

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 7 2017/18 Cropping season

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Msimu* rains have started in most of unimodal regions and farmers are involved in land preparations and crop planting
- *Vuli* rains continue in most of bimodal areas where farmers are mostly engaged in weeding activities
- Rainfall during December 11-20, 2017 is expected to favour crops development over the bimodal areas and crops establishment over the unimodal areas.
- Communities are advised to take precaution measures where thunderstorms and heavy rains are expected.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2017

During the period under review, the southern hemisphere high-pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to relax, while the northern systems (Azores and Siberian) intensifying and allowing the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to continue migrating towards south. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the tropical western Indian Ocean remained slightly warm resulted into isolated rainfall over the entire coast. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) experienced slight cooling which contributed to intense activities over the western part as well as Lake Victoria regions.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic features, some parts of Lindi, Mtwara, Arusha, Mara, northern Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Isles of Unguja and Pemba, Mbeya, central Ruvuma, eastern Shinyanga, southern Morogoro, Rukwa, Pwani, Tabora, Dodoma and Singida regions experienced sufficient rainfall (above 120% of long-term average) as shown in Figure 1. The rains were useful for improving soil moisture favourable for agriculture activities over these areas. However, other parts of the country which include Kagera, Mwanza, Manyara, western Shinyanga, southern Tanga, northern Dodoma and Singida received less than 50% of long-term ten-day average rainfall.

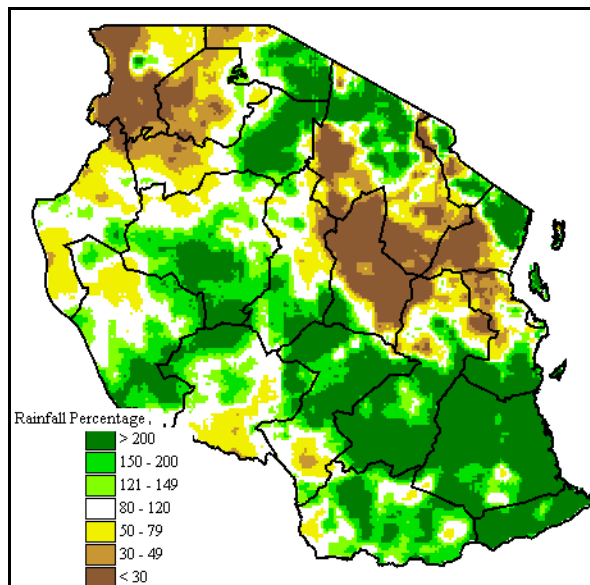


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 1-10 December, 2017

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2017

During December 1-10, 2017, the observed rainfall provided favourable conditions for crops in most places over both of the unimodal and bimodal areas. Maize crop over much of the bimodal areas was between flowering and waxy ripeness stages, beans crop in some areas of Kilimanjaro and Kagera region was observed at flowering stage. Soil moisture condition was improved in much of bimodal areas due to ongoing *Vuli* rain. However, in some parts of northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Manyara regions), farmers were at land preparation due to late onset of *vuli* rains. For the unimodal areas, *msimu* rainy season has started where farmers are mostly engaged in planting activities except Singida and Dodoma where farmers are continuing with land preparation. Water and pasture availability for livestock remains low over most parts of Simiyu, Shinyanga, Dodoma, Singida, Longido, Monduli, Ngorongoro and Kiteto due to prolonged dry conditions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have slightly improved mainly in bimodal areas due to ongoing vuli rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2017

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) are still intensifying while the southern systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) will continue to relax gradually. The position of ITCZ will remain over Tanzania especially over southwestern highland and southern region thereby resulting into enhancement of rainfall over those areas. SSTs over the tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to be slightly warm which may result into isolated rainy showers over the entire coast. The southeast Atlantic Ocean SSTs is expected to continue cooling which will contribute to rainy showers and thunderstorm activities over the western part of the country and the Lake Victoria basin.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2017

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)** is expected to feature isolated rainy showers and thunderstorms. **Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba)** are expected to feature isolated rainy showers. **Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Mbeya regions), southern region (Ruvuma) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions)** are expected to feature occasional rainy showers and thunderstorms.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2017

Soil moisture condition for crops and pastures is likely to improve over most areas of the country. Farmers are advised to continue with routinely farm activities while over the unimodal areas farmers are advised to plant when the moisture is adequate to support seed germination. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult their relevant extension officers for optimal utilization of this forecast and advisory.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to increase slightly mainly over lake Victoria basin, Pangani, Rufiji and Wami/Ruvu due to the ongoing seasonal rains. However, water users are advised to continue using available water carefully.

Prepared by

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