



Highlights:

- **Cumulative rainfall for April_2017 was less and below normal** in most parts of the country due to considerable reduces of rainfall during dekad 2 of April_2017
- **A progressive trend of soil moisture** was observed over most of stations across the country during the month of April_2017
- **Cloudy conditions and light rain** remain favorable up to the end of first dekad of May_2017

I. Introduction

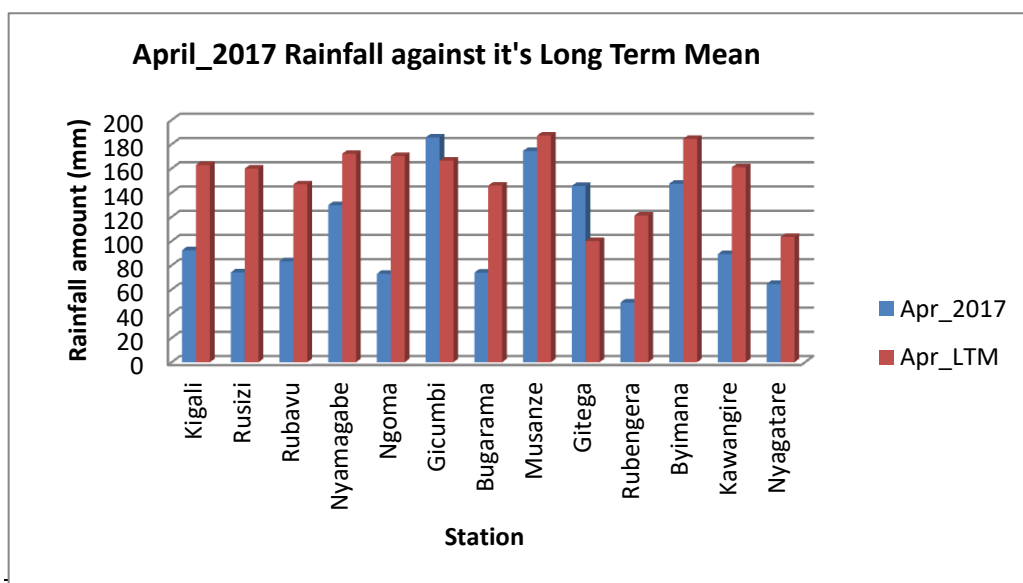
The overall situation of the month April_2017 was marked by moderate rains in many parts of the country. During the second dekad; dry conditions were observed; this dry conditions induced below normal cumulative rainfall at most parts of the country except stations in the north and central that recorded significant rainfall.

a) The table and histogram below indicates the rainfall recorded during April_2017 and its Long Term Mean (LTM):

Cumulative rainfall (in mm) recorded at different stations

Station	Apr_2017	Apr_LTM
Kigali (Kanombe)	92.5	162.9
Rusizi (Kamembe)	74.2	159.9
Rubavu (Gisenyi)	83.4	146.9
Nyamagabe (Gikongoro)	129.7	172.1
Ngoma (Kibungo)	73.1	170.3
Gicumbi (Byumba)	185.6	166.5
Bugarama	74	145.9
Musanze (Ruhengeri)	174.5	187.1
Gitega	145.6	100.1
Rubengera	49.4	121.2
Byimana	147.4	184.4
Kawangire	89.4	161
Nyagatare	64.6	103.4

