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AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

DEKAD 8
PERIOD: 11TH – 20TH MARCH 2022

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

- Most parts of the Country continued to report light rainfall just as in the previous dekad.
- Dry conditions continued to be witnessed over North Eastern, Coastal regions and the entire Eastern region.
- Mean air temperature remained relatively high over most parts of the country due to the sunny conditions prevalent during the dekad.
- During the next ten days, (**21st – 31st March 2022**) some parts of the Country are expected to receive some rain as the rest of the County continues to experience dry conditions.

2.0 WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD: 11TH – 20TH MARCH 2022

Most parts of the Country continued to report low amounts of rainfall just as in the previous dekad. Matungu station in western Kenya reported the highest amount (figure 3.2), followed by Suba and Kitale stations. Cloud cover remained moderate over some parts of the country

and low cloud cover over North Eastern and North west regions. Mean air temperature continued to remain high over many regions with the Coastal and North Eastern regions registering above 28 °C.

2.1 WESTERN AND NYANZA REGIONS

Over Western and Nyanza region, several stations reported some rainfall though the amounts were low. Light rainfall was reported at Matungu in western Kenya Suba and Kisii stations in south Nyanza. Moderate cloud cover was reported in the region throughout the period. Mean air Temperature in the region ranged between 22.0 - 25.0 °C.

Most farmers in the region have already planted maize and beans though the dry conditions which were prevalent in the previous two dekads had caused both crops to start wilting.

2.2 RIFT VALLEY REGION.

Kitale station reported the highest amount of rainfall followed by Kricho and Narok stations. Kitale received a total of two rainy days (> 5.0 mm) as Kericho and Narok received one rainy day each during the same period. Unlike in the previous dekad, many stations in the region reported some rainfall though the amounts were low. Kitale reported two days of moderate rainfall (figure 3.2), as

Narok and Kericho stations reported a single day each. The rest of the stations (Kapsoya, Eldoret Kabarak and Nakuru) remained dry. The south rift region is expected to have had a significant deterioration of soil moisture levels due to low amounts of rainfall compared to high pan evaporation values. Pasture and forage conditions continues to remain poor but the situation is likely to improve once the long rain season begins. Moderate cloud cover was reported in the region and mean air temperatures ranged between 18.0 - 21.0 °C at Kericho and Kitale stations. Most farmers especially in central and south rift have already planted maize and beans and because of the current dry conditions, both crops had started wilting. Over the pastoral areas in the north rift, high temperatures coupled with dry conditions continue to pose a threat to the already poor pasture and browse condition in the region. Water resources for both domestic and animal use is a serious challenge in the region though the situation is likely to improve with the expected onset of the long rain season.

2.3 CENTRAL KENYA HIGHLANDS AND NAIROBI AREA REGION.

Light rainfall was reported only at Nyeri as the rest of the region continued to remain dry.

Mean air temperature over central and Nairobi area ranged between 17.0 – 23.0 °C. Several stations in the region reported moderate cloud cover and total pan evaporation at Thika station was 38.6 mm. and 104 mm at Moi Air Base.

Most farmers in the region have finished preparing their farms and are waiting for the onset of the long rain season so that they can start planting.

2.4 EASTERN REGION.

The Eastern region generally continued to remain dry just as in the previous two dekads. Mean air temperature in the region ranged between 20.0 and 25.0 °C. Moderate cloud cover was reported over several areas during the dekad. Total pan evaporation ranged between 49.0 – 95.0 mm at Meru and Mwea stations.

At Katumani, farmers are waiting for the onset of the long rains to commence planting of both maize and beans.

Mangoes (Apple) were at 100% fruit setting stage and the crop condition was poor (below normal) due to insufficient rainfall. Aphids are also affecting the crop.

Oranges (Washington Navel) were at 100% fruit setting and the crop condition poor (below normal) due to insufficient rainfall. Aphids have affected the crop.

At Embu, Land preparation is ongoing as farmers wait for the onset of the long rain season to commence planting of both maize and beans.

