MAM 2024 ADVISORIES FOR MAKUENI COUNTY







Kenya Meteorological Department P.O. Box 30259-00100

MAKUENI COUNTY

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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.

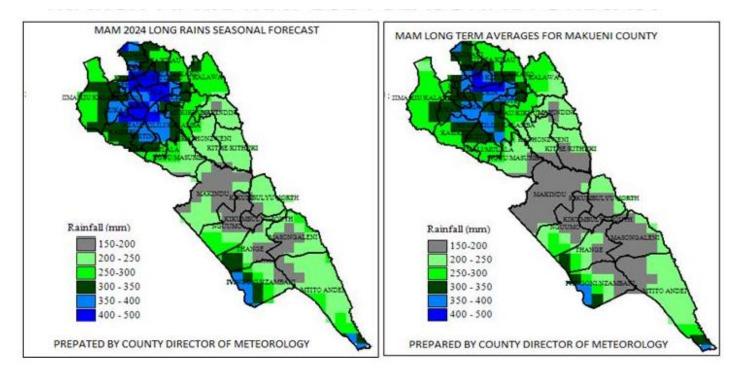
2 MAM 2024 Seasonal Weather Forecast

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 8th-21st 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 | a) Fair to good b) Dry spells within the rain season however likely which could affect |
| 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 | Ration feeding/Paddocking/Conservation feeding Destocking for appropriate carrying capacity Adoption of home feed formulation |
| | Proper housing De-worming Tick control Restocking of fish ponds Rehabilitation of fish ponds |

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: 300-400 mm | | | |
| 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 |
|--------------------------------|---|
| | Pastures/Fodder to be established Panicummaximum (Mbwea) Chloris Roxburghiana (Kilili) Chloris Gayana (Boma Rhodes) Bracharia Species Eragrostis Superba (Mbeetwa) |
| Activities on Livestock Sector | Ration feeding/Paddocking/Conservation feeding Destocking for appropriate carrying capacity Adoption of home feed formulation |
| | Proper housing De-worming Tick control Restocking of fish ponds Rehabilitation of fish ponds |

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 st – 2 nd Week of April 2024 | Farmers Service Providers | Continuous activity |
| 5. | Pest and Disease Control | From 1 st 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 nd 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 | Responsible actors |
|---------------|--|---------------------------|
| 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 | |
| | Increased incidences of pests and diseases | |
| | Domestic violence | |
| | Prostitution | |
| opportunities | Pasture/feed conservation | Governments at both |
| | • Proper post-harvest management of the previous harvest | levels |

| | Risks | Responsible actors |
|---------|--|---|
| | Water harvesting Adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture technologies/Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Hay harvesting Water trucking/Vending Crop insurance Water harvesting Business opportunities for Agro-dealers and farmers Opportunities for tree planting Livestock insurance Dissemination of Agro-Weather advisories Increase in hay trade Silage production Water business | NGOs Insurance Service Providers Farmers Service Providers Input Suppliers |
| Impacts | Food and nutrition insecurity Low crop yields Limited availability of pasture and browse High cost of hay High cost of living Poverty Increased incidences of human wildlife conflicts. Poor performance in schools Early marriage & unplanned pregnancies High incidences of divorce HIV/AIDS increase Increase in school dropout rates | 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 | Little water that should be harvested Drought Poverty Malnutrition Marriage breakages Food insecurity High cost of living Increase in resource based conflicts High crime rates Increased i school drop out rates Gender Based Violence | Drought Migration High incidences of school drop outs Insecurity Drying up of planted trees Forest fires Reduced livestock feeds Low water levels in water sources Resource based conflicts increase Increased human-wildlife conflicts Marriage breakage Child labor Prostitution increased increased increased increased increased increased outbreak | •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 | Drought Upsurge of resource based conflicts Water scarcity Food insecurity | Occasional heavy rainfall events likely to trigger flooding Long dry spells likely to impact vulnerable crops Limited resources High cost of living | Anticipatory planning Development of contingency plans | 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 | Loss of livelihood Wildlife deaths Environmental degradation through un- wanton felling of trees for charcoal. | •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 | Temporary blackouts Reduced businesses turnover | 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