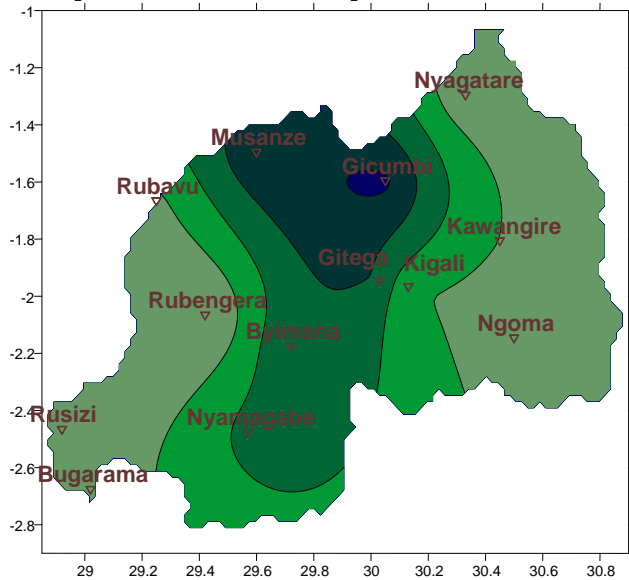
Table1



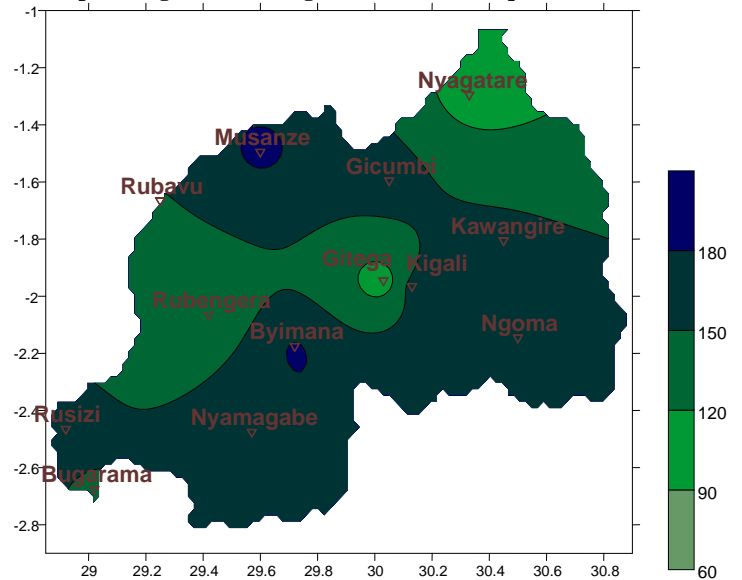
Plot1

b) **Rainfall analysis:** The maps “**Map 1 and 2**” below show the cumulative rainfall recorded during April_2017 and its long term mean (LTM) of cumulative rainfall. The maps “**map 3 and 4**” show the cumulative rainfall recorded during March_2017 and its LTM of cumulative rainfall.

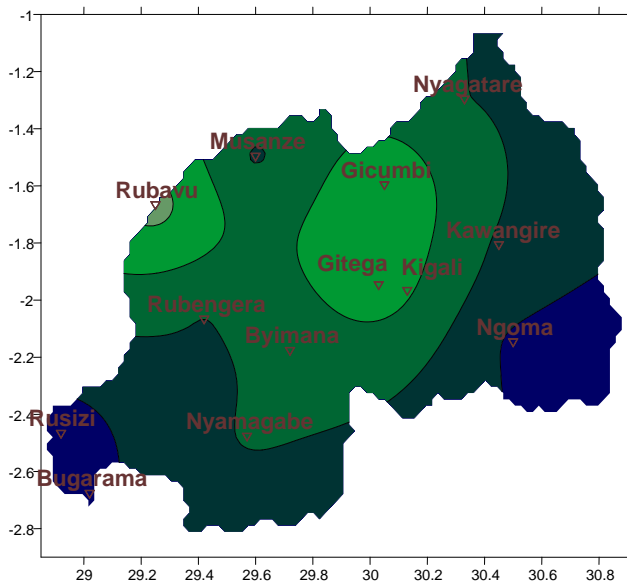
Map1: Total Rainfall (mm): Apr_2017



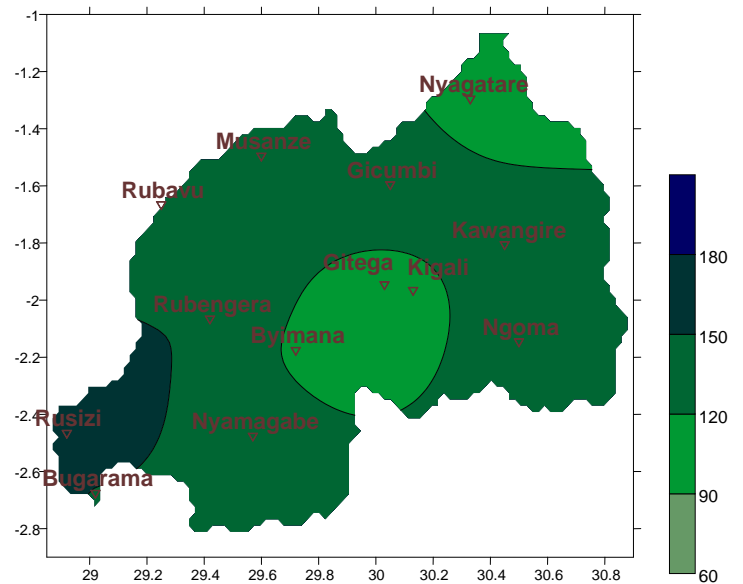
Map2: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): Apr_LTM



