REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

B P: 898, Kigali
Tel: +250 575813
Fax: +250 585755
E-mail: bulletin@meteorwanda.gov.rw
Website: www.meteorwanda.gov.rw

Rwanda Meteorology Agency

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Highlights:

- **The cumulative rainfall** for March_2017 was generally within and above the Long Term Climatological Mean except for the localized stations of Gicumbi and Rubavu where recorded rainfall was below the Long Term Mean (LTM)
- **A progressive increase in soil moisture** was observed across many parts the country.
- The rainfall during April_2017 is expected to be **higher than what was received in March** across the country.

I. Introduction

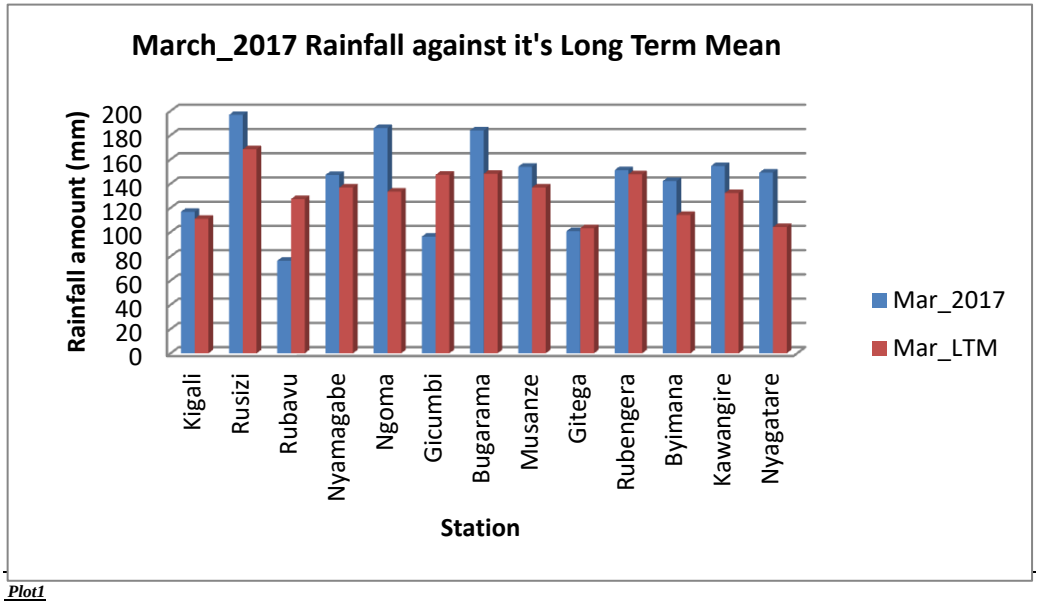
The rainfall during this period was evenly distributed across the country except for the two stations Gicumbi (in the Northern Province) and Rubavu (in the Western Province) which recorded below LTM.

a) The table and histogram below indicates the rainfall recorded during March_2017 and its Long Term Mean (LTM):

Cumulative rainfall (in mm) recorded at different stations

Station	Mar_2017	Mar_LTM
Kigali (Kanombe)	116.8	111
Rusizi (Kamembe)	196.8	168.4
Rubavu (Gisenyi)	76.4	127.3
Nyamagabe (Gikongoro)	147.2	136.8
Ngoma (Kibungo)	185.9	133.5
Gicumbi (Byumba)	96.3	147.3
Bugarama	184	148.2
Musanze (Ruhengeri)	154	136.9
Gitega	100.8	103.3
Rubengera	151.2	147.8
Byimana	142.2	114.1
Kawangire	154.6	132.2
Nyagatare	149.1	104.2

