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KMD 10 DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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DEKAD 08 PERIOD: 11TH – 20TH MARCH 2025.

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

- During the recent period under review, Kenya experienced increased rainfall across most regions, with stations reporting normal to above-normal precipitation compared to the previous dekad. Notably:
- Kisii station in the Nyanza region recorded the highest rainfall at 82 mm, followed by JKIA station in Nairobi with 75.2 mm.
- The widespread rainfall contributed to sufficient soil moisture levels across many areas, creating favorable conditions for planting.
- Mean air temperatures decreased in most parts of the country, except for the North Eastern and Coastal regions, where slight increases were observed compared to the previous dekad.
- Total pan evaporation readings showed a slight decrease over several parts of the country.
- Looking ahead, rainfall is expected to continue over several regions in the next ten days, with isolated heavy rainfall events likely in parts of the Highlands, Rift Valley, Nyanza, South Eastern, North Eastern, North Western, and Coastal areas.
- These conditions suggest a generally wet period ahead, which could be beneficial for agricultural activities, especially planting.

2.0 WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD 11TH– 20TH MARCH 2025.

2.1 WESTERN AND NYANZA REGION

During the period under review, the Western and Nyanza regions of Kenya experienced increased rainfall compared to the previous dekad, with Kisii recording the highest amount. Mean air temperatures decreased significantly, ranging between 26.3°C and 24.2°C, with broken cloud cover dominating.

Kakamega: Received 63 mm of rainfall, with a mean temperature decrease from 24.5°C to 23.5°C. Land preparations are ongoing, and some farmers have started planting.

Kisii: Recorded 82.0 mm of rainfall, above the long-term mean of 55.4 mm. Mean temperature decreased from 23.6°C to 21.5°C. Maize and beans are performing fairly well.

These conditions indicate a favorable environment for agricultural activities, particularly planting, due to adequate soil moisture and moderate temperatures.

2.2 RIFT VALLEY REGION

During the recent dekad, the Rift Valley region experienced above-normal rainfall, leading to improved soil moisture levels and favorable conditions for crops and pasture. Mean air temperatures decreased across the region, with broken cloud cover prevailing.

Kericho: Recorded 52.6 mm of rainfall, surpassing its long-term mean of 45.3 mm. The mean temperature decreased from 20.3°C to 19.6°C. Farmers have commenced planting activities.

Kitale: Accumulated 19.3 mm of rainfall, with temperatures dropping from 21.8°C to 21.0°C. Farmers in the area have started planting.

Eldoret: Experienced a mean air temperature of 18.7°C during this period.

These climatic conditions have positively impacted agricultural activities in the Rift Valley, promoting planting and supporting crop development.

2.3 CENTRAL AND NAIROBI REGION.

During the recent dekad, the Central Kenya Highlands and Nairobi area experienced above-normal rainfall, leading to improved soil moisture levels favorable for agriculture. Mean air temperatures decreased across most stations, accompanied by prevalent broken cloud cover.

Thika: Recorded 66.4 mm of rainfall, with temperatures dropping from 23.7°C to 22.8°C. Maize is ready for harvest, though yields are below normal.

Dagoretti: Accumulated 40.7 mm of rainfall, with temperatures decreasing from 22.1°C to 21.0°C. Land preparation is ongoing.

Kabete: Reported 48.8 mm of rainfall, with mean temperature remaining steady at 20.0°C. The maize crop is ready for harvest.

Nyeri: Received 2.7 mm of rainfall, below the long-term mean of 14.5 mm. Mean temperature rose slightly from 21.0°C to 21.1°C. Land preparations have been completed.

Nyahururu: Recorded 11.7 mm of rainfall, with temperatures decreasing from 16.9°C to 16.3°C. Broken cloud cover was observed throughout the dekad.

These conditions have generally supported agricultural activities, with ongoing land preparations and crop harvesting in various areas. However, below-normal maize yields in Thika highlight the need for continued monitoring and support to optimize agricultural outcomes.

2.4 EASTERN REGION:

During the recent dekad, several regions in Kenya experienced above-normal rainfall, leading to improved soil moisture levels and favorable conditions for agriculture. Mean air temperatures generally decreased, and broken cloud cover was prevalent.

Meru: Received 59.8 mm of rainfall, with temperatures remaining steady at 21.2°C. Land preparation is ongoing.

Embu: Recorded 66.1 mm of rainfall, with temperatures slightly decreasing from 22.6°C to 22.5°C. Maize harvesting is underway.

Katumani: Received 14.8 mm of rainfall, below the long-term mean of 25.2 mm, with temperatures dropping from 22.7°C to 21.8°C. Land preparation is ongoing.

2.5 COASTAL REGION

The region recorded below-normal rainfall, except for Malindi and Mombasa, which received 12.4mm and 28.7mm respectively, above their long term mean for the dekad. Soil moisture levels were generally average, with mean air temperatures ranging from 29.0°C to 30.1°C. Broken cloud cover dominant throughout the period.

Mtwapa: Received 1.3mm of rainfall, with a slight temperature increase from 28.9°C to 29.6°C. Land preparation is ongoing.

Msabaha: Recorded 1.1mm of rainfall, with temperatures rising from 29.4°C to 30.1°C. Land preparation is ongoing.

2.6 NORTH EASTERN REGION:

Most stations in the region reported slightly below normal rainfall during the period under review. The soil moisture levels are conducive for pasture growth. Mean air temperature ranged between 31.5 ˚C in Wajir and 33.2˚C in Mandera. Scattered cloud cover dominated over several parts of the region.

