



10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services



Period: 11 – 20 November 2005

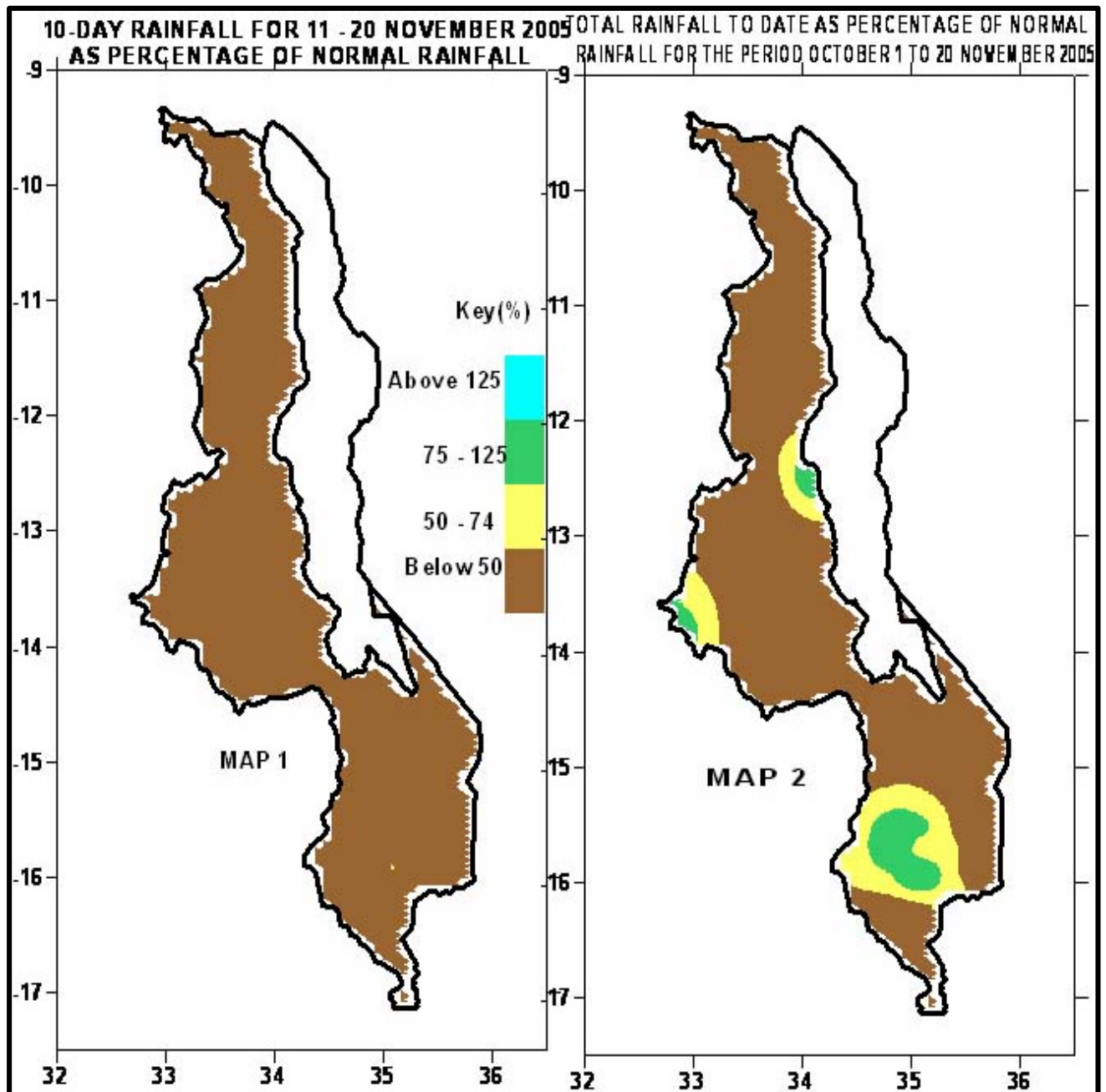
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HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry conditions experienced over most parts of Malawi...
- Land preparation intensified in readiness for main rains...
- Isolated thunderstorms expected during the next 10-days...



. WEATHER SUMMARY

1.1 RAINFALL

The second ten-days of November 2005 saw a significant decrease in rainfall across the country both in intensity and spatial distribution. The few stations that reported rainfall were mainly from the south. These included Mulanje Boma, Nsanje Boma, Bvumbwe and Chileka (22.8, 16.1, 15, 10 mm, respectively). Refer to Table 1 and Map 1. The reduction in rainfall was due to dry northeasterly air mass that prevailed over Malawi.

Cumulative rainfall amounts show that only a few areas have received significant rainfall as of 20 November 2005. These areas include those around Bvumbwe, Chileka, Mchinji and Dwangwa. See Table 1 and Map 2.

. MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Temperatures over Malawi continued to be in the range of hot to very hot during the period under review. Maximum temperatures ranged from 30°C (Bvumbwe) to 38°C (Ngabu). Highest absolute temperature was reported at Ngabu (44°C) on 17 November and lowest absolute temperature was reported at Bvumbwe (13°C) on 12 November. See Table 2.

. MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Daily wind speeds measured at a height of 2 meters above the ground were in the range of 1.2 to 4.3 m/s (4.2 Km/hr to 15.5 Km/hr). See Table 2. The highest wind speed was reported at Ngabu (4.3m/s or 15.5 Km/hr), with the lowest at Chichiri and Chitedze (1.2 m/s or 4.3 Km/hr).

. MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Analysis of the mean relative humidity show that the country was drier compared to the previous ten days. The daily average relative humidity values over Malawi ranged from 39% at Mzimba to 54% at Bvumbwe and Mimosa. The northern half of the country was relatively drier compared to the southern parts of the country. See Table 2.

. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The main agricultural activities over Malawi during the ten-days under review continued to be land preparation, acquisition of farm inputs and equipment in readiness for the main rains. In some parts of the south where substantial rains had been received in the previous ten days some farmers were prompted to start planting crops. The rainfall situation so far has not been favourable for agriculture as organized rains have not yet started. However, the situation is expected to normalize soon. To utilize the rains well, farmers should be encouraged to adhere to principles of good husbandry as advised by agricultural extension officers. Good husbandry practices include early land preparation, use of improved seed, timely planting, implementation of proper plant population and spacing, control of weeds, pests and diseases, and fertilizer application.

. FORECAST FOR – NOVEMBER

Malawi is expected to be mainly under the influence of dry northeasterly air mass during the period 21 – 30 November 2005. Therefore dry weather is expected to persist in most areas with rainfall confined to only a few places mainly over south.

**TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR
DEKAD 2 OF NOVEMBER 2005: PERIOD 11 - 20**

STATION NAME	DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL mm	DEKADAL NORMAL mm	DEKADAL TOTAL AS % NORMAL	TOTAL TO DATE mm	NORMAL TO DATE mm	TOTAL TO DATE AS % NORMAL	RAINY DAYS ≥ 0.3 mm
SOUTHERN REGION							
Bvumbwe Met.	15	27.8	54	98.2	82.6	119	1
Chichiri Met.	6.8	29.1	23	40.6	101.2	40	2
Chileka Airport	9.6	23.4	41	98.5	78.7	125	2
Lujeri Tea Estate	0	90.5	0	40.2	248.4	16	0
Makoka Met	0	20.3	0	45.8	67.8	68	0
Mangochi Met.	0	12.3	0	0	45.8	0	0
Mimosa Met.	8.3	52	16	41.2	148.2	28	2
Monkey Bay Met.	0	8.5	0	0	31	0	0
Mulanje Boma	22.8	56.2	41	98.5	195.9	50	2
Mwanza Boma	0	24	0	54.6	85.6	64	0
Namiasi Agric	0	15.7	0	0	30.8	0	0
Naminjiwa Agric	0	18.4	0	21	66.7	31	0
Namwera Agric	0	25.2	0	0	59.7	0	0
Nchalo Sucoma	0	13.2	0	13.7	62.7	22	0
Ngabu Met.	0	13.5	0	0	59	0	0
Nsanje Boma	16.1	31.9	50	18.6	87.5	21	1
Ntaja Met.	0	14.3	0	5.8	41.2	14	0
Toleza Farm	0	20.1	0	15.9	57.8	28	0
CENTRAL REGION							
Chitedze Met.	0.2	30.2	1	4.5	54.7	8	0
Dwangwa	0	45	0	76.4	73.3	104	0
Kalulumu DTC	0	21	0	0	28	0	0
Lifuwu	2.5	12.4	20	13.7	20.6	67	1
Mchinji Boma	0	31.1	0	68.7	71.7	96	0
Mlangeni Njolomole	0	23.2	0	0	64.7	0	0
Natural Res. College	0	35.9	0	2.7	56.4	5	0
Ntcheu - Nkhande	0	15.6	0	2.2	54.2	4	0
NORTHERN REGION							
Baka Res. Stn.	0	6.6	0	0	11.2	0	0
Bolero Met	0	12.2	0	2.8	62.9	4	0
Chikangawa Forest	0	28.4	0	15.9	61.8	26	0
Mzimba Met	0	18.1	0	11.3	35.6	32	0
Mzuzu Met.	0	31.7	0	0.2	86.1	0	0
Nkhata Bay Met.	0	116.6	0	0	255.1	0	0
Vinthukutu Agric	2.5	30.5	8	2.5	49	5	1

**TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS
FOR DEKAD 2 OF NOVEMBER 2005**

STATION	MAX TEMP	MIN TEMP	ABS MAX	ABS MIN	WIND SPEED	RH
	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	m/s	%
BVUMBWE	29.9	16.5	33.3	13.1	1.9	54
BOLERO	33.8	21.0	33.4	17.2	2.2	47
CHICHIRI	30.9	18.3	35.0	14.5	1.2	49
CHILEKA	33.2	21.2	37.0	18.9	3.5	54
NTAJA	35.9	22.5	38.1	20.0	3.0	49
CHITEDZE	33.2	17.9	34.9	15.6	1.2	43
KASUNGU	33.4	20.6	35.4	15.0	3.2	41
KARONGA	35.0	23.7	37.8	22.5	2.2	40
MAKOKA	32.5	18.7	35.1	14.7	1.6	47
MANGOCHI	37.2	23.8	40.0	22.0	2.2	43
MIMOSA	35.2	17.9	39.6	13.7	1.5	54
MONKEY BAY	35.6	25.6	38.0	23.3	2.4	44
MZIMBA	31.8	19.5	34.8	17.0	1.6	39
MZUZU	30.8	16.2	33.3	12.3	2.4	44
NGABU	38.4	24.3	44.0	21.5	4.3	50
NKHATA BAY	36.4	18.8	38.3	16.9	N/A	45
NKHOTA KOTA	34.1	23.5	36.8	21.5	2.3	45
SALIMA	34.7	23.9	36.2	21.0	2.2	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) = mps x 3.6