



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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Dekad 04; 1- 10 February, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the 4th dekad, moderate to heavy rainfall was received over the Western and Nyanza provinces with Kakamega, Kisii and Kisumu recording 110.1, 29.2 and 14.2 mm respectively. The Coastal region was dry throughout the dekad except Voi which recorded 4.0mm of rainfall. Central Province and Nairobi area experienced substantial amount of rainfall with Nyahururu, Wilson, JKIA, Nyeri, Thika, Kabete and Dagoretti reporting 96.9, 42.2, 19.6, 19.3, 19.3, 10.2 and 8.9mm respectively. . The Eastern and North Eastern regions experienced heavy to moderate amounts of rainfall with Makindu, Embu, Machakos and Meru recording 35.8, 31.1, 10.0 and 3.2mm respectively. (Fig 1&2.)
- Day time temperatures slightly increased with, Lodwar, Mandera, Garissa and Wajir reporting dekad maximum temperatures of 37.6, 37.4, 36.7 and 36.6 deg. Celsius respectively (Fig 3&4).
- Night temperatures slightly increased during the dekad with Nyahururu, Eldoret Airport, Kabarak, Narok, and Kitale reporting dekad mean minimums of 8.5, 9.6, 11.4, 11.7 and 12.3 deg Celsius respectively. (Figs 3&4).

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW FOR DEKAD 04; 1 – 10 FEBRUARY 2010

Central Province and Nairobi Area:

Maize crop is being affected by prolonged moisture stress in Kabete which has affected the expected yield in the area (Fig 1-2). In Nyahururu and Nyeri districts, maize is awaiting harvest.

Eastern Province:

In Machakos, Makueni and Kitui districts, the weather was hot and sunny throughout the dekad thus affecting the maize crop especially in Kibwezi where the onset delayed for sometime. Most farmers have started harvesting the mature maize crops though attention should be drawn to keep the harvested maize in cool and dry place to avoid cases of aflatoxins effects. In Meru, the maize crop is doing where as in Embu the crop performance has deteriorated due to excessive dryness.

Coast Province:

Coastal area reported dry weather over the dekad (Fig 1&2). In Lamu, maize yield reported was below normal due to inadquate amount of rainfall in the area. Cashewnuts are doing very well though they are being destroyed by hungry baboons.

North Eastern Province:

Sunny conditions were experienced in the region (Mandera, Moyale, Wajir and Garissa) during the dekad (Figs.1-4). As a result, pasture and general vegetataion started to decline as seen in Figure 5 depicting the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for the country.

Western Province:

Heavy rainfall was experienced over several places in this region during the dekad. Farmers are still preparing for the next planting season which is due in March.

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Moderate rainfall was experienced over most places in this region (Kisumu, Nyamira, Kisii, and Kericho) during the dekad (Figs.1&2). Harvesting of maize in Kisii still continues, while in Kisumu, farmers are still preparing their land for the next planting season which starts in March.

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

North western Rift Valley (Lodwar, Lokitaung) experienced dry conditions during the dekad. The pastoral regions of Southern Rift Valley (Narok, Kajiado, Mara) received significant amount of rainfall (Figs.1 &2). As a result, there was general decline/degeneration of pasture and vegetation as can be seen in Figure 5 (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for the country).

