



KMD

# AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

## KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Issue No. 06 / 2010,      Season: DJF

**Dekad 06; 21- 28 February, 2010**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- During the 6th dekad, normal to heavy rainfall was received almost over the entire country. In Western and Nyanza provinces heavy rainfall was experienced with Suba, Kisii, Kakamega, and Kisumu, recording 131.4, 44.5, 44.2 and 42.7 mm respectively.
- In central and North Rift, rainfall was received in Eldoret, Kitale, Kabarak, Nakuru, Kericho, and Narok of 120.5, 77.9, 76.5, 51.7, 46.9 and 33.9 mm respectively. Central Province and Nairobi area experienced moderate to heavy rainfall with Dagoretti, Thika, Mwea, Nyahururu, Wilson, Kabete and JKIA reporting 68.5, 65.7, 60.6, 44.9, 42.0, 39.8 and 27.0 mm respectively. The Eastern and North Eastern regions experienced nil to heavy rainfall with Moyale, Makindu, Meru, Marsabit, Katumani and Embu receiving 376.3, 85.6, 54.0, 45.1, and 43.3 mm respectively.
- The Coastal region received moderate to heavy rainfall with Msabaha, Voi, Mtwapa and Malindi reporting 49.0, 16.3, 13.5 and 7.2 mm respectively.
- Day time temperatures slightly decreased with Garissa, Wajir, Mandera and Lodwar reporting dekadal mean maximum temperatures of 37.5, 37.4, 37.0 and 35.8 deg. Celsius respectively.
- Night temperatures slightly increased during the dekad with Nyahururu, Eldoret Airport, Kabarak, and Kericho reporting dekadal mean minimums of 10.2, 12.6, 13.0, and 13.1 deg Celsius respectively.

### CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW FOR DEKAD 06; 21 – 28 FEBRUARY 2010

#### Central Province and Nairobi Area:

In Nyeri, maize crop that was donated by the Government to farmers and which matures between 3 to 4 months is being harvested while the one for 5 to 6 months is still in wax ripeness stage. In the same district some farmers have also started planting for the next season. In Nyahururu, land preparation is still going on in readiness for the next season. In Thika, maize harvesting and land preparations are going simultaneously. Unless harvested quickly early seasonal rains are likely to rot maize in some parts of the province.

#### Eastern Province:

In Machakos, Makueni and Kitui districts farmers have finalized harvesting and they are now very busy preparing their farms for the next season. In Meru and Embu districts farmers are

still harvesting their maize crop. The whole Eastern region have reported moderate to heavy rainfall (Fig 1&2).

**Coast Province:**

Coastal area reported wet weather over the dekad (Fig 1&2). In Lamu, cashewnut yields reported is above normal with very poor market price due to over production i.e. Kshs 25 instead of normal market price of Kshs 50.

**North Eastern Province:**

Wet conditions were experienced in the region (Mandera, Moyale, and Garissa) during the dekad (Figs.1-4). As a result, pasture and general vegetation expected to generate as depicted in Fig.5.

