



Agrometeorological Bulletin N° 03, Dekad3, January (21– 31) 2021
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Summary

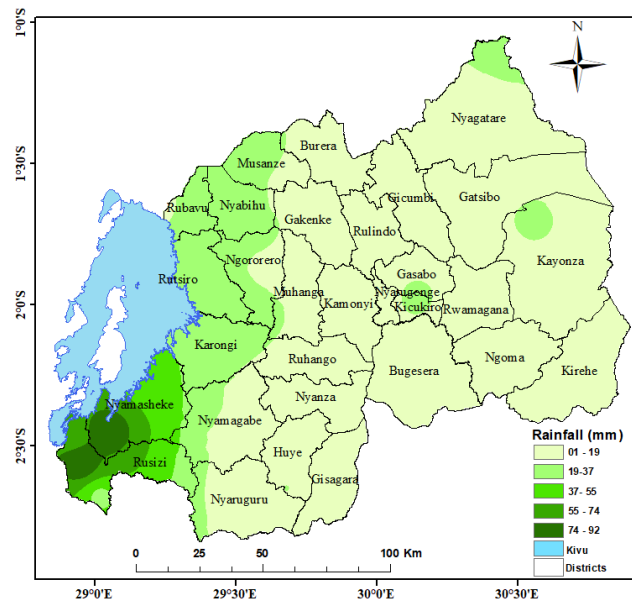
The third Dekad of January 2021 from 21st to 31st, showed that the country is under the short dry season. Below normal rainfall was recorded in most parts of the country. The highest rainfall amount was recorded in Western Province at Mibirizi station with 91.9mm in 5 rainy days, followed by Ntendezi station with 88.0mm in 8 rainy days and Kamembe Airport with 64.5mm in 6 rainy days. The lowest rainfall less than 10mm was recorded at many stations in Eastern and Southern Provinces. The temperature was within the range of Long Term Mean. The main agricultural activity during the third dekad was harvesting of crops in most parts of the country.

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

This section provides the overview of observed rainfall amount, rainfall anomaly, comparison of observed rainfall with Long Term Mean (LTM), rainy days and available soil moisture content.

1.1 Rainfall Amount

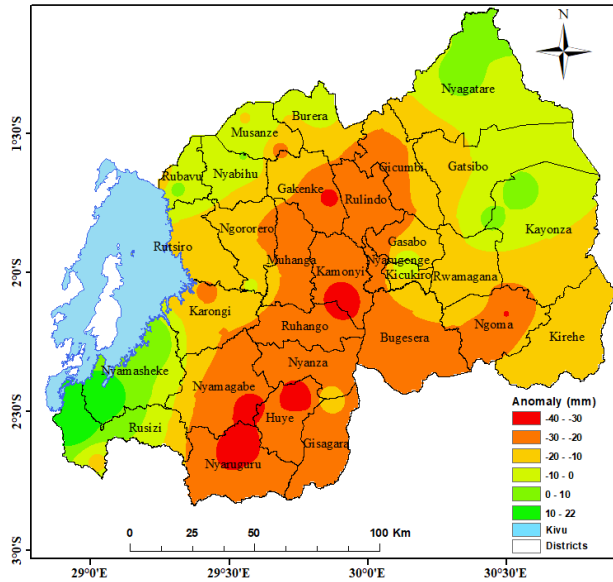
The actual total rainfall amount recorded in the third dekad of January, 2021 is presented in Map 1. It was observed that this period of 3rd dekad was dry and most stations across the country recorded below normal rainfall. The highest rainfall amount was recorded in Western Province at Mibirizi station with 91.9 mm in 5 rainy days, followed by Ntendezi station with 88.0mm in 8 rainy days and Kamembe Airport with 64.5mm in 6 rainy days.



Map 1: Rainfall amount during 3rd Dekad of January 2021

1.2 Rainfall Anomaly (Deficity and Surplus)

The rainfall anomaly is represented by Map 2. It shows that most of stations across the country experienced rainfall deficit especially in Central and Southern parts of the country. However, few stations in the Western and Eastern Provinces experienced normal to above rainfall.



Map 2: Rainfall anomaly during 3rd Dekad of January 2021

1.3. Comparison of Observed rainfall with Long Term Mean record for the dekad.

The comparison of recorded rainfall amount and LTM for the 3rd dekad across the country are shown in both Figure 1 and 2. Below normal conditions were experienced across the country during this dekad.

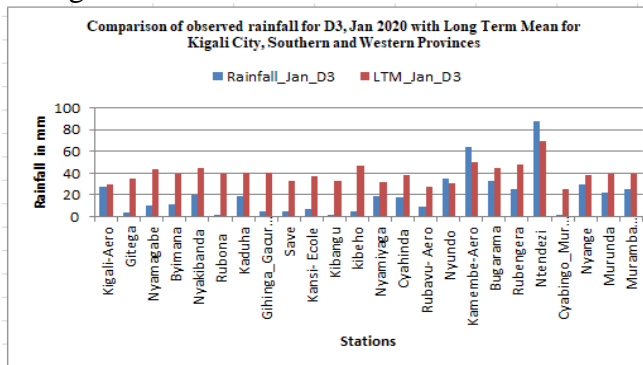


Figure 1: Comparison of observed with long term mean rainfall for the dekad for Kigali City, Southern and Western Provinces.

