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AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

DEKAD 29
PERIOD: 11TH – 20TH OCTOBER 2022

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

- Reduced rainfall activities over several parts of the Country. Eastern, Nairobi area and North Eastern region remained dry during the period under review.
- Cloud cover remained moderate throughout the period with mean air temperature slightly increasing over several parts of the country.
- During the next ten days, (21st – 31st October 2022) Several Counties in western Kenya, South Rift valley, central and the coastal regions are expected to receive moderate rainfall during the next dekad.

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

Throughout the country, only few stations received moderate rainfall as the rest of the areas continued to report light or dry conditions. Kakamega station in western Kenya reported the highest amount of rainfall (figure 3.2) followed by Kisii and Kericho stations. Cloud cover remained moderate over several parts of the country especially during the last half of the

dekad. Mean air temperatures slightly increased over some stations as other regions experienced a slight decrease.

2.1 WESTERN AND NYANZA REGIONS

Most stations in the region recorded less rainfall compared to what they reported during the previous dekad. Moderate rainfall (greater than 5.0 mm) was reported over all stations (Kisii, Kakamega, Kisumu and suba) within the region. Cloud cover was mainly scattered during morning hours and broken in the afternoon. Suba station reported total pan evaporation of 64.2 mm as mean air Temperatures in the region ranged between 21.0 - 25.0 °C.

Maize at Kisii has reached tasseling stage and beans flowering stage. Both crops are in a fair state which corresponds to normal growth. Normal yield is expected for both crops.

At Kakamega, maize is yet to attain tasseling stage while beans are already at maturity stage. Both crops are in a fair state and normal yield is expected.

2.2 RIFT VALLEY REGION.

Stations in the region reported less gauge readings compared to the previous dekad. Kericho was leading in the region having received five days with moderate rainfall. Kabarak, Kitale, and Nakuru areas

reported a day or two with moderate rainfall while the rest of the stations – Kapsoya, Eldoret and Narok reported Light rainfall.

Total pan evaporation at Kitale was 34.7 mm and 42.9 mm at Kericho station. Cloud cover in the region was mainly scattered during morning hours and increased to broken state in the afternoon and evening hours. Mean air temperature ranged between 18.0 - 19.3 °C throughout the entire region.

Maize at Kericho has reached tasseling stage while beans are at maturity stage. Both crops are in a fair state which corresponds to normal growth. Normal yield is expected for both maize and beans.

At Kitale, Maize has attained muturing stage though with the onset of the short rain season, post harvest losses are anticipated by most farmers because maize is not drying up.

Over the pastoral areas, the prevailing dry conditions especially in the south rift regions has adversely affected pastoral communities and wildlife. Many animals both Domestic and wildlife are dying due to lack of pasture/forage and Water. However, this situation is expected to change once the short rain season starts.

2.3 CENTRAL KENYA HIGHLANDS AND NAIROBI AREA REGION.

Central region reported less rainfall compared to the previous dekad. Light rainfall (less than 5.0mm) was reported at Laikipia as the rest of the region remained dry during the dekad.

Moderate cloud cover was reported over central including Nairobi area and most stations reported mean air temperatures below 20 °C. Total pan evaporation in the region was 57.5 mm at Thika, 58.0mm and 61.0 mm at Dagoretti and Kabete area.

Maize at Nyahururu has reached wax ripeness stage and was in a fair state which corresponds to normal growth. Normal yield is expected.

At Nyeri, Farmers have completed preparing their farms and are waiting for the onset of rains to start planting both maize and beans.

Farmers in Thika, have completed preparing their farms and are waiting for the rain season to start and then plant both maize and beans.

2.4 EASTERN REGION.

Moyale station received two days with rainfall greater than 5.0 mm during the dekad. light rainfall occurred in Marsabit while the rest of the stations in the region remained dry during the same period. Cloud cover in the region kept varying from scattered to broken or vice versa during both morning and afternoon hours. Mean air temperature ranged between 20.0 and 22.0 °C. Total pan evaporation at Katumani was 71.5 mm, 67.5 and 36.6 mm at Makindu and Moyale stations.

Farmers have completed preparing their farms and are waiting for the onset of rains to start planting their crops.

Mangoes (Apple) were at 100% fruit setting stage and the crop condition was fair which corresponds to normal growth. Too much sun is however, adversely affecting fruit setting phase of the mangoes.

Oranges (Washington Navel) were at 100% flowering stage and the crop condition was fair corresponding to normal growth. Infestation by aphids and too much sunshine are affecting the flowering phase.

At Meru and Embu, farmers have completed preparing their land and are waiting for the onset of the short rain season to start their crops.

2.5 NORTH EASTERN REGION

Only Mandera station received moderate rainfall during the past dekad. The rest of the region continued to report dry conditions.

Scattered to broken cloud cover was predominant in the region during both morning and afternoon hours. High pan evaporation value at Mandera station 71.0 mm and was mainly attributed to the dry hot and windy conditions prevalent in the area. Pasture and forage regeneration is expected to slowly start improving because of the rains the region received during the previous dekad.

