

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most of the country continued to experience below normal rainfall performance during December 11-20, 2016 except some places over Kigoma, Rukwa, Tanga, Unguja, Pwani, Lindi and Mtwara regions that experienced normal to above normal rainfall.
- Below normal rainfall performance over the bimodal areas impeded crops growth and development in many places, leading to wilting of maize crop in some areas including Mara, Arusha, Tanga and Pwani regions.
- Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to take precautionary measures to cope with poor food production through consultation with agricultural and livestock extension officers in their localities.
- Farmers over the unimodal area are strongly advised to grow drought tolerant and early maturing crops.

No: 8 2016/17 Cropping Season

Review for December 11-20, 2016 and Outlook for December 21-31, 2016

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2016

High pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems) relaxed significantly whereas the ones in the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian) intensified. The situation allowed the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to lie over the western to southern parts of the country, being more organized over the southern parts. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) persisted over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast as well as over the south-western Indian Ocean close to the southern coast of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2016

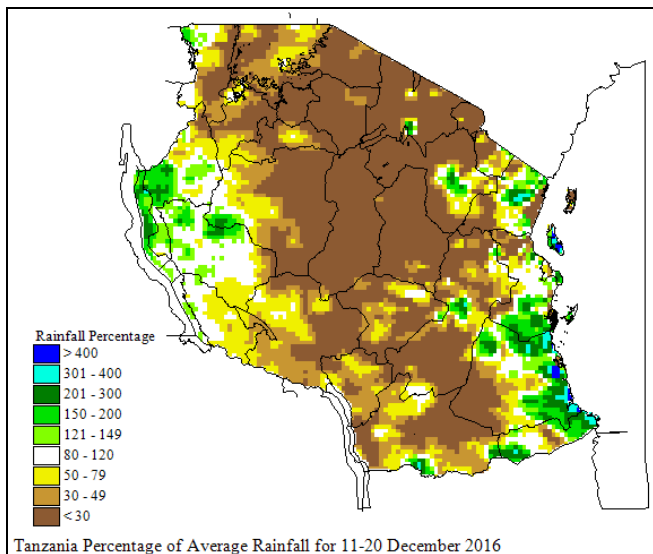


Figure 1: Rainfall performance during December 11-20, 2016 as percentage of long term averages.

The country continued to experience below normal rainfall in most areas except some places over Kigoma, Rukwa, Tanga, Unguja, Pwani, Lindi and Mtwara regions that experienced normal to above normal rainfall which received normal to above normal rainfall as illustrated in Figure 1. Generally, below normal rainfall was experienced over both the bimodal and unimodal areas. Areas that experienced below normal rainfall performance include regions around Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands, central areas, south-western highlands, southern region and some places over northern coast and southern coast.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2016

Persistent low moisture conditions due to prolonged below normal rainfall performance impeded growth and development of *vuli* crops over much of the bimodal area, leading to wilting of maize crop in some places including Mara, Arusha, Tanga and Pwani regions. Maize crop over most of the bimodal area was reported to be at 9th leaf stage with poor condition. On the other hand, early planted maize crop over Mwanza region was at waxy ripeness stage and was in good condition. Farmers over the unimodal area were mostly engaged in land preparation. Pasture condition and water availability for livestock and wildlife remained poor in many places especially over Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2016

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges remained low over much of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2016

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax significantly while their counterparts to the north are expected to intensify, thus pushing the ITCZ further southwards. Warm SSTs over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast and over the central Indian Ocean are expected to persist. On the other hand, SSTs are expected to be neutral over south-western Indian Ocean and cool over the north-west Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast). The ITCZ is expected to remain rather diffuse.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2016

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): Few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Occasional rain showers and few thunderstorms are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Occasional rain showers and few thunderstorms are expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Few rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Occasional rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2016

The expected rainfall over the bimodal area during December 21-31, 2016 will improve soil moisture levels required to support growth and development of late planted *vuli* crops. However, farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to take precautionary measures to cope with poor food production through consultation with agricultural and livestock extension officers in their localities. Livestock keepers are also advised to consult Livestock Extension Officers for optimal use of the available water and pasture including reducing the number of their livestock. Over the unimodal areas, the expected rainfall will provide favourable conditions for planting. Farmers are advised to plant when the moisture is adequate to support seed germination after consultation with agriculture extension officers. Farmers are strongly advised to grow drought tolerant and early maturing crops.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2016

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to improve especially over the unimodal areas due to the expected frequent rainfall over western regions, South-western highlands and southern region.

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