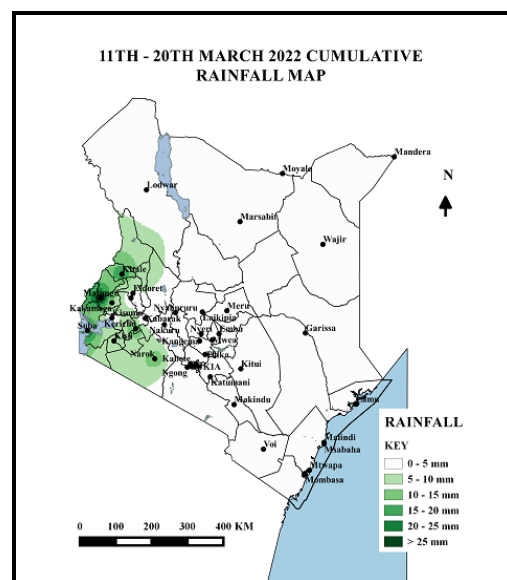


Figure 3.1: Actual rainfall totals for dekad 8, 2022

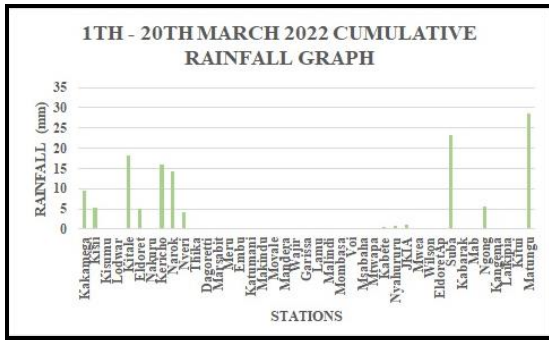


Figure 3.2: Dekadal rainfall totals in (mm)

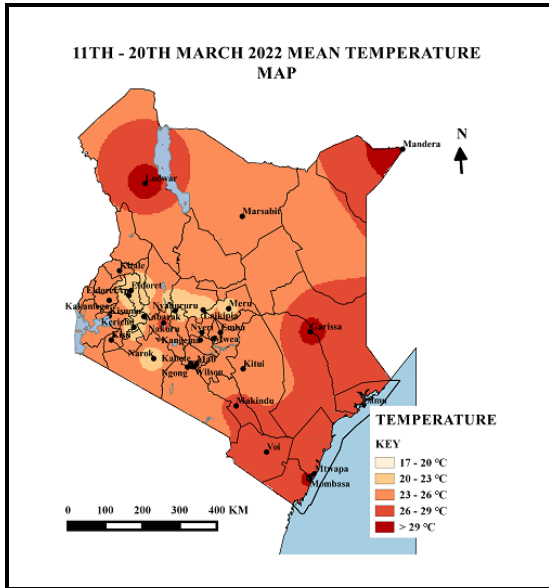


Figure 3.3: Mean temperature distribution for dekad 8, 2022

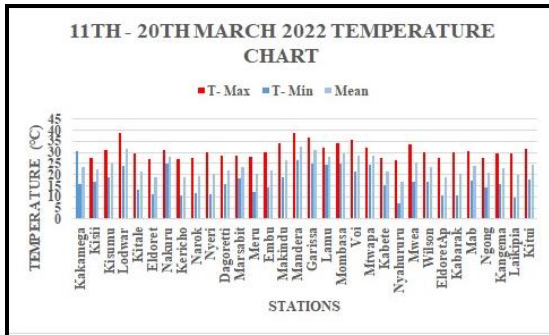


Figure 3.4 Dekadal temperatures in (°C).

4.0 EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS; 21ST – 31ST MARCH 2022.

During the next ten days, (21st – 31st March 2022) several parts of the Country are expected to receive some rain as the

rest of the Country continues to experience dry conditions.

Over Western and Nyanza regions, several areas are likely to experience afternoon showers during the forecast period. Farmers who had not planted will have the opportunity to plant and for those who had planted early, the expected showers will be a reprieve to the crops that had already started showing signs of wilting. Mean air Temperatures are likely to remain warm due to the expected sunny intervals throughout the forecast period.

In Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, several areas are likely to experience afternoon or evening showers during the forecast period. Most farmers in the region have not planted their farms and the expected rains will present a perfect opportunity for planting. Mean air Temperatures are likely to remain warm due to the expected sunny intervals throughout the forecast period.

Over North Eastern and South Eastern lowlands, hot and dry conditions expected to persist due to the expected sunny conditions. This will continue to worsen pasture and browse situation which is already poor over these regions.

The Coastal region is expected to experience occasional morning and early afternoon showers during the entire forecast period. Most farmers in the region have not planted their farms and the expected rains will enable planting of food crops to commence. In summary, farmers in arable areas are waiting for the onset of the long rain season so that they can start planting their crops. Over the pastoral regions in North West and northeastern regions, hot and dry conditions expected to persist.

For clarification, feedback or further guidance, please Contact:
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