



10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services



Period: 11 – 20 January 2006

Season: 2005/2006

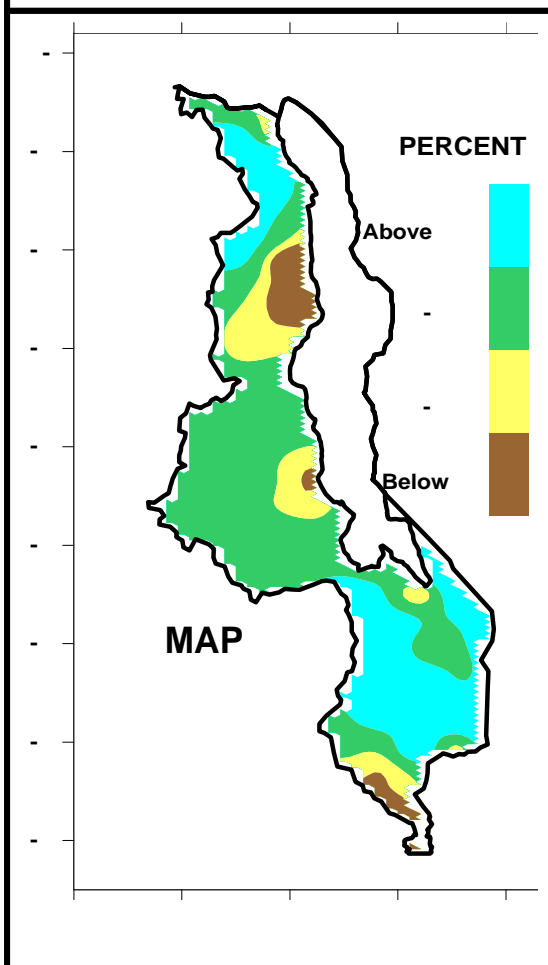
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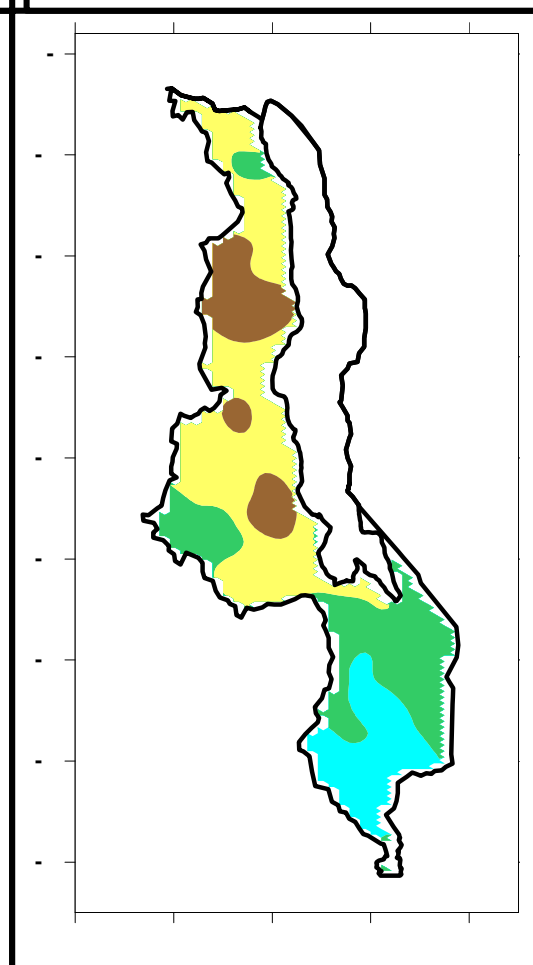
HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy rains experienced over southern and central Malawi...
- Crop condition encouraging in most parts of the country...
- Locally heavy rains expected to continue during 21-31 January 2006...