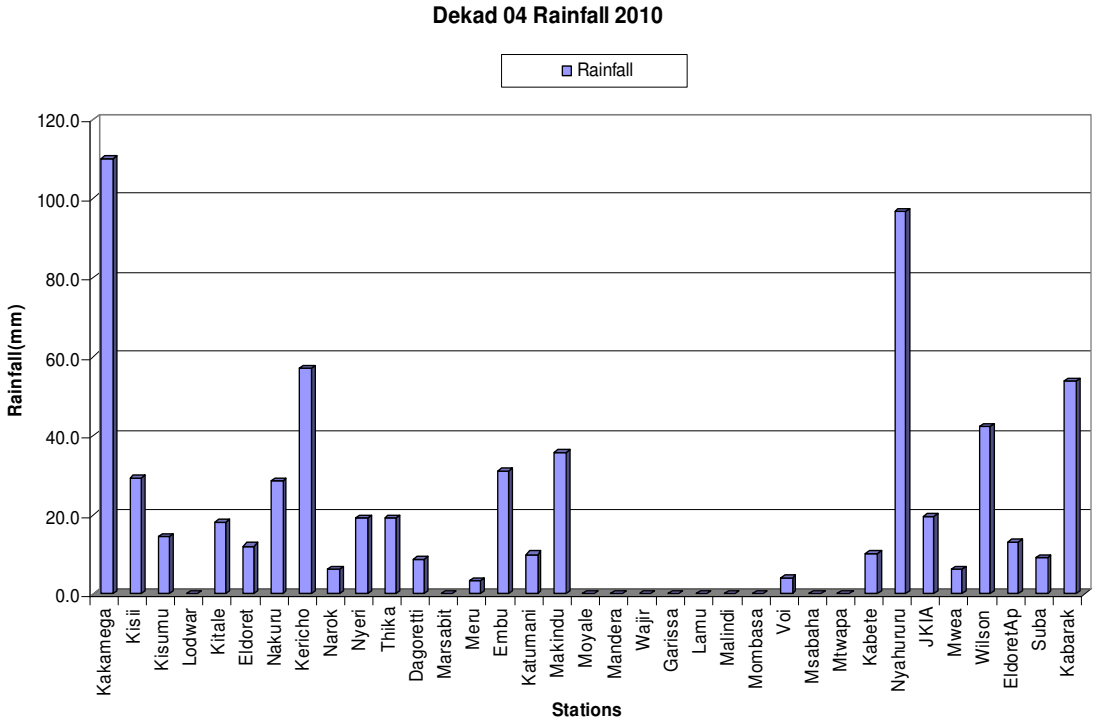


Fig. 1: Dekad 04 2010; Actual Rainfall

Dekad 04 Rainfall Distribution 2010

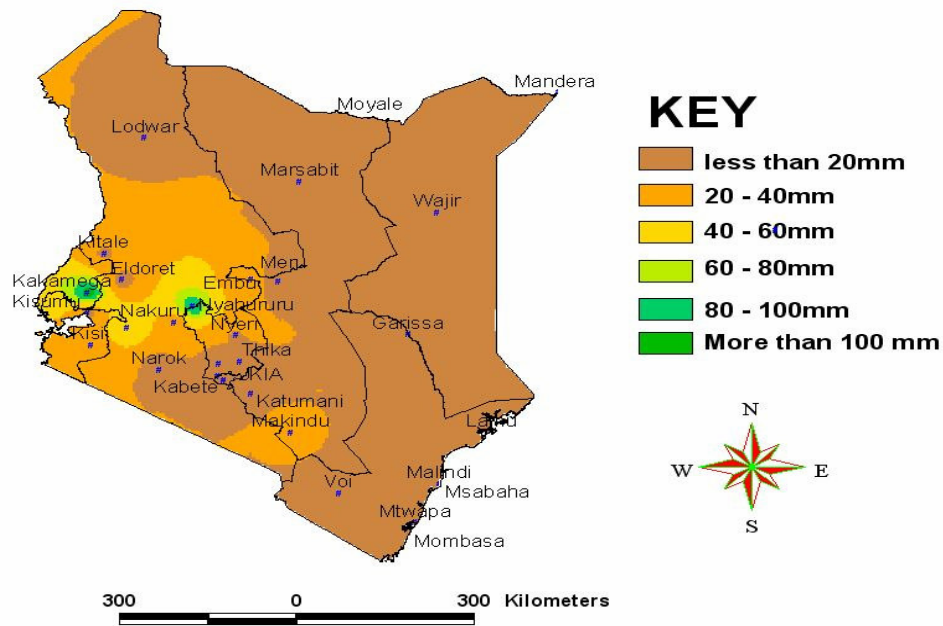


Fig. 2: Dekad 04, 2010; Rainfall distribution.