2.6 COASTAL REGION.

Few stations reported Light rainfall while the rest continued to report dry conditions.

Scattered to broken cloud cover during both morning and afternoon hours was the most predominant situation during the past dekad. Mean air temperatures slightly increased over all stations within the region.

Msabaha meteorological station reported total pan evaporation of 49.0 mm during the same period.

Farmers have completed preparing their land and are waiting for the onset of rains to start planting.

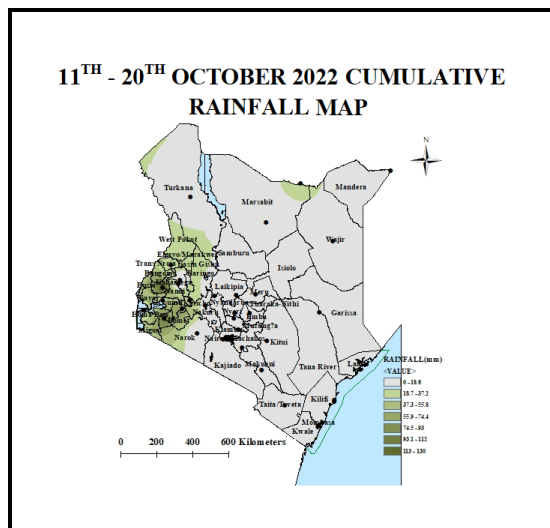


Figure 3.1: Actual rainfall totals for dekad 29, 2022

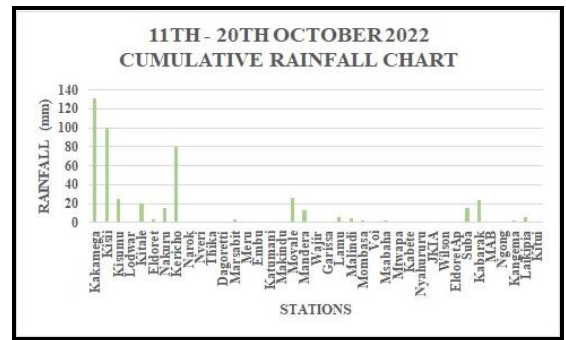


Figure 3.2: Dekadal rainfall totals in (mm)

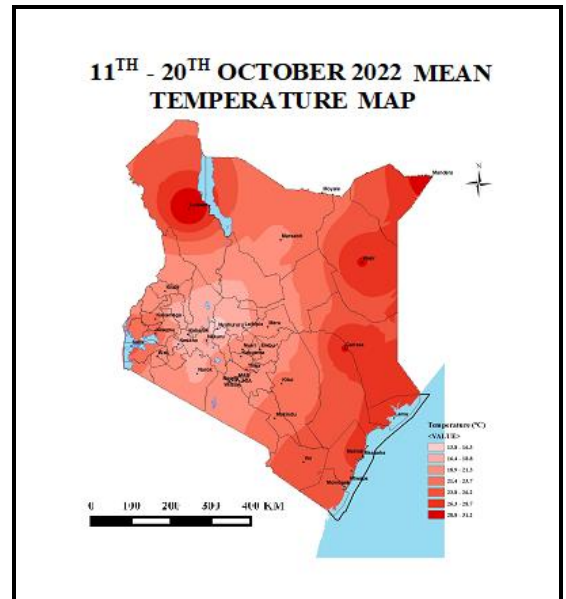


Figure 3.3: Mean temperature distribution for dekad 29, 2022

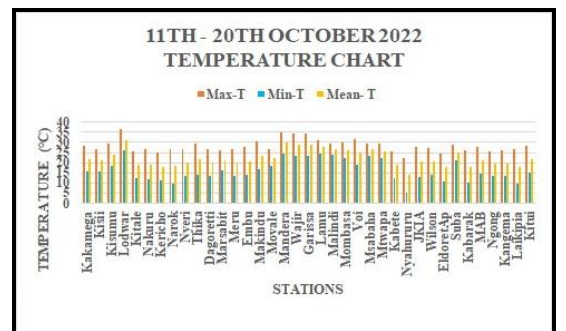


Figure 3.4 Dekadal temperatures in (°C).

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

During the next 10 days, Counties in western Kenya, Nyanza, Central and south Rift Valley regions are likely to experience moderate rainfall (greater than 5.0 mm) during the forecast period.

The forecasted rain over these regions is expected to support maize to attain maturity despite being at various stages depending on the locality.

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its surrounding are also expected to receive moderate rainfall during the forecast period. Farmers within Nyeri, Thika and Kabete are expected to start planting once the rains start. At Nyahuru the forecasted rain is expected to support maize to attain maturity.

South Eastern lowlands and the coastal regions are expected to receive moderate rainfall (greater than 5.0 mm). Farmers who have completed preparing their land are expected to start planting once the rains start.

In summary, normal yields expected in Western, Central Rift Valley and Central highlands. However, in Eastern only the central areas are likely to receive normal yield. Over the pastoral region hot and dry conditions are expected to persist.

For clarification, feedback or further guidance, please Contact:

**The Director,
Kenya Meteorological Department,**