Climate Conditions and Implications – Byimana Station January, 2026

January 2026 at Byimana was characterized by moderate temperatures, variable rainfall distribution, and alternating wet and dry days. The total recorded monthly rainfall amounted to approximately 169.3 mm, accumulated over about 15 wet days, while the remaining days of the month were predominantly dry or with no measurable rainfall. This uneven temporal distribution of rainfall played a key role in shaping agricultural and water resource conditions.

Thermal conditions during the month were generally stable. The mean maximum temperature was around 26 °C and the mean minimum temperature about 14.6 °C. The highest maximum temperature of approximately 29.0 °C was recorded on 24 January, while the lowest minimum temperature of about 11.4 °C occurred on 21 January. No extreme heatwaves or cold spells were observed, and temperature conditions remained within the normal range for the Byimana region.

Rainfall variability within the month was pronounced. The first dekad experienced several wet days, including the highest daily rainfall of about 46.3 mm recorded on 8 January, which significantly enhanced soil moisture and supported land preparation and planting activities. The second dekad was dominated by dry days, with little to no rainfall recorded on most dates, resulting in a temporary dry spell. Rainfall activity increased again in the third dekad, with moderate rainfall events helping to restore soil moisture and stabilize crop growth.

From an agricultural perspective, frequent wet days early in the month favored germination and early crop development, while the extended sequence of dry days in mid-January may have caused short-term moisture stress, particularly for shallow-rooted crops and newly emerged seedlings. Cooler nighttime temperatures during this period helped limit evapotranspiration losses. The return of rainfall later in the

month reduced the risk of early-season crop failure and supported continued crop growth.

In terms of water resources, intense rainfall events during the first dekad enhanced surface runoff and contributed to the recharge of local streams and shallow groundwater. However, the prolonged dry period during the second dekad led to short-term reductions in water availability for domestic use and small-scale irrigation. Improved rainfall frequency toward the end of January helped restore hydrological balance in the Byimana area.

Looking ahead, February in Byimana is climatologically drier than January and is typically associated with an increase in the number of dry days and fewer wet days. Rainfall events, when they occur, are generally light to moderate and localized. Temperatures are expected to remain warm during the day and mild at night. Farmers and water managers are therefore encouraged to plan for reduced rainfall reliability, strengthen soil moisture conservation measures, and use available water resources efficiently during extended dry periods.

Prepared by:
Nzeyimana Alexis
Observation Supervisor