3.0 DEKAD 08 2025 RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & WRSI MAPS / CHARTS

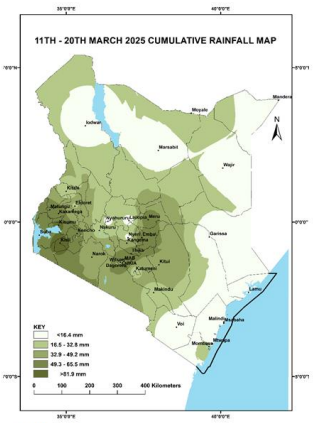


Fig 3.1

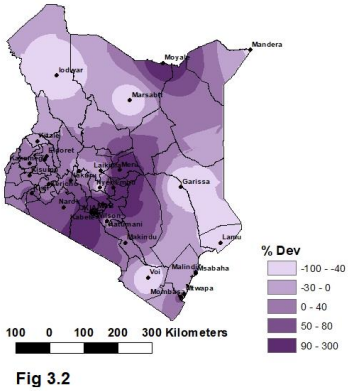
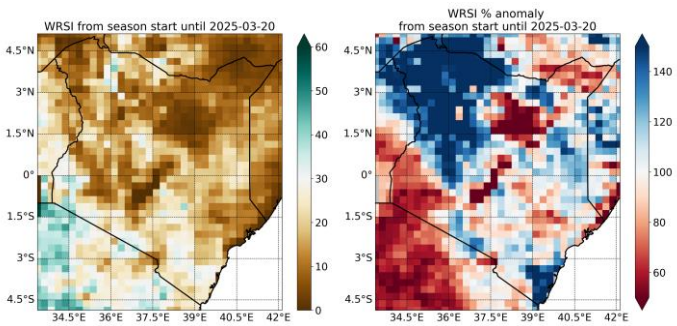


Fig 3.2



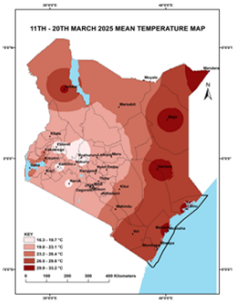


Fig 3.3

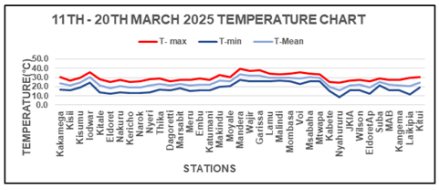


Fig 3.4

4.0 EXPECTED WEATHER, SOIL AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT TEN (10) DAYS; 21ST – 31ST MARCH 2025.

Western, Nyanza, and South Rift Valley: Morning rains are expected over few places. Afternoon and night showers and thunderstorms are likely to occur over few places, occasionally spreading to several places.

Central Region & Nairobi: Morning rains are expected over few places. Afternoon and night showers and thunderstorms are likely to occur over few places, occasionally spreading to several places.

North Western: Morning rains as well as afternoon and night showers and thunderstorms are expected over few places.

North Eastern: Morning rains as well as afternoon and night showers and thunderstorms are likely to occur over few places.

South-Eastern Lowlands & Coastal Counties: Morning rains as well as afternoon and night showers and thunderstorms are likely to occur over few places, occasionally spreading to several places.

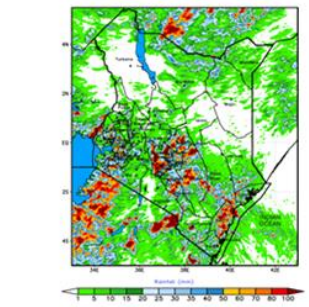


Fig 3.6

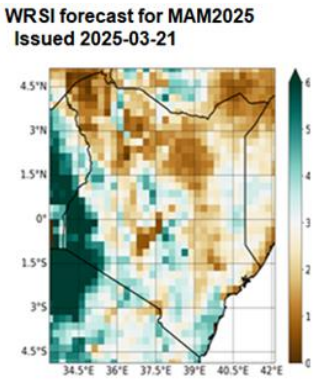


Fig 3.7

Agricultural Impact

Crops and pasture conditions are expected to grow well due to the anticipated wet conditions.

Soil moisture levels will likely be sufficient across most parts of the country, supporting agricultural activities.

4.1 Agro-Advisory for Farmers and Pastoralists

Farm Preparation and Planting:

Farmers are encouraged to continue preparing their lands as the planting season begins. Ensuring the use of appropriate, certified seeds suitable for local conditions is crucial for maximizing yields. Engaging with agricultural extension officers can provide guidance on selecting the best seed varieties.

Increased soil moisture levels in rangelands and game parks have positively impacted pasture growth and tree health, reducing the risk of wildfires and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts. Sustaining these moisture levels is essential for ongoing ecological balance and agricultural productivity.

Pastoralists are advised to cultivate additional pasture during this favorable season to ensure adequate feed for livestock. Planting suitable grass species can enhance pasture availability and contribute to rangeland rehabilitation.

Farmers should actively engage with meteorological services and technical experts at the community level to access timely weather and climate information. This collaboration supports informed decision-making, enabling farmers to adapt to changing weather patterns and optimize agricultural practices.

By implementing these strategies, farmers and pastoralists can enhance their resilience and productivity in the face of evolving climatic conditions.

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