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THE “OUTLOOK FOR LONG RAINS” (MARCH-APRIL-MAY) 2025 SEASON AND REVIEW OF OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024 SHORT SEASON.

1. HIGHLIGHTS

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| <i>1.1 Outlook for March-April-May 2025</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Near to below long term seasonal average rainfall is expected over the highlands upper and middle altitude zones i.e Ndunyu Njeru, Geta, North and South Kinangop, Njabini, Shamata, Wanjohi, and in the lower zones of the county namely; Olkalou, Oljoroorok, Leshau, Mairo Inya, and Ndaragwa</i><i>Most of the seasonal rainfall distribution is expected to be fair in both time and space.</i> |
| <i>1.2 February 2025 Weather Outlook</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>On average generally sunny and dry conditions throughout the month.</i><i>Occasional rainfall (few rain days) is however likely to occur over a few places.</i> |
| <i>1.3 Review of the rainfall in October-November-December (OND) 2023</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>An assessment of the rainfall recorded from 1st October to 31st December 2024 indicates near average rainfall was received over the season.</i><i>The distribution, both in time and space, was generally fair over most parts of the county.</i> |

2. FORECAST FOR MARCH-APRIL-MAY (MAM) 2025 “LONG-RAINS” SEASON

The “Long rains” March to May (MAM) season constitutes an important rainfall season in the entire Nyandarua County. During MAM 2025, it is expected that most parts of the county are likely to experience near to below long-term average rainfall. The season is expected to have occasional dry spells. Occasional storms are also likely to be experienced in some parts of the county.

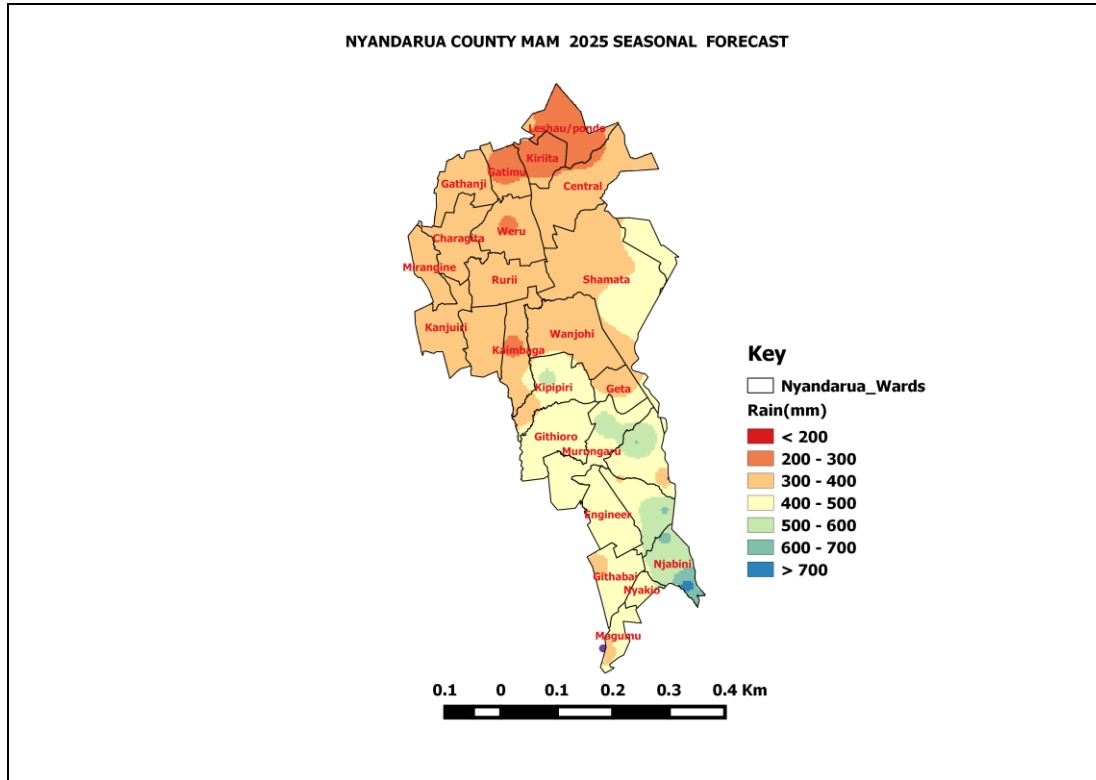


Fig 1: MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2025 Seasonal Outlook

