



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & FORESTRY
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT
Dagoretti Corner, Ngong Road, P. O. Box 30259-00100, GPO, Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254 (0) 20 38567880-7, +254 724 255 153-4
E-mail: director@meteo.go.ke, info@meteo.go.ke Website: <http://www.meteo.go.ke>

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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DEKAD 7 PERIOD: 11TH – 20TH March 2023

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

- Several parts of the country continued to report dry conditions, with significant rainfall reported over few parts of Coast, Central highlands, Rift Valley, Western and Nyanza (Msabaha, Nyeri, Kitale, Kericho, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu and Narok).
- Average mean air temperature remained high over most parts of the country. The cooler regions in the Country had mean air temperatures ranging from (16.8 – 19.8) °C while the warmer regions had average mean air temperature rising up to of 30.9°C (Figs. 3.3 & 3.4).
- 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 106 mm being recorded at Mandera station in North Eastern Kenya.
- During the next 10 days (11th – 20th 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: 1ST – 10TH MARCH 2023

2.1 SUMMARY

During the current dekad (01st – 10th March 2023), several parts of the country continued to report dry conditions, with significant rainfall reported over few parts of Coast, Central highlands, Rift Valley, Western and Nyanza (Msabaha, Nyeri, Kitale, Kericho, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu and Narok). The prevailing dry conditions especially over most arable regions in Central and Eastern Kenya continued to take a toll on both food and cash crops that had already shown signs of water stress and whole farms are drying up, leading to clearance of farms in preparation for the long rain season.

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 22.6 °C and 25.1 °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 18.4 mm against its Long term dekadal mean of 53.4 mm, the station had a total of four (4) rainy days with 2 days recording more than 5.0 mm. Scattered to broken cloud cover dominated the station in the morning and afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature at the station was 24.0°C. Most farmers are busy preparing their land for the next season.

2.2.2 KISII:

The station received a moderate rainfall during the dekad. A cumulative rainfall amount of 47.6 mm fell against its long-term dekadal mean of 51.3 mm, the station had a total of four (4) rainy days with two (2) days recording more than 5.0 mm. Mean air temperature, dropped slightly from 23.2 °C to 22.6 °C in the previous dekad. Scattered to broken cloud cover persisted during both morning and afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Farmers are waiting for the onset of the long rains' season and then start planting their farms.

2.3 RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE

Most stations from the region reported less rainfall than their long-term dekadal means, except in Kericho. Moderate rainfall was reported at Kitale, Narok and Kericho stations while the rest of the region recorded light rainfall. Scattered to Broken cloud cover in the morning and afternoon hours dominated the sky throughout the region with average mean air temperature ranging between 19.8 °C and 22.3 °C.

2.3.1 KITALE:

The station reported two (2) rainy days (> 5.0 mm) with a cumulative amount of (16.1mm) against its long term dekadal mean of 25.5 mm. Cloud cover was Scattered during the morning and increased to broken during afternoon hours throughout the dekad. The average mean air temperature was 21.8°C, which is an increase of 0.2 °C from the previous dekad. Farmers are busy preparing their farms for the next cropping season.

2.3.2 KERICHO:

The station reported a cumulative amount of 79.21 mm of rain against its long-term dekadal mean of 37.93 mm. The station had a total of 4 rainy days (days with > 5.0 mm of rainfall) during the current dekad. Average mean air temperature was 19.81 °C, which was a drop of 0.6 °C from the previous dekad. Scattered to 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 in Nyeri and Meru 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 16.8 °C and 23.3 °C.

2.4.1 NYERI:

Received a total cumulative amount of 35.9 mm against its long-term dekad mean rainfall of 20.2 mm. The station had a total of 4 rainy days with 3 days recording more than 5.0mm.. Cloud cover was few during the morning and increased to scattered during afternoon hours throughout the dekad. The average mean air temperature was 20.3 °C which was an increase of 1.2 °C from the previous dekad.

Farmers are preparing the farms for planting during the long rains' 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 23.3 °C and total pan evaporation 71.0 mm. Farms have been cleared and 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 decreasing to few during the afternoon throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature maintained as in the previous dekad at 21.4°C.

Maize is at harvesting stage though the expected yield is poor due to lack of sufficient rainfall. Some farmers have started preparing their farms for the next season.

