

- For those with fruit (mango, avocado and orange) orchards or bananas, we advise that they prune, cut & burn or bury fruit stalks, add manure and construct *negarims* and *semi-circular bunds* around them to harvest water, before the start of the season
- Farmers are advised to watch out for aphids (*Wii*) especially in cowpea and fruit trees; shoot fly and stalk borers in sorghum; Anthracnose in beans; scab (*Kikaa*) and desert locusts and report such outbreaks to agricultural extension officers
- Livestock farmers are advised to drain their livestock sheds and repair leaking ones to control foot rot incidences. They are also encouraged to destock to minimize livestock mortality due to scarcity of pastures and fodder.
- Livestock farmers are advised to look out for Lumpy Skin (*Makandu*) and Foot and Mouth (*Mubingibu*) Diseases and report such outbreaks to the nearest agricultural extension office.
- Poultry farmers should look out for viral diseases, especially the Newcastle Disease (NCD), and vaccinate their birds in time
- Farmers are encouraged to earth-up existing cassava and sweet potato crops instead of establishing new crops. They are also encouraged to diversify crops and farm enterprises to reduce risk.
- Rather than establish a new sorghum crop, farmers are encouraged to ratoon last season's crop, at a height of 1.5 cm above the ground
- Regular harvesting, baling and storage of grass/pasture for later use is strongly recommended

Additional Information

Following a fairly successful March-April-May (MAM) 2020 season, farmers are advised to dry their grain to 13.5% moisture content before storing it to avoid infestation by aflatoxin-producing fungi. Further, they are advised to watch out for storage pests and take appropriate control measures. Finally, they are encouraged to use certified seeds from reputable sources.

Important Note

The information provided here is general information based on the October-November-December (OND) 2020 seasonal forecast issued by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD). The information should be used in conjunction with the forecast updates issued by KMD and technical advice provided by the nearest agricultural extension office.

This advisory is a collaborative effort of the following institutions



Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization



University of Embu



Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Fisheries and Cooperatives



Kilimo Media International



Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD)



Biovision Africa Trust



WEATHER-BASED AGRO-ADVISORY FOR MACHAKOS COUNTY

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

2020

With financial support from



IDRC

CRDI

About this Advisory

This advisory was developed on 25th September 2020 by a team of subject matter specialists from Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), University of Embu (UoE), Biovision Africa Trust, Kilimo Media International (KIMI), Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock Development and Cooperatives with financial support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) through the project “Scaling-up Pathways of Last Mile Climate Information Services for Community Resilience in Kenya and Uganda”

The advisory is mainly aimed at supporting farm level decision making in Machakos County in planning agricultural activities for the October-November-December 2020 Rain Season. Application of this advisory to other areas will depend on similarities in soil and climatic conditions of such places with those of Machakos. County.

Performance of the March-May 2020 Rain Season

Like the rest of the country, Machakos County experienced early on-set of the March-April-May rains. Crop performance, especially of pigeonpea, was exceptionally good. Pastures and fodder also established very well.

Outlook for Oct.–Dec. 2020 Rain Season

- Machakos County and its environs are expected to receive below normal (depressed) rainfall
- Machakos County is expected to realize the onset between the fourth week of October and the first week of November and cessation in the third to fourth week of December 2020
- The October to December 2020 rainfall is predicted to be poorly distributed
- The peak of the rains is expected to be in the month of November 2020

Implications of the Forecast on Agriculture

Based on the above outlook:

- Farmers are advised to plant crops of their choice at the earliest opportunity by dry planting after preparing the farm in the 3rd week of October 2020
- They are advised to repair their terraces and desilt existing dams and water pans before the on-set of the rains
- Farmers are encouraged to plant the following crops:

