#### MAM 2024 ADVISORIES FOR MAKUENI COUNTY







#### Kenya Meteorological Department P.O. Box 30259-00100

#### **MAKUENI COUNTY**

cdmmakueni@meteo.go.ke

# ADVISORIES FOR THE MARCH - MAY 2024 (MAM 2024) RAIN SEASON

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### 1 introduction

These advisories were Co-produced at a Participatory Scenario Planning workshop involving farmers, Agricultural Extension Staff, Indigenous traditional forecasters and Kenya Meteorological Dept staff. The workshop was sponsored by the AICCRA Programme.

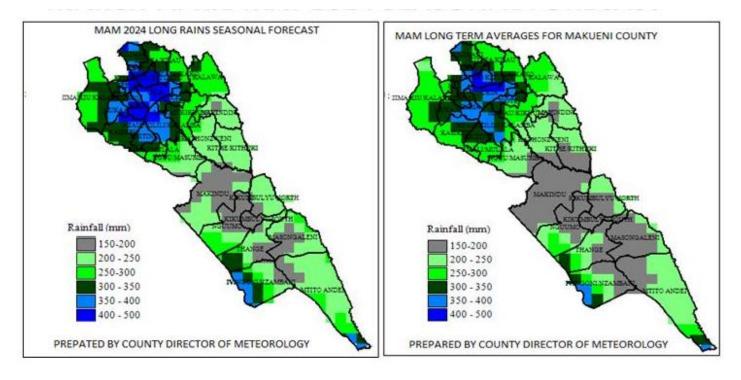
# 2 MAM 2024 Seasonal Weather Forecast

## 2.1 Highlights

The MAM 2024 rainy season is expected to be near Normal (N) with timely onset between  $18^{th} - 31^{st}$ March 2024. The rainfall distribution both in time and space is expected to be **fair to good** in most wards within Makueni County. Occasional heavy rainfall storms that are likely to trigger **flash flooding** are also expected to occur as the season progresses. **Dry spells** are however likely expected to occur during the season.

The predicted cessation dates is between 8<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

# 2.2 Probable MAM 2024 total Seasonal Rainfall vs Normal (Long term Mean)



			Seasonal A	mount in	in			
	Sub County		mm		Probable Probable			
S/No ·		Ward/ climatic zone	Normal (Long term mean 1991- 2020)	Forecast for MAM 2024	Onset dates	Cessation dates	Length of Rain Period	Probable distribution
1		Kitise / Kithuki	200-250	200-250				
2		Kathonzweni	200-250	200-250	-			
3		Mavindini	200-250	200-250				
4	Makueni	Nzaui / Kilili/Kalamba	350-400	350-400				
5		Muvau / Kikumini	250-300	250-300				
6		Wote	300-350	300-350				
7		Mbitini	350-400	350-400				
8		Masongaleni	150-200	200-250	-			
9	Kibwezi East	Nzambani / Ivingoni	200-250	200-250		Between	45-60 days	<ul> <li>a) Fair to good</li> <li>b) Dry spells within the rain season however likely which could affect</li> </ul>
10	East	MtitoAndei	200-250	200 - 250				
11		Thange	200-250	200-250				
12	-	Makindu	150-200	200-250	Between			
13		Mulala / Emali	250-300	250-300				
14	Kibwezi	Nguu / Masumba	200-250	200-250				
15	West	Nguumo	200-250	200-250	18 – 31 March	$8^{th}$ to $21^{st}$		vulnerable crops
16	west	Kikumbulyu North	200-250	200-250	2024	May 2024.		vullerable crops
17		Kikumbulyu South	150-200	150-200				
18		Kasikeu	250-300	300-350				
19	Kilome	Kiima/Kiu	250-300	300-350				
20		Mukaa	350-400	400-500				
21		Tulimani	300-350	350-400				
22	1	Mbooni	350-400	400-500	1			
23	1	Kako/Waia	250-300	250-300	1			
24	Mbooni	Kalawa	250-300	250-300	1			
25	-	Kisau/Kiteta	250-300	350-400				
26		Kithungo/Kitun du	350-400	400-500				
27		Kilungu	350-400	400-500				
28	TZ	Ukia	350-400	400-500	-		50-60	Fair to good rainfall
29	Kaiti	Ilima	350-400	400-500			days	distribution
30		Kee	350-400	400-500			Lujo	