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 remained dry throughout the dekad. Average mean air temperature was 16.8°C, an increase of 0.7 °C from the previous dekad. Cloud cover was few to scattered during the morning and increased from scattered to broken during afternoon hours throughout the dekad. Farmers are preparing the farms for planting during the long rains' season.

2.5 EASTERN REGION:

The entire Eastern region continued to remain dry during the current dekad. Average mean air temperatures ranged between 20.5 °C and 25.4 °C. Few cloud cover was generally observed over the entire region during both morning and afternoon hours.

2.5.1 MERU:

The station received light rainfall (3.2 mm) 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 21.9 °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.

2.5.3 KATUMANI:

Katumani station remained dry during the current dekad. Cloud cover was few during the morning and afternoon hours and persisted throughout the dekad. Total pan evaporation of 86.5 mm was reported during the dekad. The farms are being prepared for the next season.

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 Msabaha 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 27.4 °C and 29.1 °C.

2.6.1 MTWAPA:

The station remained dry during the dekad. 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 recorded moderate rainfall of 56.6 mm during the dekad, it had a total of three (3) rainy days with all the days recording more than 5.0 mm. Average mean air temperature increased by 0.5°C from 28.2°C in the previous dekad. Broken cloud cover was observed during morning hours reducing to few during the afternoon hours.

Farmer continued preparing their farms as they waited for the onset of the long rains.

2.7 NORTH EASTERN REGION:

All stations from the North Eastern region reported dry conditions 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 30.9 °C and 32.7 °C. Severe drought has affected the entire region.