Map3: Total Rainfall (mm): Mar_2017



Map4: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): Mar_LTM



II. Detailed observed rainfall during April_2017

Most of the stations across the country observed reduced rainfall amount during April_2017 which was below the LTM for the same period. Localized stations in the central (Gitega station) and Northern Province (Musanze and Gicumbi stations) had slight enhanced rainfall (see **Map1&2**). The cumulative rainfalls for March_2017 were generally within and above the range of LTM especially for the southern part and eastern part of the country recorded highest rainfall (see **Map3&4**).

a) Eastern Province

The rainfall recorded was below the LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

b) Northern Province

The rainfall recorded was within the range of the LTM; Gicumbi station recorded the highest rainfall of 185.6mm (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

c) Southern Province

The rainfall recorded was below the LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

d) Western Province

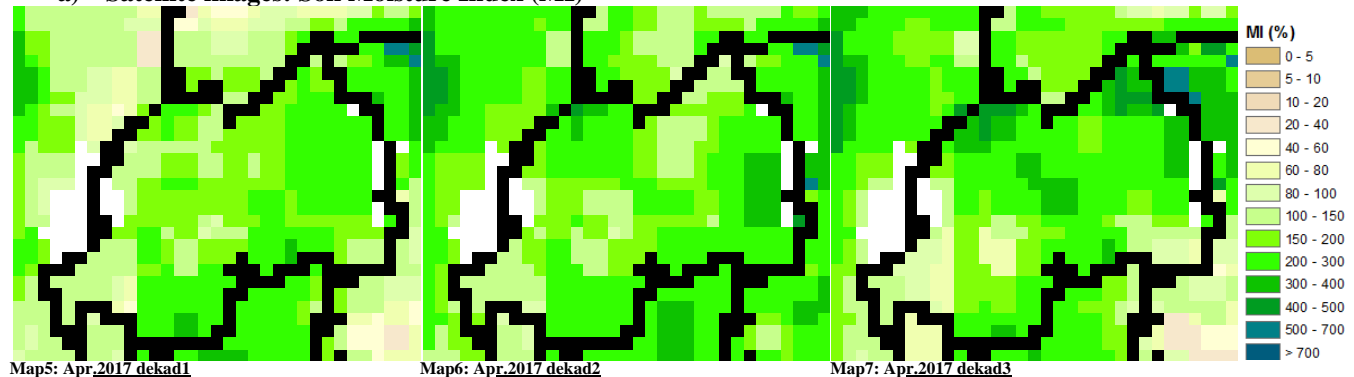
The rainfall recorded was below the LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

e) Kigali City

The central part had rainfall which was within the range of LTM across Kigali City with slight increase towards west (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

III. Agricultural impact.

a) Satellite images: Soil Moisture Index (MI)



During April_2017 the satellite derived moisture index showed increased soil moisture indices; this was as results of rainfall that was observed during the month of April (**Map 5, 6&7**; as shown above in the three consecutive dekads: first, second and third dekad respectively)

During May_2017; the weather is expected to be cloudy associated with light rain. Farmers are advised to continue taking advantage of the of the slight reduced rainy conditions during this month of May_2017

Rainfall forecast for May_2017

We expect the weather to be cloudy associated with light rain with reduced widespread wetter conditions during the month of May_2017

Kigali City; Will experience cloudy conditions associated with rain during the first dekad.

Eastern Region; Will experience cloudy conditions associated with light rain.

Western Region; Will experience rainy conditions.

Northern region; Will experience rainy conditions during the first two dekads.

Southern Region; Will experience cloudy conditions associated with rain.

N.B: This forecast should be used in conjunction with the daily (24-hour), Three (3), Five (5) and Seven (7) days forecasts issued by the Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Meteo Rwanda)