



NIGERIAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
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SUMMARY

During the dekad, deficit rainfall anomalies were recorded in most parts of the south while few areas indicated surplus anomalies. Stations at Akure, Ondo, Oshogbo, the southeast and Niger Delta area received light to moderate rains. The highest rainfall amounts of 129.8mm were recorded in Eket followed by 64.7mm in Uyo. Colder than normal temperatures were experienced in and around Jos and the Niger Delta areas while Sokoto, Yelwa, Maiduguri, Minna, Ibi and Yola had warmer than normal temperatures. Temperatures above 32 deg C were recorded in all parts of the country except Jos and parts of Eket which remained lower. With light to moderate rains in most parts of the south in the last one month, some farmers have continued to clear their farmlands for seed bed preparations while others began planting. Farmers in the southern parts of the country are advised to adhere to 2011 NIMET's Seasonal Rainfall Prediction (SRP) for planting dates. The farmers in the northern parts are still advised to continue to irrigate their farm land as rainfed cropping season is yet to commence.

1.0 RAINFALL TREND

1.1 Rainfall Anomaly

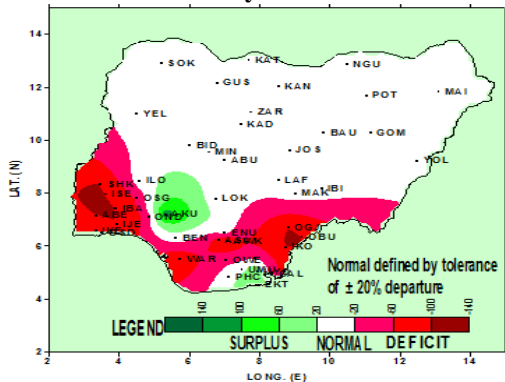


FIG. 1: 2nd DEKAD OF MARCH 2011 RAINFALL ANOMALIES (%) OVER THE COUNTRY. ANOMALIES ARE COMPUTED WITH RESPECT TO THE 1971 - 2000 BASE PERIOD DEKADAL MEANS

The rainfall anomaly during the dekad is shown in **Fig 1** above and indicates that most parts of the south (red areas) had deficit rainfall while areas in and around Eket, P.H and Akure recorded surpluses. The northern parts of the country (in white) had no rains but remained normal.

1.2 Rainfall Amounts

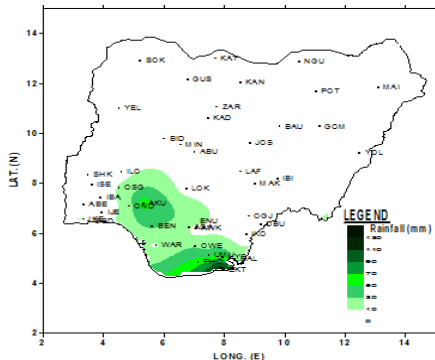
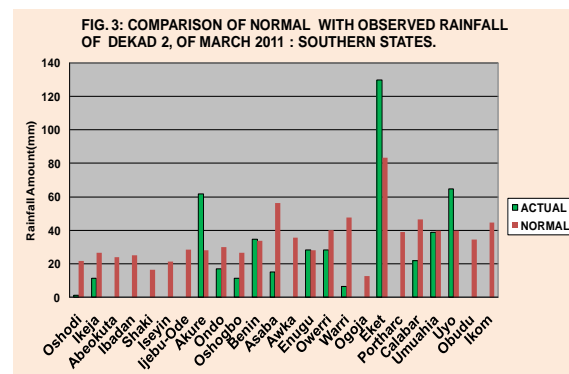


FIG. 2: ACTUAL RAINFALL AMOUNT FOR DEKAD 2, MARCH 2011

Fig 2 shows that most parts of the south (in green) received light to moderate rains while the greater part of the country (in white) had below 10mm of rains. Farmers especially those in the north are advised to continue to irrigate their crops.

1.3 COMPARISON OF NORMAL WITH ACTUAL RAINFALL FOR THE DEKAD

The comparison of the actual rainfall amount with normal rainfall values in some selected stations across the south is shown in **Fig 3** below and indicates that most stations that had rainfall received normal to above normal rainfall while some stations especially the southwest had no rains.



1.4 Number of Rain Days

The number of rain days across the country is shown in **Fig 4** and indicates that most stations in

the south had 2- 4days of rainfall while the greater part of the country in white had between zero and one rainy day.

