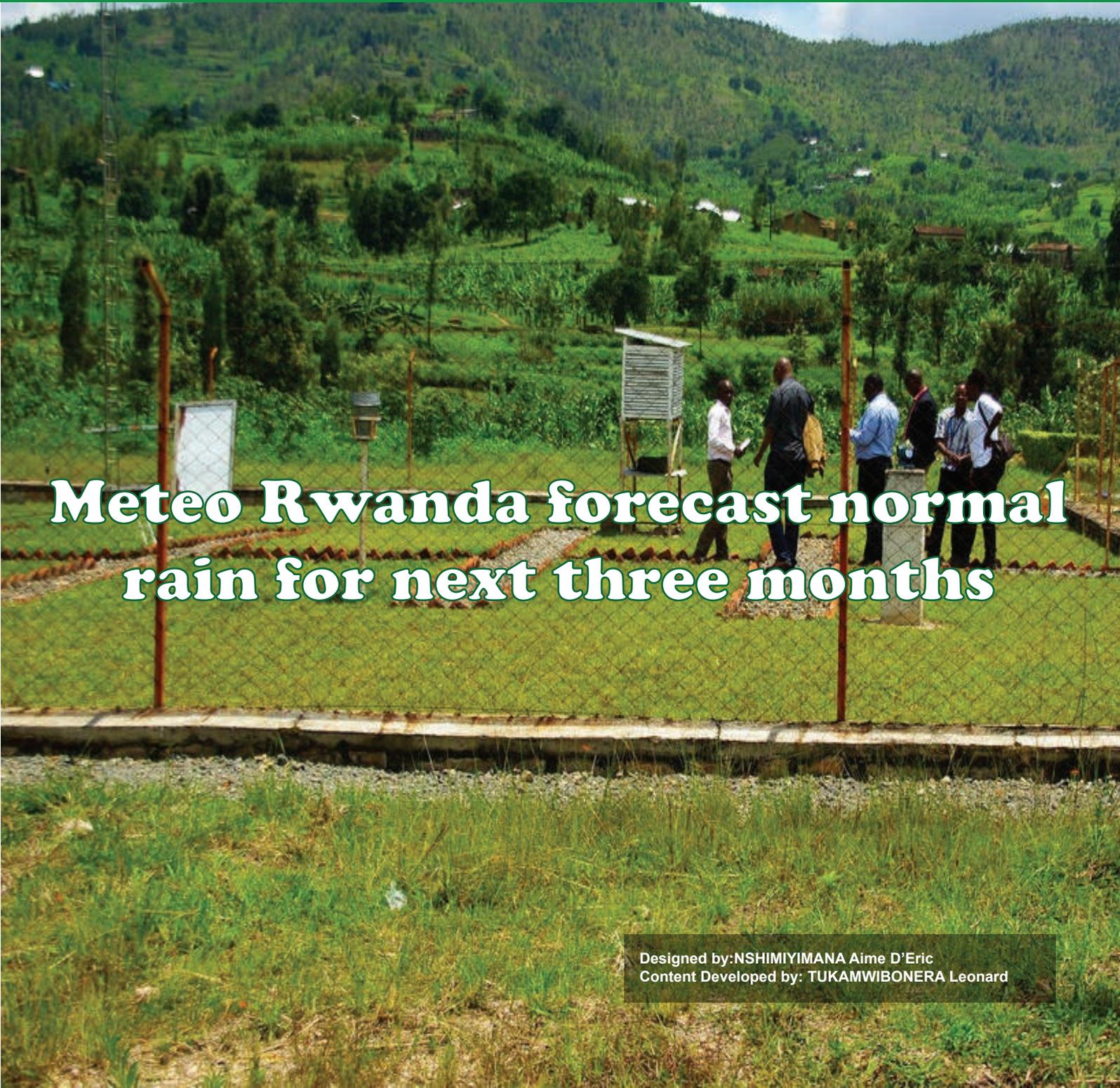




SOND FORECAST

Quaterly Newsletter

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Meteo Rwanda forecast normal rain for next three months

EDITORIAL



Mr. John NTAGANDA SEMAFARA
Director General Meteo Rwanda

It is with great please that I am introducing to you Meteo Rwanda’s quarterly newsletter. Rwanda Meteorology Agency is mandated to provide reliable weather and climate services for planning and decision making purposes.

