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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
RWANDA METEOROLOGY AGENCY



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Summary

The third Dekad (21-30) of April 2020, most parts of the country received moderate to heavy rainfall which was above the Long Term Mean (LTM) over all stations in the country. During the 3rd dekad of April 2020, the highest rainfall amount was recorded at Byimana station (193.4mm) in Ruhango District while the lowest rainfall was recorded at Ngoma-Kazo station (64mm) in Ngoma District. Generally Southern, Northern Provinces and Kigali City were comparatively wet than other parts of the country. The temperature was within the range of LTM. The maximum temperature ranged between 20.6°C at (Gicumbi and Busogo) stations, and 29.2°C at Bugarama station. Minimum temperature ranged between 12.2°C at Musanze and 18.6°C at Bugarama stations.

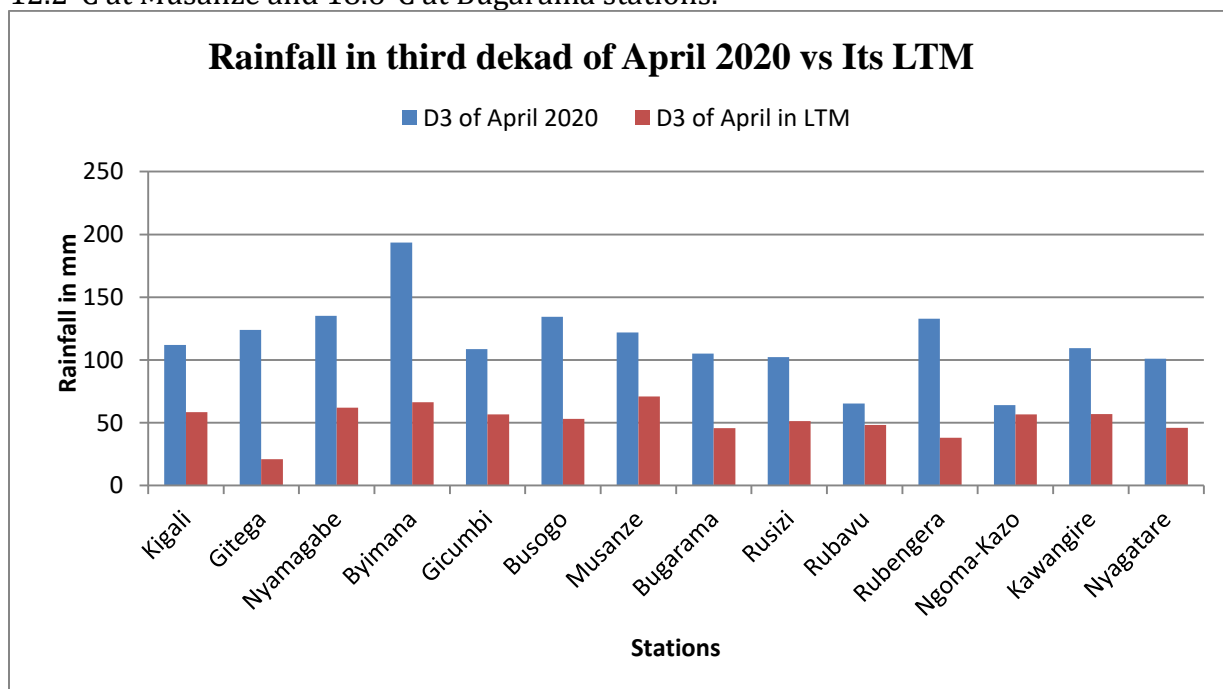


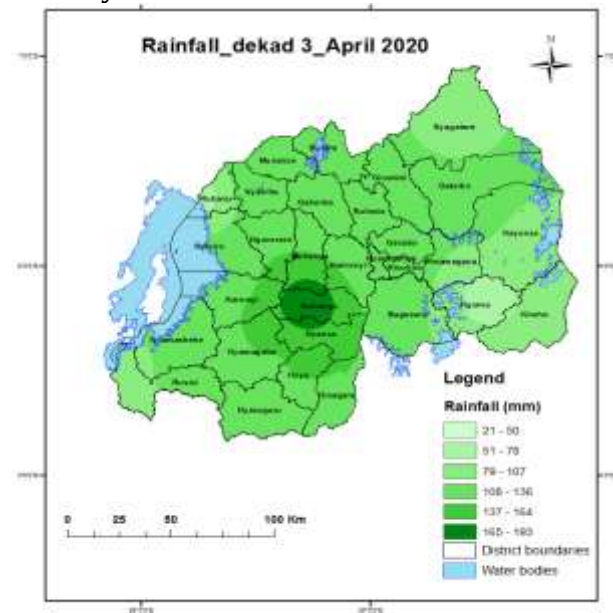
Figure 1: Rainfall performance as Compared to the LTM

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