**Western Province:**

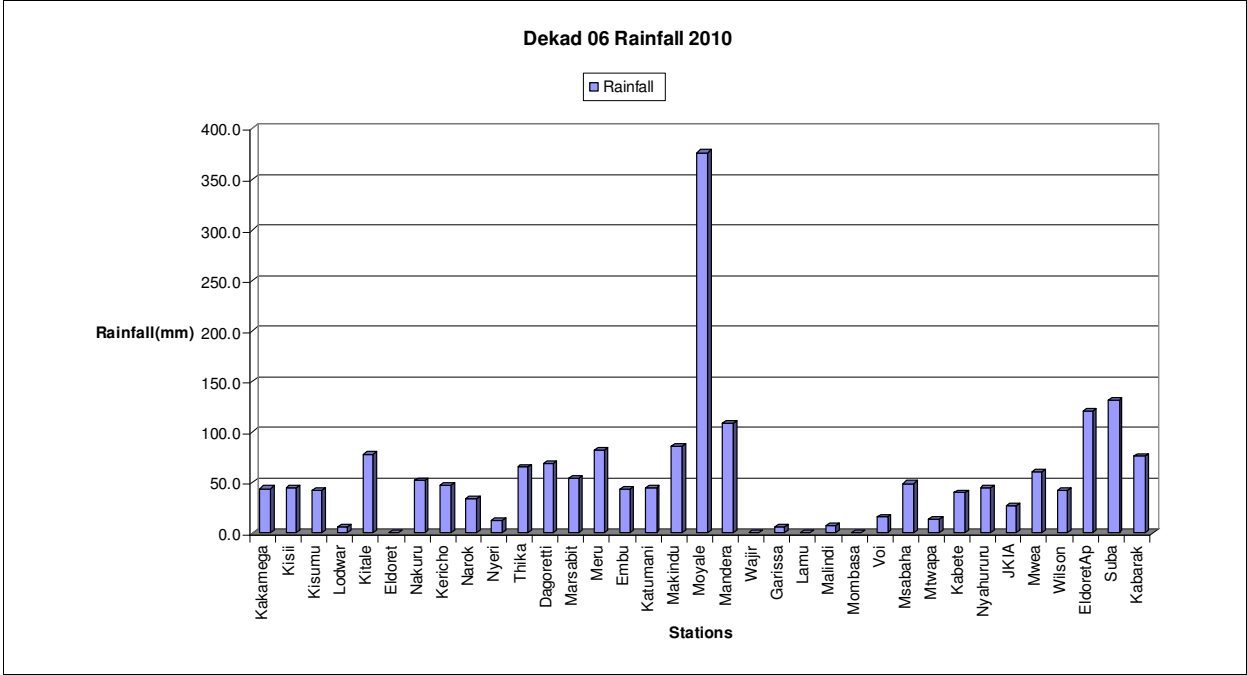
Heavy rainfall was experienced over several places in this region during the dekad. Farmers are finalising their land preparation for the planting season .

**Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:**

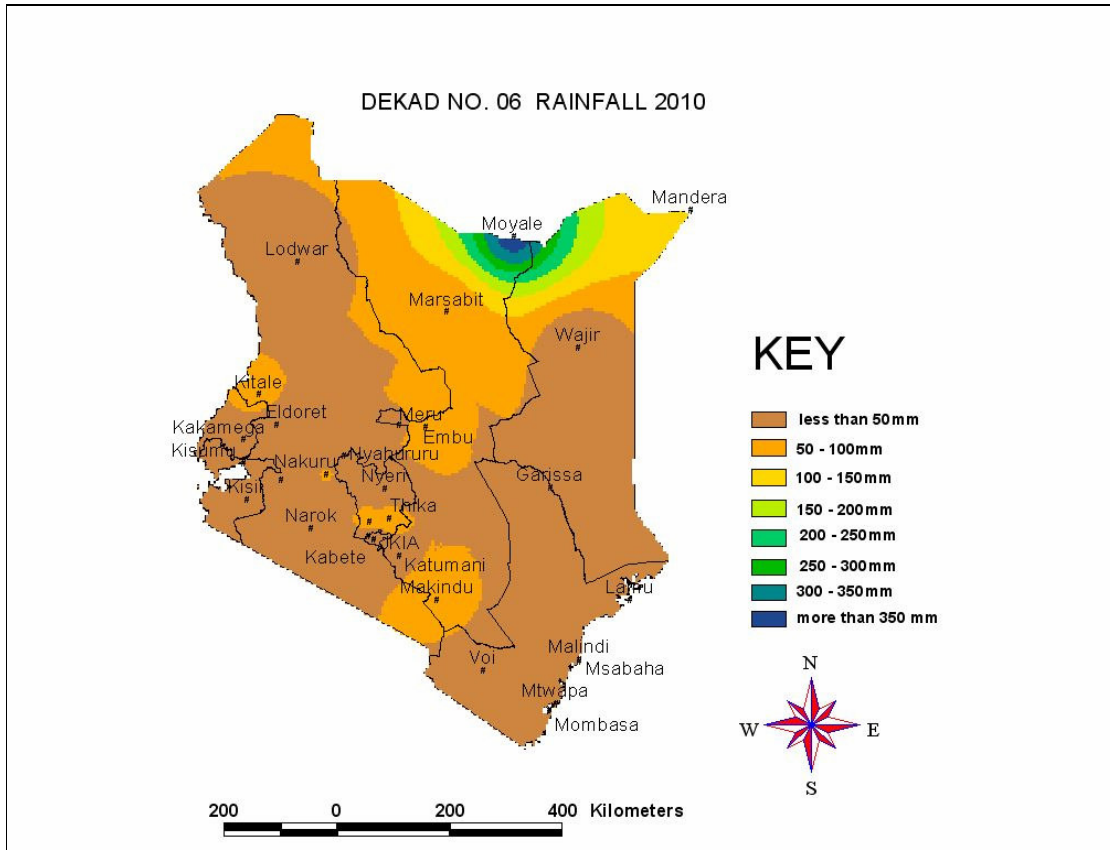
Moderate to heavy rainfall was experienced over most places in this region (Kisumu, Kisii, Nakuru, Kabarak and Kericho) during the dekad (Figs.1&2). Planting is underway in most farms in Kisumu and Kisii districts as other farms are still being prepared.

