

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 35 2016/17 Cropping season

Review for September 11-20 and Outlook for September 21-30, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry conditions continued to prevail over most of the country during September 11-20, 2017. However, few rains were observed in Mwanza, Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara, Mtwara, Kigoma, Rukwa, Morogoro, Unguja and Pemba islands, Arusha, Manyara, Tanga, Pwani, Kilimanjaro and Dar es Salaam
- Farmers in bimodal areas are continuing with land preparation and planting mainly in Kagera region
- Periods of strong winds are likely to occur over the southern coast during September 21-30, 2017
- The expected dry conditions will lead to further declining in water and pastures for livestock. Livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pastures.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2017

During the period under review, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to relax thus caused the East African Ridge also to relax. The north systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify, which allows the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to migrate towards southern hemisphere. Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) over the tropical western Indian Ocean is still warm. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) experienced cool to neutral SSTs, thus contributing to less wet periods over western areas and Lake Victoria Basin of Tanzania.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic features, rainfall between 20 mm and 80 mm was recorded over much of the Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Mwanza, and Mara regions) and a few areas of Geita, Simiyu, Manyara, Tanga, Morogoro, and Pemba island as shown in Figure 1. Widespread of these rains over Lake Victoria basin marks the start of the short rainy “vuli” season mainly over Kagera region. The rest of the country remained dry with a few pocket areas experiencing light rains not exceeding 20 mm in a dekad as shown in the Figure 1.

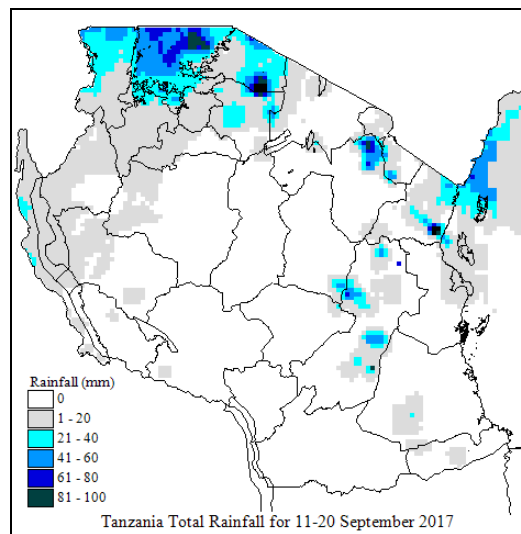


Figure 1: Total rainfall during September 11-20, 2017

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2017

Farmers in bimodal areas were continuing with land preparation and planting specifically in Kagera region for the coming *vuli* season. Over the unimodal areas, farmers are continuing with planning for the coming *msimu* rainy season which starts normally between November and December. Water and pasture availability for livestock declined over much of Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Singida, Arusha, Manyara and Dodoma regions. Other areas had moderate water and pasture conditions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to decrease over most areas of the country due to the ongoing dry conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2017

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to intensify. This situation will cause the ITCZ to continue migrating towards southern hemisphere. SSTs over tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to remain slightly warm to neutral which may keep southerly to southeasterly winds flows along the coast of Tanzania. On the other hand, SSTs over the southeastern Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) are expected to be slightly cool, contributing to dry periods over western areas of Tanzania.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2017

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the country is expected to feature dry conditions in most areas and cool temperatures. **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)** is expected to feature dry conditions with occasional rain showers and thunderstorms. **Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions) and southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Mbeya regions)** are expected to feature dry conditions with occasional rain showers especially over high grounds. **Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga regions, and the isles of Unguja and Pemba)** is expected to feature dry conditions with isolated rain showers specifically Tanga and the isles of Unguja and Pemba.

Western regions (**Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions**), southern region (**Ruvuma region**) and central areas (**Dodoma and Singida regions**) are expected to feature dry conditions. southern coast (**Mtwara and Lindi regions**) is expected to feature periods of strong winds and dry conditions with isolated rain showers over few areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2017

Off seasonal rains are not adequate for planting seasonal crops yet may affect cereal crops that are not stored properly. However farmers over Kagera region are advised to make use of *vuli* rains for planting. The expected dry conditions may lead to further decline in water for livestock and human use in water scarce areas. Pastoralists are advised to use the available water and pasture resources sparingly in consultation with extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are will continue to decrease over most parts of the country due to ongoing dry conditions. Water users are advised to use available water carefully.

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