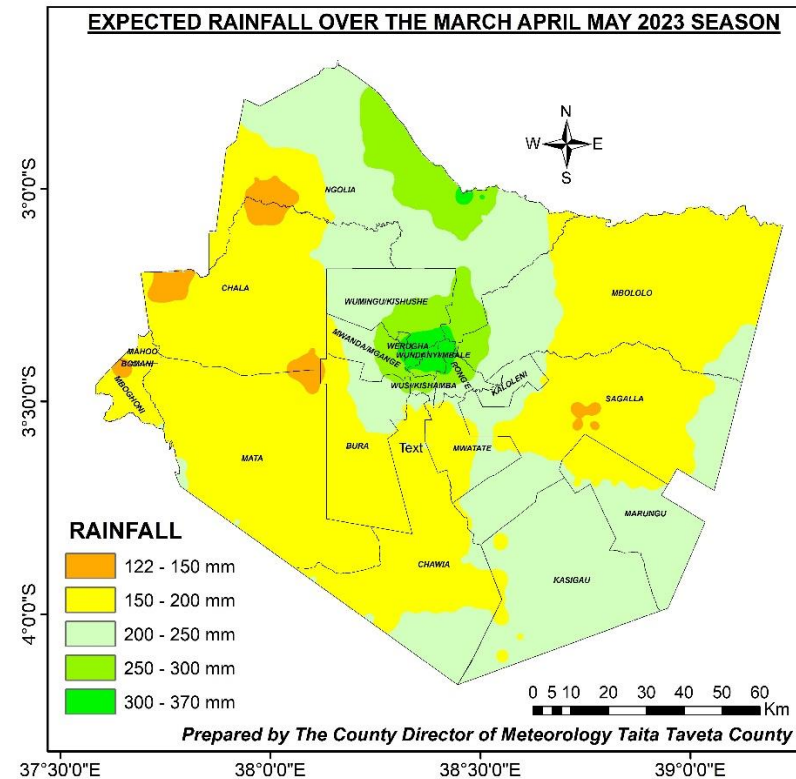
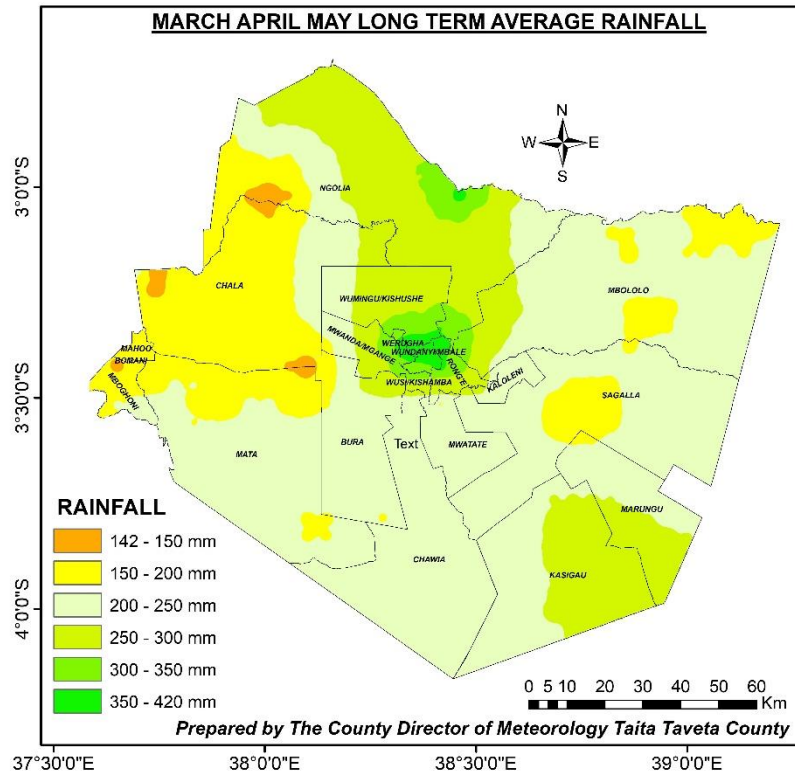


# TAITA TAVETA COUNTY MARCH APRIL MAY (MAM 2023) SEASONAL FORECAST

## 1 Highlights

The March April May long rains season is a significant rainy season in Taita Taveta County. Residents of Taveta Sub County rely on this rainfall. Voi Mwatate and Taita Sub Counties depend on the short rains season. The March April May 2023 long rains season is expected to be below normal with a late onset, likely to occur between the 1 to 14 of April 2023. The distribution is expected to be poor both in time and space. It is expected that long dry spell may occur within the rainy season. Peak rainfall is expected during the month of April 2023. The cessation is likely to be between the 07 to 18 of May 2023. Tropical cyclones occurring to the south west of the Indian ocean are likely to bring rains during the second week of March 2023. Regular and weekly weather forecasts are released every Mondays.