Dekad 04 Temperatures 2010

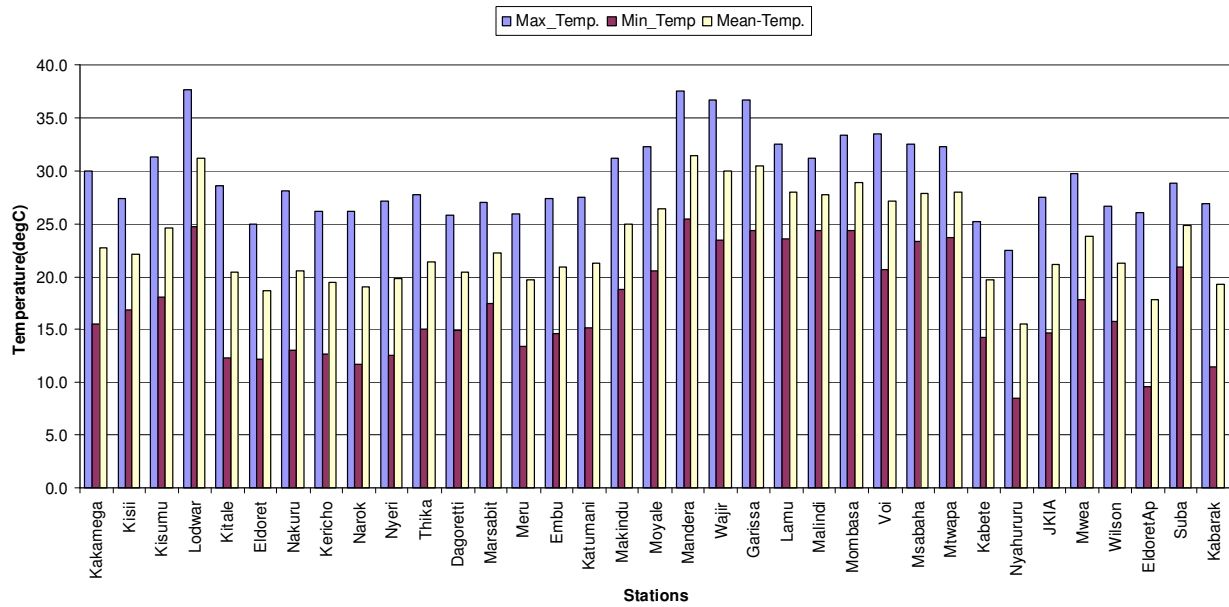


Fig 3: Dekad 04, 2010; Mean Temperature (deg. Celsius)

