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## **AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN**

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### **DEKAD 6 PERIOD: 21<sup>ST</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

#### **1.0 HIGHLIGHTS**

- Several parts of the country continued to report dry conditions while several other places mostly over the Western part, Garissa and Mwea reported moderate rainfall.
- Average mean air temperature remained high over most parts of the country. The cooler regions in the Country had mean air temperatures ranging from (14.8 – 21.5) °C while the warmer regions had average mean air temperature rising up to of 30.9°C (Figs. 3.3 & 3.4).
- Few-Scattered cloud cover dominated the sky over most parts of the country therefore increasing daily total radiation and number of sunshine hours.
- Total pan evaporation, remained relatively high over most parts of the country with highest readings of 83.5 mm being recorded at Lodwar station in North Western Kenya.
- During the next 10 days (01<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023), some parts of the country are expected to receive light-moderate rainfall towards the end of the dekad.

#### **2.0 WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD: 21<sup>ST</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

##### **2.1 HIGHLIGHTS**

During the sixth dekad (21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023), several parts of the country continued to report dry conditions except at Western and Nyanza (Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu Kericho and Suba), Garissa and Mwea stations where moderate rain fell during the dekad. The prevailing dry conditions especially over most arable regions in central and Eastern Kenya continue to take a toll on crops that have already shown signs of water stress and whole farms are drying up.

## **2.2 WESTERN AND NYANZA REGION**

Most stations from the region continued to report less rainfall than their long-term dekadal means. Moderate rainfall was reported by most stations during the current dekad. Average mean air temperatures ranged between 21.6 °C and 26.1 °C. Scattered to Broken cloud cover dominated the sky during the morning and afternoon hours.

### **2.2.1 KAKAMEGA:**

The station reported a cumulative rainfall amount of 35.0 mm against its Long term dekadal mean of 23.0 mm. Scattered cloud cover dominated the station in the morning and afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature at the station was 24.7°C. Most farmers are busy preparing their land for the next season.

### **2.2.2 KISII:**

The station received moderate rainfall during the dekad. A cumulative amount of 17.9 mm fell against its long-term dekadal mean of 32.27 mm. There was no significant variation of mean air temperature from 23.2 °C in the previous dekad. Scattered to Broken cloud cover persisted during both morning and afternoon hours throughout the entire dekad. Total pan evaporation at Kisii was 30.4 mm. Harvesting of both maize and beans is over and most farmers are now preparing their farms for the next season.

## **2.3 RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE**

All stations from the region reported less rainfall than their long-term dekadal means. Moderate/light rainfall reported at Narok and Kericho stations while the rest of the region recorded light rainfall. Scattered cloud cover in the morning and afternoon hours dominated the sky throughout the region with average mean air temperature ranging between 19.4 °C and 21.6 °C.

### **2.3.1 KITALE:**

The station received light rainfall (0.73mm) during the dekad. Cloud cover was Scattered during the morning and increased to Broken during afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Total pan evaporation was 37.7 mm and average mean air temperature of 21.6°C. Farmers are busy preparing their farms for the next cropping season.

### **2.3.2 KERICHO:**

The station reported a cumulative amount of 11.02 mm of rain against its long-term dekadal mean of 22.28 mm. Average mean air temperature was 20.45 °C and scattered cloud cover persisted over the station in the morning while broken cloud cover was reported in the afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Most farmers are busy preparing their farms for the next season.

## **2.4 CENTRAL AND NAIROBI PROVINCES.**

The Central region remained mostly dry during the current dekad except at Mwea and Nyeri stations where moderate and light rainfall was reported respectively. Scattered cloud cover dominated the region during the morning and afternoon hours. Mean air temperature ranged between 16.1 °C and 22.6 °C.

#### **2.4.1 NYERI:**

Received a total cumulative amount of 0.4 mm against its long-term dekadal mean rainfall of 7.7 mm. Cloud cover was few during the morning and increased to scattered during afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Maintained average mean air temperature of 15.2 °C as in the previous dekad.

Farmers are preparing the farms for the planting during the long rain season.

#### **2.4.2 THIKA:**

The station did not receive any rainfall during the dekad. Cloud cover was few during the morning and the afternoon hours and persisted throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature was 22.6 °C and total pan evaporation 54.5 mm. Farms have been cleared and are being prepared for the next planting season.

#### **2.4.3 KABETE:**

The station did not receive any rainfall during the dekad. Scattered cloud cover during the morning which decreased to few during the afternoon persisted throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature increased to 21.4°C.

Both maize and beans have failed due to lack of sufficient rainfall and therefore, the farms are being prepared for the next season.

