



Agrometeorological Bulletin N° 30, Dekad3, October (21– 31) 2020 Issued on 2nd November 2020

Summary

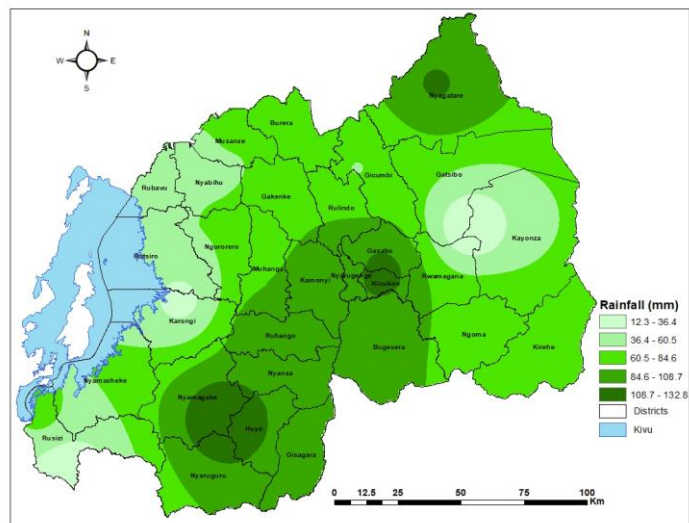
The third Dekad (21- 31) of October 2020; indicated that the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is still positioned over the region and rainfall activities are well established across the country. Normal to above normal rainfall was recorded in the central part of the country, Southern, Eastern, Northern and Western Provinces except at Bugarama, Rubengera and Kawangire stations that recorded below normal rainfall. The highest rainfall amount was recorded in Southern Province at Nyamagabe station with 132.8mm in 7 rain-days, followed by Kigali International Airport with 120.9mm in 6 rain-days, Nyagatare station with 110.8mm in 6 rain-days and Gitega station with 102.1mm in 8 rain-days. The lowest rainfall less than 20mm was recorded at Kawangire and Bugarama. The temperature was within the range of Long Term Mean. The maximum temperature ranged between 20.1°C at Gicumbi and 29.9°C at Bugarama stations. Minimum temperature ranged between 12.9°C at Musanze Airport and 19.7°C at Bugarama stations respectively. The soil moisture contents and soil temperatures were favourable for seed germination across the country.

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

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

1.1 Rainfall Amount

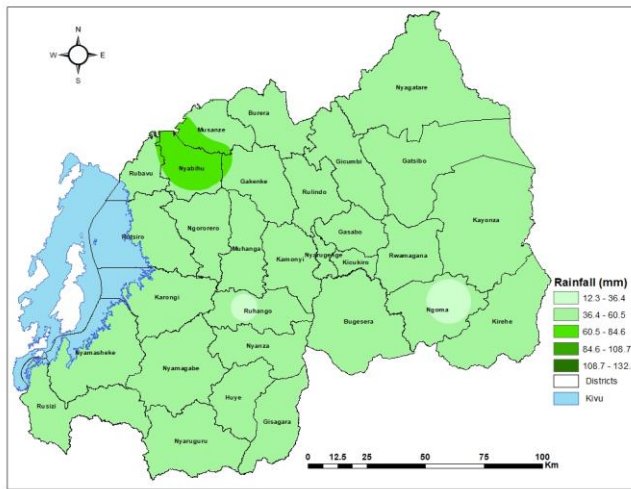
The actual total rainfall amount recorded in the third dekad of October, 2020 is presented in Map 1. On daily basis it was observed that this dekad received moderate rainfall in most parts of the country. Kigali city, Southern Province and North eastern region were comparatively wet. Stations across the country recorded good rainfall except Kawangire, Rubengera and Bugarama.



