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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
RWANDA METEOROLOGY AGENCY



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Summary

The second Dekad (11-20) of May 2020, most parts of the country received light to moderate rainfall which was in normal range of the Long Term Mean (LTM) in some Parts of the country. During the 2nd dekad of May 2020, the highest rainfall amount was recorded at Busogo station (60.2mm) in Musanze District while the lowest rainfall was recorded at Nyagatare station (3.1mm) in Nyagatare District. Generally Northern and Western province were comparatively wet than other parts of the country. The temperature was within the range of LTM.

The maximum temperature ranged between 20.8°C in Gicumbi District and 30.3°C in Rusizi District at Bugarama station. Minimum temperature ranged between 12.2°C at Musanze and 19.8°C in Rusizi District at Bugarama station.

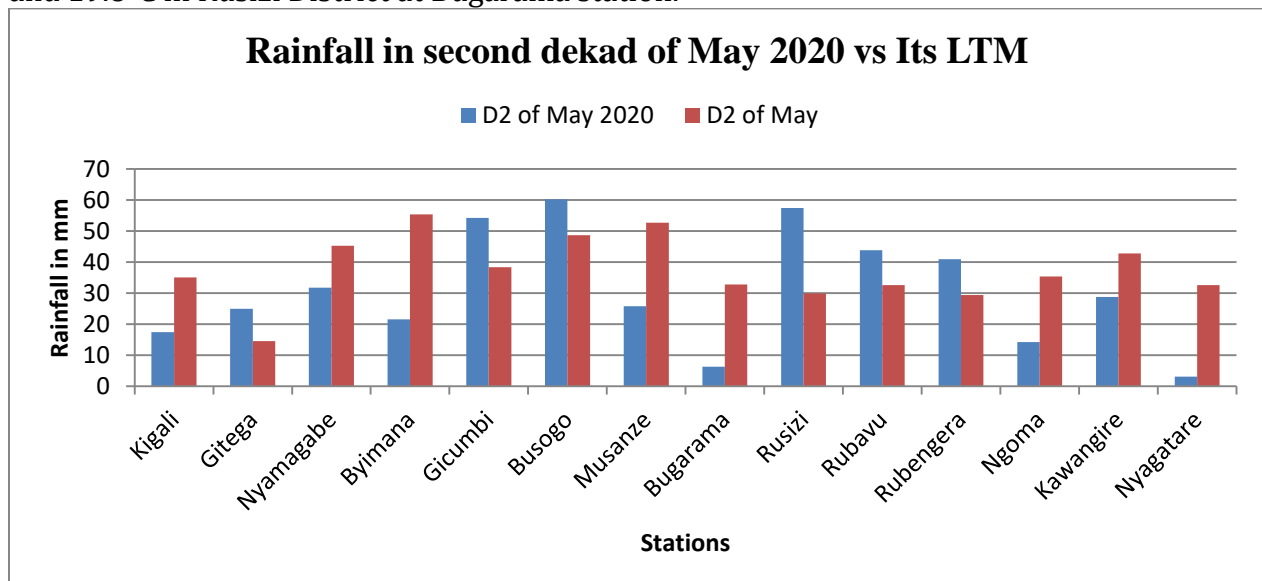


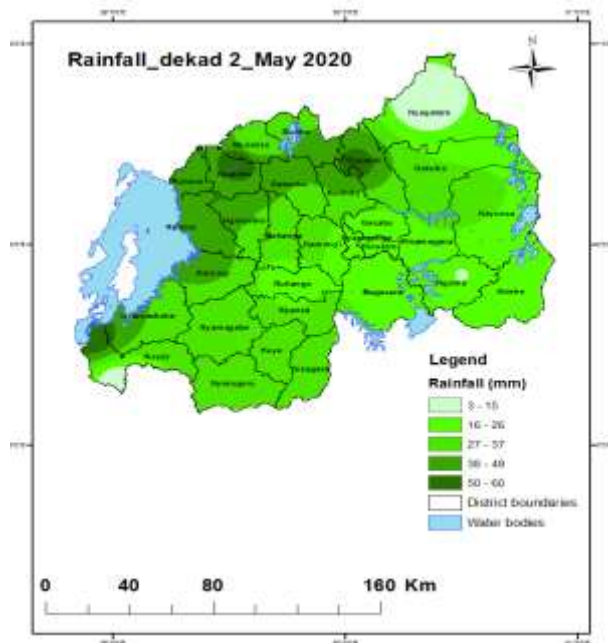
Figure 1: Rainfall performance as Compared to the LTM

