SEASONAL FORECAST FOR SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER (SOND) 2020, N°56

The National consensus on climate outlook for the September to December 2020 season indicates higher chances of near normal to below normal rainfall conditions over most parts of the country depending on the nature of topographical set up.

The key factors expected to influence rainfall during SOND 2020 season include negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) anomalies currently present in the Indian Ocean and weak El Nino Southern Oscillation Index (ENSO). These conditions are expected to persist throughout the season with slight enhancement during November. The negative IOD associated with La Nina episodes are unusual and they are characterized by unusual coldness in sub-surface waters of both Equatorial Pacific and Indian Ocean and they are linked with reduced rainfall over the East Africa including Rwanda due to reduced advection of moisture from the ocean to the region. However, regional circulation systems, topography and large inland water bodies will modulate the influence of the ocean processes in order to produce the rainfall.

The merged seasonal forecasts were generated using both Statistical and Dynamical analysis which was done for each of the five delineated climatological zones across the country during SOND season. The selected analogue years for SOND 2020 are 2016 and 1995.

The amount of seasonal rainfall forecast was categorized according to the districts as follows:

Rainfall ranging between 350-450 milimeters is expected in the Northern Province (Musanze Gakenke, Rulindo Gicumbi and Burera), Southern province (Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe and northern part of Muhanga District) and Western province (Rusizi and eastern parts of Ngororero).

Rainfall ranging between 300-400milimeters is expected in the Western province (Rubavu, Nyabihu, Nyamasheke, Rutsiro, Karongi and Western parts of Ngororero).

Rainfall ranging between 300-350 milimeters is expected in Eastern province (Rwamagana, Gatsibo and Nyagatare), Southern province (Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza, Huye, Gisagara and southern parts of Muhanga), Kigali City (Nyarugenge, Kicukiro and Gasabo).

Rainfall ranging between 250-350 milimeters is expected in Eastern province (Bugesera, Ngoma, Kirehe and Kayonza).

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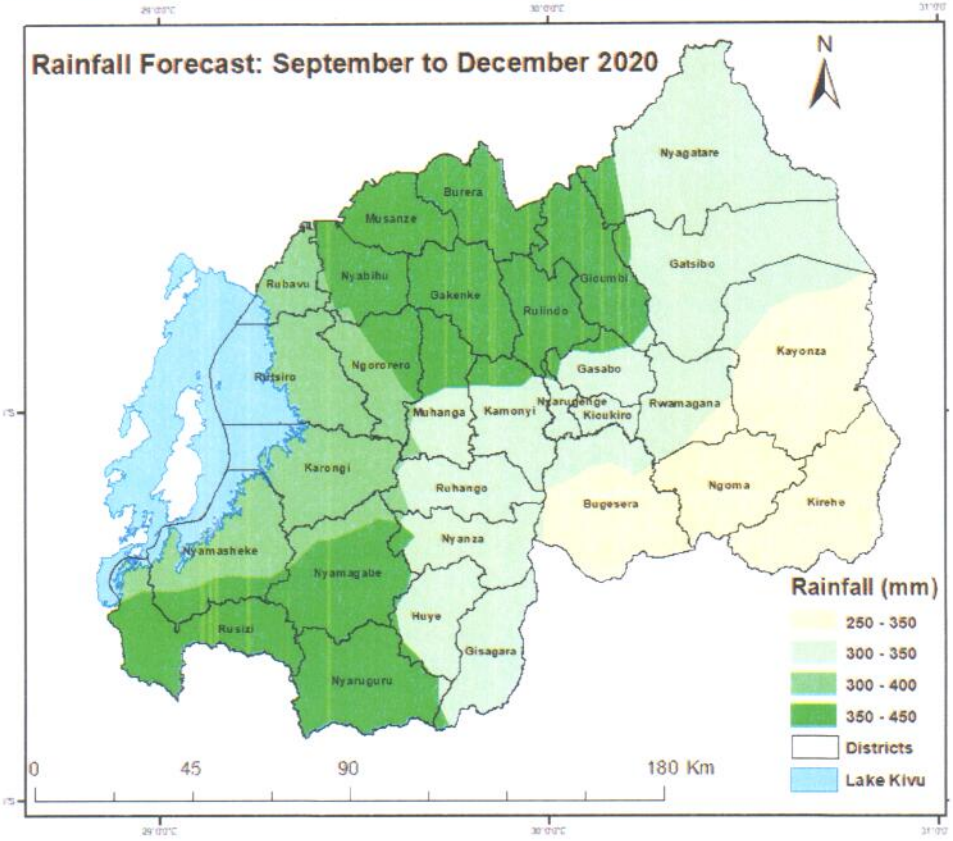