## 2 Probable total Seasonal Rainfall

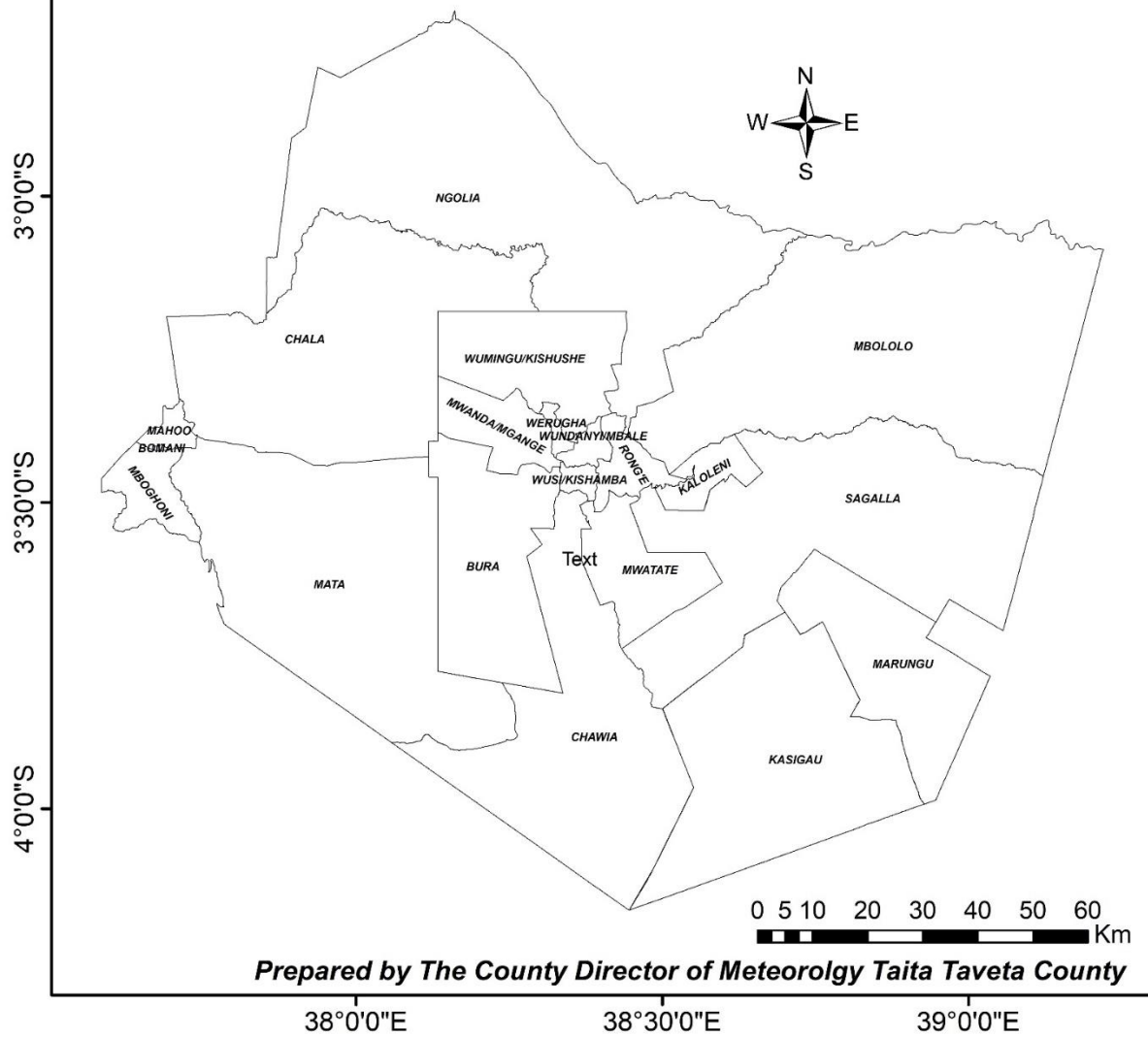




### 3 Advisories

- i) Farmers who are members of the KCEP CRAL Project are advised to plant Sorghum and Green Grams which are considered drought tolerant crops that can do well with little rainfall.
- Set aside one and a half acres of land where the chosen crops will be planted. One acre for sorghum and half an acre for green grams. Farmers may as well plant cow peas, pigeon peas, casavas, sweet potatoes, ground nuts, sunflowers and vegetables within the season. Planting of pastures is encouraged for those who are livestock farmers.
  - Early land preparation by use of conservation agriculture.
  - On farm soil and water conservation practices like desilting farm ponds, repair of terraces, digging of zai pits etc.
  - Acquire recommended farm inputs before the rainfall onset. Buy certified seeds and fertilizers from accredited Agro Dealers. Green grams varieties KS20, Ndegu Tosha and Biashara. Sorghum gadam. Fertilizers NPK, CAN and foliar feed.
  - Plant after the rainfall onset to avoid replanting due to the following reasons 1. Soil erosion deposition after the rains, buries the seeds deep into the soil making it impossible for the seeds to sprout, 2. Dry planting makes the farmers to replant after the first rains, seeds germinate and dry as a result of prolonged dry spells after the false onset.
  - The farmers are asked to pay their premiums early to ensure their e voucher opens. They should plant one acre of sorghum and a half an acre of green grams. This is the condition to be met if they will be compensated by the insurance in the event of a crop failure.
  - Farmers are advised to scout regularly for pests and diseases on the farm. Integrated pests and disease management methods are used. Physical and chemical control can all be used.
  - Timely weed control, thinning, pruning and top dressing using appropriate fertilizers depending on the weather condition.
  - Timely harvesting, drying and general post-harvest management. Drying of the harvested grains should be done to a moisture content of 13% or below. The harvest is then kept in hermetic bags. And stored on well aerated wooden pallets.
  - Determination of moisture content is done using a moisture meter. But in the absence of one, the dried seeds are put into a bottle mixed with salt, then shake for about 10 minutes. After that check if the salt sticks on the glass. Salt sticking onto the glass indicates the grain is not fully dry. Continue with sun drying to avoid aflatoxin in the grain.
  - Farmers may sell surplus farm produce much later when prices of the produce increase.
- Livestock Farmers
    1. To vaccinate the animals before the rains
    2. To deworm the animals
    3. Controlled grazing is encouraged.
    4. Culling of the weak animals
    5. Feed supplements to be given to the animals
    6. Planting of pastures and conservation of the same to be used as animal feeds.

# TAITA TAVETA COUNTY SHOWN BY WARDS



*Prepared by The County Director of Meteorolgy Taita Taveta County*