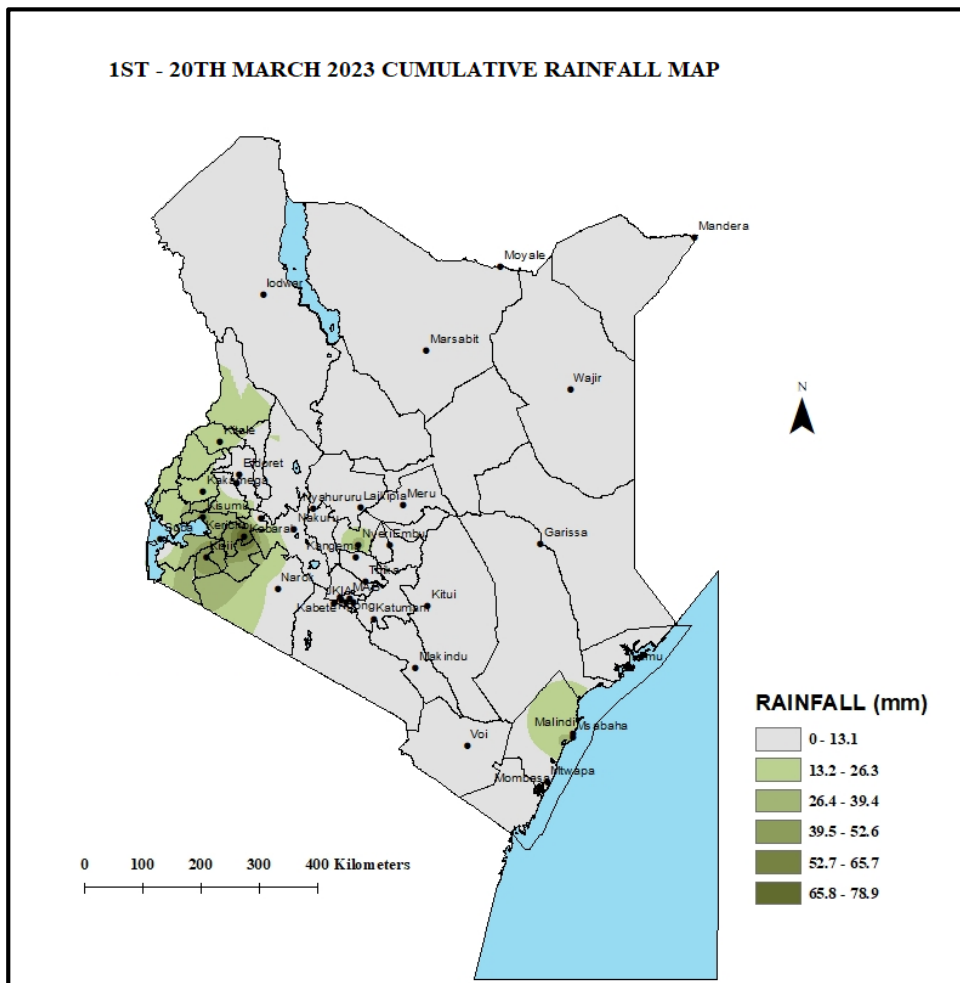


Fig: 3.1

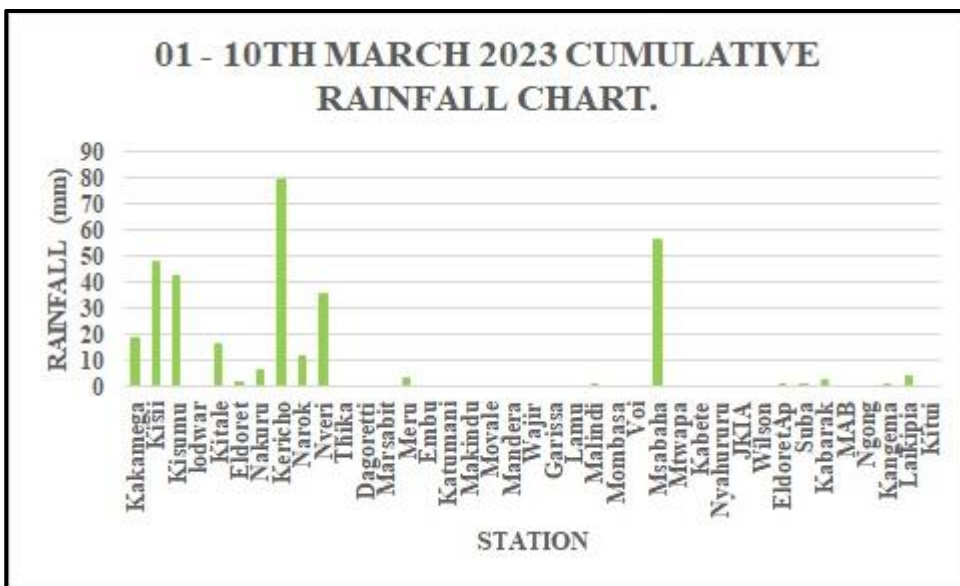


Fig: 3.2

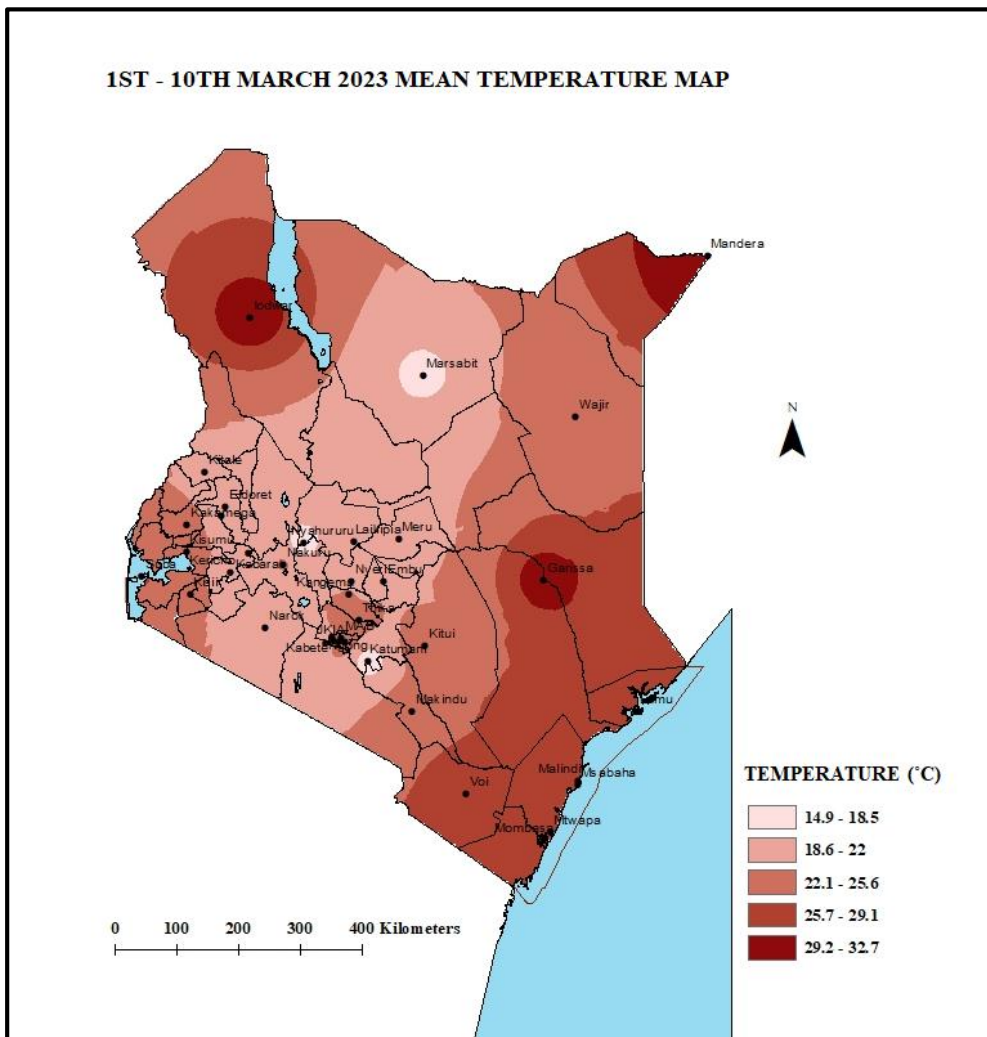


Fig: 3.3

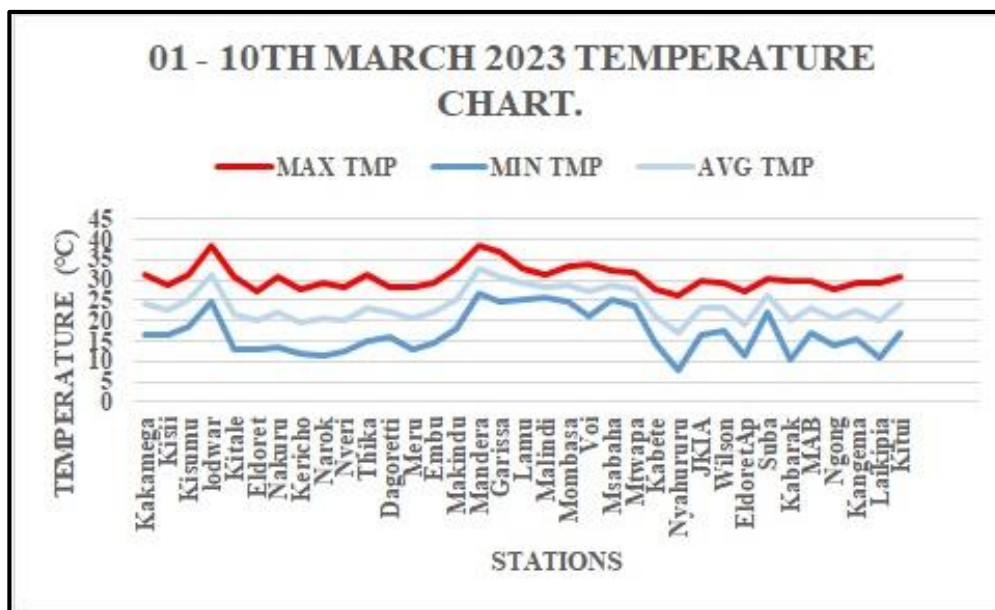


Fig: 3.4

4.0 EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT TEN (10) DAYS; 11TH – 20TH MARCH 2023.

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

Over Western and Nyanza regions, some farmers are expected to start planting because of the expected rains which are likely to continue throughout the dekad.

In Central and Eastern parts of the country, moderate rainfall is expected 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 receive light to moderate rainfall during the next dekad. This is likely to help in the regeneration of pasture/forage situation and improve the current status of water resources in the region

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



Mary Githinji

FOR: DIRECTOR OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES.