



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 10 2017/18 Cropping season

Review for January 01-10, 2018 and Outlook for January 11-20, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Msimu* rains continued well in most parts of unimodal regions where farmers are involved in crop planting and weeding.
- Rainfall during January 11-20, 2018 is expected to favour crops and pasture development mainly over unimodal areas.
- *Vuli* off- season rainfall over bimodal areas will continue to enhance soil moisture for pasture and late grown crops.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2018

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 remain over southern parts of Tanzania. The SSTs over the tropical western Indian Ocean remained slightly warm resulting into isolated rainfall over the coastal areas. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) experienced slight warming which reduced rainfall activities over western part of Tanzania as well as the Lake Victoria Basin.

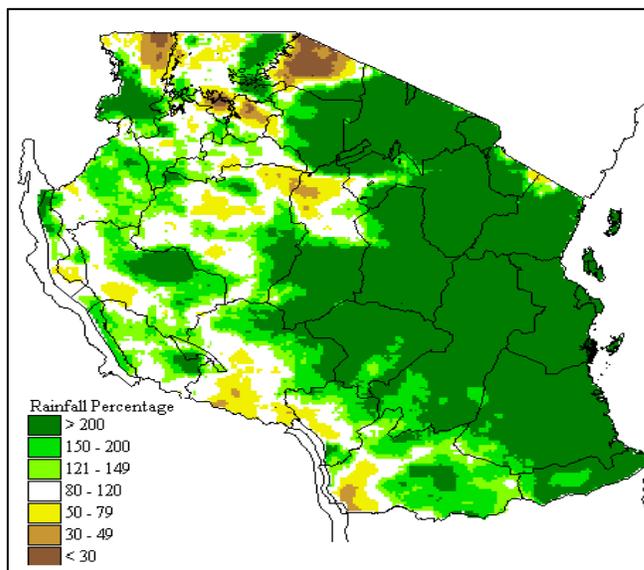


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 01-10 January, 2018

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2018

In view of the observed synoptic features, many areas in the country experienced above normal rainfall (above 120% of long term ten-day average rainfall) as shown in Figure 1. However, a few pocket areas in Kagera, Mwanza, Simiyu, Mara, Singida, Mbeya, and Ruvuma regions received less rainfall (below 50% of long term ten-day average rainfall). During the dekad under review, there was a marked increase in rainfall over northeastern highlands and northern coast including Islands of Unguja and Pemba where like any other bimodal areas *vuli* rains cease normally in December.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2018

During the dekad under review, the observed rainfall amounts continued to provide favourable moisture conditions for crops germination and development in many areas of the unimodal rainfall regime. However, weeding and application of farm inputs like fertilizers were affected due to above normal rainfall. Over bimodal areas the *Vuli* off-season rainfall enhanced soil moisture conditions for pastures and late planted crops while impeding harvesting and drying of matured crops like beans. Water and pasture condition have improved over much of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have improved in most parts of the country due to ongoing rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2018

The northern system (Azores and Siberian) are expected to experience slight relaxation while the southern systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) will start to intensify gradually towards the north. The position of the ITCZ will remain over Tanzania especially over southwestern highlands and southern sector of the country resulting into enhancement of rainfall activities over those areas. The SSTs over the tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to be slightly warm which may result into rainy showers over the northern coast. The southeast Atlantic Ocean SSTs are expected to cool which will contribute to rainfall activities over the Lake Victoria Basin and western part of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, **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) and **northern coast** (Dar es Salaam, northern parts of Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature isolated rainy showers.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions), **southwestern highlands** (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe and Songwe and Mbeya regions), **southern Coast** (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and **southern region** (Ruvuma region) are expected to feature occasional rainy showers and thunderstorms.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Occasional rainy showers are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2018

The expected rainfall conditions will be favorable for improving soil moisture condition for growth and development of crops and pastures mainly over much of the unimodal areas. Farmers are advised to continue with routinely farm activities and also carry out rainwater harvesting for future use during periods of water deficit. Off seasonal rainfall over bimodal areas will favour late planted crops although harvesting and drying of matured crops may be affected. Water and pastures conditions are expected to improve significantly across the country. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to increase mainly over Pangani, Rufiji, Wami/Ruvu and Ruvuma basins due to the ongoing rains. However, water users are advised to continue using available water sparingly.

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