# 2.3 Summary of the MAM 2024 Seasonal Forecast by Wards

### 2.4 Recommendations

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

- To minimize risks, choose the crops whose seasonal crop water requirement is 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 within one week before the predicted onset dates.
- For those wishing to wet plant, it is advisable to wait for the weekly weather update which is more accurate.
- Wet Plant when the **weekly forecast** indicates at least **3 days** with rain of a total amount **greater than 20 mm.**

#### **3** Agro-Weather Advisories

#### 3.1 General Responsibilities

- Farmers to implement the advisories
- Agricultural Extension Officers to advise farmers
- Input suppliers to ensure inputs are available on time
- Community Extension Volunteers to advise farmers
- Kenya Met. Department to provide weather updates (weekly, alerts, updates)
- Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries development
- Insurance companies

#### 3.2 General Farm Activities

- Early land preparation: Second week of March 2024.
- Repair of soil and water conservation structures: Terraces, Zai Pits, Basins
- Repair of water storage structures: De-silting of farm ponds, weirs, water tanks, water pans, Gutters
- Practices: Conversation Agriculture (CA): Ripping, Planting stations.
- Pre-germination (seed soaking); Seed preparation
- Scale up manure and fertilizer application (basal & top dressing)
- Timely weed control
- Timely and proper pests and disease control.
- Proper spacing of crops
- Plant ecologically suitable certified seeds as indicated above
- Pitting for fruits and forest Trees

## 3.3 Specific agronomic Advisories for the Upper zones

Crop varieties to		Ukia Ward	Mukaa Ward	Mbooni and	
plant		Probable MAM 2024 amount:	Probable MAM	Kithungo/Kitundu Wards	
		400-500 mm	2024 amount:	Probable MAM 2024 amount:	
			400-500 mm	400-500mm	
1.	Maize	DUMA 41/43, DK 8031, SUNGURA F1, HARAKA			
		301, DHO4, DHO2, PAN 3M 05, KISHINDO,	Same crops	Same crops	
		PIONEER 3253 (Irrigated)			
2.	Beans	KAT X56, KAT B1, KAT X69, NYOTA,	Sama arona	Sama arong	
		MWITEMANIA, ANGAZA, KATRAM	Same crops	Same crops	
3.	Cow Peas	K80, M66, KV-27, KV-27-1, FAULU, KEN KUNDE	Same crops	Same crops	
4.	Sweet potatoes	IRINE, YELLOW FLESH, KEMP 10, KSP 20, SPK	Same crops	Same crops	
		004	Same crops	Same crops	
5.	Sunflower	KENYA FEDHA, 8998, HYSUN 33	Same crops	Same crops	
6.	Fodder/Pasture	PANKCHONG, BRACHARIA, SUGAR GRAZE,	Come anone	Sama crops	
		NUTRIFEED	Same crops	Same crops	

# 3.4 Specific Advisories for Livestock Sector – Upper Zones

	Recommended Actions
	Pastures/Fodder to be established•Panicummaximum (Mbwea)•Chloris Roxburghiana (Kilili)•Chloris Gayana (Boma Rhodes)•Bracharia Species•Eragrostis Superba (Mbeetwa)
Activities on Livestock Sector	<ul> <li>Ration feeding/Paddocking/Conservation feeding</li> <li>Destocking for appropriate carrying capacity</li> <li>Adoption of home feed formulation</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Proper housing</li> <li>De-worming</li> <li>Tick control</li> <li>Restocking of fish ponds</li> <li>Rehabilitation of fish ponds</li> </ul>