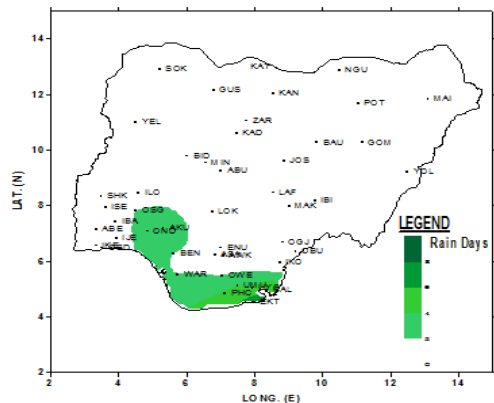


FIG. 4: ACTUAL NUMBER OF RAIN DAYS FOR DEKAD 2, MARCH 2011

2.0 SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

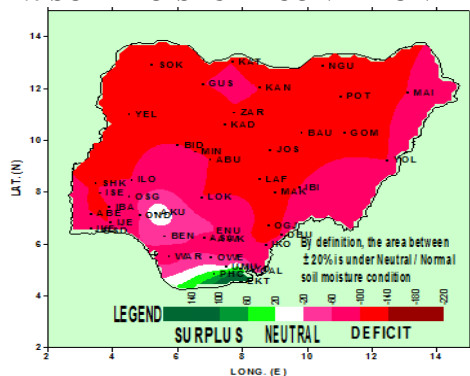


FIG. 5: 2nd DEKAD OF MARCH 2011 SOIL MOISTURE INDICES (%) OVER THE COUNTRY

Fig 5 shows the decadal distribution of soil moisture across the country and indicates that most parts of the country had deficit soil moisture condition. Surpluses however were recorded in and around Eket and Port Harcourt. Farmers in the southern parts of the Niger delta and the coastal areas are advised to commence planting while the other parts of the south should commence bush clearing and seed bed preparation.

3.0 MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE TREND

3.1 Maximum Temperature Anomaly

The maximum temperature anomaly over the country is shown in Fig 6 and reveals that Jos and some parts of the Niger delta recorded colder than normal temperatures while Sokoto, Yelwa, Maiduguri, Bida, Ibi and Yola had warmer than normal. The white areas were normal with no significant change when compared with the normal temperatures.

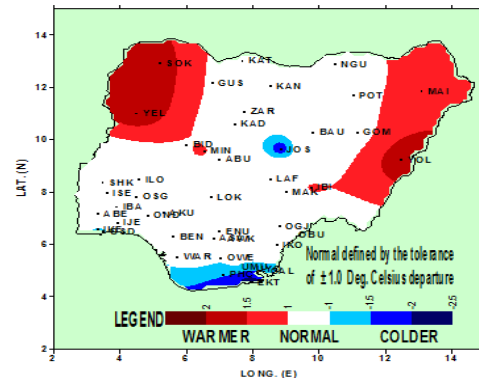


FIG. 6: 2nd DEKAD OF MARCH 2011 MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES (Deg. C) OVER THE COUNTRY. ANOMALIES ARE COMPUTED WITH RESPECT TO THE 1971 - 2000 BASE PERIOD DECADEAL MEANS.

3.2 Maximum Temperature Values

The actual mean maximum temperature distribution is shown in Fig 7 below and reveals that most parts of the country (red areas) recorded above 32 Deg C except places like Jos and Eket which reported below 32 Deg C.

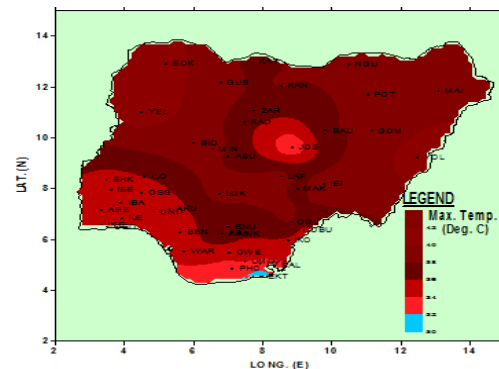


FIG. 7: MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR DEKAD 2, MARCH 2011

4.0 WEATHER/AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FOR DEKAD 3 (21 TO 31), OF MARCH 2011

4.1 Weather Outlook

The position of the Inter Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) is expected to oscillate between Latitude 09.5 deg. north and 10.5 deg. north.

The Saharan high pressure cell is expected to weaken to 1020hpa while the St. Helena high pressure cell is expected to intensify to 1028hpa during the dekad. The expected prevailing wind is south westerly with inflow of moisture into the country.