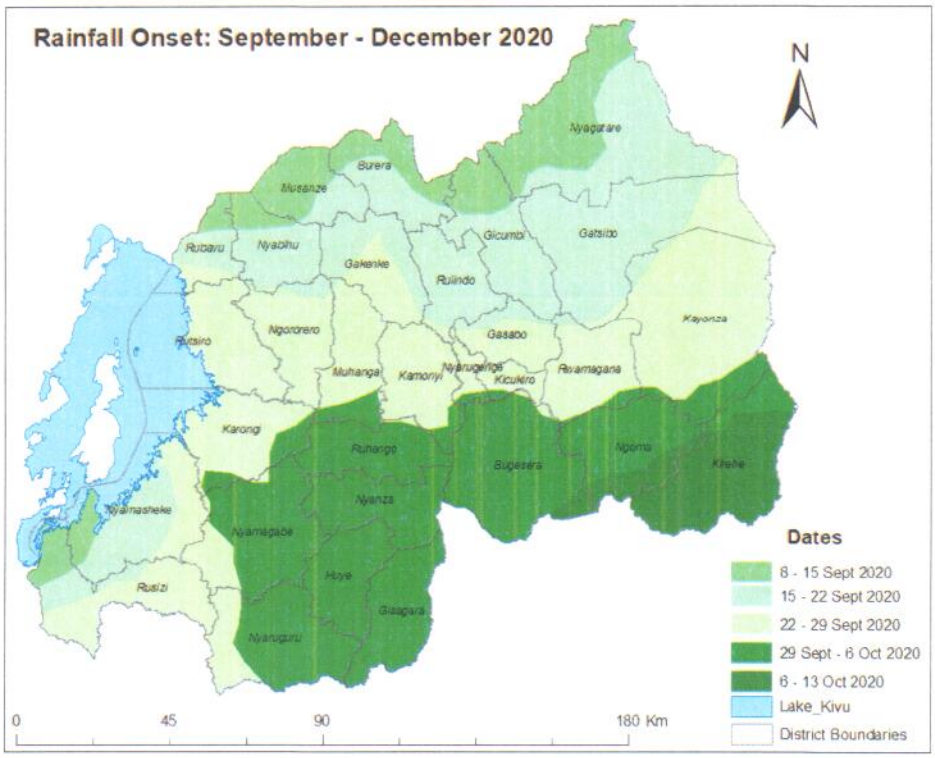

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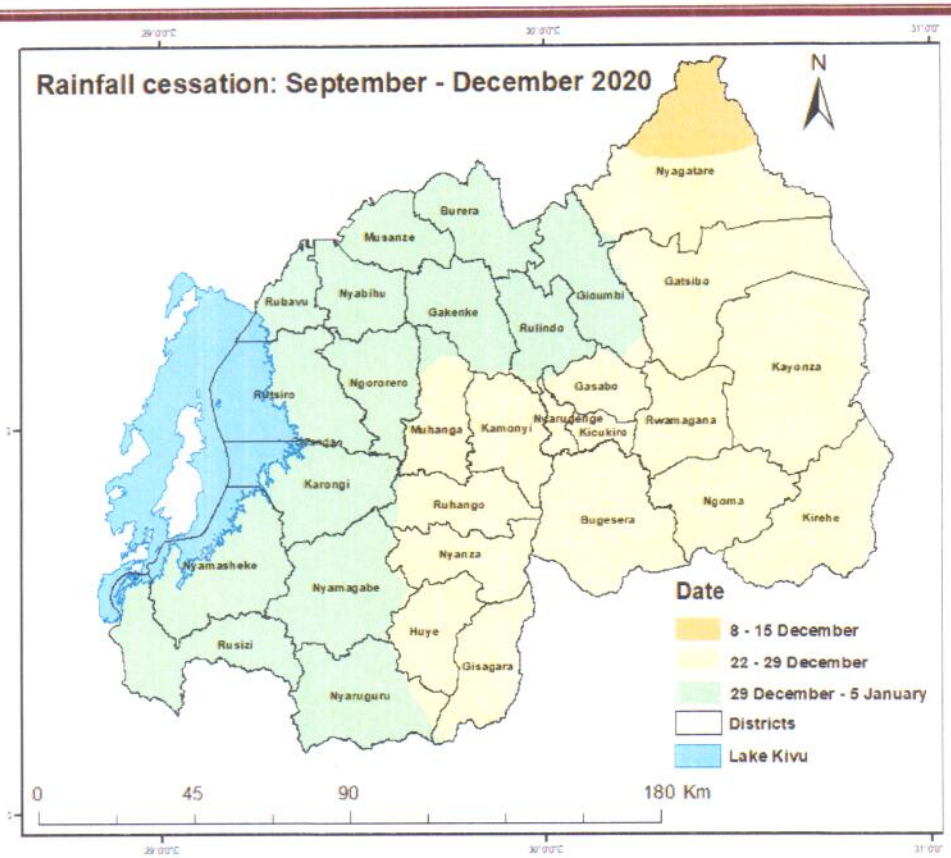