## 3.5 Specific agronomic Advisories for the Middle zones

Crops to plant	Wards:			
	Tulimani, Kako/Waia, Kisau/Kiteta, Kasikeu, Nzaui/Kilili/Kalamba, ,Emali/Mulala,			
	Wote/Nziu, Muvau/Kikumini, Kiima Kiu			
	Probable MAM 2024 amount: <b>300-400 mm</b>			
1. Maize	DUMA 43,DH02, KISHINDO, SUNGURA 301,DK 8031, PAN 3M-5, HARAKA 101, TOSHEKA			
2. Beans	KAT B1,KAT X56, NYOTA			
3. Green/Black	BIASHARA, KAREMBO, KS20, N26			
Grams				
4. Cow peas	KUNDE SOKO, KUNDE TAMU, KVU-27-1, M66, KEN KUNDE, BLACK EYE (Kang'au)			
5. Dolichos	BLACK EYE			
6. Sorghum	GADAM, KARI MTAMA 1, SEREDO, LOCAL VARIETIES			
7. Millets	KAT PM-1,2.3.SERENA, SILA			
8. Finger Millet	KAT FM-1, LOCAL VARIETIES			

# 3.6 Specific Advisories for Livestock Sector – Middle Zone

	Recommended Actions
	<ul> <li>Pastures/Fodder to be established</li> <li>Panicummaximum (Mbwea)</li> <li>Chloris Roxburghiana (Kilili)</li> <li>Chloris Gayana (Boma Rhodes)</li> <li>Bracharia Species</li> <li>Eragrostis Superba (Mbeetwa)</li> </ul>
Activities on Livestock Sector	<ul> <li>Ration feeding/Paddocking/Conservation feeding</li> <li>Destocking for appropriate carrying capacity</li> <li>Adoption of home feed formulation</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Proper housing</li> <li>De-worming</li> <li>Tick control</li> <li>Restocking of fish ponds</li> <li>Rehabilitation of fish ponds</li> </ul>

# 3.7 Specific agronomic Advisories for the Lower Zone

	Wards:	Wards:	
	Makindu, Nguu/Masumba, Kalawa,	Nguu/Masumba, Kalawa,	
	Kikumbulyu South, Kikumbulyu North,	Nzambani/Ivingoni	
Crops to plant	Nguumo, Thange, Nzambani/Ivingoni,		
Crops to plant	Mavindini, Kathonzweni, Kitise/Kithuki,	Probable MAM 2024 amount:	
	Masongaleni, Mtito Andei		
	Probable MAM 2024 amount:	250-300 mm	
	150-250 mm		
1.Maize	Not recommended	Not recommended	
2.Beans	Not recommended	KAT X 56, NYOTA, MWITEMANIA, KATRAM	
3.Green Grams	KS 20, N 26, BIASHARA, KAREMBO,	KS20, N26, BIASHARA, KAREMBO,	
	MAKUENI, NDENGU TOSHA	MAKUENI, NDENGU TOSHA	
4.Cow Peas	K80, KVU 27-1, KVU 419, KEN KUNDE,	M66, K80, KVU 27-1, KVU 419, KEN	
	KUNDE TUMAINI, LOCAL VARIETIES	KUNDE, KUNDE TUMAINI, LOCAL VARIETIES	
5.Sorghum	GADAM, SEREDO, KARI MTAMA 1,	GADAM, SEREDO, ADVANTA, KARI	
5.Sorghum	KARI MTAMA 11, SMILE, SILA,	MTAMA 1, SMILE, SILA, KIVILA KYA	
	ADVANTA, KIVILA KYA IVUI	IVUI/NYELELE	
6.Pearl Millet	KAT PM-2, KAT PM-3	KAT PM-2, KAT PM-3, KAT PM-4	
7.Sunflower	KENYA FEDHA	KENYA FEDHA, H998, HYSUN 33	
8.Pasture Grass/Fodder Shrubs	Ratoon pasture grasses such as Ndata	Ratoon pasture grasses such as Ndata	
	Kivumbu (Eragrostis Superba),	Kivumbu (Eragrostis Superba),	
	Bracharia Mulato, Boma Rhodes,	Bracharia Mulato, Boma Rhodes,	
	Sugar Graze, Nutri-feeds, Panicum	Sugar Graze, Nutri-feeds, Panicum	
	species, Masai Love Grass etc.	species, Masai Love Grass etc.	

