



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Pests have continued to affect maize and cotton crops.
- Farmers over bimodal areas are advised to continue with application of fertilizers and pesticides guided by daily weather forecasts and in consultation with agriculture extension officers.
- Where frequent rainfall is expected farmers are advised to take precaution against excessive soil moisture, flooding and crop damage

No: 19 2016/17 Cropping Season

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

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2017

During the period, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was dominant across central parts of Tanzania. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwestern Indian Ocean remained warm, hence influenced rainfall conditions in the country. The western Atlantic Ocean (close to Angola coast) featured slightly cool SSTs which supported the westerly winds and periods of rainfall over some places of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, above normal rainfall (>121% of long term average) was observed in most places of Pwani, Morogoro, Tanga, isles of Unguja and Pemba, Mtwara and Lindi regions, and few places in Kagera, Mwanza and Kigoma regions as illustrated in Figure 1.. However, some areas of the country continued to experience below normal rainfall which in some places was less than 30 percentage of long term average. Below normal rainfall (<50% of long term average) was experienced in most places of Katavi, Rukwa, Tabora, Singida, Sinyanga, Dodoma, Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Arusha, Simiyu, Manyara, Mara, Geita, Kilimanjaro and few places in Kagera, Mwanza, Mara and Ruvuma regions (Figure 1).

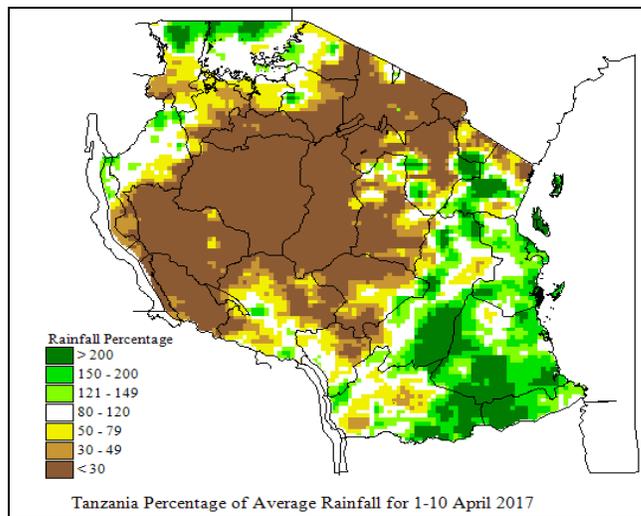


Figure 1: Rainfall performance during April 1-10, 2017 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2017

Crop growth and development progressed well in most areas of the country during the period. Most bimodal areas (except northeastern highlands) reported average soil moisture which was favourable for crops growth. Maize crop was at ninth leaf stage in most areas of Mwanza, Mara, Arusha, Tanga, Morogoro and Pwani regions. However, pests (maize stalk borers) continued to affect its growth. In the unimodal areas, crops were reported at different stages of development. In Kigoma and Tabora regions, the maize crop was at full ripeness stages while in Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Ruvuma and Mtwara at waxy ripeness stage. In few of the unimodal areas including Lindi, Dodoma and Singida, maize stage ranged from ninth leaf and tasseling stages. 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 APRIL 1-10, 2017**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have improved significantly due to ongoing Masika rains.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS
DURING APRIL 11-20, 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 favorable conditions of the ITCZ to remain over 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 leading to relatively active weather over western and Lake Victoria Basin areas, especially during the first half of the dekad.

**EXPECTED WEATHER DURING
APRIL 11-20, 2017**

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions and **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 11-20, 2017**

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas will improve soil moisture conditions favorable for maize growth and fertilizer application. However, the rainfall may wash away pesticides and fertilizers being applied on maize and cotton crops. Farmers are advised to continue with application of fertilizer and pesticides with close consultation from agriculture extension officers. The expected frequent rainfall over some of the bimodal regions (northern coast) and the unimodal regions (southwestern highlands, southern coast and southern region) may cause flooding especially in 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 use the available resources sustainably.

**HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY
DURING APRIL 11-20 2017**

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to continue enhancing over most areas of the country due to persistence of ongoing seasonal long rains over unimodal and bimodal regions. The community is advised to take advantage of the available rains for good use such as rain-harvesting.

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