**Northern and Southern Rift Valley:**

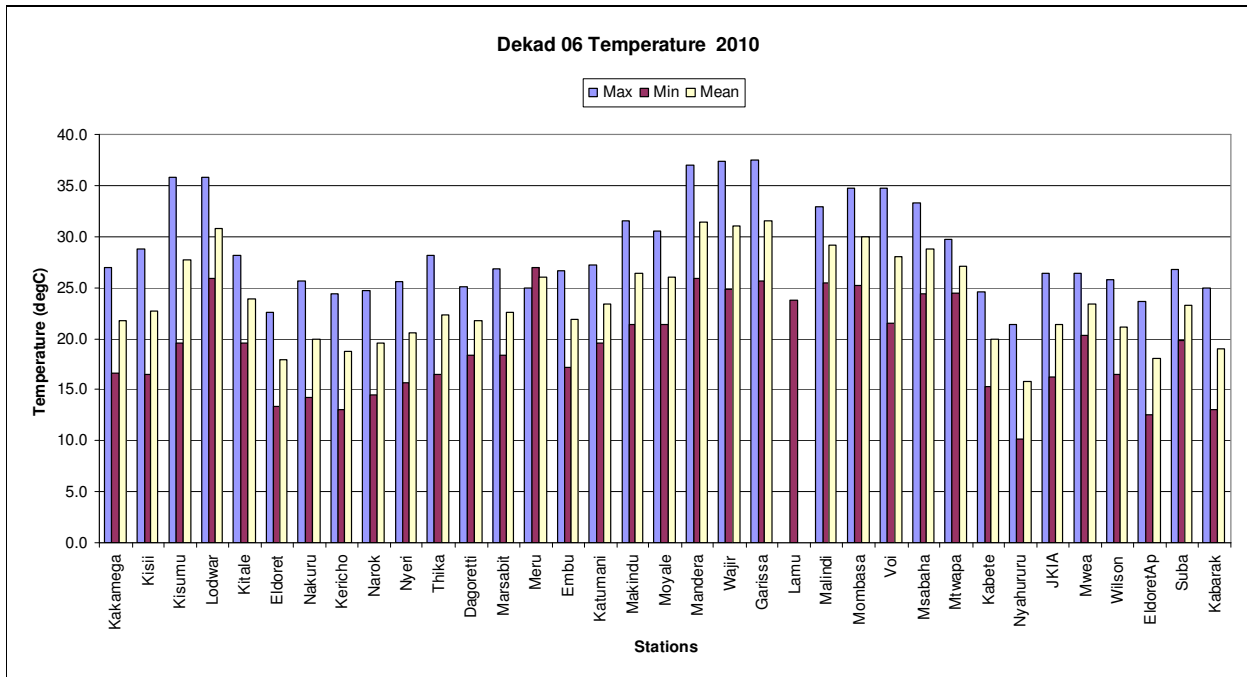
North western Rift Valley (Lodwar, Lokitaung) experienced low amount rainfall which is quite insignificant during the dekad. The pastoral regions of Southern Rift Valley (Narok, Kajiado, Mara) received significant amount of rainfall (Figs.1 &2). As a result, there was improvement of pastures and vegetation as can be seen in Figure 5.