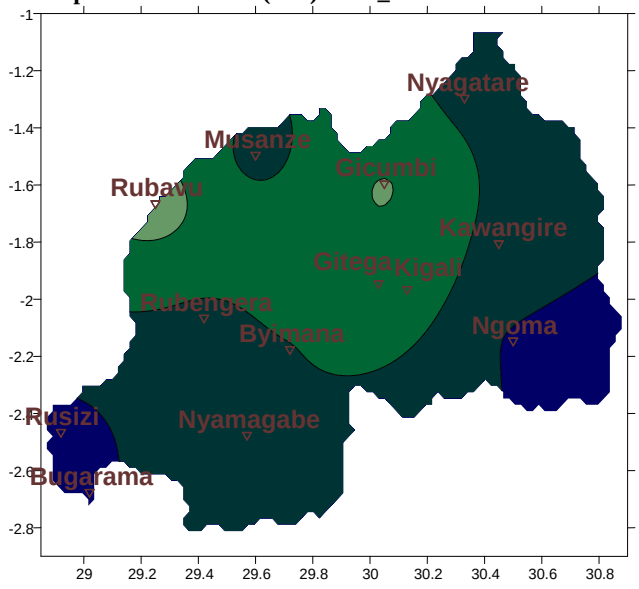
Table1



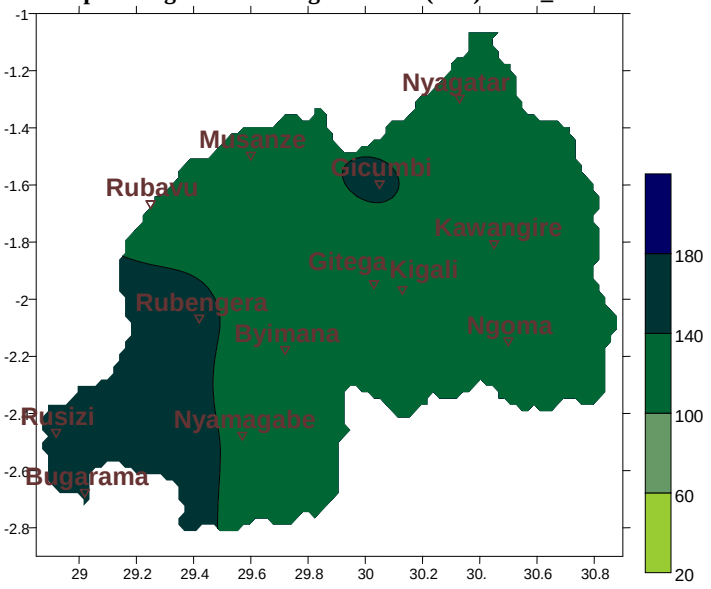
Plot1

b) **Rainfall analysis:** The maps "**Map 1 and 2**" below show the cumulative rainfall recorded during March_2017 and its long term mean (LTM) of cumulative rainfall.
The maps "**map 3 and 4**" show the cumulative rainfall recorded during February_2017 and its LTM of cumulative rainfall.

