



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 3 2017/18 Cropping season

Review for October 21 - 31 and Outlook for November 1-10, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in some of bimodal areas are continuing with planting except Kagera region, where early-planted *vuli* crop is at weeding stage.
- Due to ongoing dry conditions over most parts of central areas and southwestern highlands, livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pastures.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2017

During the period under review, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to relax while 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 remained neutral which led to occasionally moist southerly to southeasterly winds along the coast that led to occasional rain showers over the entire coast. The Southeast Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) experienced significant warming which contributed to wet periods over the western areas.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic features, significant amounts of rainfall exceeding 25.0 mm was recorded over Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, northern parts of Morogoro region, Tanga, and Isles of Unguja and Pemba), Lake Victoria basin, southern, northeastern highlands, and western parts of the country as shown in Figure 1. The highest amounts (exceeding 200 mm rainfall) in a dekad were recorded over northern coast and Unguja island, and few pocket areas of Kilimanjaro and Kagera regions (Figure 1). Kibaha meteorological station in Pwani region (northern coast) recorded the highest total dekad rainfall amount of 279.0 mm (not shown). Other parts of the country, mainly unimodal areas (central, southwestern highlands, and southern areas) and much of northeastern highlands were generally dry with few isolated rainfall (less than 25.0 mm).

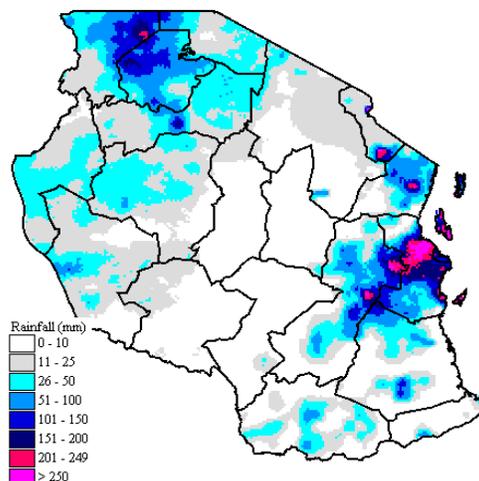


Figure 1: Total rainfall during 21– 31 October, 2017

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2017

Farmers in some of bimodal areas are continuing with planting except Kagera region, where *vuli* crop is at weeding stage. Over the unimodal areas, farmers continued with land preparation and planning for the coming *msimu* rainy season which is expected to start during November and second week of December 2017. Soil moisture condition was improved over northern coast, islands of Zanzibar, Lake Victoria basin and western areas. However, Water and pasture availability for livestock remain low over most parts of Simiyu, Shinyanga, Singida, Manyara and Dodoma region. Other areas had moderate water and pasture conditions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges has improved slightly specifically in bimodal areas due to ongoing Vuli rains. Higher rainfall amounts reported over the coastal areas and Zanzibar led into flooding and destruction of infrastructures and loss of life and property in Kibaha, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 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. Warm SSTs over the Tropical Western Indian Ocean are expected to be neutral and likely keep occasionally moist southerly to southeasterly winds along the coast, resulting into occasional rain showers over the entire coast. The southeast Atlantic Ocean is expected to experience significantly warm SSTs, which will weaken moist westerly flow contributing to relatively less rainfall over the western areas of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2017

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)** is expected to have occasional rain showers and thunderstorms while **Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions)** is expected to have occasional rain showers especially over high grounds. **Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba)** is expected to have occasional rain showers. However periods of heavy rain showers and thunderstorms are also expected. **Southwestern highland (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Mbeya regions)** is expected to be mainly dry with occasional light rain showers especially over the high grounds. **Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions)** are expected to have occasional rain showers and thunderstorm. **Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions)** are expected to feature dry conditions. **Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and Southern region (Ruvuma)** is expected to have occasional rain showers.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2017

Rainy showers expected over the bimodal areas mainly over Lake Victoria basin, highgrounds of northeastern highlands and northern coast is likely to improve soil moisture condition for crops and pastures. Farmers over these areas are advised to make use of these rains for planting. Farmers over Kagera region and northern coast are advised to plant drought tolerant crops due to the expected normal to below normal *Vuli* rains. Much of northeastern highlands and unimodal areas off seasonal rains are not adequate for planting seasonal crops. Pastoralists are also advised to use the available water and pasture resources sparingly in consultation with extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected slightly increase especially over lake Victoria basin, Pangani and Wami/Ruvu. Yet water users are advised to use available water carefully.

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