Target Area	Crop	Recommended Variety	Correct Spacing
Upper zones (<i>Kathiani, Kangundo, Nditthinii Matungulu, Mua & Kola</i>)	Beans (<i>Mbooso</i>)	Angaza, Nyota, KAT X56, KAT X69 & Katram	45cm x 20cm Seed rate: 20kg per acre
	Pigeon-pea (<i>Nzuru</i>)	KAT 60/8 Mbaazi II	75cm x 50cm 100cm x 50cm Seed rate: 8 kg/ acre
	Cowpeas (<i>Nthooko</i>)	M66, K80 & KVU 27-1	45cm x 20cm Seed rate: 4 kg per acre
	African leafy vegetables	Grain amaranth (<i>W'oa</i>) Vegetable amaranth (<i>W'oa</i>) Managu, Spider weed (<i>Sage</i>)	90cm x 30cm 75cm x 30cm 60cm x 20cm by drilling
	Pasture grasses (<i>Nyeki</i>)	Bracharia, Bana grass, <i>Nandi seteria</i> (<i>Ngootya</i>) Napier grass (<i>Kitothyia</i>)	Broadcasting (Seed rate: 5kg per acre) & <i>Tumbukiza</i>
Mid-zones (<i>Mutituni, Muvuti, Katbekakai, Kaani, Kalama & Machakos Central</i>)	Beans (<i>Mbooso</i>)	Angaza, Nyota, KAT X56, KAT B1, KAT B9 & Katram	45cm x 20cm Seed rate: 20kg per acre
	Pigeon-peas (<i>Nzuru</i>)	KAT 60/8 Mbaazi II	75cm x 50cm Seed rate: 8 kg/acre 100cm x 50cm Seed rate: 8 kg/ acre
	Cowpea (<i>Nthooko</i>)	KVU27-1 K80	45cm x 20cm (Seed rate: 4kg per acre)
	African leafy vegetables	Grain amaranth (<i>W'oa</i>) Vegetable amaranth (<i>W'oa</i>) Managu/Matulu Spider weed (<i>Sage</i>)	90cm x 30cm by drilling 75cm x 30cm by drilling 60cm x 20cm by drilling

Target Area	Crop	Recommended Variety	Correct Spacing
Mid-zones (<i>Mutituni, Muvuti, Katbekakai, Kaani, Kalama & Machakos Central</i>)	Green grams (<i>Ndengu</i>)	N26, KS20, Karembo & Biashara	60cm x 20cm Seed rate: 4kg/acre
	Sorghum (<i>Mwya</i>)	Gadam, Seredo, Kari-Mtama 1, Kamani (KM32)	75cm x 20cm By drilling
	Pastures (<i>Nyeki</i>)	Mbeetwa, Ndata kivumbu, Ikoka & Ngootya	Broadcasting (seed rate: 5kg per acre)
Lower zones (<i>Katangi, Masinga, Mwala, Kimutwa, Yatia & Athi River</i>)	Cowpeas (<i>Nthooko</i>)	KVU27-1 K80	45cm x 20cm (Seed rate: 4kg per acre)
	Green grams (<i>Ndakithi/ Ndengu</i>)	N26, KS20, Biashara & Karembo	60cm x 20cm Seed rate: 4kg/acre
	Dolichos lab lab (<i>Mbumbu/ Nzavi</i>)	DL 1002	100cmx50cm
	Pigeonpea (<i>Nzuru</i>)	KAT 60/8 Mbaazi II	75cm x 50cm 100cmx50cm Seed rate: 8 kg/acre
	Sorghum (<i>Mwya</i>)	Gadam, Seredo, Kari-Mtama 1, Kamani (KM32)	75cm x 20cm By drilling
	Beans (<i>Mbooso</i>)	Angaza, Nyota, KAT X56, KAT B1, KAT B9 & Katram	45cm x 20cm Seed rate: 20kg per acre
	Sunflower	Fedha Kenya Shaba	75cm x 30cm Seed rate: 4kg/acre
Pastures (<i>Nyeki</i>)	Mbeetwa, Ndata kivumbu, Ikoka & Ngootya	Broadcasting Seed rate: 5kg per acre	