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

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

1.1 Rainfall Amount

The total rainfall amount for the second dekad of May, 2020 is presented in map 1. On a daily basis observation, light to moderate rainfall were recorded in most parts of the country. The accumulated rainfall in ten days recorded was 3.1mm at Nyagatare station in Nyagatare District which was the lowest and the highest was 60.2mm at Busogo station in Musanze District. The Northern and Western Provinces were wet compared to other parts of the country.

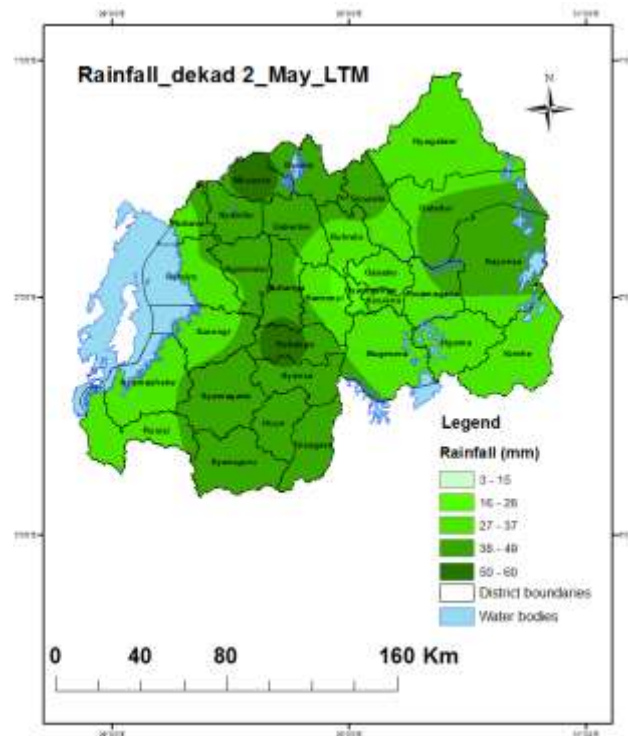


Map 1: Rainfall amount during 2nd Dekad of May 2020

1.2 Rainfall climatology for the 2nd dekad of May

The rainfall climatology for the 2nd dekad of May is shown in map 2, which indicates that rainfall ranged from 14.5mm to 44.5mm across the country.

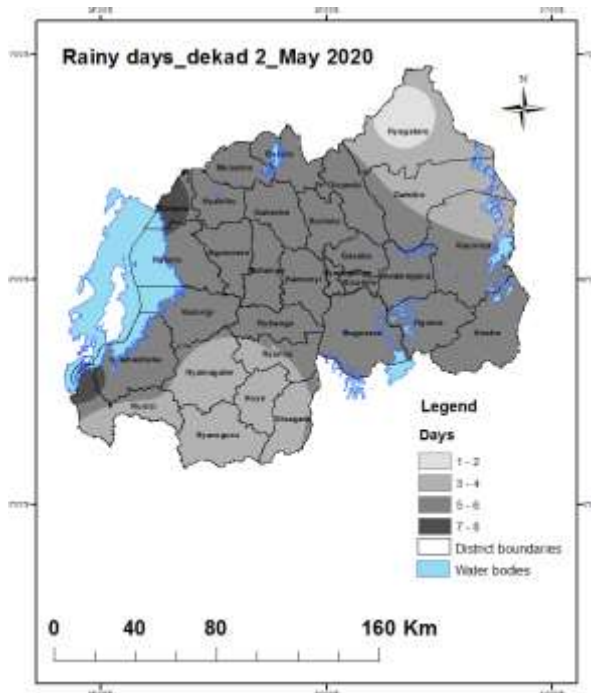
Comparing the 2nd Dekad of May 2020 and the Long Term Mean (LTM) for the same period, it was observed that rainfall was above the LTM in some parts of the country especially in Northern and Western provinces but the Southern Province, Nyagatare, Kayonza and Gatsibo recorded below LTM and the rest of the country recorded rainfall which was in the range of LTM.



