

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most of the bimodal areas experienced below normal rainfall during March 21-31, 2017
- Crops progressed well in most places of the country except in some places of the bimodal areas where infestation of pests affected growth and development of maize and cotton.
- Water and pastures for livestock improved slightly but were still low in most of the bimodal regions.
- Farmers over bimodal areas are advised to continue with weeding and application of fertilizers and pesticides guided by daily weather forecasts and close consultation with agriculture extension officers.
- Farmers over the unimodal areas where frequent rainfall is expected are advised to take precaution against weed infestation, excessive soil moisture and flooding and crop damage.

No: 18 2016/17 Cropping Season

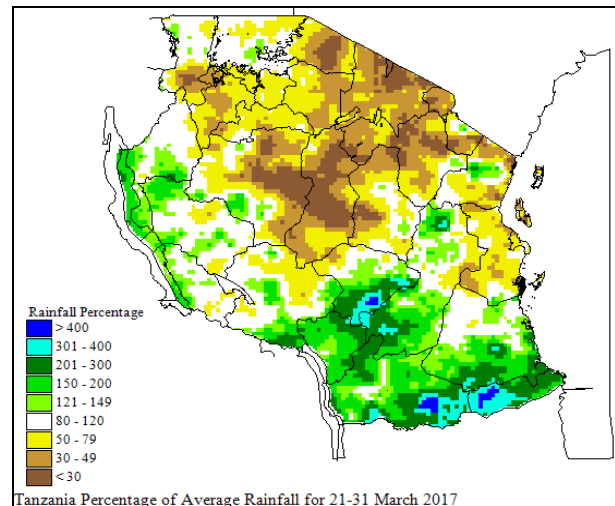
Review for March 21-31, 2017 and Outlook for April 1-10, 2017

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017

During the period, the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was dominant across central parts of Tanzania. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwestern Indian Ocean remained warm which influenced activities over most parts of the country. The western Atlantic Ocean (close to Angola coast) featured slightly cool SSTs which supported the westerly winds and enhanced activities to some places of the western part of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, most of the bimodal areas experienced below normal rainfall during March 21-31, 2017 except few areas of Kagera, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Manyara and northern Morogoro region that experienced pockets of above normal rainfall as illustrated in Figure 1. Delayed onset of *masika* seasonal rains was also experienced in some areas including Magu district and Simiyu region where farmers have not yet planted. The unimodal areas on the other hand, experienced above normal to normal rainfall in most places except Tabora, Singida, Dodoma and northern part of Mbeya region where below normal rainfall performance was observed. Enhanced rainfall with highest percentage of average (above 400%) was observed over Iringa, Ruvuma and Mtwara regions while the poorest rainfall performance with the least percentage of the long term average (less than 30%) was observed in many places of Singida, Tabora, Mara, Arusha and Manyara regions.



Tanzania Percentage of Average Rainfall for 21-31 March 2017

Figure 1: Rainfall performance during March 21-31, 2017 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017

The weather during the period was favourable for crops growth and development, which progressed well over both the bimodal and unimodal areas. Over the bimodal areas, the accumulated soil moisture favoured growth of crops which were at various stages. Maize crop in most places of Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and parts of northern coast, including Morogoro region was at ninth leaf stage with ongoing weeding. In some places of the northern coast especially Tanga and the isles of Unguja and Pemba, maize crop was at third leaf stage. However, infestation of crop pests affected growth of maize in many places of the bimodal areas and damaged cotton in Sengerema district (Mwanza region). Over the Unimodal areas, maize crop progressed well at various stages of

development. Over the western regions, maize crop was at full ripeness stage while southwestern highlands and southern region, maize crop was at waxy ripeness stage. Over the central and southern coast, maize crop was at tasseling stage and in average condition. Cases of flooding were reported in few places of Njombe and Katavi regions which caused destruction of crops in the fields. Water and pastures for livestock improved slightly but were low in most of the bimodal areas especially in Mwanza, Simiyu, Arusha Manyara and Tanga regions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were average with great improvements over the unimodal areas due to occurrence of frequent rainfall with above normal performance.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2017

Southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to intensify while their counterparts to the north (Azores and Siberian highs) are expected to relax, thus allowing the ITCZ to continue moving northwards. SSTs over tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to be warm and contribute to the enhancement of the ITCZ across Tanzania. This configuration is likely to cause significant rainfall over a large part of the country. Over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast, SSTs are expected to be neutral to cool contributing to relatively active weather over Western and Lake Victoria Basin areas, especially during the first half of the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 1-10, 2017

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): Occasional rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas. **Northeastern highlands** (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Occasional rain showers and 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 occasional

thunderstorms are expected 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), **Southern Coast** (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and **southern region** (Njombe and Ruvuma region): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over some areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 1-10 2017

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas will improve soil moisture providing favorable condition for weeding and fertilizer application. However, the rainfall may wash away pesticides being applied on maize and cotton crops. Farmers are advised to continue with weeding and application of fertilizer and pesticides but with close consultation from agriculture extension officers in their localities to avoid losses. The expected frequent rainfall over some of the unimodal areas (southwestern highlands, southern coast and southern region) may favour growth of weeds and possible flooding especially in the lowland areas. Farmers are advised to take precaution on crops damage and soil erosion. 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.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 1-10 2017

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to improve, especially over the unimodal areas due to the contribution of expected frequent rainfall in some areas. However, the community is advised to continue using water sustainably.

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