Expected rainfall amount in millimeters, onset and cessation dates of SOND 2020

Provinces	Districts	Rainfall predicted (mm)	Onset dates	Cessation dates
Kigali City	Nyarugenge	300-350	22-29 Sep 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Gasabo	300-350	22-29 Sep 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Kicukiro	300-350	22-29 Sep 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
Northern province	Musanze	350-450	08-15 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Gicumbi	350-450	08-15 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Rulindo	350-400	15-22 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Burera	350-450	08-15 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Gakenke	350-400	15-22 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
Southern province	Kamonyi	300-350	22-29 Sep 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Muhanga	300-350	22-29 Sep 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Ruhango	300-350	29 Sept - 6 Oct 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Nyanza	300-350	29 Sept - 6 Oct 2020	22-29 Dec 2020

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	Huye	300-350	29 Sept - 6 Oct 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Gisagara	300-350	29 Sept - 6 Oct 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Nyamagabe	350-400	29 Sept - 6 Oct 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Nyaruguru	350-400	22-29 Sep 2020 Eastern part 29 Sep - 6 Oct 20202western part	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
Eastern province	Bugesera	250-350	29 Sept - 6 Oct 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Rwamagana	300-350	22-29 Sep 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Kayonza	250-350	22-29 Sep 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Ngoma	250-350	29 Sept - 6 Oct 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Kirehe	250-350	6 - 13 Oct 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Gatsibo	300-350	15-22 Sep 2020	22-29 Dec 2020
	Nyagatare	300-350	08-15 Sep 2020 Northern part 15-22 Sep 2020 Southern part	8-15 Dec 2020 Eastern part 22-29 Dec 2020 Western Part
Western province	Nyabihu	350-450	08-15 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Rubavu	300-400	08-15 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Rutsiro	300-400	22-29 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Karongi	300-400	22-29 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Ngororero	300-400	22-29 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Nyamasheke	300-400	15-22 Sep 2020	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021
	Rusizi	350-450	08-15 Sep 2020 Western part 15-22 Sep 2020 Southern and Eastern parts	29 Dec-5 Jan 2021

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THE EXPECTED IMPACTS IN VARIOUS SECTORS

The expected near normal rainfall during September to December 2020 season may lead to weather related phenomena such as dry spells, floods, landslides, strong winds and other related weather extrem events. Therefore, relavant authorities should put in place both preventive and mitigation strategies to minimise the impacts related to mentioned weather phenomena.

Based on the seasonal prediction of SOND 2020 (2021A Agricultural season), stakeholders in Agricultural sector are advised to fast track land preparation activities, seed and fertilizers delivery to the farmers, timely planting according to the suggested dates in the table above and encourage agricultural practices that increase soil water holding capacity.

N.B This outlook is supplimented by daily updates of different timescales (24-hours, 3- days 5-days), 10-days forecasts, regular monthly forecast updates and advisories issued by Rwanda Meteorology Agency. For more information contact Meteo Rwanda on toll free number 6080.

Done on 8th September, 2020

Aimable GAHIGI
Director General

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