Dekad 04 Temperature Distribution 2010

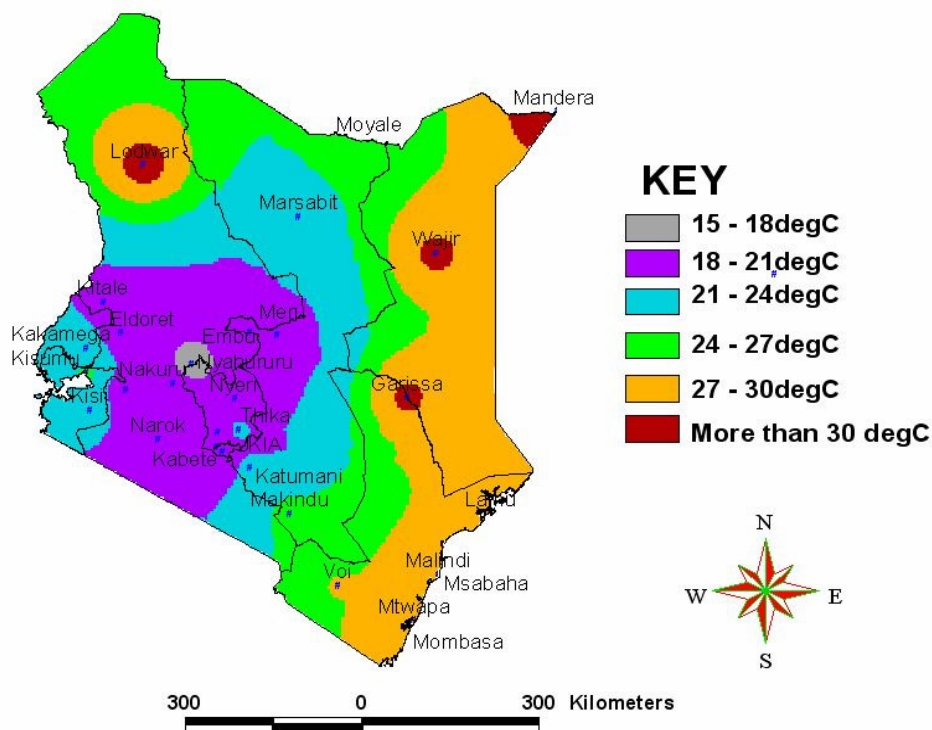


Fig.4: Dekad 04, 2010; Mean Temperature Distribution

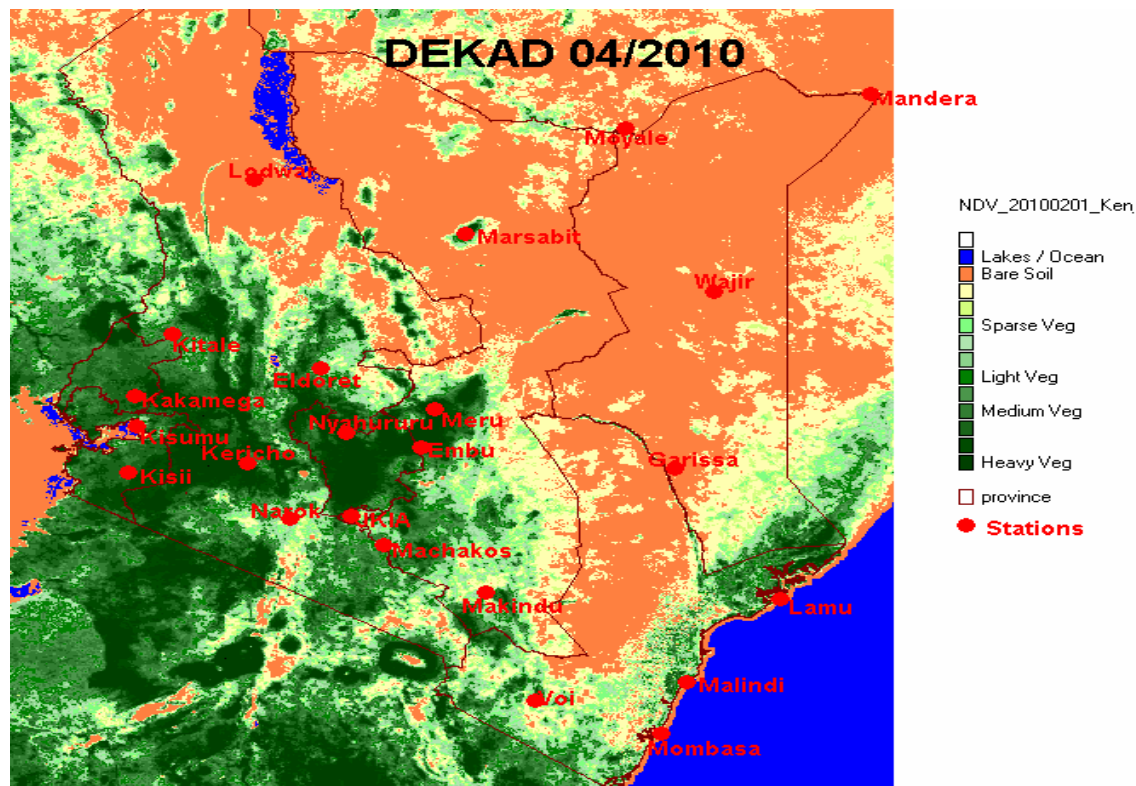


Fig 5: Dekad 04, 2010; Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (11 –20 FEBRUARY, 2010)

- ✚ During the next 10 days, the western regions are expected to experience sunny conditions with some rains in few places. No expected weather impact on crops as most have been harvested.
- ✚ Nyanza and Central Rift Valley are expected to experience sunny conditions throughout the dekad with low rainfall in few places in the next 10 days.
- ✚ Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, will experience sunny conditions with some rains in the highlands during the next dekad. This will continue to benefit the maize ripening in Nyeri and Thika.
- ✚ Eastern Province districts and its environs are expected to experience sunny conditions over the next ten days. Crops are expected to continue doing well in central areas of the province that is Meru and Embu district.
- ✚ The Coastal region rainfall activities are expected in few places especially in Southern parts. Other places will experience sunny conditions.

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