Map 1: Rainfall amount during 3rd Dekad of October 2020

1.2 Rainfall climatology for the 3rd dekad of October

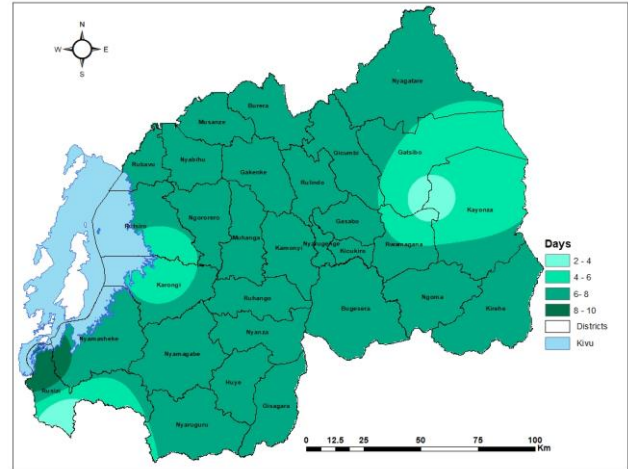
The rainfall climatology for the 3rd dekad of October is shown in map 2, and it indicates that normally the rainfall ranges from 34.7 to 71mm across the country. Comparing the 3rd dekad of October 2020 and the Long Term Mean (LTM) for the same period; it was observed that in most parts of the country, the third dekad recorded Normal to above normal rainfall except at Kawangire, Bugarama and Rubengera station that recorded below rainfall.



Map 2: Rainfall amount during 3rd Dekad of October (LTM)

1.3. Number of Rain Days

The Map 3 shows the distribution of number of raindays across the country. A rainy day is defined as a day with at least 0.85mm of rainfall. As it is shown in map 3, most parts of the country had 5 to 10 rainy days except at Kawangire and Bugarama stations that had 3 and 2 rain-days respectively. The rainfall distribution was adequate and suitable for rain-fed agriculture across the country.



Map 3: Rainy days for dekad3 of October 2020

1.4 Soil moisture index

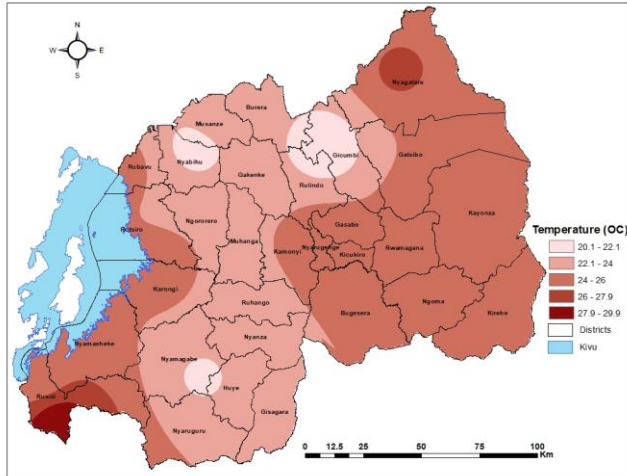
This section shows the available soil moisture across the country. The soil moisture showed an normal to surplus soil moisture over most parts of the country due to wet weather conditions experienced during the third dekad of October 2020. The soil moisture will continue to increase during the first dekad of November 2020 due to the expected wet weather conditions.

2.0 Temperature observation

The average maximum and Minimum temperature across the country during the third dekad of October 2020 is highlighted in the section below.

2.1 Mean Maximum Temperature

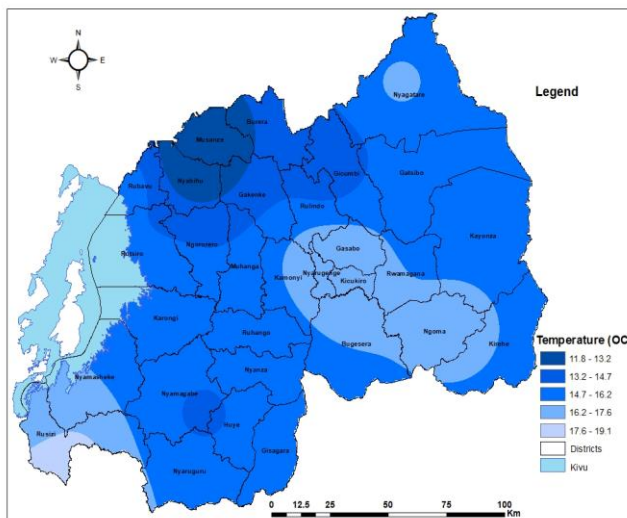
Map 4 shows the actual mean maximum temperature distribution across the country which indicates that the South Western parts, Kigali City, and Eastern Province were warmer than the Northern, Southern Provinces and the rest of Western Province. However, in most parts of the country the mean maximum temperature ranged between 20.1⁰C and 26.4⁰C with exceptional case of slightly high temperature of 29.9⁰C recorded at Bugarama station.