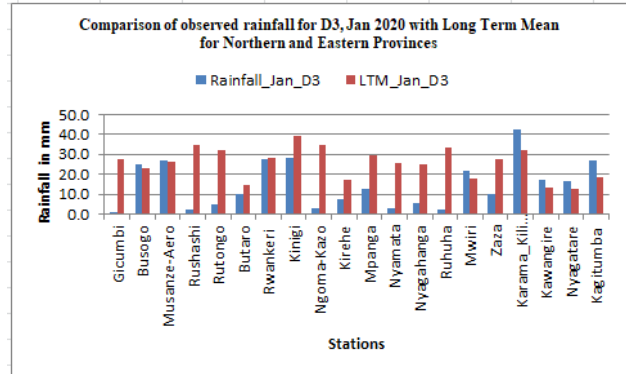
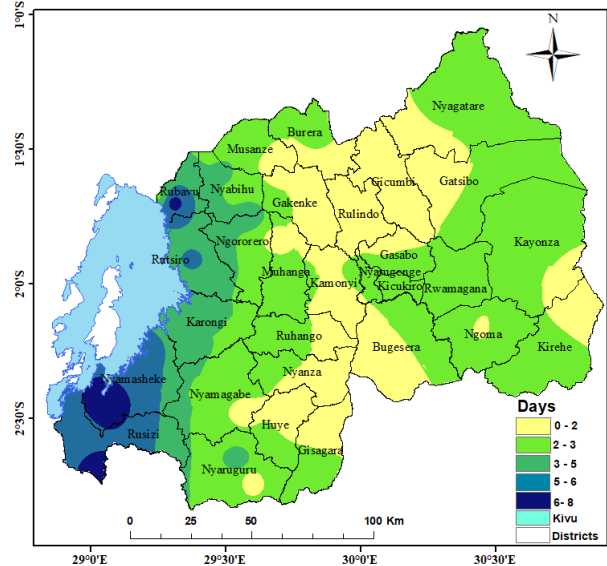


Figure 2: Comparison of Observed with long term mean rainfall for Northern and Eastern Provinces.

1.4 Number of Rainy Days

The Map 3 shows the distribution of number of rainy days across the country. A rainy day is defined as a day with at least 0.85mm of rainfall. The distribution shows that most parts of the country had 1 to 8 of rainy days except Byumba and Muramba_Cyabingo stations that had no rainy days. The distribution of rainy days was favorable for crops harvesting period. Rainy days are expected to vary between one (1) and three (3) days and are expected to occur towards the end of the dekad (between 6th and 10th) over most parts of the country.



Map 3: Rainy days for dekad3 of January 2021

2.2 Minimum Temperature

1.5 Soil moisture condition

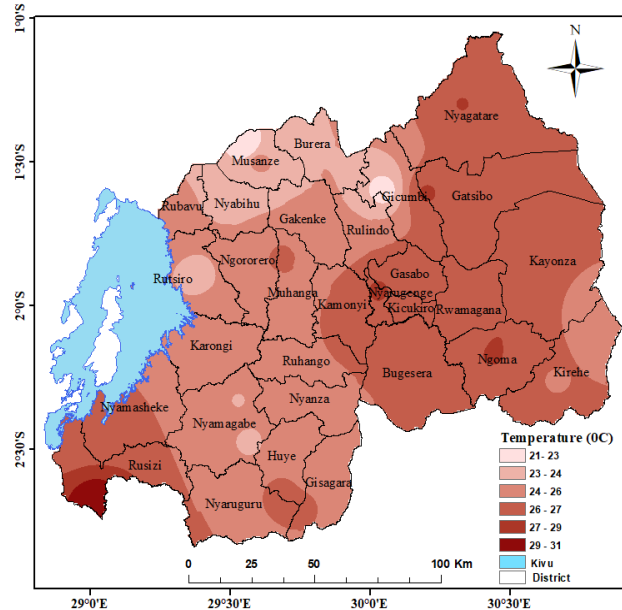
This section shows the available soil moisture content across the country. The soil moisture was decreased over most parts of the country due to dry weather conditions experienced. The soil moisture content will continue to decrease in the first dekad of February 2021 due to dry weather condition expected in this short dry season.

2.0 Temperature observation

The average maximum and Minimum temperature across the country is highlighted in the section below.

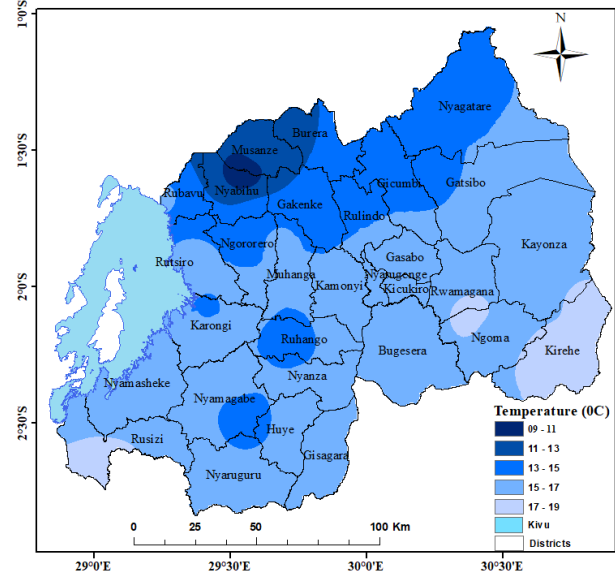
2.1 Mean Maximum Temperature

Map 4 shows the actual Mean Maximum Temperature distribution across the country. It indicates that the southwestern parts, Kigali City, northern and southern parts of the Eastern Province were warmer than the rest of the country. The mean maximum temperature ranged between 21.2°C and 28.2°C at Kinigi and Nyamata stations respectively with exceptional case of slightly high temperature of 30.6°C recorded at Bugarama station.



Map 4: Mean Maximum Temperature for dekad 3 January 2021

The average minimum temperature across the country is shown in Map 5. The Northern parts of the country experienced colder temperature than other parts of the country. The minimum temperature ranged between 09.4°C and 18.7°C at Busogo and Bugarama stations respectively.



Map 5: Mean Minimum Temperature for dekad 3 January 2021

3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural advisories for the first dekad (01-10) February, 2021.

3.1 Weather Outlook for the first dekad of February 2021.

Rainfall expected between 1st and 10th February 2021 will range between 0 and 75 mm across the country. Dry weather conditions are expected in most parts of the country with considerable reduction of rainfall amount and number of rainy days. The expected rainfall will be in the range of Long Term Mean countrywide. The distribution of the rainfall across the country is highlighted below:

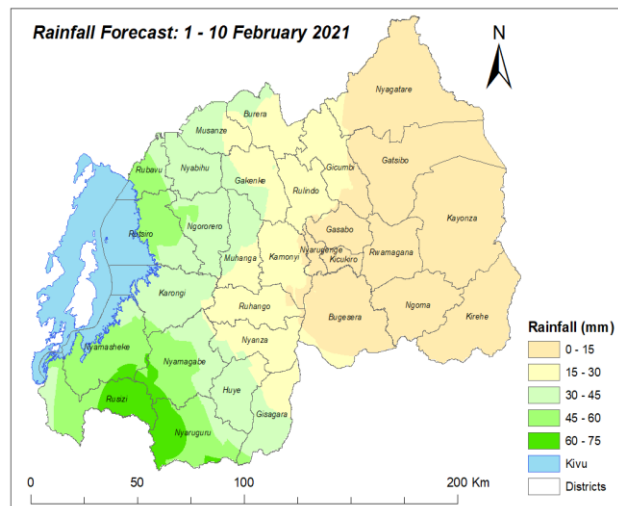
Eastern Province: Rainfall ranging between 0 and 15 mm is expected in all districts of the eastern province.

Kigali City: Rainfall ranging between 0 and 15 mm is expected in all districts of city of Kigali.

Southern Province: Rainfall ranging between 15 and 75 mm is expected in the province. Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza, southern parts of Muhanga and northern parts of Huye and Gisagara districts are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 15 and 30 mm. Northern parts of Muhanga, eastern parts of Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru and remaining parts of Huye and Gisagara districts are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 30 and 45 mm. Remaining parts of Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru districts are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 45 and 60 mm but western parts of Nyaruguru and Nyamagabe districts located in Nyungwe National Park are expected to receive rainfall of 75 mm.

Western Province: Nyabihu, Ngororero, Karongi, northern parts of Rubavu, Nyamasheke and southern parts of Rutsiro districts are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 30 and 45 mm. Remaining parts of Rubavu, Rutsiro, Nyamasheke and western parts of Rusizi districts are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 45 and 60 mm. Eastern parts of Rusizi district located in Nyungwe National Park are expected to receive up to 75 mm of rainfall.

Northern Province: Rainfall ranging between 0 to 45 mm is expected in the Northern province. Rainfall ranging between 30 and 45 mm is expected in western parts of Musanze, Gakenke and northern parts of Burera districts. Rainfall ranging between 15 and 30 mm is expected in Rulindo, in eastern parts of Musanze and Gakenke, northern parts of Gicumbi and southern parts of Burera districts, while southern parts of Gicumbi is expected to receive rainfall ranging between 0 and 15 mm.



Map 6: Rainfall Forecast for the first dekad of February 2021

3.2 Agricultural Activity/Advisories

Generally, in most parts of the country the seasonal crops are on harvesting period. The focus in these coming days should be on post-harvesting activities. Farmers are advised to work closely with Agriculture Extension Officers for detailed information which will support their agriculture activities. For more meteorological information you can visit Meteo Rwanda's website: www.meteorwanda.gov.rw or call the toll free number 6080.