



10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services



Period: 1 – 10 October 2005

Season: 2005/2006

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HIGHLIGHTS

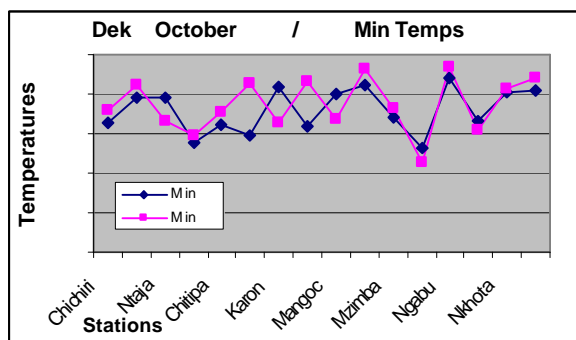
- **Mostly dry conditions persisted over Malawi...**
- **Main agricultural activity was land preparation**
- **Sporadic rains (Chizimalupsya) and hot conditions expected...**

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

Almost all areas in the country reported dry conditions during the first 10-days of October 2005 except at Mchinji Boma where 13.1mm of rainfall was recorded on the 10th October 2005. Rains are likely to continue being erratic until the main rain bearing systems are established over the country.

. MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Temperatures were mostly hot during the dekad under review. Ngabu reported the highest maximum temperature while Dedza reported the lowest. A comparison of the minimum temperatures for the first dekad of October 2005 with the same period last year indicates that Dedza, Kasungu and KIA have been warmer (see fig below).



. MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Wind speeds observed across the country ranged between 1 and 3 metres per second or 3.6 – 10.8 Km/hr (see table). The highest wind speeds were reported at Ngabu and Chitipa (4 m/s).

. MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Fairly dry atmosphere with daily average relative humidity values ranging between 41 and 54% was experienced over Malawi during the first ten days of October 2005.

. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The major agricultural activities were land preparation and procurement of some farm inputs and equipment in readiness for the main rains.

. OUTLOOK – OCTOBER

The second dekad of October is anticipated to be persistently dry. The middle level circulation is projecting an anticyclonic flow over Zimbabwe and southern tip of Malawi. However a shallow trough is expected to develop later during the forecast period and with the passage of frontal systems from the southeast coast. **Therefore, sunny conditions with a chance of isolated thunderstorms are expected during the forecast period.**

. PROSPECTS OF / RAINFALL SEASON

Prospects for the 2005/06 season indicate that a greater part of Malawi will experience normal total rainfall amounts. However, fewer areas are likely to experience either below normal or above normal rainfall amounts during the period.

**TABLE FOR AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR THE PERIOD
01 – 10 OCTOBER 2005**

| STATION | MAX TEMP | MIN TEMP | ABS MAX | ABS MIN | WIND SPEED | RH |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|----|
| | (°C) | (°C) | (°C) | (°C) | m/s | % |
| BVUMBWE | 28.6 | 16.6 | 30.2 | 12.1 | 1.9 | 54 |
| BOLERO | 31.4 | 19.7 | 33.1 | 16.1 | 2.6 | 44 |
| CHICHIRI | 29.3 | 17.9 | 31.5 | 13.1 | 1.2 | 50 |
| CHILEKA | 32.0 | 21.2 | 34.0 | 16.2 | 3.6 | 50 |
| CHITIPA | 30.0 | 16.5 | 31.8 | 15.7 | 4.1 | 56 |
| DEDZA | 24.7 | 14.8 | 28.0 | 12.0 | 2.0 | 56 |
| KASUNGU | 30.6 | 17.8 | 32.4 | 14.6 | 3.1 | 45 |
| KARONGA | 33.3 | 21.4 | 35.3 | 20.3 | 2.1 | 49 |
| K I A | 29.4 | 16.4 | 30.9 | 10.6 | 2.2 | 45 |
| MANGOCHI | 34.6 | 21.7 | 36.5 | 18.9 | 1.9 | 47 |
| MIMOSA | 34.0 | 16.8 | 35.4 | 12.1 | 2.5 | 56 |
| MONKEY BAY | 33.3 | 23.2 | 35.2 | 20.0 | 2.4 | 49 |
| MZIMBA | 29.4 | 18.1 | 31.0 | 15.0 | 1.8 | 41 |
| MZUZU | 28.3 | 11.4 | 29.6 | 10.0 | 1.9 | 50 |
| NGABU | 37.5 | 23.5 | 40.5 | 18.6 | 4.1 | 53 |
| NKHATA BAY | 33.5 | 15.4 | 35.5 | 14.8 | N/A | 51 |
| NKHOTAKOTA | 32.1 | 20.7 | 33.6 | 19.4 | 2.2 | 50 |
| SALIMA | 33.1 | 22.0 | 35.7 | 19.6 | 2.1 | 46 |

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