This section provides the overview of observed rainfall amount, rainy-days and available soil moisture for the third dekad of April 2020.

1.1 Rainfall Amount

The total rainfall amount for the third dekad of April, 2020 is presented in map 1. On a daily basis observation, moderate to heavy rainfall were recorded in most parts of the country. The accumulation of rainfall in ten days ranged from 64mm at Kibungo-Kazo station in Ngoma District which is the lowest recorded and the highest was 193.4mm at Byimana station in Ruhango District. The Southern, Northern Provinces and Kigali City were wet compared to other parts of the country.

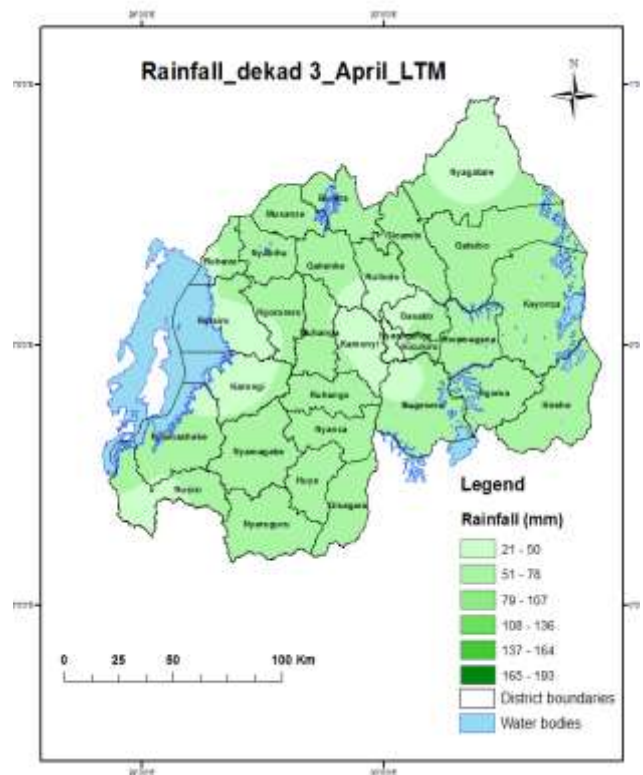


Map 1: Rainfall amount during 3rd Dekad of April 2020

1.2 Rainfall climatology for the 3rd dekad of April

The rainfall climatology for the 3rd dekad of April is shown in map 2, which indicates that rainfall ranged from 20.9 mm to 70.9 mm across the country.

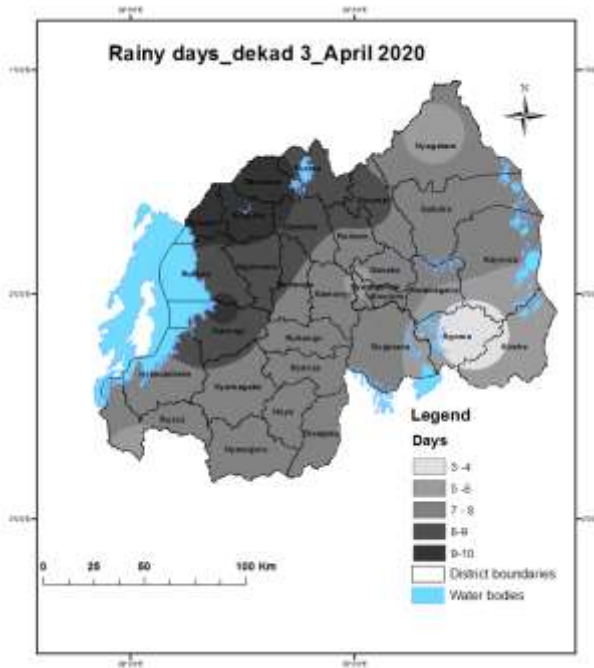
Comparing the 3rd Dekad of April 2020 and the Long Term Mean (LTM) for the same period, it was observed that rainfall was above the LTM in all parts of the country.