Map 2: Rainfall amount during 2nd Dekad of May (LTM)

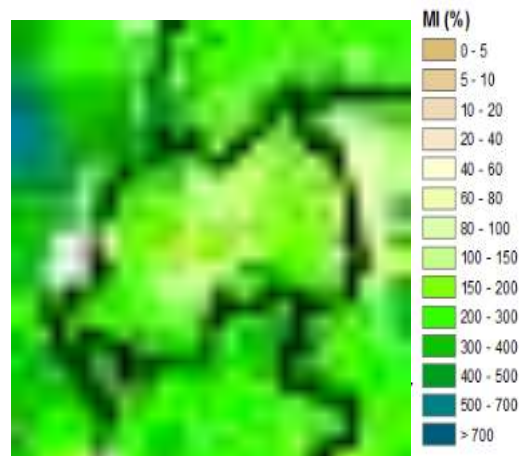
1.3. Number of Rain Days

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 1 to 7 days were observed across the country. It can be seen that most parts of the country had 4 to 7 rainy days. A minimum of 1 day was observed at Nyagatare station. The maximum of 7 days were observed at Rusizi and Rubavu stations in the Western Province.



Map 3: Rainy days

1.4 Soil moisture index



Map 4: Soil Moisture Index

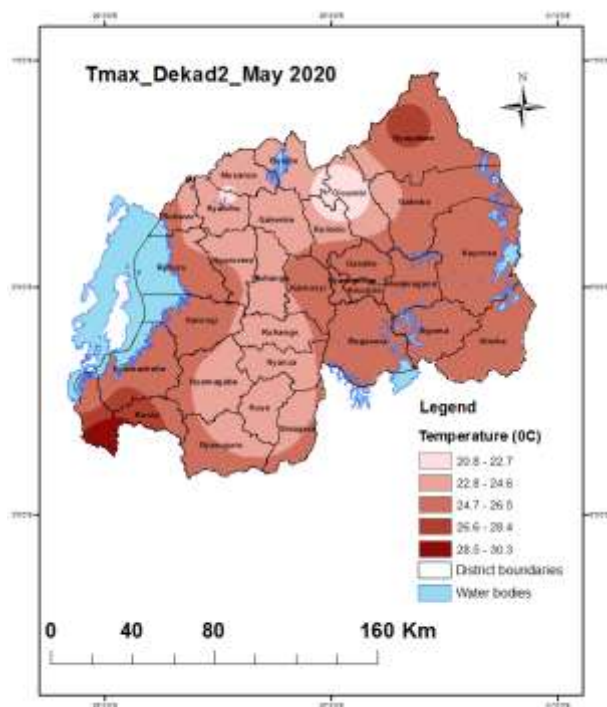
The distribution of available soil moisture across the country is shown in Map 4. Soil moisture decrease over most parts of the country due to alternation of wet and dry weather conditions experienced during second dekad of May 2020. The soil moisture will continue to decrease during third dekad of May 2020 due to the expected decrease in wet weather conditions.

2.0 Temperature observation

The average maximum and Minimum temperature across the country during the 2nd dekad of May 2020 is highlighted in the section below.

