



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Normal to above normal seasonal rainfall was observed over most of the unimodal areas during January 21-31, 2017 with off-seasonal rainfall observed over some of the bimodal areas.
- The observed rainfall over the unimodal areas provided favourable conditions for growth and development of crops at various stages except over Mtwara, Lindi and Dodoma regions where planting delayed due to prolonged dry spells during previous dekads.
- Farmers in Lindi, Mtwara and Dodoma regions are advised to grow drought tolerant and early maturing crops after getting consultation from Agriculture Extension Officers in their localities.

No: 12 2016/17 Cropping Season

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

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2017

High pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems) relaxed further while the ones in the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian) intensified significantly. The Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) maintained its position covering few parts of the southern sector of the country but remained diffuse. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were slightly warm over the Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) and neutral to slightly warm over the southwestern Indian Ocean close to the southern coast.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2017

Due to the observed synoptic situation during the period, most of the unimodal areas experienced seasonal rains as shown in Figure 1. The observed rainfall was normal to above normal over most of the unimodal areas as illustrated in Figure 2. Normal rainfall over the unimodal areas was observed over Dodoma, Iringa, Katavi, Eastern Rukwa, southern Tabora, southern Singida, northern Mbeya, southern Morogoro and southern Ruvuma region. Above normal rainfall was observed over Mtwara, Lindi, northern Ruvuma and southern Mbeya region. However, below normal rainfall was observed over few of the unimodal areas including Kigoma, Rukwa, northern Tabora and northern Singida regions. Out of season rainfall was also observed over the bimodal areas but was below normal in most areas except Kagera, northern Manyara, eastern Arusha and western Kilimanjaro which experienced above normal to normal rainfall as shown in Figure 2.

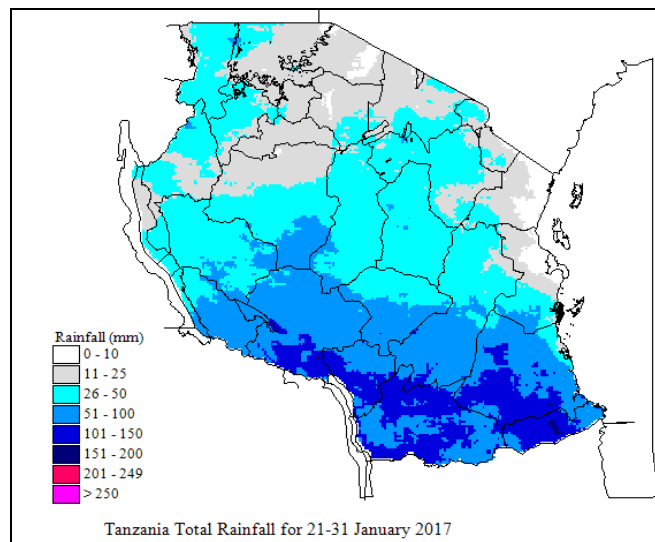


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution in Tanzania during January 21-31, 2017.

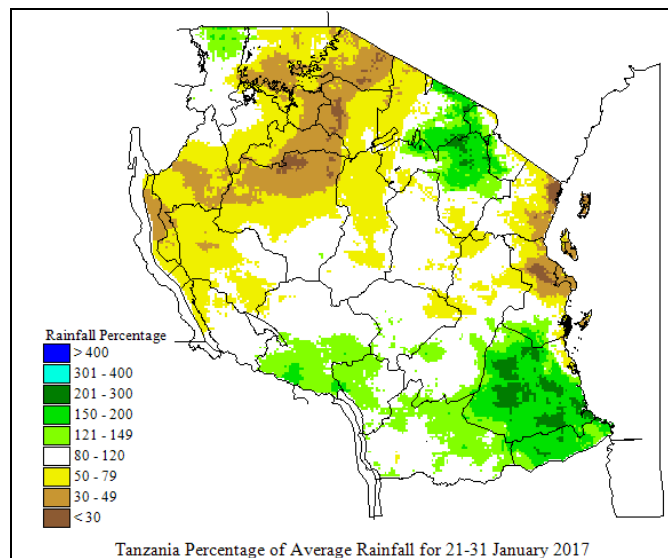


Figure 2: Rainfall performance during January 21-31, 2017 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2017

Observed rainfall over the unimodal areas provided favourable conditions for growth and development of crops which were at various stages in different areas. Maize crop was observed at ninth leaf stage over much of the unimodal areas including Southern Morogoro, Ruvuma, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe, Iringa, Katavi, Rukwa, Tabora and Singida regions where as over Kigoma region maize crop was observed at flowering stage. Crops were in average condition in most areas except some places in Kigoma region where crops at flowering stage were affected by long dryspells. In few of the unimodal areas such as Lindi and Dodoma, planting delayed due to prolonged dry spells during previous dekads. The main farm activity among farmers in Lindi and Dodoma regions during January 21-31, 2016 was planting. Over the bimodal areas, farmers were mostly engaged in out of season activities. Pasture condition and water availability for livestock and wildlife remained inadequate in many places especially over Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara, Simiyu, Shinyanga , Mwanza and Mara regions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges remained low in many places due to prolonged below normal rainfall performance over much of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2017

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to remain relaxed while their counterparts to the north are expected to remain intense thus holding the ITCZ to its extreme position in the southern hemisphere. Slightly warm SSTs are expected to persist over the Atlantic Ocean whereas over the southwestern Indian Ocean SSTs are expected to be neutral to slightly warm. SSTs situation over southwestern Indian Ocean are expected to trigger few short-lived episodic rains over the coastal areas, especially during first half of the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2017

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): Mainly dry conditions and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Mainly dry conditions and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, particularly over the high grounds. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Mainly dry conditions and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during first half of the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): Moderate rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during first half of the dekad. Southwestern 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, especially during first half of the dekad. Southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2017

The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during February 1-10, 2017 will provide favourable conditions for crops growth and development. The rainfall will also be favourable for crops germination and establishments in Lindi, Mtwara and Dodoma regions but may not sustain long term crop varieties. Farmers are advised to grow drought tolerant and early maturing crops after getting consultation from Agriculture Extension Officers in their localities.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2017

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to improve slightly in some places of the unimodal areas due to the expected rainfall, especially the contribution of frequent rainfall expected over southwestern highlands and southern region. Livestock keepers are also advised to consult Livestock Extension Officers on sustainable use of pasture and water.