This quarterly newsletter shall provide you with updates on major activities that happened in Meteo Rwanda during this quarter (July to September 2017). I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we issued the seasonal forecast for September to December 2017 and several means were used to make sure that Rwandans at grass roots level are informed on the weather conditions regarding the agricultural season A.

Our priority in the Financial Year 2017/2018 is to put a lot of effort in dissemination of weather & climate services and enhancing strong collaboration with media houses so that Rwandans should use weather information to adapt to climate change and its impacts.

We thank you for your collaboration with us and it is our hope that you are going to benefit from the newsletter.

John Ntaganda Semafara

Director General

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African Leaders Unite to modernize Meteorological Services



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, September 12, 2017 — African leaders are coming together this week for action on modernizing weather and climate services, which inextricably link the continent's development, climate, and resilience agendas. Weather and climate drive nine out of ten disasters in Africa, threatening hard-won development gains. Floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, and landslides continue to cause heavy damage and losses to livelihoods. Over the last two decades, these disasters have cost the continent US \$10 billion dollars. Given the increasing climate variability, these disasters are projected to increase in frequency and intensity.

“The capability to issue early warnings based on accurate forecasts is especially essential to preserve the lives and households of millions of people across Africa,” said H.E. Josefa Leonel Sacko, AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

Today, the World Bank, WMO, African Development Bank, UNDP, AFD and WFP launched the first AMCOMET Africa Hydromet Forum at the African Union Commission headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The forum, a first of its kind, brings together 500 delegates including African leaders from governments, public and private sectors, civil society, and development partners who agree that improved weather, water, and climate services, known collectively as hydromet, can ease disaster-related losses and boost their economies.

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“The increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters across Sub-Saharan Africa should serve as a wake-up call for governments and the international community to invest in hydromet services. Improving the accuracy of weather forecasts would not only save lives but also help African cities and communities build resilience against climate change,” said Makhtar Diop, World Bank Vice President for Africa

Co-hosted by the African Union Commission and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the forum unites Africa leaders who wish to emphasize that weather and climate-related disasters are reversing development gains across the entire continent. These disasters can reduce the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country by 10 to 20 percent, not only derailing economic development, but reversing economic gains. Improving hydromet services is integral to building resilience to natural disasters across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The forum will provide a platform to position hydromet strengthening as a pillar of Africa’s climate-resilient development and adaptation planning. It will demonstrate the benefits of doing so across a range of sectors including agriculture, water, transport, civil aviation, natural resource management, environment, energy, and disaster risk management. Delegates at the Forum will draw on best practices and lessons from the implementation of existing strategies plus propose concrete actions to address the weather, water, and climate challenges facing Africa.

“Effective hydromet services, such as advanced weather and climate forecasting or simple – and sustainable – river level gauges, ensure that communities have the early warnings needed to prepare before disasters hit. Climate services permit government agencies to effectively plan for climate change based on the latest information, and businesses in climate-sensitive sectors to incorporate timely, accurate data in the decisions that affect their industry.” – Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization

Present at the Forum, the African Union Commission, World Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, World Meteorological Organization, and key partners are leading additional efforts for the modernization of hydromet services. These efforts focus on institutional capacity building, systems modernization, and service delivery.

John Ntaganda Semafara, the Director General of the Rwanda Meteorology Agency and Permanent Representative of Rwanda with World Meteorological Organization (WMO), is attending the forum and said it is a good opportunity to strengthen partnerships within meteorological services as well as share experiences on best practice.

In an effort to improve weather services, the Director General said that Rwanda is setting up a National Framework for Climate Services to bridge the gap between the climate information being developed by scientists and service providers and the practical needs of users.

The four-day African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) Africa Hydromet Forum will run until September 15.

[Source: World Meteorological Organization](#)

Meteo Forecasts Normal rain for next Three Months



Anthony Twahirwa, the Division Manager of Weather Services and Application Division at Rwanda Meteorology Agency speaking, as Jean Baptiste Nsengiyumva(Middle, Midimar and John Ntaganda Semafara, Meteo Rwanda DG look on.

The Rwanda Meteorology Agency has predicted normal rainfall from the second week of September to December.

Speaking to journalists in Kigali on Thursday, Anthony Twahirwa, the Division Manager of Weather Services and Application Division at Rwanda Meteorology Agency said there will be no heavy rain during the upcoming rainy season.



