**Highlights**

- The first 10 days of November were marked by relatively normal rainfall. A slightly above-normal trend was experienced in the southwestern parts of the country the following 10 days and the last 10 days were characterized by above-average rainfall, mainly in southern parts of the country (Figure 3).

- Staple prices, especially roots and tubers, are higher than normal in a significant number of markets.

- Following normal season 2015 B production, typical lean season progresses till first harvests in December.
Rainfall in the first 20 days of November ranged between normal and slightly above normal: Rainfall in the first 10 days of November was near normal, with a tendency of slightly below normal in central parts of the country. The following 10 days, however, were marked by moderately above normal in the Southwest, with 10 to 25 mm higher than average. Additionally, a portion of the Northeast experienced a slight rainfall deficit; ranging between 10 and 25 mm less than average. Southern parts of the country also experienced rainfall ranging between 10 and 50 mm above average last 10 days of November (Figure 3). The month of November in general experienced more-than-normal rainfall compared to previous months of the season. This is in line with forecast reports, indicating above-normal rainfall, which will likely peak in the last quarter of the year and last until early 2016, as a result of El Niño. 

Roots and tubers were generally more expensive than average in October: Referring to calculations based on e-soko/MINAGRI data, staple prices exhibited a rising tendency in most markets. Regarding roots and tubers such as sweet potatoes, cooking bananas and Irish potatoes, 48 to 78 percent of markets experienced higher prices than their respective five-year averages. Though mostly cheaper than cereals, their price increase implies constraints to those with the most vulnerable purchasing power. Prices are expected to continue rising steadily in the coming months, as households seasonably rely more on markets till harvest time towards the end of December.

Typical lean season progresses till first harvests at the end of December: As normally happens at this time of the year, households’ stocks are at lowest levels. Following normal production in the previous season (Figure 2), lean season is expected to progress as usual. However, higher-than-normal prices and reduced purchasing power might lead to low access.

Figure 2: Seasonal production

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). Calculations based on Seasonal Agriculture survey reports
Figure 3: Rainfall anomalies. This depicts the deviation of current rainfall from the long-term mean. In other words, current rainfall minus the long-term average might result in positive (above average) or negative (below average) figures.

Source: Early Warning Explorer/USGS