Map 2: Rainfall amount during 3rd Dekad(LTM)

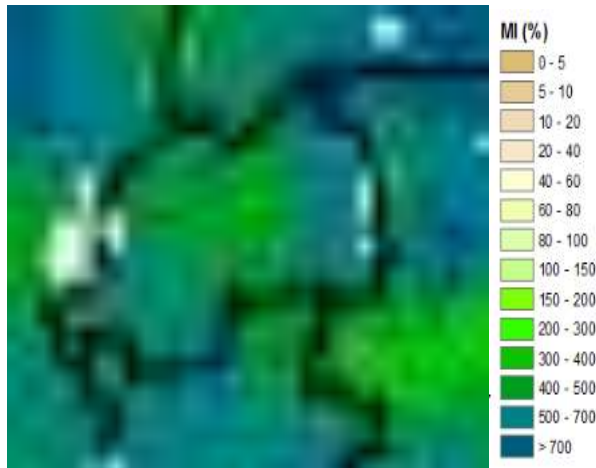
1.3. Number of Rain Days

Map 3 shows the distribution of number of rain-days. A rainy day is defined as a day with rainfall of 0.85mm or more. A total of 4 to 10 days were observed across the country. It can be seen that most parts of the country had 6 to 8 rainy days. A minimum of 4 days was observed at Kibungo-Kazo station. The maximum of 9 to 10 days were observed at Rubengera, Rubavu, Musanze and Busogo stations.



Map 3: Rainy days

1.4 Soil moisture index



Map 4: Soil Moisture Index

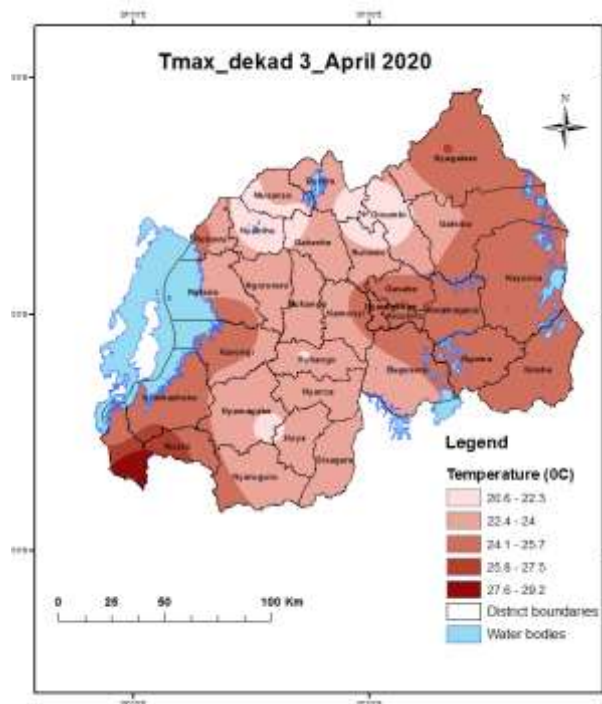
The distribution of available soil moisture across the country is shown in Map 4. Soil moisture increase over most parts of the country due to wet weather conditions experienced during third dekad of April 2020. The soil moisture will continue to increase during first dekad of May 2020 due to the expected persistent wet conditions

2.0 Temperature observation

The average maximum and Minimum temperature across the country during the 3rd dekad of April 2020 is highlighted in the section below.