John Ntaganda Semafara, the director general of Rwanda Meteorology Agency during the press conference.

However, the agency warned the public that some changes may happen.

The weather forecast was released a day after heavy downpour left 23 families homeless in Bugesera District.

According to the weather forecast, some parts of Northern Province, Western and Southern will receive normal rainfall which could increase anytime.

While the entire part of Eastern Province, and the City of Kigali will receive normal rainfall which could also decrease.

Comparing with last year's weather patterns, Twahirwa said this year the season will be calmer than the past.

"We have three phases worldwide under climate change including El Nino, La Nina and neutral phase. Last year, we had El Nino phase whose weather is so warmer than normal and causes heavy rain. This year, we have neutral phase which provides normal rain," Twahirwa explained.

John Ntaganda Semafara, the director general of Rwanda Meteorology Agency, said that the weather forecast helps farmers to plan properly their activities which can be affected by climate change.

Ntaganda assured the public that due to the advancement of technology in measuring climate, the released results of weather forecast should be trusted.

He also said that the agency has capacity to release weather forecast each fifteen minutes, adding that in case of any change the warning will immediately be shared with the public.

"We urge the public to keep on following our information for updates," he said.

On Wednesday's heavy rains, Jean Baptiste Nsengiyumva, the Director of Risk Reduction and Preparedness Unit at the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugees Affairs (MIDIMAR) said that it is usual to have rain and wind which damage properties ahead of rainy season.

Information from MIDMAR shows that between January and June, 2017, disasters destroyed 2,154 houses, 55 classrooms, about 2,225 hectares of crops, 14 bridges and 22km of roads.

[Source: The New times](#)

Meteo Rwanda's Director General instructed 24 newly recruited staff to be customer focused and have innovations



On this Friday 14th July 2017, Mr. John Ntaganda Semafara, the Director General at Rwanda Meteorology Agency has welcomed 24 new staff who joined Meteo Rwanda in the Financial Year 2017/2018.

Speaking at the ongoing induction courses, the Director General gave them the general picture of the institution and major achievements that have been recorded since when Meteo Rwanda was given autonomous status in 2011.

Some of them include the modernization of meteorological network from manual stations to automatic weather stations now being utilized.

He informed them that Meteo Rwanda currently acquired ground satellite receivers systems namely PUMA, MESA for environment Monitoring, and SYNERGY which enabled Meteo Rwanda to enhance weather forecasting services for early warning products development.

He said that for many years ago, meteorologists tended to develop weather and climate information and disseminate them

scientifically in a way that would not be easy for a non-meteorologist to understand. He however noted that the mission of Meteo Rwanda is to disseminate weather and climate information in a language that can be easily understood by end users for decision making and planning purposes.

“Strive for building your careers in meteorological sector putting the customer on center of all what you do. Have also innovations in whatever you do,” said the Director General.

24 Staff recruited include 3 Observation Officers, 12 Observation Supervisors, 4 Meteorological Application Officers, Instrument Maintenance and Calibration Officer, Observation Processing Officer, Network Engineer, Electrical Engineer and Senior Radar and Remote Sensing Engineer.

They swore in as public servant on Monday 10th July 2017, the ceremony that was held at Gitega Sector, Nyarugenge District and officiated by the Director General at Meteo Rwanda.

Meteo Rwanda to roll out Customized climate Information Services to Specific Sectors



Since March 23, 2016, Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Meteo Rwanda) has been implementing a three years (2016-2019) project entitled “Climate Services for Agriculture” aiming at transforming Rwanda’s rural farming communities and national economy through improved climate risk management.

The project’s goal is to improve agricultural planning and food security management in the face of a variable and changing climate at both local and government levels. It is being jointly implemented by Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Meteo Rwanda); Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) in partnership with the CGIAR research program on climate change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), International Center for tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Research Institute for Climate and society (IRI).

The project benefits from years of applied research on climate services for agriculture by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and its partners in Africa and beyond. It aims to improve the supply, communication and use of climate-related information in a balanced manner using products co-developed by both providers and users.