Coffee variety *Ruiru hybrid 11* is at 100% pinhead and the crop state is fair which corresponds to normal growth. The extent of spread of weeds is not much in the farm though 30% of the crop has been affected by leaf rust.

Banana variety *Giant Cavendish* is at 100% suckers 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 remained dry throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature was 16.1°C Cloud cover was scattered during the morning and increased to broken during afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Farmers are preparing the farms for planting during the long rain season.

### **2.5 EASTERN REGION:**

The entire Eastern region continued to remain dry during the current dekad. Average mean air temperatures ranged between 19.8 °C and 25.3 °C. Few cloud cover was generally observed over the entire region during both morning and afternoon hours.

#### **2.5.1 MERU:**

The station did not receive any rainfall during the dekad. Cloud cover was few during the morning and afternoon hours and persisted throughout the dekad. Farmers are preparing their farms for planting during the long rain season.

#### **2.5.2 EMBU:**

The station remained dry throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature increased slightly to 21.2 °C during the dekad. Cloud cover was few during the morning and afternoon hours and persisted throughout the dekad. Farmers continue to prepare their farms. Maize crop has really deteriorated due to dry spell, and low yield was attained.

### **2.5.3 KATUMANI:**

Katumani station did not receive any rainfall during the dekad. Cloud cover was few during the morning and afternoon hours and persisted throughout the dekad. Total pan evaporation of 67.0 mm was reported during the dekad.

Maize variety *Ukamez* and beans variety *KAT 56* have failed due to lack of sufficient rainfall and therefore, the farms are being prepared for the next season.

Mangoes (variety apple) are at 100% fruit setting 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 farm.

### **2.6 COASTAL REGION:**

The entire coastal strip generally remained dry during the dekad. Broken cloud cover dominated the region during the morning decreasing to few during the afternoon hours. Mean air temperature ranged between 27.2 °C and 28.8 °C.

#### **2.6.1 MTWAPA:**

The station remained dry during the dekad. Average mean air temperature was 27.6 °C. Broken cloud cover dominated the sky during the morning decreasing to few in the afternoon hours.

Land preparations are being carried out by farmers awaiting the long rain seasons.

#### **2.6.1 MSABAHA:**

The station remained dry during the dekad. Average mean air temperature dropped slightly to 28.2°C and broken cloud cover was observed during morning hours reducing to few during the afternoon hours.

Farmer have started preparing their farms ready for the long rains.

### **2.7 NORTH EASTERN REGION:**

All stations from the North Eastern region reported dry conditions except for Garissa which reported 80 mm of rainfall during the current dekad.

Few/Scattered cloud cover was generally observed over the region during the morning and afternoon hours. Mean air temperature ranged between 30.6 °C and 31.0 °C. Pasture and forage regeneration completely stopped and water loss from earth pans increased because of high temperatures and prevailing dry windy conditions.