## 3.8 General Activity Plans

S/No.	Activity	When	By Whom	Remarks
1.	Land preparation	Ongoing until 18/03/2024	Farmers Service Providers	Use of CA is recommended
2.	Dry planting	Ongoing until 18/03/2024	Farmers Service Providers	Use of recommended certified seeds and plant varieties Application of manures and fertilizers
3.	Wet planting	18/03/2024 – 01/04/2024 Check the weekly weather update on KMD website https://meteo.go.ke/node/4942	Farmers Service Providers	Use of recommended certified seeds and plant varieties Application of manures and fertilizers
4.	Gapping, Thinning & Weeding	1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of April 2024	Farmers Service Providers	Continuous activity
5.	Pest and Disease Control	From 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of April 2024	Farmers Spray Service Providers	Adherence to spray programs Continuous consultation with Agriculture Extension Officers
6.	Harvesting	From June 2024	Farmers Service Providers	Harvest at physiological maturity
7.	Post-harvest management and Marketing	From 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of June 2024	Farmers Service Providers Marketing agents	Grains to be dried to the recommended moisture content (13.5% for cereals) Drying of vegetable leaves

# 3.9 General Analysis of Hazards/Risks and Opportunities (Agriculture)

	Risks	<b>Responsible actors</b>
Risks	Drought	Governments at both
	• Famine	levels
	• Destruction of infrastructure due to occasional heavy	NGOs
	rains	Farmers
	• Human wildlife conflicts	Kenya Red Cross
	Resource based conflicts	KMD
	Reduced crop yields	
	• Low water levels	
	• Forest fires	
	<ul> <li>Increased incidences of pests and diseases</li> </ul>	
	Domestic violence	
	Prostitution	
opportunities	Pasture/feed conservation	Governments at both
	• Proper post-harvest management of the previous harvest	levels

	Risks	<b>Responsible actors</b>
	<ul> <li>Water harvesting</li> <li>Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture technologies/Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)</li> <li>Hay harvesting</li> <li>Water trucking/Vending</li> <li>Crop insurance</li> <li>Water harvesting</li> <li>Business opportunities for Agro-dealers and farmers</li> <li>Opportunities for tree planting</li> <li>Livestock insurance</li> <li>Dissemination of Agro-Weather advisories</li> <li>Increase in hay trade</li> <li>Silage production</li> <li>Water business</li> </ul>	NGOs Insurance Service Providers Farmers Service Providers Input Suppliers
Impacts	<ul> <li>Food and nutrition insecurity</li> <li>Low crop yields</li> <li>Limited availability of pasture and browse</li> <li>High cost of hay</li> <li>High cost of living</li> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Increased incidences of human wildlife conflicts.</li> <li>Poor performance in schools</li> <li>Early marriage &amp; unplanned pregnancies</li> <li>High incidences of divorce</li> <li>HIV/AIDS increase</li> <li>Increase in school dropout rates</li> </ul>	Governments at both levels NGOs Farmers

	Recommended Actions Resp	onsible
Activities on Livestock	Pastures/fodder to be establishment•Panicum maximum (Mbwea)• Chloris Roxburghiana (Kilili)•Bracharia species•Boma Rhodes•Panicum species•Nutri-feeds•Masai Love grass•Sorghum fodder• Sugar graze•Eragrostis Superba (Mbeetwa)•Ration feeding/paddocking/conservationfeeding•Ratooning pasture grasses such asEragrostis Superba (Ndata Kivumbu)• Destocking for appropriate carrying• Adoption of home feed formulation• Volunt	rs )s unity Extension

