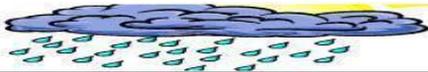




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



SEASONAL WEATHER FORECAST

No. 19 Special Issue: **March to May (Masika), 2018 Rain Season Outlook** issued on 15th February, 2017

Summary

- The March to May (MAM) rainfall season (*Masika*) is more significant for the areas over the northeastern highlands, northern coast including the Isles of Unguja and Pemba, Lake Victoria Basin and the northern parts of Kigoma and Morogoro regions.
- *Masika* season is expected to commence in the first week of March over the Lake Victoria basin and northern coast and cease in the third week of May
- *Masika* season rains are likely to be mainly normal over most areas. However, there is likelihood of elevated periods of below normal rainfall over parts of Northern Tanga region.
- Normal to above normal rainfall is expected over most areas of Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara, Arusha, Manyara, Pwani, Tanga, northern Morogoro and extreme northern Kigoma (Kibondo district).
- The northern part of Tanga region is expected to experience periods of moisture deficit and therefore farmers are advised to plant drought tolerant and early maturing crop varieties.

CLIMATE SYSTEMS OUTLOOK DURING MAM, 2018

The observed gradual cooling over central equatorial Pacific Ocean is likely to persist through the season. Mostly neutral Sea Surface Temperature (SST) conditions are expected over much of western Indian Ocean. However, there is an enhanced warming condition over south western Indian Ocean during the season. As the March to May rainfall season progress, the warming over southwestern Indian Ocean is likely to enhance occurrence of tropical cyclones during the months of March to April. Cooling over southeast Atlantic Ocean near Angola coast is likely to enhance westerly wind flow from Congo Basin towards the country resulting into moisture influx into the country thus contributing to the enhancement of rainfall over the country.

SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK DURING MAM, 2018

The March to May (MAM) rainfall season (*Masika*) is more significant for the areas over the northeastern highlands, northern coast including the Isles of Unguja and Pemba, Lake Victoria Basin and the northern parts of Kigoma and Morogoro regions. The *Masika 2018* rains are expected to be normal to above normal over the eastern and western parts of the Lake Victoria Basin and mainly normal over the southern parts of the Lake Victoria basin, northern parts of Kigoma and northeastern highlands. The northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani and northern Morogoro together with Unguja and Pemba Islands) are expected to feature normal to above normal rainfall while pockets of below normal rains are expected over Tanga region.

Lake Victoria Basin: (Kagera, Mara, Mwanza, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)

Rains are expected to start during the first week of March in Mwanza region and spread to other regions of Geita, Mara, Kagera, Simiyu and Shinyanga during the second to third week of March. The rains are expected to be normal to above normal over Kagera, Mara and northern parts of Geita, Mwanza and Simiyu which are closer to the Lake Victoria. Otherwise, Shinyanga region and the southern

parts of Geita, Mwanza and Simiyu regions are expected to feature mainly normal with pockets of below normal rains.

Northern Coast and its Hinterlands: (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Coast regions, Islands of Unguja and Pemba and northern Morogoro)

Rains are expected to commence in the first week of March. The rains are expected to be normal to above normal over Dar es Salaam and Pwani regions together with the Isles of Unguja and Pemba, northern part of Morogoro and southern parts of Tanga regions. However, below normal rains are expected over northern parts of Tanga region.

Northeastern highlands: (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions)

Rains are expected to start over most areas in the second week of March and are likely to be mainly normal over most areas.

Seasonal Rainfall (November to April) over Unimodal areas:

Seasonal rains, which started in November, 2017 are expected to progress as forecasted in unimodal areas (Dodoma, Singida, Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Rukwa, Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Iringa, Ruvuma, Lindi, Mtwara regions and southern part of Morogoro region). The rains are likely to be normal to above normal.

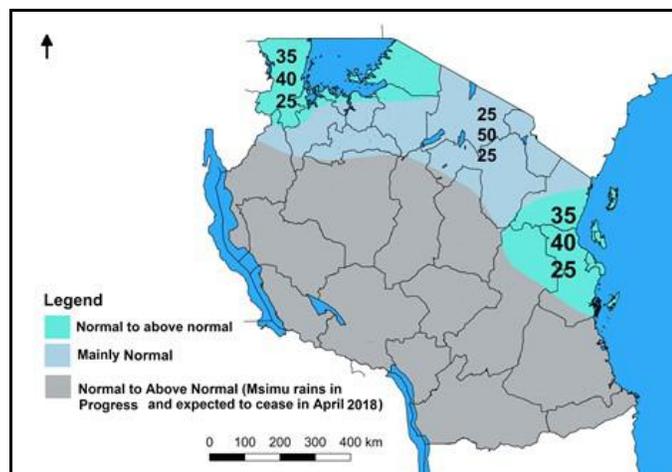


Figure 1: Rainfall outlook for coming rainfall season March to May, 2018.

EXPECTED IMPACTS AND ADVISORY DURING MAM, 2018

Agriculture, Fish and Livestock Production

Sufficient soil moisture condition is likely to feature over the northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions), Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga, and Simiyu regions) and northern coast (Morogoro (north), Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga regions, and islands of Unguja and Pemba). Farmers in these areas are advised to go for normal *Masika* cropping season. However, the northern part of Tanga region is expected to experience periods of moisture deficit and therefore farmers are advised to plant drought tolerant and early maturing crop varieties.

Water and pastures conditions for livestock and food for fish are expected to improve due to the expected normal to above normal rainfall. However, for optimal use of this outlook, the farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are strongly advised to seek advice from their relevant extension officers and also carry out rainwater harvesting for future use during dry periods.

Disaster Management

Disaster management authorities, humanitarian responders and other stakeholders are advised to take necessary mitigation measures to ensure preparedness for effective response to address potential negative impacts that may result from the expected rains.

NOTE: The current status of seasonal forecasting allows for prediction of spatial and temporal averages over larger areas and may not fully account for all physical and dynamical factors that influence short-term climate variability. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten day and monthly updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Agency.