



SEASONAL FORECAST N°63 FOR MARCH – APRIL - MAY (MAM) 2023

Rwanda Meteorology Agency (METEO RWANDA) is pleased to release the seasonal forecast for the March-April-May (MAM) rainfall season of 2023. This forecast is based on extensive analysis of the atmospheric and oceanic conditions and it provides valuable information for planning and decision-making purposes. March-April-May is one of the main rainy seasons in Rwanda. The National consensus on climate outlook for the March to May 2023 season indicates higher chances of normal to slightly below normal conditions according to the global, regional and local drivers analysed.

The key drivers expected to influence rainfall during MAM 2023 season are the Sea Surface Temperature (SST) that are likely to remain neutral over the coming months in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) which are likely remain neutral during the season. The neutral IOD associated with neutral ENSO episodes are usually characterized by near normal rainfall over the East African including Rwanda.

The similar years for MAM 2023 rainfall season are 2021, 2017, 2012 and 2002.

Different districts are anticipated to receive various amounts of rainfall as follows:

Rainfall below 300 millimetres (<300mm)

The rainfall below 300mm is expected in the eastern parts of Nyagatare and Gatsibo districts and a small portion of southern part of Kirehe district.

Rainfall ranging between 300-400 millimetres

The rainfall between 300-400mm is expected over most parts of Eastern Province save for Nyagatare and Gatsibo districts and southern parts of Kirehe district; Kicukiro district, southern parts of Gasabo and eastern parts of Nyarugenge district.