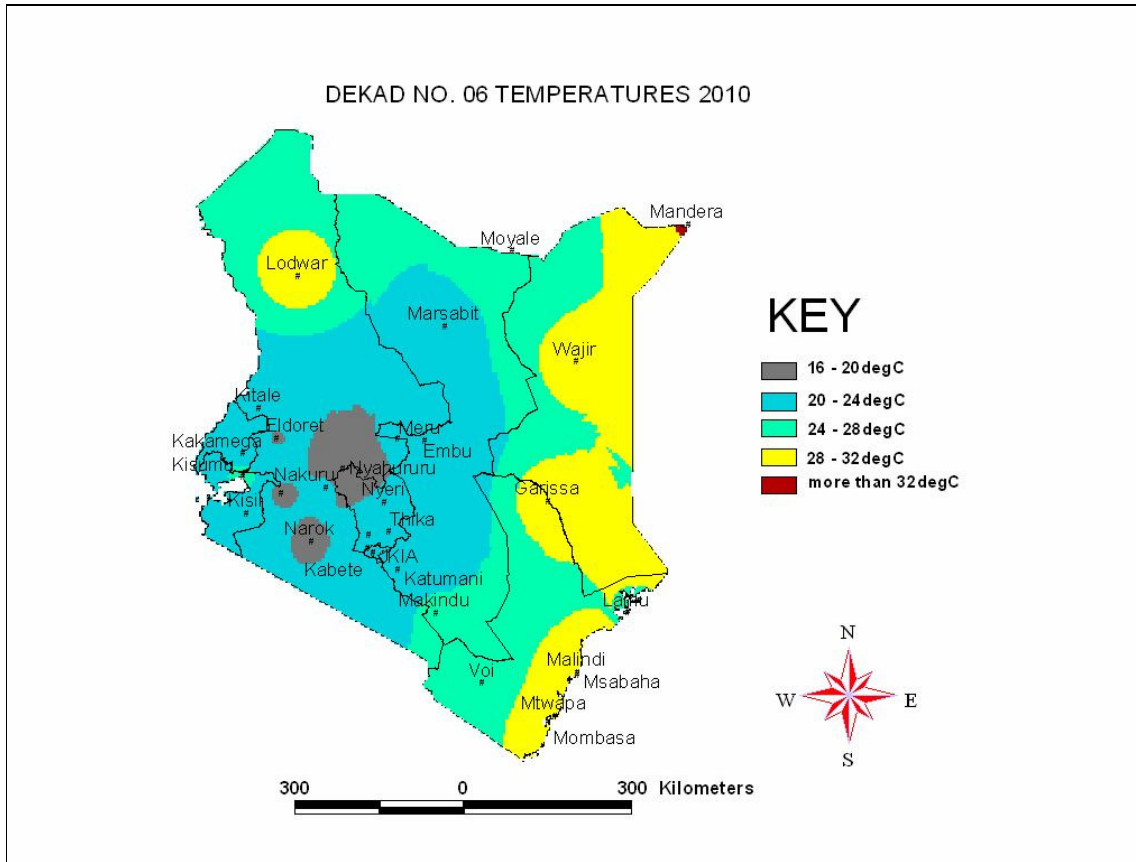
**Fig. 1: Dekad 06 2010; Actual Rainfall**



