

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Much of the country continued to experience below normal rainfall performance during December 21-31, 2016 except few places over Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi, Tanga, Unguja, Pemba and Pwani, and pocket areas over Arusha and Tabora regions that experienced normal to above normal rainfall.
- Prolonged below normal rainfall performance over the bimodal areas impeded *vuli* crop growth and development, leading to wilting of maize crop over much of the bimodal areas including Mwanza, Kagera, Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, 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: 9 2016/17 Cropping Season

Review for December 21-31, 2016 and Outlook for January 1-10, 2017

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 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) continued to intensify. The situation allowed the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to lie over the southern parts of the country but remained diffuse. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) persisted over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast, keeping rains far west of the country. On the other hand, slightly warm SSTs were observed over the southwestern Indian Ocean close to the southern coast of Tanzania.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2016

With the observed synoptic situation during the period, the country continued to experience below normal rainfall over most areas except few places in Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi, Tanga, Unguja, Pemba and Pwani regions, and pocket areas over Arusha and Tabora regions that experienced normal to above normal rainfall. Generally, below normal rainfall was experienced over both the bimodal and unimodal areas as illustrated in Figure 1.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 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. Maize crop in many places was reported at ninth leaf stage but in poor and wilting conditions. Places of the bimodal areas where wilting conditions were reported include Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Pwani regions. On the other hand, early planted maize crop in some places of Mwanza region such as Sengerema district was at waxy ripeness stage and in average condition. Over the unimodal areas, farmers were mostly finalizing land preparation and a few farmers practicing dry seeding as reported in Kilolo District Iringa. 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 21-31, 2016

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges remained low in many places and seasonal rivers have not yet revived due

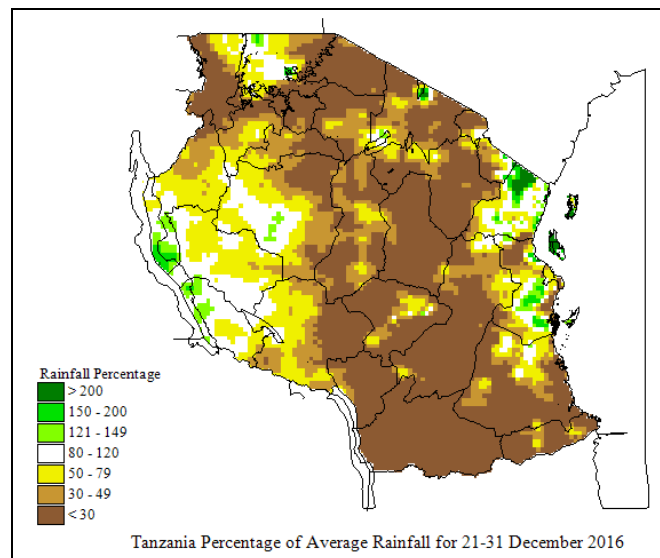


Figure 1: Rainfall performance during December 21-31, 2016 as percentage of long term averages.

to prolonged below normal rainfall performance coupled with high evaporation rates.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS
DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2017**

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to remain relaxed while their counterparts to the north are expected to continue intensifying and rapidly pushing the ITCZ further south towards. Warm SSTs over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast are expected to persist. This situation is expected to continue keeping the rains in the southwestern parts of the country. On the other hand, neutral to slightly warm SSTs are expected over the southwestern Indian Ocean. Therefore, the Indian Ocean is expected to influence the rainfall in the country.

**EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY
1-10, 2017**

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): Few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Occasional rain showers and few thunderstorms are expected over few areas. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, and Tanga regions, the Isles of Unguja and Pemba): Occasional rain showers are expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): 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 JANUARY 1-10, 2017**

Due to prolonged below normal rainfall performance over the bimodal areas and consequently crop failures in most places of the bimodal area, poor yield are expected from the *vuli* season crop. Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to take precautionary measures to cope with poor food production. In addition, livestock keepers are advised to consult Livestock Extension Officers for optimal use of the available water and pasture, including reducing the herd size. Over the unimodal areas, the expected rainfall will provide favourable conditions for planting but cannot sustain long maturing crops. Farmers are advised to plant when the moisture is adequate. The recommended crops to be grown are drought tolerant and early maturing crops.

**HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND
ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2017**

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to improve in some places of the unimodal areas due to the expected frequent rainfall over southwestern highlands and southern region.

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