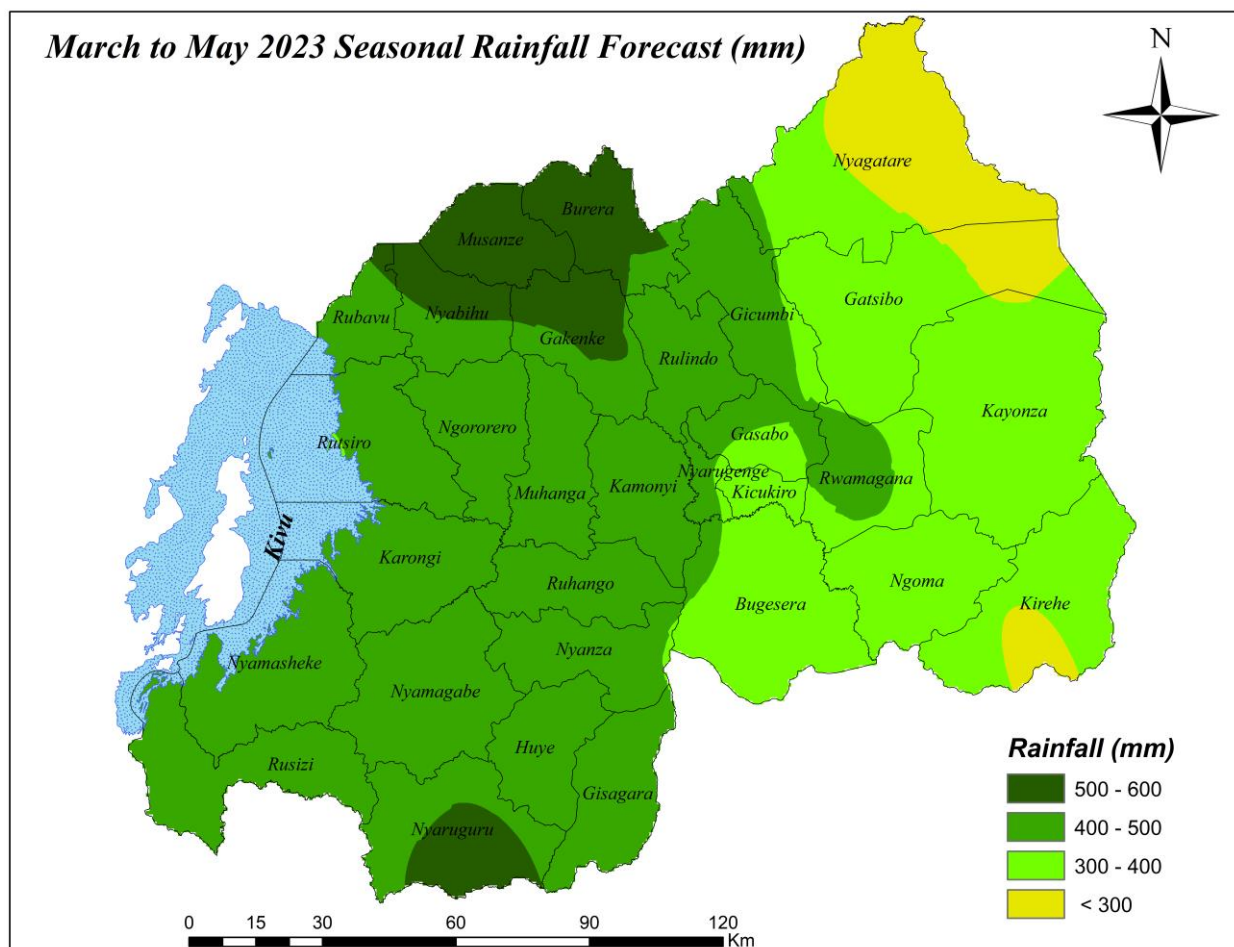


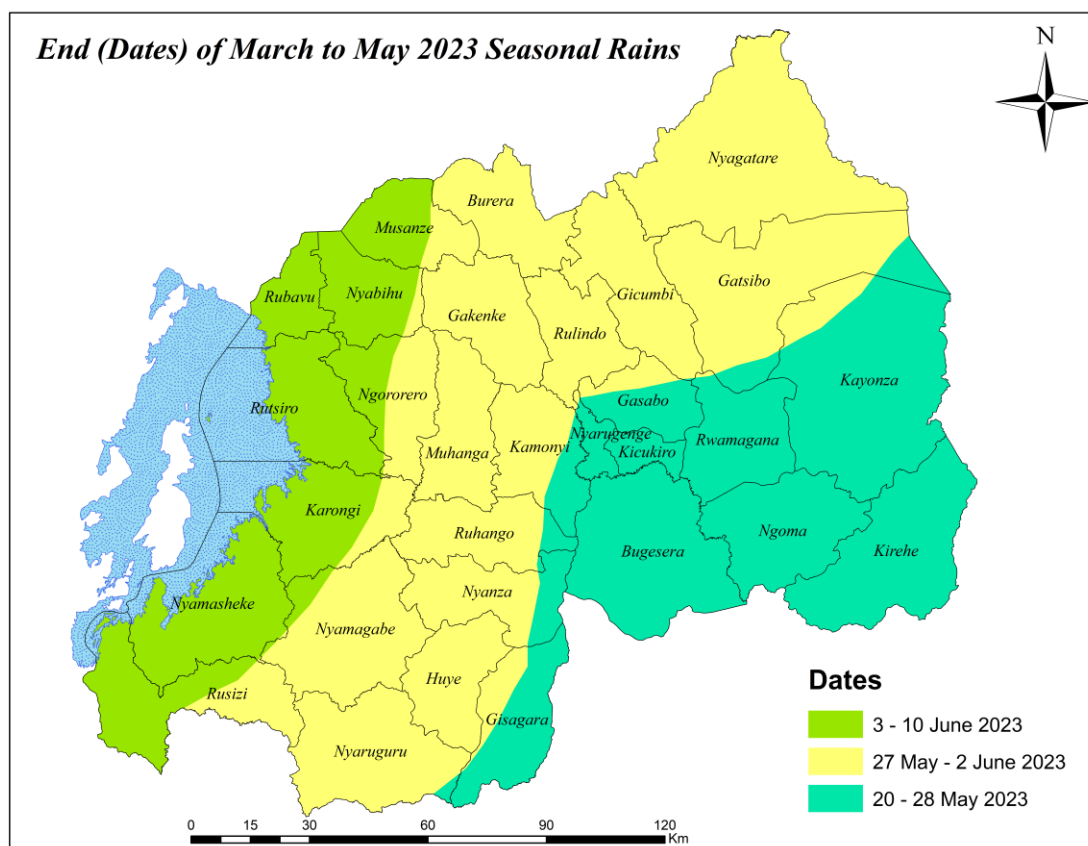
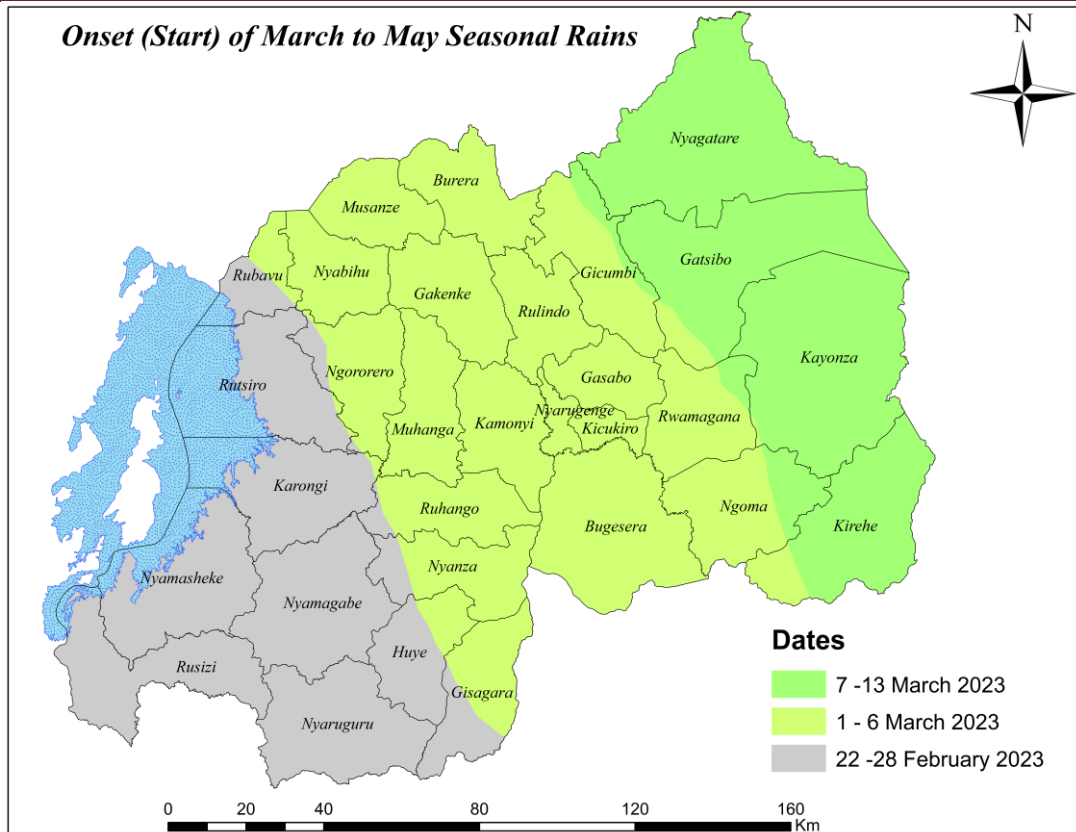
Rainfall ranging between 400-500 millimetres

