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DEKAD 8 PERIOD: 11TH – 20TH March 2023

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

- Several parts of the country recorded an increase in the amount of rainfall received especially over Western and Nyanza regions where heavy to very heavy rainfall was reported.
- Suba station in Nyanza reported the highest amount of rainfall in the Country (261.2 mm) during the ten day period under review.
- Average mean air temperature dropped over most parts of the country except along the Coastal strip. The cooler regions in the Country had mean air temperatures ranging between 17.2 °C – 21.4 °C while the warmer regions had average mean air temperature of up to 32.0°C (Figs. 3.3 & 3.4).
- Total pan evaporation, dropped over most stations with highest readings of 81.7 mm being recorded at Lodwar station in North Western Kenya.
- Several parts of the country are expected to receive moderate to heavy rainfall during the next 10 days (21st – 31st March 2023).

2.0 WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD: 11TH – 20TH MARCH 2023

2.1 SUMMARY

During the dekad, (11th – 20th March 2023) several parts of the country recorded an increase in the amount of rainfall received especially over Western and Nyanza regions where heavy to very heavy rainfall was reported. Suba station in Nyanza reported the highest amount of rainfall reading in the Country (261.2 mm) followed by Kisii station.

The current onset of the rainy season over most parts of the Country has kicked off the process of planting over several places while in regions where farmers had planted early enough, crop management activities like weeding and topdressing are being carried out.

2.2 WESTERN AND NYANZA REGION

Most stations from the region reported enhanced rainfall that had surpassed their long-term dekadal means by three or four times. Heavy to very heavy rainfall was reported by all stations in the region during the dekad. Average mean air temperatures dropped in the region and ranged between 20.3 °C and 23.8 °C. Broken cloud cover dominated the sky during the morning and afternoon hours.

2.2.1 KAKAMEGA:

The station reported a cumulative rainfall amount of 145.5 mm against its Long term dekadal mean of 45.0 mm, the station had a total of four (6) consecutive rainy days with 5 days recording more than 5.0 mm (moderate to heavy rainfall). Scattered to broken cloud cover dominated the station in the morning and afternoon hours throughout the whole dekad. Average mean air temperature at the station dropped from 24.0 °C to 22.4 °C. Most farmers have completed planting. Both maize and beans are at emergence stage.

2.2.2 KISII:

The station received heavy to very heavy rainfall during the dekad. A cumulative rainfall amount of 211.8 mm was received against its long-term dekadal mean of 55.4 mm. The station had a total of seven (7) consecutive rainy days with all (7) days recording more than 5.0 mm (heavy to very heavy rainfall). Mean air temperature dropped from 22.6 °C in the previous dekad to 20.3 °C. Scattered to broken cloud cover persisted during both morning and afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Total pan evaporation was 46.5 mm. Most farmers have completed planting. Maize and beans are at their emergence stage.

2.3 RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE

Several stations from the region reported enhanced rainfall that surpassed their long-term dekadal means by two or three times. Moderate to heavy rainfall was reported by all stations in the region during the dekad. Average mean air temperatures generally dropped in the region and ranged between 18.3 °C and 20.4 °C. Broken cloud cover dominated the sky during the morning and afternoon hours.

2.3.1 KITALE:

The station generally received moderate to heavy rainfall during the dekad. A cumulative rainfall amount of 68.0 mm was received against its long-term dekadal mean of 25.8 mm.

The station reported three (3) consecutive rainy days with all three (3) days receiving more than 5.0 mm of rainfall (moderate to heavy rainfall). Cloud cover was scattered during the morning and increased to broken during the afternoon hours. Average mean air temperature dropped from 21.8°C to 20.4°C. Farmers have started planting their farms anticipating that the rains will continue.

2.3.2 KERICHO:

A cumulative amount of 81.5 mm of rainfall was reported against its long-term dekadal mean of 45.2 mm. The station had a total of 4 consecutive rainy days with three (3) days recording more than 5.0 mm (moderate to heavy) rainfall during the dekad. Average mean air temperature dropped from 19.81 °C in the previous dekad to 18.3 °C in the current dekad. Scattered to broken cloud cover persisted over the station in the morning and in the afternoon hours. Most farmers in the area have completed planting maize and beans and both crops are at emergence stage.

2.3.3 KABARAK:

The station reported a cumulative amount of 62.7 mm of rain against its long-term dekadal mean of 20.2 mm. the station reported a total of three (3) consecutive rainy days recording more than 5.0 mm (moderate to heavy) rainfall during the dekad. Average mean air temperature was 19.9 °C during the current dekad. Scattered to broken cloud cover persisted over the station in the morning and in the afternoon hours throughout the entire dekad. Most farmers in the area have completed planting and both maize and beans and the two crops are at emergence stage.

