

## THARAKANITHI COUNTY MARCH\_APRIL – MAY (MAM)2023 Seasonal Forecast

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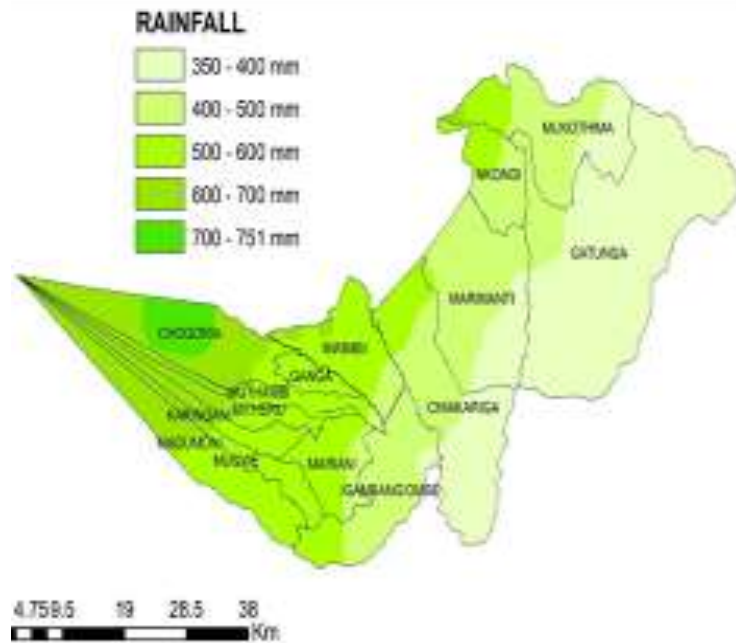
### 1 Highlights

The MAM 2023 rainy season is expected to be below normal to near normal with onset (17<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March and poor distribution within season (long dry days within season). The reasons for below normal rainfall is air pressures over the Mozambique channel that have produced tropical cyclones which are affecting the rain. The cessation is expected between 22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> may 2023.

### 2 Probable total Seasonal Rainfall

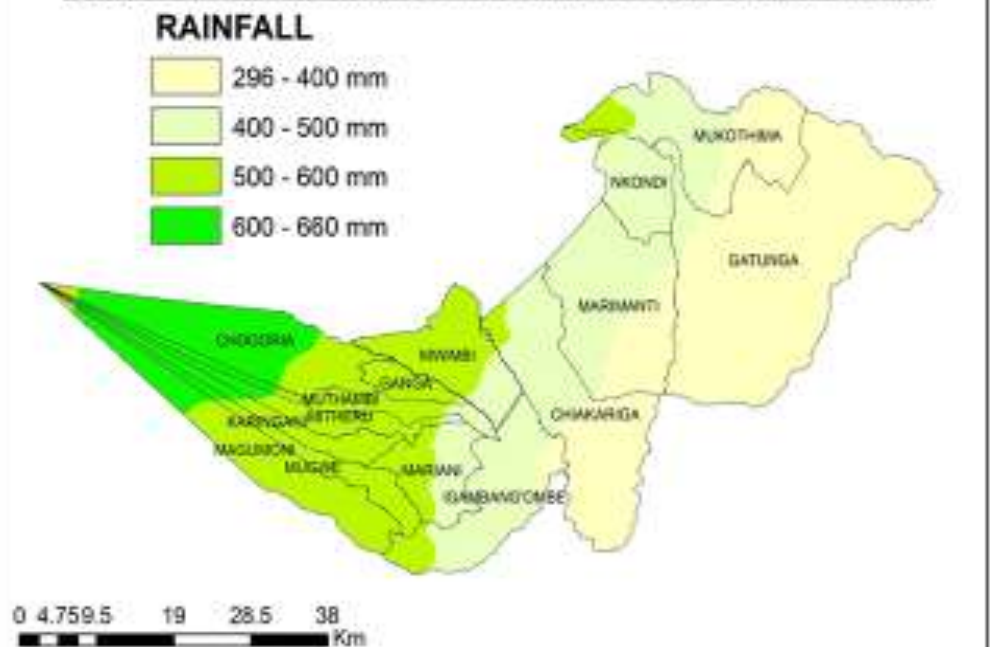
- Amount Ranges: 296-400mm, 400-500mm,500-600mm

### ARCH APRIL MAY LONG TERM AVERAGE RAINFA



Prepared by Tharaka Nithi County Director of Meteorology

### MARCH APRIL MAY 2023 EXPECTED RAINFALL



Prepared by Tharaka Nithi County Director of Meteorology

### 3 Summary of MAM 2023 Seasonal Forecast by Ward

SNO	Sub county	Ward/ climatic zone	Seasonal Amount in mm		Probable onset dates (Range 17 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March)	Probable Cessation dates (Range 24 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> May)	Probable Length of Rain Period	Probable distribution
			Normal (Long term mean 1991- 2020)	Forecast for MAM 2023				
1	Chuka/Mara	Ganga	500-600	500-600	Between	Between	48-58 days	

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			Normal (Long term mean 1991- 2020)	Forecast for MAM 2023				
1	Chuka/Mara	Mwimbi	500-600	500-600	17 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> March	24 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> M May		long dry spells within the rain season that could affect vulnerable crops
		Low Mwimbi	400-500	400-500				
		Ganga	500-600	500-600				
		Low Ganga	400-500	400-500				
		Igambangombe	350-400	296-400				
		Igambangombe	400-500	400-500				
2	Tharaka North	Chiakariga	350-400	296-400				
		Chiakariga	400-500	400-500				
		Gatunga	350-400	296-400				
		Marimanti	400-500	400-500				
		Marimanti	350-400	296-400				
3	Tharaka South	Nkondi	400-500	401-500				
		Mukothima	350-400	296-400				
		Mukothima	400-500	400-500				

## 4 Recommendations

### i) Choosing the right crops to plant:

- To minimize risks, choose the crops whose seasonal Crop Water requirement within the lower limit value of the predicted range
- Risk of long dry Spells within the rainy period:
  - At the moment we cannot reasonably predict the actual length of the dry spells and their impacts on various crops
  - We therefore advise farmers to choose crops that are least vulnerable to such long dry spells
- Length of the rainy period(LRP):
  - The exact length of soil moisture is slightly higher than the LRP depending on crop type, soil type and the amount of moisture at the time of cessation.
  - Choose the crop whose length of growing period to maturity is not too far from the LRP.

### ii) Onset dates versus planting dates

- For those wishing to dry plant, it is advisable to plant in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the predicted onset dates
- For those wishing to wet plant, it is advisable to wait for the weekly weather update which is more accurate
- Dry or Wet Plant when the **weekly forecast** indicates at least **3 days** with rain of a total amount **greater than 20 mm**.

## 5 Agro-weather advisories

- To be provided at the PSP workshops
  - a) Choose the appropriate crop types and varieties
  - b) Advisories on water conservation/CA measures
  - c) Advisories on when to plant each crop type
  - d) Other agronomic advisories

## 6 TharakaNithi wards

### THARAKANITHI COUNTY WARDS

