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AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

DEKAD 6
PERIOD: 21ST – 28TH FEBRUARY
2022

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

- Most parts of the Country continued to report low amounts of rainfall just as in the previous dekad.
- The North Eastern and some parts of the Coastal regions continued to experience dry conditions during the same period.
- Mean air temperature increased slightly over most parts of the country during the dekad.
- During the next ten days, (1st – 10th March 2022) most parts of the country are expected to experience more dry conditions compared to the current dekad.

2.0 WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW FOR THE PERIOD: 21ST – 28TH FEBRUARY 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 of rainfall (figure 3.2), followed by Thika and Narok in the south rift. Cloud cover remained moderate over most parts of the country with mean air

temperatures remaining above 28 °C at the Coastal and North Eastern regions and ranging between (16 – 23) °C over the rest of the country.

2.1 WESTERN AND NYANZA REGIONS

The region reported reduced rainfall amounts compared to the previous dekad. Moderate rainfall was reported at Matungu in western Kenya and Suba station in south Nyanza. At Kisii, Kakamega and Kisumu stations, light rains were reported coupled with Moderate cloud cover during the entire period. Total pan evaporation at Suba station was 48.0 mm. Mean air Temperature in the region ranged between 21.0 - 23.0 °C.

Some farmers have already planted maize and beans though majority of the farming community continue to wait for the onset of the long rain season.

2.2 RIFT VALLEY REGION.

Several stations in the region reported reduced rainfall amounts compared to the previous dekad. Narok station reported moderate rainfall (figure 3.2), as the rest of the stations (Kapsoya, Eldoret Kericho Kabarak and Nakuru) reported only light rainfall. The south rift region is expected to have had a significant improvement of soil moisture levels

especially around Narok which has continued to receive moderate rainfall for two consecutive dekads. Pasture and forage regeneration is expected to improve giving reprieve to both livestock and wild game in the region.

Moderate cloud cover was reported in the region and mean air temperatures ranged between 18.0 - 21.0 °C at Kericho and Nakuru stations.

Most farmers especially in central rift have already planted maize and are now planting beans.

Over the pastoral areas in the north rift, high temperatures coupled with dry conditions pose a great threat to the already poor pasture and browse condition for both livestock and wildlife. 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.

Most stations in the region reported increased rainfall amounts compared to the previous dekad. Moderate rainfall was reported at Thika station while the rest of the stations reported light rains.

Mean air temperature over central and Nairobi area ranged between 16.0 – 21.0 °C. Several stations in the region reported moderate cloud cover and total pan evaporation at Dagoretti station was 38.6 mm.

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.

Most stations in the region reported increased rainfall amounts compared to the previous dekad. Several stations in Eastern region reported light rains with mean air temperatures ranging between 20.0

and 25.0 °C. Moderate cloud cover was reported over several areas during the dekad. Total pan evaporation ranged between 23.0 - 61.4 mm at Meru and Moyale stations.

At Katumani, maize (**Duma 43**) was at 100% wax ripeness stage and the crop condition was poor (below normal) due to insufficient rainfall. Beans (**KAT B1**) have been harvested and due to insufficient rainfall the yield was below normal.

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, harvesting of maize is ongoing and since no adverse effects had been reported, normal yield is expected. Beans have already been harvested and normal yield was obtained. Land preparation is ongoing as farmers wait for the next onset of the long rain season.

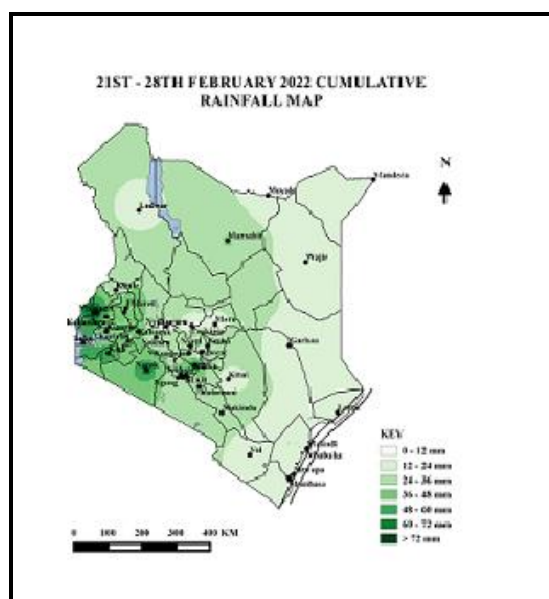


Figure 3.1: Actual rainfall totals for dekad 6, 2022