2.4 CENTRAL AND NAIROBI PROVINCES.

Several stations from the Central region reported enhanced rainfall which surpassed their long-term dekadal mean. Moderate to heavy rainfall was reported by some stations in the region while the rest reported light rains during the same period. Average mean air temperatures generally dropped in the region and ranged between 17.2 °C and 21.4 °C. Broken cloud cover dominated the sky during the morning and afternoon hours throughout the dekad

2.4.1 NYERI:

Received a total cumulative amount of 12.6 mm against its long-term dekadal mean rainfall of 14.5 mm. The station reported a single rainy day with moderate rainfall (more than 5.0 mm of rainfall) during the whole dekad. Cloud cover was scattered during the morning and increased to broken during afternoon hours throughout the dekad. The average mean air temperature was 21.4 °C which was an increase from 20.3°C in the previous dekad. Some farmers in the area have started planting both maize and beans.

2.4.2 THIKA:

Received a total cumulative amount of 29.8 mm against its long-term dekadal mean rainfall of 24.4 mm. The station had a total of two (2) rainy days with 1 day recording more than 5.0 mm (moderate to heavy rainfall). Cloud cover was scattered during the morning

and increased to broken during afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Most farmers in the area have started planting both maize and beans.

2.4.3 KABETE:

The station received a total cumulative amount of 47.6 mm against its long-term dekad mean of 25.6 mm of rainfall. The station had a total of four (4) rainy days with three (03) days recording more than 5.0 mm (moderate to heavy) rainfall. Scattered cloud cover during the morning increasing to broken during the afternoon dominated the sky throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature at the station was 20.8 °C. Most farmers in the area have started planting their farms.

Coffee variety *Ruiru hybrid 11* is at 100% berry soft and the crop state is fair which corresponds to normal growth. The extent of spread of weeds is not much in the farm though 40% of the crop has been affected by leaf rust.

Banana variety *Giant Cavendish* is at 90% suckers and 10% ripeness stage and there is a considerable amount of weeds but they do not affect the plant. However, 40% of the crop has been affected by Panama banana disease.

2.4.4 NYAHURURU:

The station received a total cumulative amount of 11.2 mm against its long-term dekad mean of 18.2 mm of rainfall. The station a single rainy day recording more than 5.0 mm of moderate rainfall. Scattered cloud cover during the morning increasing to broken during the afternoon dominated the sky throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature at the station was 17.2 °C. Planting has not kicked off in the area because of insufficient rainfall.

2.5 EASTERN REGION:

Several stations in the region reported some rainfall with Moyale leading the region with 151.1 mm of rainfall. Scattered cloud cover which increased to broken in the afternoon was generally observed in the region during the entire period under review. Average mean air temperatures ranged between 20.7 °C and 26.0 °C.

2.5.1 MERU:

The station received a total cumulative amount of 39.3 mm against its long-term dekad mean of 22.1 mm of rainfall. The station received a single rainy day recording more than 5.0 mm of moderate rainfall. Scattered cloud cover during the morning increasing to broken during the afternoon dominated the sky throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature at the station was 20.7 °C. Planting of both maize and beans has already kicked off in the area as farmers anticipate the current rains to continue.

2.5.2 EMBU:

The station received a total cumulative amount of 29.0 mm against its long-term dekad mean of 27.0 mm of rainfall. The station had a total of two (2) rainy days with all two (2)

days recording more than 5.0 mm (moderate) rainfall. Scattered cloud cover during the morning increasing to broken during the afternoon dominated the sky throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature at the station was 22.2 °C.

2.5.3 KATUMANI:

The station received a total cumulative amount of 10.2 mm against its long-term dekad mean of 25.2 mm of rainfall. The station had a total of two (2) consecutive rainy days with only 1 day recording more than 5.0 mm (moderate) rainfall. Scattered cloud cover during the morning increasing to broken during the afternoon dominated the sky throughout the dekad. Total pan evaporation was 71.2 mm.

Most farmers are waiting for the rains to start planting maize and beans

Mangoes (variety apple) are at 40% fruit setting, 60 % ripeness stage. The crop condition is fair which corresponds to normal growth. Weeds are seldom seen within the farm and insufficient rainfall seems to be adversely affecting the mangoes, which are still at a sensitive phase.

Oranges (Washington Navel) were at 100% fruit setting and the crop condition was fair corresponding to normal growth. Infestation by aphids and insufficient rainfall are affecting the phase. Weeds are seldom seen within the farms.

2.6 COASTAL REGION:

Most parts of the coastal strip generally remained dry during the dekad, except in Mombasa where moderate rain was recorded. Scattered to broken cloud cover dominated the region during the morning decreasing to few during the afternoon hours. Mean air temperature ranged between 27.9 °C and 29.3 °C.

2.6.1 MTWAPA:

The station received a total cumulative amount of 3.0 mm against its long-term dekad mean of 14.7 mm of rainfall. Average mean air temperature was 27.9 °C. Broken cloud cover dominated the sky during the morning decreasing to few in the afternoon hours. Land preparations continued to be carried out by farmers awaiting the onset of the long rain season.