2.1 Mean Maximum Temperature

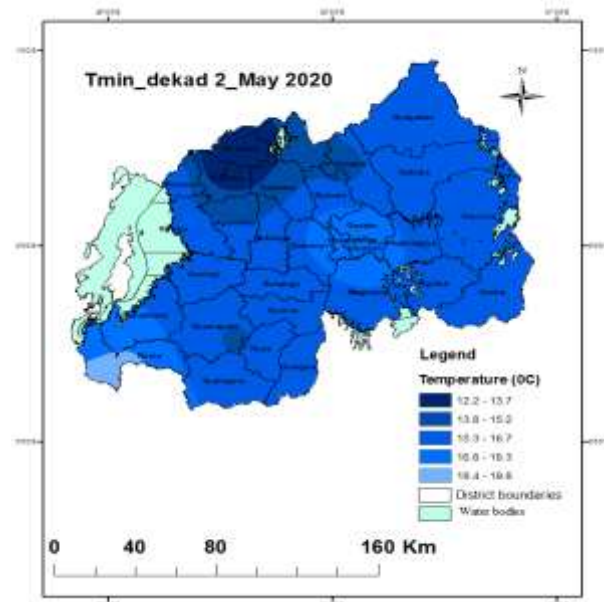
Map 5 shows the actual mean maximum temperature distribution across the country which indicates that the South Western, Kigali City and Eastern Provinces were warmer compared to Northern and Southern Provinces. However, in most parts of the country the mean maximum temperature ranged between 20.8^oC and 27.0^oC with exceptional case of 30.3^oC at Bugarama station.



Map 5: Mean Maximum Temperature for dekad 2 May 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 increased a bit compared to the previous dekad. The minimum temperature ranged between 12.2 °C at Gicumbi to 19.8°C at Bugarama.



Map 6: Mean Minimum Temperature for dekad2 of May 2020

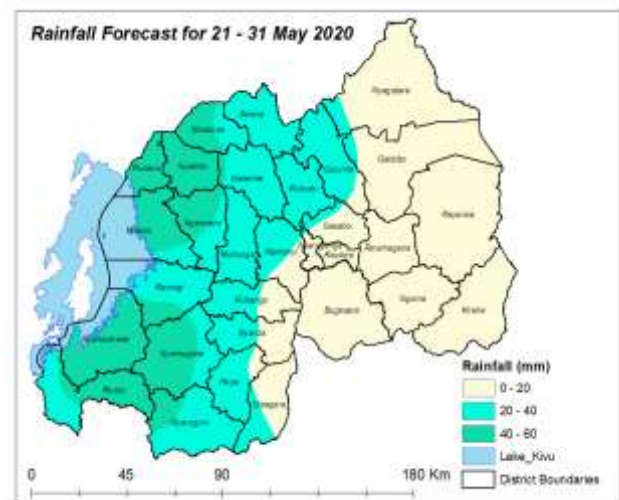
3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural advisory for the 3rd dekad (21-31) May, 2020.

3.1 Weather Outlook for the 3rd dekad of May 2020.

Comparing with the last two dekads (1st and 2nd) of May 2020, a decrease of rainfall amount during the 3rd dekad of May 2020 is expected. Light to Moderate rainfall is expected in most parts of the country. The Districts of Rubavu, Nyabihu, Nyamasheke, western Musanze, northwestern Ngororero, central and Northern Rutsiro and areas bordering Nyungwe National Park in Districts of Nyaruguru,

Nyamagabe and Rusizi are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 40mm and 60mm. The remaining Districts of Western and Northern Provinces and parts of Southern Province bordering Western Province are expected to receive rainfall ranging between 20mm and 40mm. The entire Eastern Province, Kigali City and Southern Province (Amayaga region) are expected to receive rainfall less than 20mm. Rainy days will reduce considerably across the country compared to previous dekads of May 2020.

The main reason causing rainfall reduction is the lingering Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moving towards northern hemisphere coupled with local effects.



Map 7: Rainfall Forecast for third dekad of May 2020

3.2 Agricultural Activity/Advisories

The wet weather conditions are decreasing farmers are advised to be involved in harvesting. Farmers are also 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.