The Northern part of the country is expected to experience sunny and Hazy weather while the central states are expected to experience partly cloudy weather conditions. Inland areas are also expected to experience cloudy weather conditions while coastal areas of the country will also expect

to experience cloudy weather conditions but with occasional localised rain/shower activities. Maximum temperatures for north and central states will range between **39 deg. C and 42 deg. C** while minimum temperatures are expected to be between **19 deg. C and 24 deg. C**. Maximum temperatures for Inland and Coastal parts of the country are expected to range between **33 deg. C and 38 deg. C** while the minimum temperatures will range between **23 deg. C and 26 deg. C** during the period.

4.2 Agricultural Summary

During the dekad, light to moderate rains were received in most parts of the south prompting some farmers to commence bush clearing, seed bed preparation and planting. In the north, farmers are advised to continue to irrigate their farm crops. It is advisable that farmers in the south should endeavour to follow the planting dates as stated in 2011 NIMET's SRP for better agricultural practices under rainfed system.

TABLE OF AGROMETEOROLOGICAL DATA FOR THE DEKAD

STATIONS	TOTAL RAINFAL (mm)	TOTAL RAIN DAYS	EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (mm)	MEAN MAXIMUM TEMP (°C)	MEAN MINIMUM TEMP (°C)	DEGREE DAYS (MAIZE)	MEAN RADIATION (MJ/m ² /day)
ABEOKUTA	0	0	54.5	36.1	25.2	226.4	21.5
ABUJA	0	0	62.6	37.5	22.6	220.7	24.9
AKURE	61.8	4	54	34.8	23.5	211	21.8
ASABA	15.3	1	59.9	37.9	25.2	235.2	23.2
AWKA	0	0	56	36.8	25.4	230.9	21.9
BAUCHI	0	0	64.9	37.8	21.6	217.1	25.9
BENIN	34.5	2	51	34.7	24.9	217.9	20.4
BIDA	0	0	59.7	38.8	26.3	245.8	22.8
CALABAR	21.9	6	50.3	33.5	23.6	205.7	20.5
EKET	129.8	7	38.1	30.9	25.1	199.8	15.7
ENUGU	28.2	1	53.5	35.8	25.2	224.9	21.1
GOMBE	0	0	63.1	38.1	23.3	226.9	24.8
GUSAU	0	0	62	38.7	24.4	235.5	24.1
IBADAN	0	0	52.6	35.5	25.3	223.8	20.8
IBI	0	0	61.2	39.2	25.4	243.3	23.4
IJEBU	0	0	51.8	35.2	25.2	222.1	20.6
IKEJA	11.2	1	46.4	34.1	26.1	221.3	18.4
IKOM	0	0	57.6	35.8	23.3	215	23.1
ILORIN	0	0	55.8	36.1	24.5	222.9	22.1
ISEYIN	0	0	53.8	34.7	23.4	210.3	21.8
JOS	0	0	58.7	31.9	15.4	156.3	26.2
KADUNA	0	0	63.5	36.8	20.7	207.3	25.8
KANO	0	0	68.5	38.1	19.0	205.4	28
KATSINA	0	0	71	37.6	15.2	183.8	30.1
LAFIA	0	0	61.6	39.1	25.9	244.8	23.5
LOKOJA	0	0	58.6	38.8	27.1	249.4	22.2
MAIDUGURI	0	0	70.5	39.3	19.6	214.3	28.4
MAKURDI	0	0	56	37.3	26.2	237.4	21.6
MINNA	0	0	64.9	39.3	24.3	238	25
NGURU	0	0	66.5	38.4	21.1	217.3	26.6
OGOJA	0	0	62.2	38.2	24.4	232.8	24.2
ONDO	17	4	51.8	34.9	24.8	218.5	20.7
OSHODI	1.2	1	43.1	34.0	27.1	225.5	17
OSOGBO	11.5	2	52.7	34.4	23.5	209.1	21.4
OWERRI	28.2	2	53.7	34.5	23.3	208.9	21.8
PHC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
POTISKUM	0	0	69.3	38.6	18.7	206.3	28.4
SHAKI	0	0	55.9	35.2	23.0	210.8	22.6
SOKOTO	0	0	68	40.8	24.1	244.5	26
UMUAHIA	38.7	4	51.9	34.2	23.8	210.3	21
UYO	64.7	4	49	33.3	23.9	205.7	20
WARRI	6.6	2	49.4	34.9	25.8	223.4	19.5
YELWA	0	0	69.4	41.2	24.3	247.1	26.4
YOLA	0	0	71.1	41.1	23.8	245.8	27.1
ZARIA	0	0	65.2	37.3	20.4	208.4	26.5
OBUDU	0	0	57.3	35.6	23.0	213.3	23.1

Dear All,

Comments and suggestions on how to improve this publication are welcome. Agrometeorologists, Agriculturists, Extension Workers, Research Officers, Users and the General Public should kindly send feedback to:

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