2.6.1 MSABAHA:

The station remained dry during the dekad. Average mean air temperature was 28.9 °C. Broken cloud cover during morning hours reducing to few in the afternoon predominated the sky over the station. Farmers are waiting for the onset of the long rains and then start planting.

2.7 NORTH EASTERN REGION:

All stations from the North Eastern region reported light rainfall during the current dekad. Wajir station reported the highest amount 11.5 mm and Garissa reported only 0.01 mm. Few/scattered cloud cover was generally observed over the region during the morning and afternoon hours. Mean air temperature ranged between 31.0 °C and 32.0 °C. Total pan evaporation was 74.0 mm and 75.5 mm at Mandera

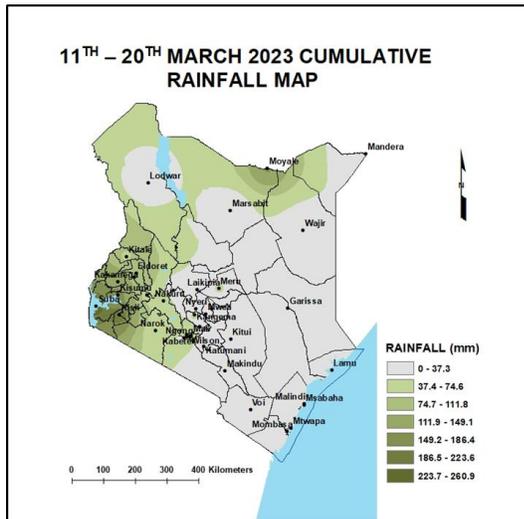


Fig: 3.1

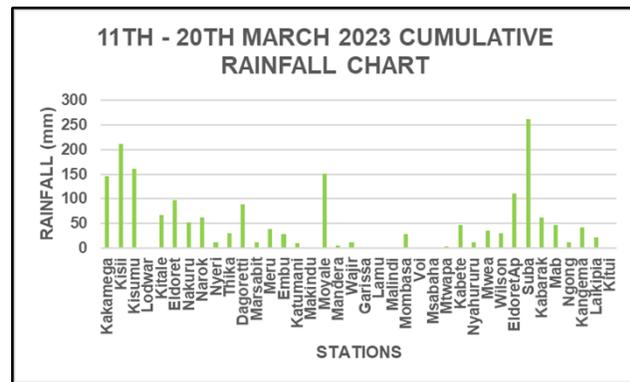


Fig: 3.2

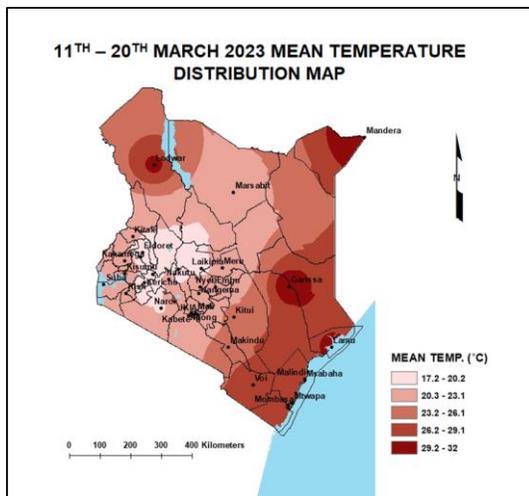


Fig: 3.3

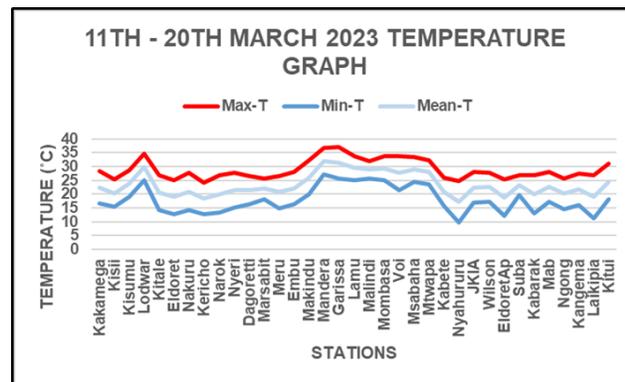


Fig: 3.4

4.0 EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT TEN (10) DAYS; 21ST - 31ST MARCH 2023.

During the next ten (10) days, moderate to heavy rainfall is expected to fall over most parts of the country including over south eastern lowlands and the Coastal region.

Over Western and Nyanza regions, some farmers are expected to start weeding and top dress their farms because both maize and beans are past emergency stage.

In Central and Eastern parts of the country, moderate rainfall is expected over Mt. Kenya region which will make farmers to start planting.

Northern Western/Eastern are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall during the next dekad. This is likely to help in the regeneration of pasture/forage in the region and recharge water/earth pans in the area.

Communities in these areas are therefore advised to de-silt all earth/water pans and other water reservoirs to maximize on water storage

South Eastern lowlands and the coastal regions are also expected to receive moderate rainfall during the coming dekad and therefore farmers are advised to buy and plant drought tolerant crop varieties.



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FOR: DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES.