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Highlights:

- **The cumulative rainfall** for dekad1_March_2017 was suppressed over most parts of the country except few localized places in Ngoma, Bugarama, Rubengera and Nyagatare which recorded above Long Term Mean (LTM) rainfall for the last ten days of March.
- **The soil moisture is still favourable**; although; as shown by the satellite derived soil moisture index; the soil moisture was also suppressed as opposed to the dekad3 of February 2017.
- The rainfall during dekad2_March_2017 is expected to **increase in most places** of the country particularly towards the end second of March 2017.

I. Introduction

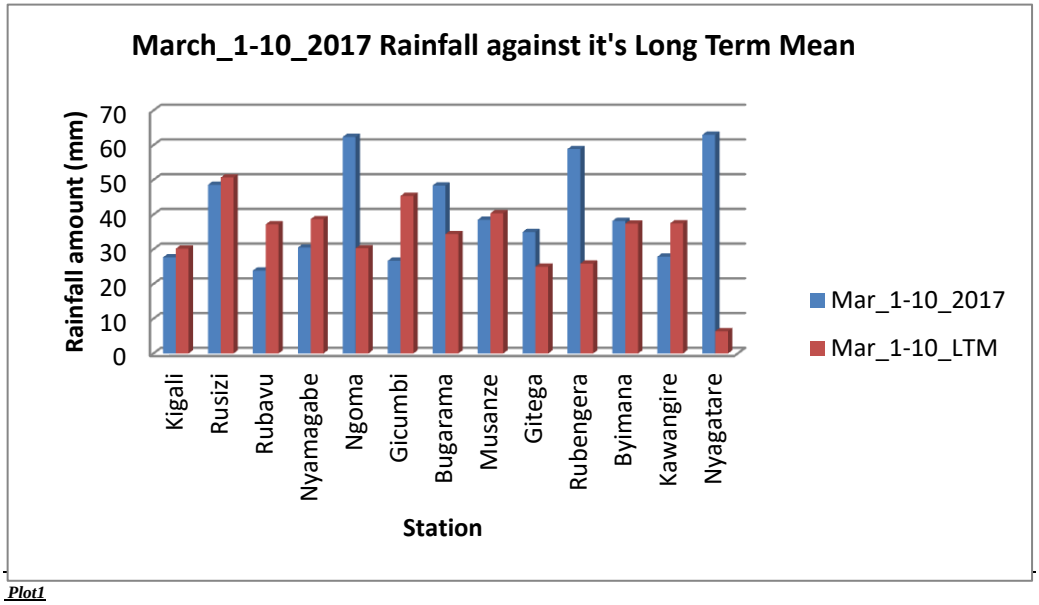
The rainfall during dekad1_March_2017 was generally within the range of LTM (Long term Mean) however few places recorded exceptional highest rainfall above LTM and these places include Ngoma, Rubengera Bugarama and Nyagatare.

a) The table and histogram below indicates the rainfall recorded during dekad1_March_2017 and its LTM:

Cumulative rainfall (in mm) recorded at different stations

Station	Mar_1-10_2017	Mar_1-10_LTM
Kigali	27.7	30.2
Rusizi (Kamembe)	48.6	50.7
Rubavu (Gisenyi)	23.9	37.2
Nyamagabe (Gikongoro)	30.5	38.7
Ngoma (Kibungo)	62.4	30.3
Gicumbi (Byumba)	26.7	45.4
Bugarama	48.4	34.4
Musanze (Ruhengeri)	38.5	40.4
Gitega	35	25
Rubengera	58.9	25.9
Byimana	38.2	37.4
Kawangire	27.9	37.5
Nyagatare	63	6.4

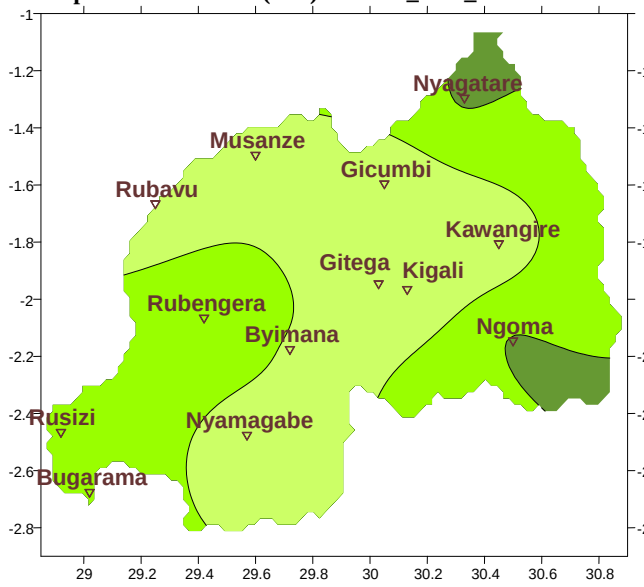
Table1



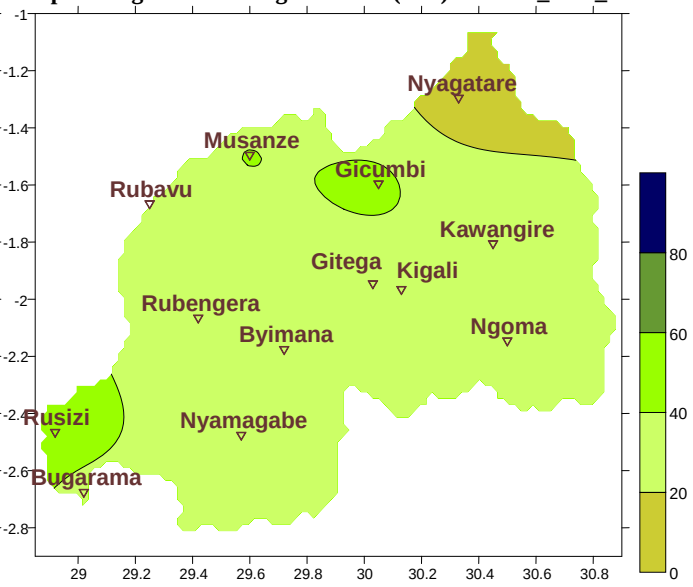
Plot1

b) **Rainfall analysis:** The maps "**Map 1 and 2**" below show the cumulative rainfall recorded during dekad1_March_2017 and itsLTM of cumulative rainfall.
The maps "**Map 3 and 4**" show the cumulative rainfall recorded during dekad3_February_2017 and its LTM of cumulative rainfall.

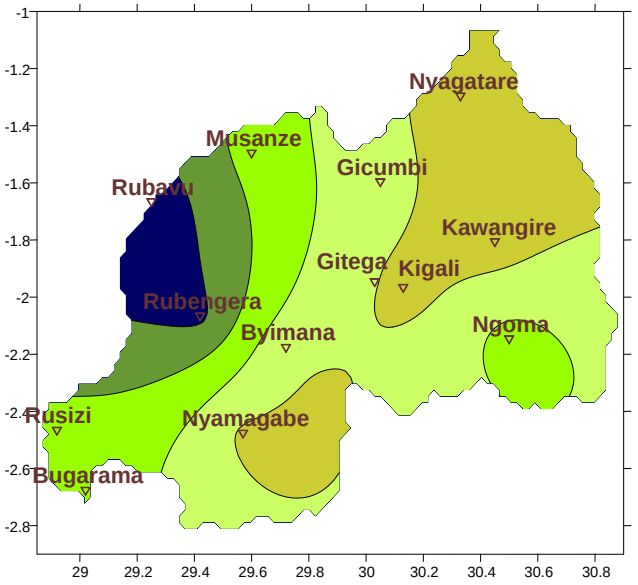
Map1: Total Rainfall (mm): dekad1_Mar_2017



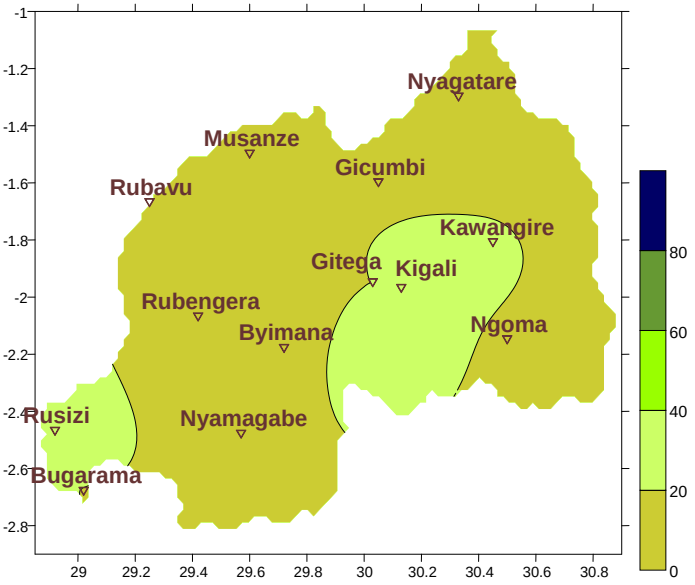
Map2: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): dekad1_Mar_LTM