The rainfall between 400-500mm is expected in most parts of Northern, Southern and Western Provinces. It is expected also in western parts of Nyarugenge and in north western parts of Gasabo district.

Rainfall ranging between 500-600 millimetres

This rainfall between 500-600mm is expected in southern parts of Nyaruguru district, in Musanze and most parts Burera districts. It is also expected over northern parts of Nyabihu and Gakenke districts.







THE ONSET OF MAM 2023 RAINFALL SEASON

From 22nd to 28th February 2023: The onset of the seasonal rainfall is expected in Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi and Rutsiro districts and some western parts of Huye, Gisagara, Nyanza, Ruhango, Ngororero and Rubavu districts.

From 1st to 6th March 2023: Rainfall is expected to start over the remaining parts of Southern Province, Northern Province, Kigali City, western Kirehe and Gatsibo districts, Bugesera, most parts of Rwamagana and Ngoma districts.

From 7th to 13th March 2023: The rainfall onset is expected to start in Nyagatare, Gatsibo, Kayonza and Kirehe districts.

THE CESSATION OF MAM 2023 RAINFALLS

From 20th to 26th May 2023: The early cessation of rainfall is expected in South Eastern parts of the country, Amayaga region and most parts of Kigali City.

From 27th May to 2nd June: The cessation of seasonal rainfall is expected in Southern Province except Amayaga region, Northern Province except western parts of Musanze; Ngororero, Karongi and Rusizi districts, Nyagatare and Gatsibo districts.

From 3rd to 10th June 2023: The late cessation is expected in Western Province and most parts of Musanze district.

ADVISORY

The expected near normal to slightly below normal rainfall during March to May 2023 may lead to extreme weather events such as dry spells, localized flooding, landslides, strong winds and other extreme weather-related events in some parts of the country.

Meteo Rwanda advises public institutions, NGOs, Private sector and the general public, especially farmers, to take note of the forecast and use it to make informed decisions regarding crop planting, harvesting and management practices. It is also important to note that while the forecast provides valuable information, weather patterns can be unpredictable and can change quickly. Therefore, the public is advised to always stay alert to any weather-related updates and advisories issued by Meteo Rwanda.



Based on the seasonal prediction of March, April and May 2023 (2023B Agricultural season), stakeholders in Agricultural sector are advised to fast track agricultural activities including land preparation, selection of suitable crops, seeds and fertilizers delivery to the farmers, timely planting according to the suggested dates. Agriculture extensionists should encourage farmers to plant early maturing varieties and adopt agricultural practices that increase or improve soil water holding capacity.

Meteo Rwanda, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and other partners, will continue to support different initiatives aimed at availing weather and climate products for effective planning and decision making especially in prone areas of extreme weather.

For more information, contact Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Meteo Rwanda) on its social media and toll-free number 6080.

N.B: This outlook is supplemented by daily weather updates of different timescales (24-hours, 3- days, 5-days), 10-days forecasts, regular monthly forecast updates and advisories issued by Rwanda Meteorology Agency.

Done at on 24th May 2023

Aimable GAHIGI
Director General