2.1 Mean Maximum Temperature

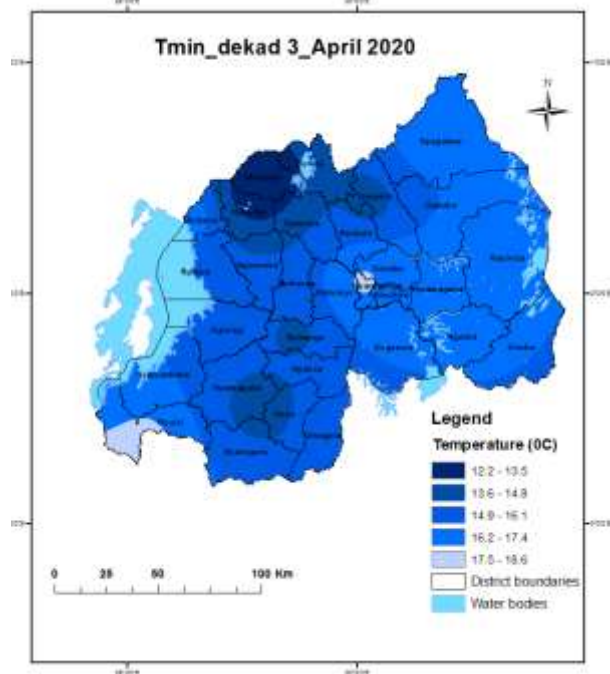
Map 5 shows the actual mean maximum temperature distribution across the country which indicates that the South western, Kigali City and Eastern Provinces were warmer compared to Northern Province and Southern Provinces. However, in most parts of the country the mean maximum temperature ranged between 20.6 and 25.8°C with exceptional of Bugarama that recorded 29.2°C.



Map 5: Mean Maximum Temperature for dekad 3 April 2020

2.2 Minimum Temperature

The average minimum temperature across the country is shown in Map 6. The Northern parts experienced colder temperature compared to other parts of the country, even though the minimum temperature decreased a bit compared to the previous dekad. The minimum temperature ranged between 12.2 °C (Busogo) and 18.6°C (Bugarama).



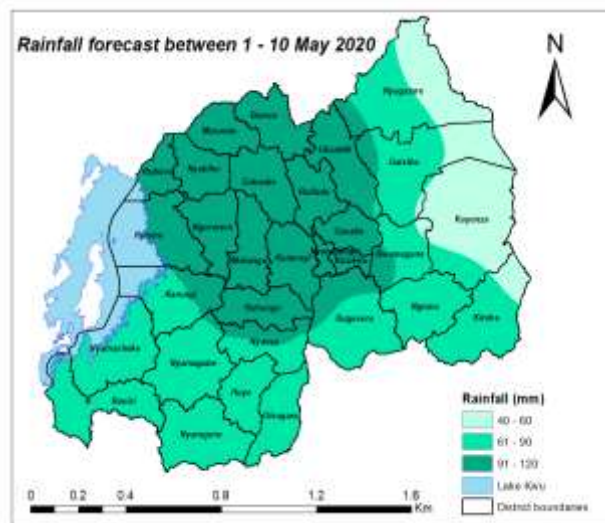
Map 6: Mean Minimum Temperature for dekad3 of April 2020

3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural advisory for the 1st dekad (01-10) May, 2020.

3.1 Weather Outlook for the 1st dekad of May 2020.

Comparing to the 3rd dekad of April 2020, a decrease of rainfall amount during the 1st dekad of May 2020 is expected. Moderate rainfall is expected in most parts of the country. Rainfall expected during the first dekad (1st and 10th) of May 2020 will range between 40 and 120 mm countrywide.

Higher amount of rainfall between 90 and 120mm is expected in central parts where Kigali City is located, Northern Province and in some parts of Western and Southern Provinces including Rubavu, Nyabihu, Rutsiro, Ngororero, Muhanga and Ruhango Districts, the range between 40 and 60 mm is expected in Eastern parts of Kirehe, Gatsibo and Nyagatare Districts. The remaining parts of the country will experience rainfall ranging between 60 and 90 mm. The days when enhanced rain is expected are from 2nd to 7th May 2020. The rain will result from strong convergence and increased moisture content over the region where Rwanda is located.



Map 7: Rainfall Forecast for first dekad of May 2020

3.2 Agricultural Activity/Advisories

The weather conditions are favourable for farming practices and other related activities. Farmers are advised to work closely with Agriculture Extension Officers for more information. For more meteorological information about weather forecast you can visit Meteo Rwanda's website: www.meteorwanda.gov.rw.