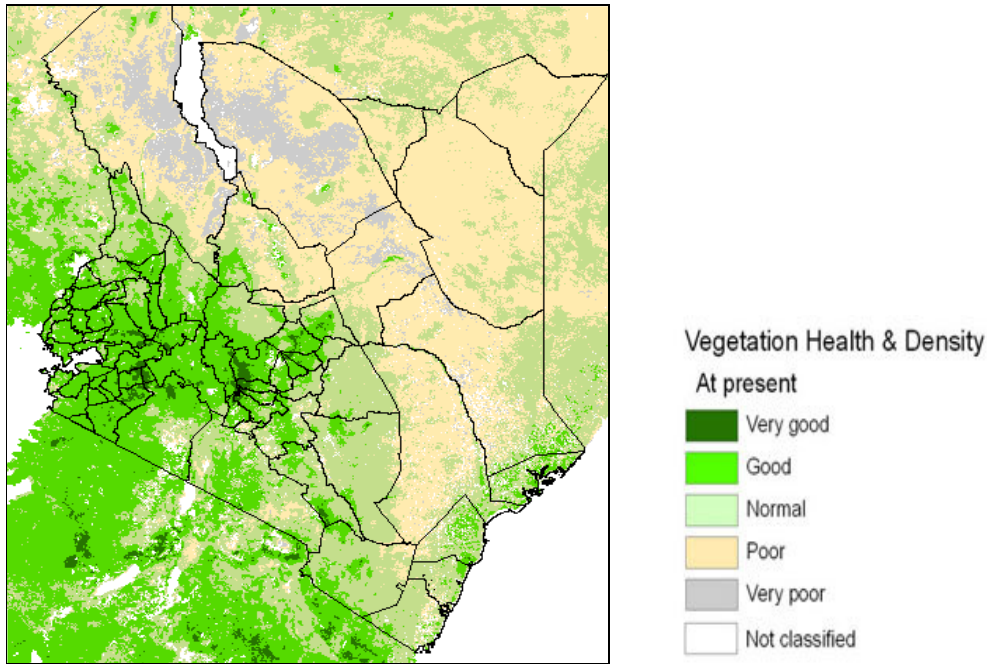
**Fig. 2: Dekad 06, 2010; Rainfall distribution.**



**Fig 3: Dekad 06, 2010; Mean Temperature (deg. Celsius)**



**Fig 4: Dekad 06, 2010; Mean Temperature Distribution**



**Fig 5: Dekad 06, 2010; Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)**

## EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS; (1-10 MARCH, 2010)

- ✚ During the next 10 days, the western regions are expected to continue experiencing afternoon showers and thunderstorms over several places occasionally reducing to few places. Most farmers have planted and are awaiting seed germination while others are still preparing their land.
- ✚ Nyanza and Central Rift Valley will continue to experience afternoon showers, thunderstorms and morning rains in few to several places. Farmers are now busy planting their seeds.
- ✚ Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, will experience afternoon showers over few places increasing to several places with time. This will assist the seed germination for the early planters.
- ✚ Eastern Province districts are expected to experience considerable amounts of rains over several places with occasional afternoon showers. This will have major impact on seed germination as most farmers are now busy planting.
- ✚ The Coastal region will experience sunny and dry conditions. There are no major agricultural activities since harvesting of all crops has been completed
- ✚ In North Western districts Lodwar, Lokitaung and Lokichoggio will experience occasional afternoon showers and thunderstorms over few places. This will benefit the pasture condition in the region.

**N/B: FARMERS SHOULD BE ADVISED EARNESTLY TO DRY THEIR GRAINS PROPERLY BEFORE APPLYING CHEMICALS AND STORE IN A WELL DRY AND COOL PLACE.**

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