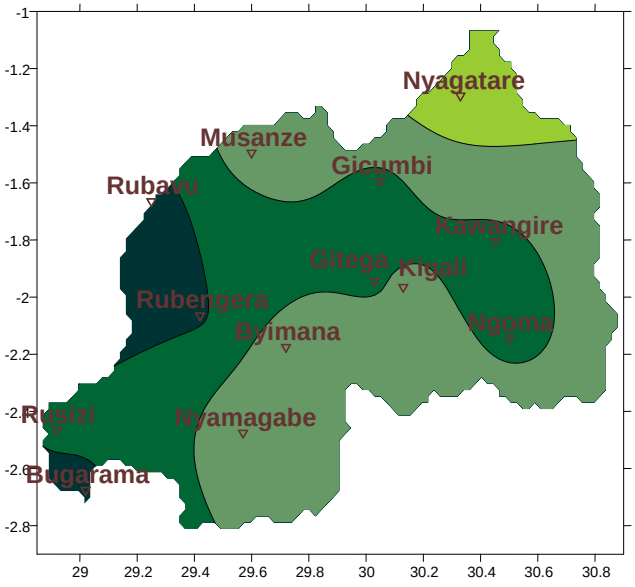
Map1: Total Rainfall (mm): Mar_2017



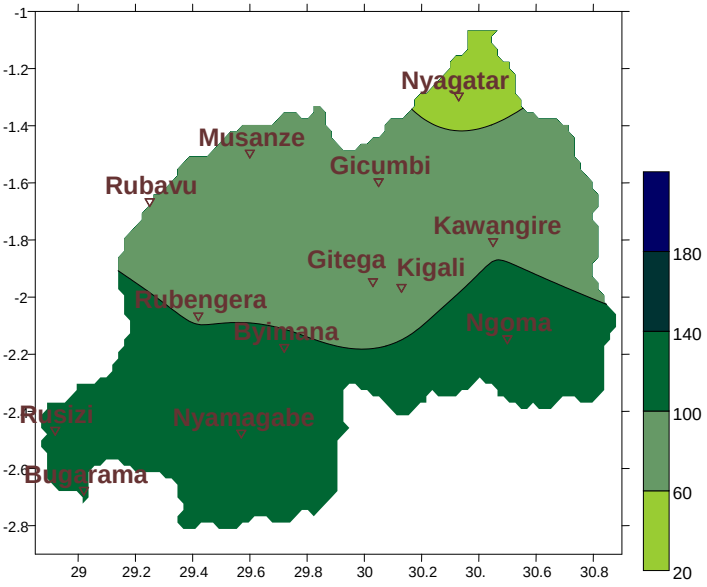
Map2: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): Mar_ LTM



Map3: Total Rainfall (mm): Feb_2017



Map4: Long Term Average Rainfall (mm): Feb_LTM



II. Detailed observed rainfall during March_2017

Most of the stations across the country observed enhanced rainfall during March_2017 which was higher than the LTM for the same period. A slight suppressed rainfall during March 2017 was observed at stations of Gicumbi and Rubavu, where recorded rainfall was between 60mm-100mm (see **Map1&2**). The cumulative rainfall for the month of February_2017 was generally within the range of LTM except for the southern parts of the country where recorded rainfall was below the LTM (see **Map3&4**)

a) Eastern Province

The rainfall recorded was within the range of LTM however Ngoma station recorded 185.9mm which was the highest amount in the Eastern Province (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

b) Northern Province

The Gicumbi station recorded below LTM rainfall while the rest of the province the performance was within the LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

c) Southern Province

The stations in the Southern Province recorded rainfall that was within the range of LTM (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

d) Western Province

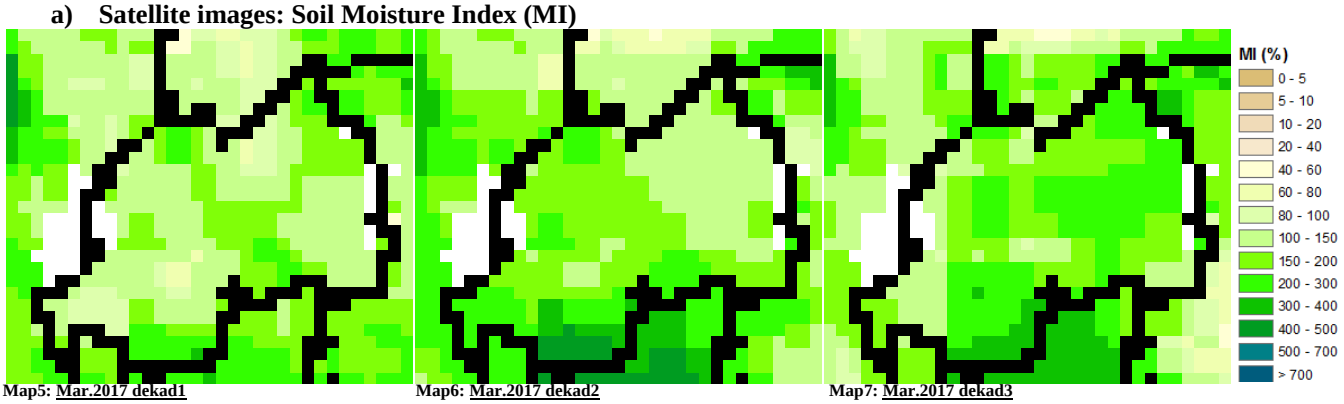
The Rubavu station records indicated below normal rainfall however the performance was good elsewhere within the province (see **Table1** and **Map1&2**)

e) Kigali City

The central part had rainfall which was within the LTM across Kigali City (see **Table1** and **Map1&2)**

III. Agricultural impact.

a) Satellite images: Soil Moisture Index (MI)



Map5: Mar.2017 dekad1 **Map6: Mar.2017 dekad2** **Map7: Mar.2017 dekad3**

During March_2017 the satellite derived moisture index showed an increased for dekad2 and dekad3 as results of rainfall events that occurred during the month of March (**Map 5, 6&7;** indicate the first, second and third dekad respectively)

The distribution of rains during April_2017 is expected to increase across the country; Farmers are advised to advantage of rain season.

Rainfall forecast for April_2017

Wet conditions of rain are expected to prevail over most parts of country

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)