## **3.10** Other advisories for Livestock farmers

# 4 Advisories for Other Livelihood Sectors

SECTOR	Impact	Hazards/ Risks	Opportunity	Intervention/Actions	Responsible
Water resources	<ul> <li>Little water that should be harvested</li> <li>Drought</li> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Malnutrition</li> <li>Marriage breakages</li> <li>Food insecurity</li> <li>High cost of living</li> <li>Increase in resource based conflicts</li> <li>High crime rates</li> <li>Increased i school drop out rates</li> <li>Gender Based Violence</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Drought</li> <li>Migration</li> <li>High incidences</li> <li>of school drop</li> <li>outs</li> <li>Insecurity</li> <li>Drying up of</li> <li>planted trees</li> <li>Forest fires</li> <li>Reduced</li> <li>livestock feeds</li> <li>Low water</li> <li>levels in water</li> <li>sources</li> <li>Resource based</li> <li>conflicts increase</li> <li>Increased</li> <li>human-wildlife</li> <li>conflicts</li> <li>Marriage</li> <li>breakage</li> <li>Child labor</li> <li>Prostitution</li> <li>increased</li> <li>increased</li> <li>increased</li> <li>increased</li> <li>increased</li> <li>increased</li> <li>outbreak</li> </ul>	•Water harvesting & conservation • Pasture/feed conservation • Water business •Conflict resolution	Water trucking, adopt Water harvesting structures e.g. dams ,ponds ,water tanks and drought response interventions	KWS, NDMA, Dept. of water, Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation and development partners
Disaster management	<ul> <li>Drought</li> <li>Upsurge of resource based conflicts</li> <li>Water scarcity</li> <li>Food insecurity</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Occasional heavy rainfall events likely to trigger flooding</li> <li>Long dry spells likely to impact vulnerable crops</li> <li>Limited resources</li> <li>High cost of living</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Anticipatory planning</li> <li>Development of contingency plans</li> </ul>	Activation of Emergency /Contingency plans	National Drought Management Authority, NGOs, Governments, Faith Based Organization Kenya Red Cross Society – Makueni branch
Wildlife /forestry	•Increased Human /wildlife conflicts •Incidences of wild fire breakouts in forests	<ul> <li>Loss of</li> <li>livelihood</li> <li>Wildlife deaths</li> <li>Environmental</li> <li>degradation</li> <li>through un-</li> <li>wanton felling of</li> <li>trees for charcoal.</li> </ul>	•Conservation and strict protection of the current biodiversity • Surveillance to deter illegal activities	Human /wildlife conflict minimization through budgetary allocation for compensation ,electric fencing ,surveillance and enforcement,	KWS National & County Government Farmers Conservationists

SECTOR	Impact	Hazards/ Risks	Opportunity	Intervention/Actions	Responsible
	• Loss of biodiversity			Afforestation programs	
Trade, industry and finance	•commodity price increase •Reduced per capita incomes • Unavailability of commodities	Famine/ drought/starvation	Prudent utilization of current food reserves, importation of essential food commodities	Subsidized trader Reduced credit interests	Dept of Trade, Business Community, National & County Government
Energy	Energy infrastructure network collapse	<ul> <li>Temporary blackouts</li> <li>Reduced businesses turnover</li> </ul>	Maintenance of KPLC infrastructures, Investment on alternative energy sources	Allocate emergency funds, subsidy on fuel especially for domestic use	Kenya Power (KPLC) Private power generators
	Power outages	Short-circuiting	Energy saving	Alternative supply e.g. solar, generators	Kenya Power (KPLC) Private power generators
	Increased cost of Energy	Reduced electric energy generation	Intensified use of solar energy	Power rationing, Subsidies on solar power equipment	Kenya Power (KPLC) Private power generators
Health	Increased Food insecurity	Increased Malnutrition cases, Increased food deficient related ailments	Leverage on Nutrition, Increase food supplements for young children and the elderly (vulnerable groups)	Emergency /mobile clinic, Increase Health personnel, Enhanced public health activities, Prepositioning of drugs in health facilities	Ministry Of Health, Department of Health, Private Hospitals, Stakeholders
Education	Disruptions of education due to hunger at home, Increased school drop out rates	Poor school infrastructure due to parent's low incomes	Initiation of School feeding Program	Early warning and preparedness	KMD, NDMA, Min. of Education, NGOs, CDMU, Faith Based Organizations, Parents

# 5 How to get Weather Updates

You can get weekly weather updates from the Counties folder in the KMD Website https://meteo.go.ke/node/4942 and via SMS messages every Monday evening or early Tuesday morning.

### For More information, Contact:

- a) The Nearest Agric Office in Wards, Sub Counties & County office.
  - b) Makueni County Meteorological Office: Contact: 0795929926

# 6 Annex 1: Makueni Wards Map