Map1: Total Rainfall (mm): dekad3_Feb_2017



Map2: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): dekad3_Feb_LTM



II. Detailed observed rainfall during the dekad1_March_2017

Cumulative rainfall for dekad1_March_2017 was slightly suppressed in the northern part (see **Map1&2**); other stations reported rainfall amount that is within the range of LTM except parts of the eastern province which received the high amount of rainfall. During the third dekad3 of February_2017; rainfall was above normal especially the western parts of the country however it was less in central and northeast regions (see **Map3&4**)

a) Eastern Province

All representative stations recorded high rainfall amount that was above the range of LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

b) Northern Province

All representative stations within the Province recorded rainfall that was within the range of LTM and below (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

c) Southern Province

All representative stations recorded rainfall amount that was within the range of LTM throughout the Province (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

d) Western Province

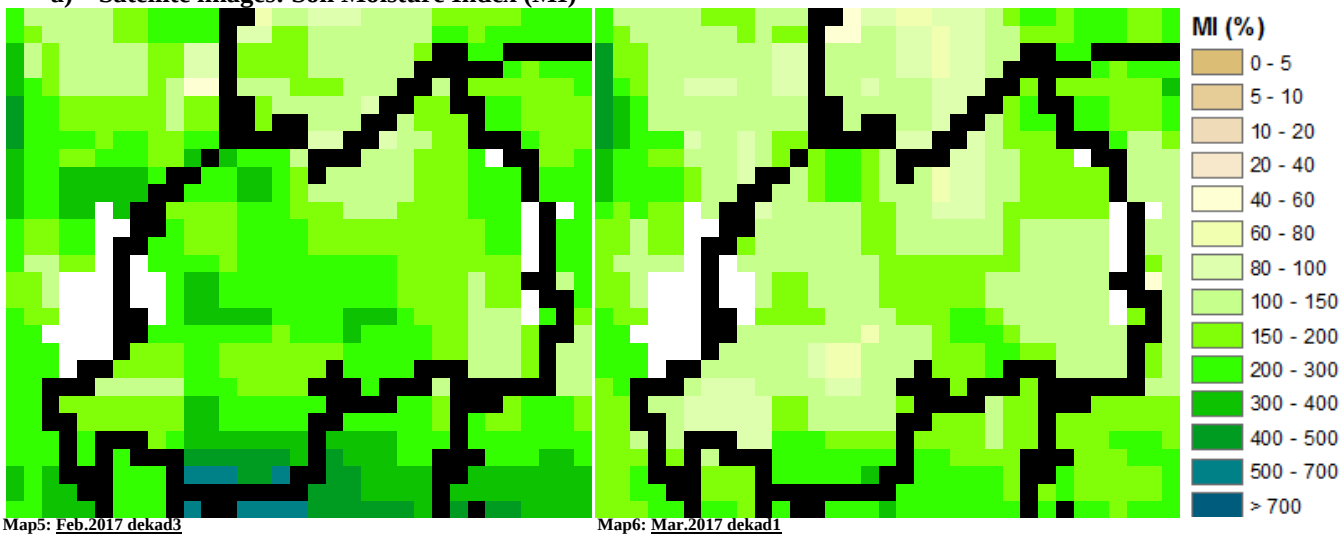
The north-western part recorded rainfall that was within range of LTM while the south-western part recorded above the LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

e) Kigali City

The central parts of the country recorded rainfall increasingly westwards; which was ranging in the normal range of the LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2)**

III. Agricultural impact.

a) Satellite images: Soil Moisture Index (MI)



Map5: Feb.2017 dekad3 **Map6: Mar.2017 dekad1**

From the start of dekad3_February to end of dekad1_March_2017; the satellite derived moisture index shows a decrease of moisture content in all parts of the country because the last 3 days of the first dekad of March 2017 in all parts of Rwanda were slightly suppressed, but still, the soil moisture is favorable for a variety of crops (see **Map 5&6**)

The distribution of rains during dekad2_March_2017 is expected to continue increasing in comparison to what was observed in first dekad of March_2017. Farmers are advised to take advantage of the prevailing wet conditions throughout the country.

Rainfall forecast for dekad2_February_2017

We expect increase of rainfall across many parts of the country during dekad2_March_2017

Kigali City; Will experience cloudy conditions and rain.

Eastern Region; Will experience cloudy conditions and rain.

Western Region; Will experience rainy conditions throughout the dekad.

Northern region; Will experience cloudy conditions and rain.

Southern Region; Will experience rainy conditions throughout the dekad.

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)