



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 8 2017/18 Cropping season

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Msimu* rains continued in most of unimodal areas except over central areas where rains have not yet started as expected.
- Maize crop over much of the bimodal areas was between flowering and waxy ripeness while beans crop in some areas of Kilimanjaro and Kagera region was at ripeness stage.
- Rainfall during December 21-31, 2017 is expected to favour crops development over the bimodal areas and crops establishment over the unimodal areas.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 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 11-20, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic features, some parts of Ruvuma, Katavi, Njombe, Shinyanga and southern Kigoma 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, most parts of bimodal and central areas received less rains (less than 50%) compared to long term average.

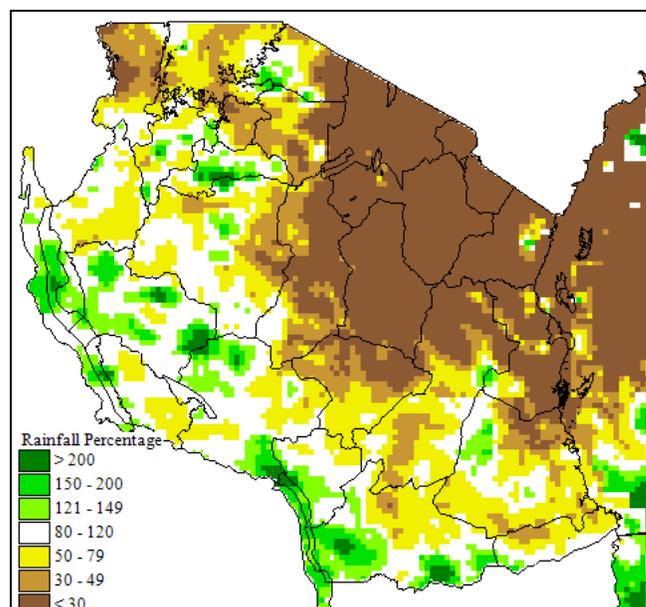


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 11-20 December, 2017

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2017

During the period under review, 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, while beans crop in some areas of Kilimanjaro and Kagera region was observed at ripeness stage. However, in some parts of northeastern highlands specifically Manyara region, farmers were at land preparation due to late onset of *vuli* rains. For the unimodal areas, *msimu* rainy season is continuing where farmers are mostly engaged in planting activities except for some areas of 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 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have slightly improved mainly in Unimodal areas due to ongoing *Msimu* rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 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 21-31, 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 rainshowers and thunderstorms. **Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), and northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga regions, and the isles of Unguja and Pemba)** are expected to feature isolated rain showers. **Southwestern highland (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Mbeya regions), southern region (Ruvuma) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions)** are expected to feature occasional rain showers and thunderstorm. **Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions)** is expected to feature isolated rains.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2017

The expected rainfall conditions will be favorable for improving soil moisture condition for crops and pastures over most areas of the country. Farmers in the bimodal areas 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 extension officers for optimal use of the weather forecast and advisory.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to increase slightly mainly over Ruvuma, Nyasa, Rukwa and Rufiji due to the ongoing *Msimu* rains. However, water users are advised to continue using available water carefully.