

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 23 2016/17 Cropping Season

Review for May 11-20 and Outlook for May 21-31, 2017

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Above normal rainfall was observed during May 11-20, 2017 in some areas of Pwani, Lindi, Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida, Kagera, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, Unguja Island, and few areas of Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Tabora, Iringa, Mbeya and Njombe, Kigoma, Geita, Mara, Tanga, Mbeya and Katavi regions.
- Crops progressed well in most areas of the country.
- Farmers in Morogoro, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Pwani and Lindi regions, and isles of Unguja and Pemba are advised to take precaution against water logging conditions, flooding and crop damage due to the ongoing *masika* rains.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MAY 11-20, 2017

During the period, high pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (ST. Helena and Mascarene) intensified slightly while the high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere relaxed slightly. This confined the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast regions of the country associated with atmospheric easterly waves from the Indian Ocean. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwestern Indian Ocean were slightly warm whereas SSTs over western Atlantic Ocean (close to Angola coast) were slightly cool. This situation supported rainfall conditions mainly over the coastal regions, central areas, Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northwestern highlands and few areas of the western regions.

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MAY 11-20, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, above normal rainfall (<125% of long term average) was observed mainly over coastal regions, central areas, Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northwestern highlands and few areas of the western regions.. Above 400% of long term average were experienced in some areas of Pwani, Lindi, Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida and in few areas of Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Tabora, Iringa, Mbeya and Njombe regions as depicted in Figure 1. Similarly, 201-300% of long term average was experienced in some areas of Kagera, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam and Unguja Island, and few areas of Kigoma, Geita, Mara, Tanga, Mbeya and Katavi regions. However, some areas of the country experienced below normal rainfall performance (>75% of long term average) whereby less than 30% of the long term average rainfall was observed in most of Manyara, Simiyu, Tabora, Rukwa, Katavi, Mtwara and Ruvuma regions, and some areas of Arusha, Tanga and Lindi regions.

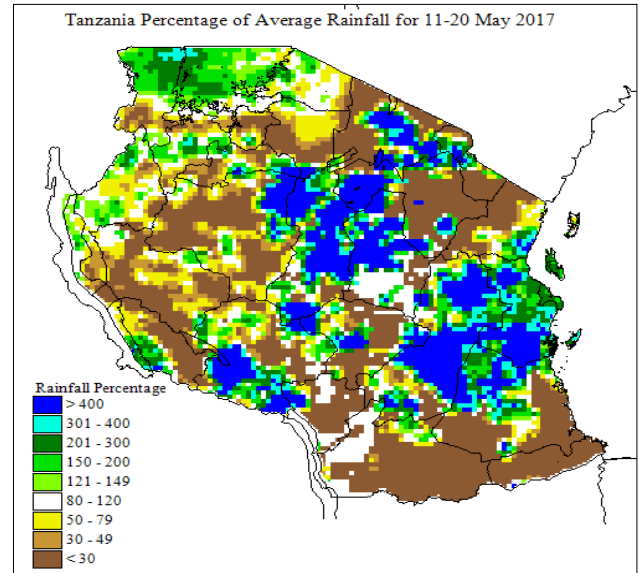


Figure 1: Rainfall performance during May 11-20, 2017 as percentage of long term average.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MAY 11-20, 2017

Crops progressed well in most areas of the country during the period. In the bimodal areas crops were reported to be at different stages. In Tanga region, maize crop was at tasseling stage; in Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions maize crops was reported at flowering stage; in Geita, Mwanza, Mara Morogoro and Pwani regions maize crop was at ripeness stage. In the unimodal areas, maize crop was mostly at full ripeness stage. Water and pastures for livestock was in average conditions over most areas of the country.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MAY 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges remained enhanced over most areas of the country due to ongoing *masika* rains.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 21-31, 2017

The southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to continue intensifying while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (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 whereas SSTs over the Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) are expected to continue getting cooler. This situation is expected to cause rainfall conditions mainly over Lake Victoria basin and western regions. Due to intensification of the southern hemisphere pressure systems, periods of strong winds are likely to occur in coastal regions including isles of Unguja and Pemba.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 21-31, 2017

**L**ake 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 some areas. **Northern coast** (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Frequent rain showers, with occasional thunderstorm are expected over some areas. **Western regions** (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions), **Central areas** (Dodoma and Singida regions), **Southwestern highlands** (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions) and **Southern region** (Njombe and Ruvuma region): Off seasonal, few rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas. **Southern Coast** (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Off seasonal, few rain showers with occasional thunderstorms are expected over few areas. Periods of strong winds are also likely over coastal regions.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 21-31, 2017

The expected rainfall will help to improve water and pasture availability for livestock, and soil moisture for the growing crops. Livestock keepers over both unimodal and bimodal areas are advised to make good use of the available water and pasture. The ongoing rains in coastal regions and some areas of the north eastern highlands may cause enhancement of crop development. Farmers in Dar-es-salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Pwani, Lindi and isles of Unguja and Pemba are advised monitor closely their farms with close consultation from Agricultural Extension Officers.

### HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 21-31, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharge are expected to relatively remain enhanced over most water basins especially northern part of the country due to persistence of ongoing *masika* rains over the bimodal regions. The community is advised to make good use of the rains as rain water harvesting.

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