



10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services



Period: 01 – 10 November 2006

Season: 2006/2007

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Hot and dry weather experienced over Malawi...
- Land preparation in readiness for the onset of main rains continued...
- Good rainfall distribution and amount expected during 11 – 20 November 2006...

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

Dry weather persisted over Malawi as the main rain bearing systems had not yet been established by 10th November 2006. The first 10-days of November were even drier than the last 10-days of October 2006. Sporadic rainfall was only confined to very few places over southern and northern highlands. In the south rainfall was reported at Lujeri (11.3mm) and Mimosa (2.7mm) both of them in Mulanje district while in the north 13.3mm was collected at Mzuzu Airport and 9.7mm was experienced at Nkhata Bay Met. Central Malawi was generally dry during the entire period.

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Hot weather continued in most parts of Malawi while very hot temperatures persisted in Shire Valley. Mean daily maximum temperatures ranged from 28.9°C at Mzuzu to 38.5°C at Ngabu in Chikwawa. On the other hand mean daily minimum temperatures were in mild to warm category. Mzuzu Airport reported the lowest mean daily minimum temperature of 17.7°C while Ngabu with 24.8°C was still the warmest place.

1.3 MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Mean wind speeds at a height of two meters above the ground, ranged from 0.4 m/s (1.4 Km/hr) at Ngabu to 5.7 m/s (20.5 Km/hr) at Chitipa.- see table on the next page.

1.4 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Low mean daily relative humidity values continued to be experienced over Malawi. In

the dekad under review the values ranged from 42% at Ngabu in lower Shire Valley to 54% at Mzuzu Airport.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Hot and dry weather persisted over Malawi during the period under review. Sporadic light rainfall received prior to this period had encouraged farmers to speed up land preparation in readiness for the onset of main rains and increased pasture availability for communal grazing.

So far very few areas in Malawi have received the first rains (*Chizimalupsya*) that normally precede the onset of the main rains. Climatologically for the south and some parts of central Malawi, the main rains are normally expected anytime within the last twenty days of November. The onset of the main rains for the north is normally expected from December. However, recently we have also experienced some seasons with uniform onset of main rains over the country.

3. PROSPECTS OF 2006/07 SEASON

Most climate models maintained that a greater part of Malawi is likely to experience normal total rainfall amounts with localized dry spells and flush floods during 2006/07 rainfall season.

4. OUTLOOK FOR 11 – 20 NOVEMBER 2006

Moist and unstable Congo air mass is expected to cover most parts of Malawi during the period 11 – 20 November 2006. Therefore temporal and spatial rainfall distribution and amount are likely to improve during the forecast period.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR THE PERIOD
01 – 10 NOVEMBER 2006**

STATION	MAX TEMP	MIN TEMP	ABS MAX	ABS MIN	WIND SPEED	RH
	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	m/s	%
BOLERO	33.6	20.9	35.1	18.7	2.0	44
CHILEKA	32.9	22.3	32.3	19.0	4.0	44
NTAJA	33.7	22.1	36.6	17.7	3.0	48
CHITEDZE	32.3	17.7	34.5	15.5	1.6	43
CHITIPA	31.5	19.4	32.8	19.2	5.7	49
KASUNGU	32.6	20.2	34.6	17.8	3.4	44
KARONGA	34.4	24.5	35.4	22.0	2.2	48
K I A	30.7	18.4	33.4	15.4	2.4	46
MAKOKA	31.3	19.4	34.6	14.7	1.8	46
MANGOCHI	35.2	23.2	37.3	20.6	2.5	44
MIMOSA	33.8	19.0	38.0	13.9	1.5	49
MONKEY BAY	34.6	24.3	36.5	22.0	3.1	48
MZIMBA	31.1	18.9	32.8	17.0	1.8	44
MZUZU	28.9	16.1	31.6	12.6	2.1	54
NGABU	38.5	24.8	42.7	21.0	0.4	42
NKHATA BAY	34.5	18.9	36.7	17.2	1.1	51
NKHOTAKOTA	33.3	23.5	35.6	22.4	3.1	43
SALIMA	34.1	23.6	35.3	22.2	3.2	48

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