For instance, the project will build on the Enhancing National Climate Services (ENACTS) approach, already piloted in eight countries in Africa, including Rwanda. ENACTS focuses on the creation of reliable climate information suitable for national and local decision-making. Under this initiative, Rwanda’s National Meteorology Agency has merged satellite data with its station observations to fill gaps in both space and time and can now provide a range of high-resolution climate information products tailored to agricultural user needs through web-based portal available

<http://maproom.meteorwanda.gov.rw/maproom/>

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Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture builds on and scale up the successful Participatory Integrated Climate Services (PICSA) approach to reach rural communities in the country. Through the PICSA approach, agricultural extension staffs, development NGOs and other intermediaries are trained to integrate climate services into their ongoing work with farming communities across Rwanda's 30 districts.

PICSA Approach has been piloted in 3 sectors of 4 districts (Nyanza, Burera, Kayonza, and Ngororero). The trainings were provided to the Farmers Promoters (Twigire Muhinzi), Socio Economic and Development Officers (SEDOs) of cells, Sector Agronomist to train farmers on the effective use of Weather and Climate Information Services (CIS) to cope with Seasonal Climate Variability. The output of this exercises yielded about 30,000 farmers that are aware on the use of CIS in agriculture.

Counting on the success stories from the farmers, the PICSA Approach shall be extended to 12 districts in 2017/2018 to reach 150,000 farmers trained on managing risks and impacts of extreme weather and climate events and climate variability of planting dates, Cessation of seasonal rainfall, Seasonal rainfall amount, number of seasonal dry spells, number of rain days days in a given season through the understanding of Historical climate information and Seasonal forecast.

The Climate Maprooms will provide an efficient way for Sector experts intermediaries (Agriculture, Disaster Risks, Health, etc) to access location-specific climate information as they work with farmers and other local decision makers for informed planning and decisions. The project utilizes other innovative communication channels, such as interactive rural radio programming, to reach Rwanda's populations especially farmers.

By the end of the project period, nearly a million farmers will have timely access to useful climate services. They will have better opportunities to transform their livelihoods through improved agricultural productivity. Agricultural planners, policy makers, investors, and food security specialists will be able to respond more effectively to droughts, floods and other climate-related risks. Finally, a national network of climate services will be operational, with key national agencies able to sustainably deliver climate services for farmers.



**Volunteer Observer on Field with
Members of Meteo Rwanda
Board of Directors**



**Meteo Rwanda
to help Farmers**

Meteo Rwanda to increase Weather Forecasting Capacity and issue Climate Disaster Warning



The Rwanda Meteorology Agency has committed to improve the quality of the climate and weather data provided to citizens and make it available to as many people as possible. The agency will also begin issuing weather hazards warnings, such as where and when floods, severe storms, or droughts are likely to take place.

These commitments were made at the seventh Meteorological Technical Working Group meeting held in collaboration with UNDP Rwanda. During the meeting, whose main objective was to set priorities for the new six years strategic plan, the participants reviewed the achievements of the last five years and discussed how best to tackle the goals not yet reached.

Some of these achievement include:

- Installing 100 automatic rainfall stations
- Completing 41 automatic weather stations
- Installing 1 C-band weather radar system
- Developing 163 manual weather stations
- Acquiring and implementing an improved data management system known as CLIMSOFT
- Introducing a modern forecasting system known as PUMA

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In his remarks, Director General of the Rwanda Meteorological Agency, John Ntaganda Semafara, reiterated the importance of reliable climate information for the country:

“The work we do is essential to all sectors of the economy because it supports safe and efficient development. Weather and climate information is vital to many stakeholders and is instrumental to the green development we desire in this era of changes to our climate.”

One sector that uses meteorological information is agriculture, which requires knowledge of the start and end of rainfall seasons, daily rainfall as well as temperature and humidity ranges for harvest storage and other purposes.

Over the next six years, some of the key priorities for Meteo Rwanda include:

- Better application of weather and climate warnings and forecasts
- Better use of weather and climate products and services
- Improve availability and accessibility of quality weather and climate data and information services

Achieving these goals will help to improve the safety of life and property, support Rwanda’s socio-economic and sustainable development and also provide world class climate information that will be of use to researchers, planners and decision makers.

Speaking on behalf of the UNDP Country Director, Reina Otsuka, appreciated that the Ministry of Natural Resources is working closely with them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Weather information is very critical to the achievement of sustainable development at the national level and I am pleased that UNDP will work with the ministry to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the sector and incorporate them into the new six year strategic plan,” said Reina.

Weather Radar Station



Meteo Rwanda Infrastructure

Meteorological Station



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