MAP 1: 10 - DAY RAINFALL FOR 11 – 20 JANUARY 2006 AS A PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL RAINFALL



MAP 2: TOTAL RAINFALL TO DATE AS A PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2005 TO 20 JANUARY 2006



. WEATHER SUMMARY

1.1 RAINFALL

Two main rain bearing systems, the ITCZ and Congo air mass were active over Malawi in the second decade of January. This resulted in widespread rains which were locally heavy. Many stations reported more than 7 rainy days. High rainfall amounts were reported in many areas in the south and central regions such as Namwera Agriculture, Toleza, Mimoso, Neno Agriculture, Mlangeni, Chiradzulu Agriculture, Lifuwu, Chancellor College, Salima, Bvumbwe and Thyolo Boma. Over the north high amount was reported Baka Residential Training Centre. Most of these stations reported above normal rainfall amounts, the highest being 246% at Toleza Farm. Namwera Agriculture had 231%, Makoka 225%, Chileka Airport 204%, Zomba Residential Training Centre 208% and Thyolo Boma 200%. See Table 1 and Map 1.

Cumulative rainfall from 1 October 2005 to 20 January 2006, are showing that many places in the south and some over the Central region of the country have received normal to above normal rainfall. However, many places in the northern region still received below normal rainfall. See Table 1 and Map 2.

. MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

During the second dekad of January 2005, mean air temperatures over Malawi were generally warm. The mean maximum temperatures ranged between 25°C and 30°C. The lowest maximum temperature was reported at Bvumbwe (25°C) while Mangochi recorded the highest (30°C). See Table 2.

. MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Mean daily wind speeds measured at a height of 2 meters above the ground were generally

light. The average speeds ranged from 0.5 (1.8 Km/hr) at Chichiri, Chitedze and Mzimba, to 2.1 m/s (7.6 Km/hr) at Chileka. See Table 2.

. MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The relative humidity was high over the country in this second dekad of January. The daily average relative humidity values ranged from 72% to 86%. More areas experienced humid conditions due to the moist Congo air mass that was dominant over the country during the period under review. See Table 2.

. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Rainfall assessment indicates that in the south and central areas rains were adequate thereby favouring crop production. Some parts of the north region have received cumulative rainfall below the expected amounts. The heavy rains that were received in some areas particularly in the south caused soil water logging.

Crop stand in most parts of the country was reported doing well. However, parts of the north and central which had below normal cumulative rainfall, the crop stand is not all that good. There are still high prospects of good harvest this season despite reports of outbreaks of armyworms in some areas. In most parts of the southern and central regions, maize is at tasseling and cobbling stage while in the north the maize crop ranges from emergence stage to knee height.

. FORECAST FOR - JANUARY

The ITCZ to remain active over southern Malawi while Congo air will affect central and northern parts of the country. Therefore isolated to scattered rains are expected to continue and will become heavier towards the end of the next dekad (21-31 January 2006).

**TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR
DEKAD 2 OF JANUARY 2006: PERIOD 11 - 20**

STATION NAME	DEKADAL	DEKADAL	DEKADAL	TOTAL	NORMAL	TOTAL	RAINY
	TOTAL	NORMAL	TOTAL	TO	TO	TO DATE	DAYS
	RAINFALL		AS %	DATE	DATE	AS %	
SOUTHERN REGION	mm	mm	NORMAL	mm	mm	NORMAL	
Bvumbwe Met.	113.4	76.2	149	749.1	499.3	150	7
Chancellor College	117.5	92.3	127	547.9	641.2	85	8
Chichiri Met.	88.5	74.7	118	569.8	504.2	113	8
Chileka Airport	102.2	50.2	204	513.5	420.4	122	7
Chiradzulu Agric	125.91	76.7	164	671.01	504.8	133	5
Liwonde Township	64.5	81	80	406.4	377.9	108	7
Makoka Met	165.9	73.7	225	696.7	469.1	149	7
Mangochi Met.	24.3	59.6	41	270.4	371.1	73	3
Mimosa Met.	135.1	70.7	191	722.6	636.5	114	9
Monkey Bay Met.	70.7	74	96	219	431.2	51	5
Mulanje Boma	39.9	81.1	49	1137.5	713.6	159	2
Namiasi Agric	77.5	65.4	119	290.1	346.8	84	5
Namwera Agric	195.4	84.5	231	567.2	492.9	115	6
Nchalo Sucoma	21	35.8	59	518.7	312	166	7
Neno Agric	130.5	87	150	612	503.6	122	7
Nsanje Boma	14.8	60.5	24	426	411.3	104	5
Satemwa Tea Est. No.1	71.4	55	130	512.4	577.4	89	8
Toleza Farm	164.1	66.8	246	540.1	392.2	138	7
Thyolo Boma	113.1	56.6	200	775.4	515.1	151	4
Zomba RTC	189.1	90.9	208	740.2	572	129	9
CENTRAL REGION							
Chitedze Met.	61	62.8	97	318.8	432.6	74	7
Dowa Agric	50.5	80.6	63	73.2	397.4	18	5
Dwangwa Sugar Corp.	109.6	86.3	127	371.9	506.1	73	8
Kaluluma DTC	71.1	76.9	92	258.6	384	67	6
K.I.A Met	111.6	83.2	134	381.1	387.9	98	6
Lifuwu	118.7	127	93	409.8	496.9	82	5
Madisi Admarc	85.7	77.1	111	245.2	381.5	64	6
Mlangeni Njolomole	128.3	75	171	428.6	449.7	95	6
Natural Res. College	69.9	71.7	97	185.1	415.3	45	5
Ntcheu - Nkhande	93.7	97.5	96	436.4	521.8	84	6
Ntchisi Boma	31	81	38	204.7	398.2	51	8
Salima Met	113.6	124.9	91	456.9	521.8	88	6
NORTHERN REGION							
Baka Res. Strn.	120.2	60.6	198	343.5	382.9	90	4
Bolero Met	72.2	52	139	132.8	363.3	37	4
Bwengu Agric.	11	59	19	231.2	381	61	2
Emfeni Agric	55.5	61.1	91	137	374.3	37	7
Karonga Met.	0.4	60	1	173.2	368.7	47	5
Mzimba Met	40.9	70.1	58	215.5	421.8	51	7
Mzuzu Met.	14.9	67.9	22	203.6	497.6	41	6

**TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS
FOR DEKAD 1 OF JANUARY 2006**

STATION	MAX TEMP	MIN TEMP	ABS MAX	ABS MIN	WIND SPEED	RH
	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	m/s	%
BVUMBWE	25.3	16.7	N/A	N/A	1.4	86
BOLERO	26.8	18.9	31.0	18.0	0.7	72
CHICHIRI	26.6	18.4	29.2	17.0	0.5	79
CHILEKA	28.0	20.4	30.1	19.1	2.1	83
CHITEDZE	26.5	18.6	28.9	17.7	0.5	82
KARONGA	29.8	21.8	31.6	19.5	1.2	78
K I A	25.9	17.6	28.2	16.8	1.2	80
MAKOKA	26.1	18.5	28.7	17.3	N/A	N/A
MANGOCHI	30.0	22.1	33.4	21.0	1.1	77
MIMOSA	29.5	19.6	32.1	18.6	1.8	82
MONKEY BAY	28.7	22.6	32.1	21.0	1.3	82
MZIMBA	27.1	17.9	29.1	16.5	0.5	75
MZUZU	26.3	17.8	28.4	17.0	1.4	77
SALIMA	28.4	21.8	31.8	20.3	1.3	83

Glossary of some terms on this table

- RH = Relative Humidity
- Mean Temperature of the day = (Max of the day + Min of the same day)/2
- ABS Max (Min) = Absolute Maximum (minimum) is the highest (lowest) of maximum (minimum) temperatures observed for a given number of days (calendar month) of a specified period of months (years).
- To convert Meters Per Second (mps) to Kilometers per hour (Km/hr) = mpsx3.6