Map 4: Mean Maximum Temperature for dekad3 October 2020

2.2 Minimum Temperature

The average minimum temperature across the country is shown in Map 5. The Northern parts experienced colder temperature than the other parts of the country. The minimum temperature ranged between 12.9⁰C at Musanze Airport and 19.7⁰C at Bugarama stations respectively.



Map 5: Mean Minimum Temperature for dekad3 October 2020

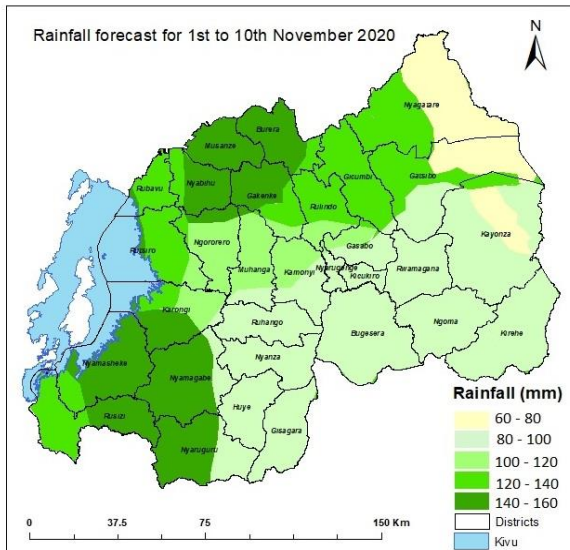
3.0 Weather Outlook and Agricultural advisories for the first dekad (01-10) November, 2020.

3.1 Weather Outlook for the first dekad of November 2020.

Rainfall ranging between 60 and 160 millimeters is expected across the country. Western, Northern and Southern Provinces will receive much rainfall than remaining parts of country. During the 1st dekad of November 2020, rainfall will be slightly above the long term mean due to the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) which is still positioned over the region where Rwanda is located combined with increased moisture advection from Indian Ocean.

Rainfall ranging between 60 and 80 mm is expected in eastern parts of Nyagatare and Gatsibo districts, and a small portion with Kayonza district which is near Akagera National Park. Rainfall ranging between 80 and 100mm is expected in Kirehe, Ngoma, Rwamagana, Bugesera, Gisagara, Huye, Nyanza, Ruhango, Nyarugenge and Kicukiro Districts, small parts of eastern Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru, southern parts of Muhanga, Kamonyi, Gatsibo, Gasabo and the remaining parts of Kayonza Districts. Rainfall ranging between 100 and 120mm is expected in most parts of Ngororero, eastern parts of Karongi, a big part of Muhanga, northern Kamonyi and Gasabo, and a small part of southern Rulindo, and south eastern Rutsiro Districts. Rainfall ranging between 120 and 140mm is expected in Rubavu, Gicumbi, northwestern parts of Karongi and Gatsibo, most parts of Rutsiro and Rulindo, a small part of western Nyabihu bordering Rubavu, most of southern parts of Gakenke, western parts of Nyagatare and Rusizi, southwestern parts of Nyamasheke and southeaster Burera Districts. Rainfall ranging between 140 and 160mm is expected in Musanze, northern parts of Gakenke and a small part of northern Ngororero and Muhanga,

Eastern Rusizi, southern parts of Karongi and most parts of Burera, Nyabihu, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe and Nyamasheke Districts. The enhanced rainfall is expected on 1st, 2nd and from 6th up to the end of dekad but light rain is likely in other days of the dekad across most parts of the country.



Map 6: Rainfall Forecast for the first dekad of November 2020

3.2 Agricultural Activity/Advisories

The stakeholders in Agriculture sector are advised to fast track fertilizers delivery to the farmers, timely planting in most parts of the country and agricultural practices that increases soil water holding capacity in the driest areas of the country are encouraged. The germination of the seeds are undergoing and weeding will be the main activity for the early planted crop. The farmlands from these areas with high rainfall should be monitored for possible flooding. Farmers are advised to work closely with Agriculture Extension Officers for more 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.