3. EXPECTED SEASONAL RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

The MAM 2025 rainfall distribution is expected to be fair in both time and space during the season. The predicted onsets, cessations, and distribution of rainfall were derived from dynamical Climate Model runs as well as statistical analyses of past years which showed similar characteristics to the current year. The analogue(similar) years chosen are 2017 and 2021.

4. EXPECTED ONSET AND CESSATION DATES

| Region | Onset Dates | Cessation Dates |
|------------------|---|--|
| Nyandarua county | Occasional rainfall in February followed by a dry spell. Onset expected during the 4th week of March to 1st week of April | 3 rd to 4 th week of May 2025. |

5 TEMPERATURE FORECASTS

Warmer than average temperatures are expected over the whole county with increased probabilities over southern parts of the county.

6. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

In view of the forecasted above average rainfall the county can avoid some of the likely negative impacts while taking full advantage of the positive ones. The most likely impacts are highlighted.

6.1 Agriculture, Food Security and Livestock Sectors

Positive Impacts

- Pasture rejuvenation will increase the productivity of livestock.

Negative impacts

- Crops and livestock pests and diseases are likely to increase due to high humidity coupled with warmer than average temperatures.
- Increased weed proliferation which may increase the cost of farm management.
- Damage to agricultural infrastructure and roads. This may impede farm operations and development.

Advisories

- Encourage farmers to expand crop and pasture production.
- Promote good agricultural practices such as soil and water conservation as well as sustainable land management.
- Prevention and control of diseases and pests for both crops and livestock through vaccination and vector control.

6.2 Transport and Public Safety

Flash floods during occasional rainstorms may lead to destruction of transport infrastructure systems, especially in areas with poor drainage. County Ministry of Roads & Public Works should open the drainage path ways and have the necessary resources ready for any eventuality.

6.3 Water Resources Management Sector

In the water sector, the implications and proposed key response measures are as follows:

Positive Impacts:

- Increased surface and underground water resources.
- Availability of water for domestic and livestock use.

Negative Impacts:

- Increased siltation and sedimentation in some rivers and colonial dams.
- Pollution and contamination of surface and groundwater.

Advisory

- Encourage rain water harvesting and storage to boost water availability.

- Desilting of dams for maximum water retention.
- Monitoring and improving waste water and solid waste management.

6.4 Health Sector

Positive Impacts

- In areas expected to receive near normal rainfall is likely to improve food availability which will in turn reduce nutrition related diseases.

Negative Impacts

- Water borne diseases, such as cholera, are likely as a result of contamination of drinking water sources by floods.

Advisories

- Provide water treatment chemicals to communities that draw water from open water sources and promote education on Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) practices.
- Enhance disease surveillance and early detection systems for diseases.

6.5 Environment and Natural Resources Sectors

Positive impacts

- Availability of pasture and browse will reduce grazing in the forests.
- Increased forest biodiversity.
- Business opportunities for establishment of tree nurseries to raise stock for tree growing.
- Increased job creation through tree growing.


Negative Impacts

- Wind snap and wind throws are likely to damage trees and forests.
- Prevalence of moisture related pests and diseases.

Advisories

- Enhance awareness on tree growing.
- Promote good agricultural practices such as soil conservation measures.
- Select diverse tree species and proper planting sites.
- Increase reforestation efforts for regeneration and biodiversity.

NB: This outlook should be used with 24 hour, 5-day, 7-day, monthly, special forecasts and regular updates/advisories issued by the Kenya Meteorological Department as well as Weekly and Monthly County forecasts developed and availed by Nyandarua County Meteorological Office



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