



## African Regional Climate Centres Convene to Strengthen Sub-Seasonal Forecasting Capacity

Kigali, Rwanda | 14–17 March 2026

A continental symposium on sub-seasonal to seasonal (S2S) forecasting was convened in Kigali, Rwanda, bringing together African Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and technical partners with support from the WISER PASS Programme. The meeting provided a strategic platform to assess the status of S2S forecasting across Africa and to identify priority actions required to transition emerging methodologies and products from research and prototype stages to fully operational climate services. Sub-seasonal forecasts provide climate information on the 2-week to 2-month timescale, effectively bridging the gap between short-range weather forecasts and seasonal outlooks, and supporting tactical decision-making.

This timescale is particularly critical for Africa, where climate-sensitive sectors such as rainfed agriculture, water resources, and disaster risk management depend on timely and actionable information. S2S forecasts enable anticipatory action by providing lead times for early warning systems, informing agricultural practices such as weeding and fertilizer application, and strengthening preparedness for hazards including floods.

Participants acknowledged that although significant advances have been achieved through regional and international initiatives, the operational uptake of S2S forecasting remains uneven across the continent. Key challenges persist in relation to data availability, technical capacity, institutional coordination, and effective communication of forecast information to end users.

The symposium identified three priority areas for advancing the S2S forecasting in Africa: strengthening data foundations, building technical capacity, and improving communication and uptake. Participants emphasized the establishment of a continental data aggregation and sharing framework, potentially hosted at the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), to enhance access to observational and model datasets, support forecast verification, and promote collaborative innovation. Operationalization of S2S services requires sustained investment in capacity development, including training in forecasting tools, ensemble interpretation, and sector-specific applications across agriculture, water, health, and disaster risk management, alongside





mentorship programmes linking Regional Climate Centres and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. Furthermore, enhancing the usability of forecasts through impact-oriented, user-friendly products, improved communication of uncertainty, expanded last-mile dissemination channels, and structured user feedback mechanisms was identified as essential to maximize societal benefits and ensure continuous refinement of S2S services.

The symposium concluded that advancing S2S forecasting services in Africa requires coordinated and sustained investment in data infrastructure, technical capacity, and forecasting systems, alongside strengthened regional collaboration and institutional partnerships.

Participants reaffirmed their commitment to working collectively to accelerate the transition of sub-seasonal forecasting from prototype initiatives to fully operational services supporting climate-informed decision-making, anticipatory action, and resilience building across the continent.

