

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Much of the country experienced above normal to normal rainfall during March 1-10, 2017 except northeastern highlands, some areas of northern coast and few areas over Ruvuma, Mbeya, Kigoma, Kagera, Simiyu and Mara regions that experienced below normal rainfall performance.
- Crops growth and development over the unimodal areas was observed progressing well at various stages while over the bimodal areas farmers were mostly engaged in land preparation and in some areas, especially over Lake Victoria basin, planting was ongoing.
- The availability of water and pasture for livestock was still low especially in Dodoma, Manyara, Arusha and Simiyu regions.
- Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to continue with land preparation and plant when soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination while in some places of the unimodal areas where frequent rainfall is expected, farmers advised to take precaution against growth of weeds, flooding of fields and crops damage.
- Livestock keepers over both unimodal and bimodal areas are advised to use pasture and water legibly and get consultation from livestock extension officers in their localities on sustainable use of the available resources.

No: 16 2016/17 Cropping Season

Review for March 1-10, 2017 and Outlook for March 11-20, 2017

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2017

During the period, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was well organized across central Tanzania. The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over southwestern Indian Ocean were warm which favored the formation of tropical depressions that evolved into an intense tropical cyclone Enawo. Development of a tropical cyclone influenced activities over much of the central areas towards southern parts of the country. On contrary, SSTs over northwestern Indian Ocean (around the Somali coast) were cool which suppressed activities over the northeastern highlands. Over the western Atlantic Ocean (close to Angola coast) SSTs were slightly warm which also suppressed the westerly winds as well as the activities over the western parts of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic conditions with some enhancements by the tropical cyclone, above normal to normal rainfall performance was observed over most of the country as illustrated in Figure 1 with the exception of northeastern highlands, some areas of northern coast and few areas over Ruvuma, Mbeya, Kigoma, Kagera, Simiyu and Mara regions that experienced below normal rainfall performance. Above normal rainfall was observed over Mtwara, Eastern Ruvuma, Lindi, Morogoro, Iringa, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mwanza and few areas over Njombe, Mpanda, Sumbawanga, Kigoma, Geita, Kagera, Simiyu and Pwani regions. Normal rainfall performance was observed over most areas in Mbeya, Sumbawanga, Kigoma and some areas in Geita, Kagera, Simiyu, Mara, Ruvuma, Pwani and Dodoma regions.

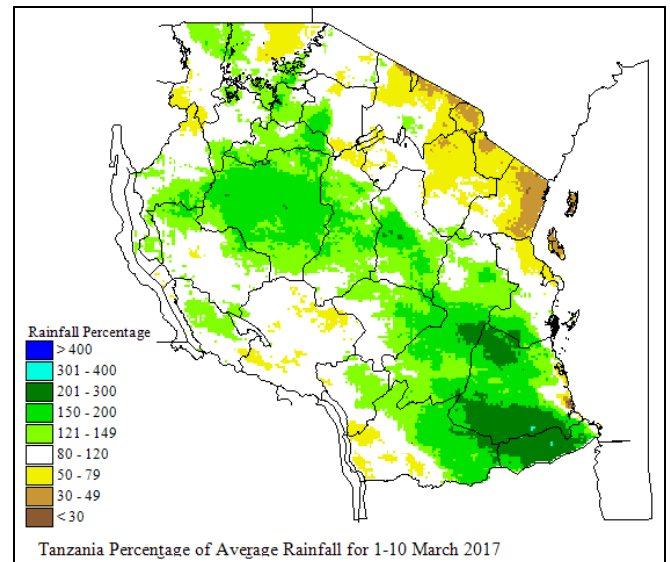


Figure 1: Rainfall performance during March 1-10, 2017 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2017

The observed above normal rainfall over the unimodal areas provided adequate soil moisture favourable for growth and development of crops. Maize crop over Kigoma region was reported at waxy ripeness stage whereas over Tabora, Katavi, Rukwa, Mtwara and southern Morogoro maize crop was observed at flowering stage. Over Njombe, Mbeya, Iringa and Songwe regions

maize crop was at tasseling stage. The replanted maize over some places of the unimodal areas including Lindi, Mtwara and Dodoma regions were also observed to establish well. Crops were observed in average condition in most places. Over the bimodal areas, the observed soil moisture was usefull mostly for land preparation and planting in some areas, especially Lake Victoria basin. Water and pasture availability was moderate in some areas. However, pasture and water was still inadequate over Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara, Simiyu, Shinyanga , Mwanza and Mara regions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 1-10, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges was moderate with slight improvements over the unimodal areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2017

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to maintain their intensities. However, the northern hemisphere high-pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) are expected to intensify, thus keeping the ITCZ slightly further south across the southern coast of Tanzania. SSTs over Tropical Western Indian Ocean as well as over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast are expected to remain warm, thus keeping the ITCZ across Tanzania but will be more pronounced over the central towards Southern coastal areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 11-20, 2017

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): **regions):** Few, rain showers and thunderstorms, especially over the Southern parts, are expected over few areas. **Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions):** Few rain showers, occasionally accompanied by thunderstorms are expected over few areas. **Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba):** Frequent rain showers, with few thunderstorms, are expected over some areas of Dar es Salaam, Pwani and Morogoro regions. The remaining areas of the Northern coast are expected to

feature occasional rains, with few thunderstorms, over some areas.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions):

Occasional rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over some areas. **Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions):** Few rain showers with thunderstorms are expected over some areas.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas. **Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions):**

Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas. **Southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region):** Frequent

rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2017

The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during March 11-20, 2017 will provide favourable conditions for crops development and growth of replanted maize crop. Farmers are advised to continue with weeding, fertilizer application and other agronomic activities. However, the expected frequent rainfall over southwestern highlands, southern coast and southern region may favour growth of weeds and possible flooding in the fields. Farmers are advised to seek advice from Agriculture Extension Officers in their localities and take precaution on crops damage which may be attributed to frequent rainfall. Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to continue with land preparation and plant when soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination. Livestock keepers over both unimodal and bimodal areas are advised to continue using pasture and water legibly and get consultation from livestock extension officers in their localities on sustainable use of the available resources.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2017

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to improve in many places of the country, especially unimodal areas due to the contribution of expected frequent rainfall in some areas.

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