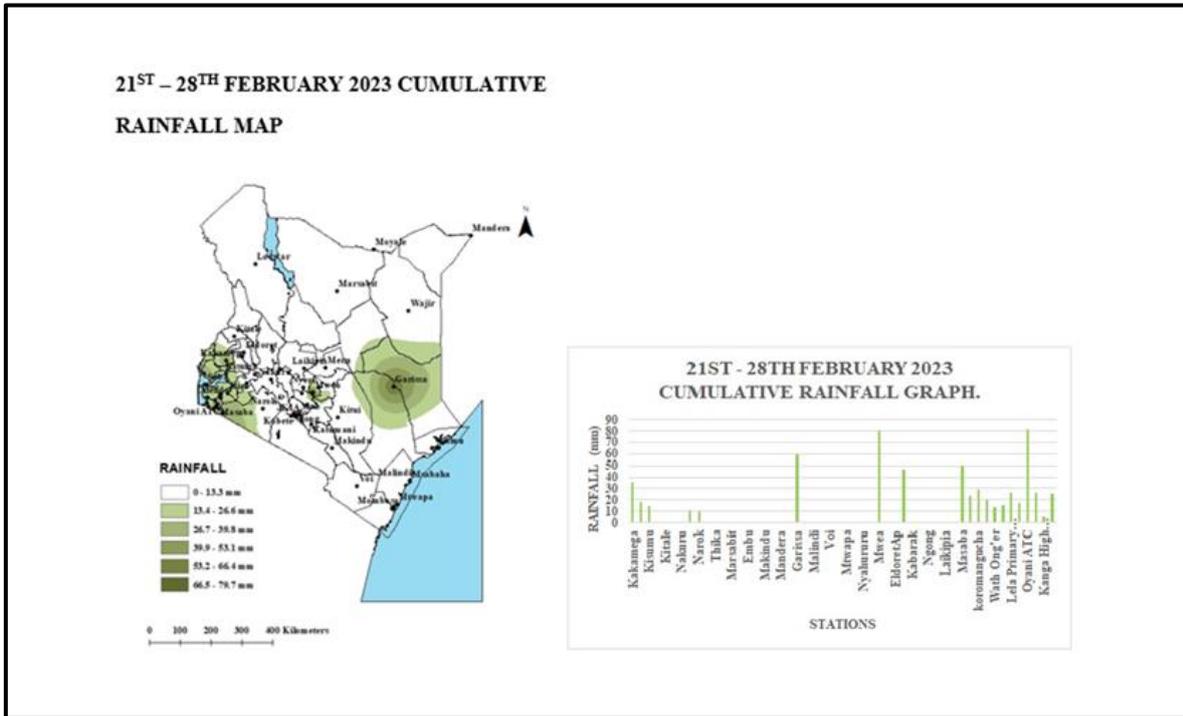


Fig 3.1.

Fig 3.2.

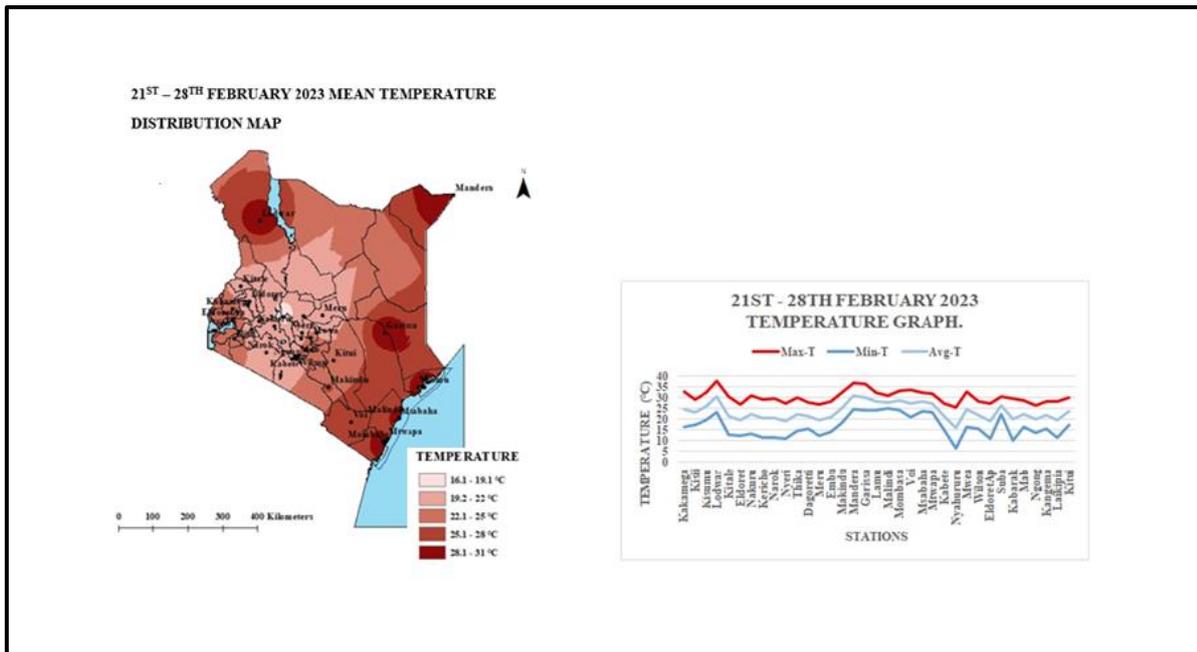


Fig 3.3.

Fig 3.4.

#### 4.0 EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS; 01<sup>ST</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023.

During the next 10 days, sunny and dry conditions will be experienced over most parts of the country except over few isolated areas within western and Nyanza where light to moderate rainfall is expected

As a result of an early onset.

Over western and Nyanza regions, the expected weather conditions will help in drying the harvested grains therefore, reduce post-harvest loses.

In Central and Eastern parts of the country, afternoon showers are expected from mid of the dekad over Mt. Kenya region which will help during the land preparations and planting with the onset of the long rainy season.

Northern Western/Eastern are likely to continue experience dry conditions during the next dekad. This continues to worsen pasture/forage situation in the region. The current status of water resources is also expected to continue to worsen as most earth/water pans will continue to loose water through evaporation.

Communities in these areas are therefore advised to set up committees to manage prudently grazing and watering areas to avoid resource based conflicts.

South Eastern lowlands and the coastal regions are expected to remain dry with no rainfall therefore, worsening the current poor condition of pasture and food crops in these regions.



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