

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 13: 2017/18 Cropping season

Review for February 1-10 and Outlook for February 11-20, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- *Msimu* rains continued well in most parts of unimodal regions where farmers are mainly involved with weeding.
- Farmers in the bimodal areas are mostly engaged with harvesting except in Shinyanga where maize is at ripeness stage.
- About 7144 hectares of sorghum and brush millet have been affected by quelea quelea in Shinyanga
- Expected rainfall in unimodal areas during 11-20 February is likely to favour crops and pasture development.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2018

The northern high pressure system (Azores and Siberian) experienced slight intensification while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed gradually towards the south. The position of Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained over southwestern highlands and southern sector of the country which resulted into precipitation activities over those areas. The Sea surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the tropical western Indian Ocean were neutral which resulted into reduction of activities especially over coast areas and northeastern highland of the country. The southeast Atlantic Ocean SSTs experienced slight warming conditions that contributed to less activity over the Lake Victoria Basin and western part of Tanzania.

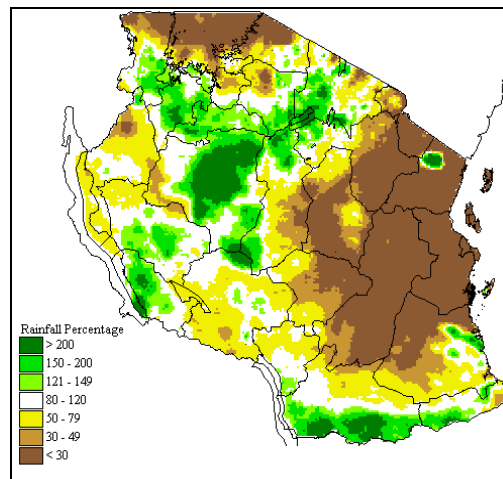


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 1-10 February, 2018

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2018

According to the observed synoptic features, some parts of the unimodal areas; Tabora, Songwe, Mbeya, southern Ruvuma and Mtwara received normal to above normal rainfall (more than 80% long term ten-day average rainfall) as shown in Figure 1. However, off seasonal normal to above normal rains were observed in some areas of Kagera, Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Arusha and Lushoto. The remaining parts of the country received less than 80% long term ten-day average rainfall (Figure 1).

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2018

During the ten-day (dekad) period the observed rainfall continued to provide favourable moisture conditions for crops and pasture growth and development in areas of the unimodal rainfall regime. However, over most of bimodal areas crops were at harvesting stages except in Shinyanga where maize is at ripeness stage due to late onset of *Vuli* rainy season. What's more in Shinyanga region, about 7,144 hectares of sorghum and brush millet has been affected by quelea quelea as reported by Shinyanga Regional Agriculture Advisor. Water and pasture conditions were favourable over much of the country except in some areas of Arusha region particularly in Longido district.

**HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS  
DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have continued to improve over much of Rukwa and Nyasa basins due to ongoing seasonal rains.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS  
DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2018**

The Azores and Siberian high pressure systems are expected to experience slight intensification while the St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems will relax gradually towards the south. The position of ITCZ is expected to shift gradually towards the south and remain over extremely southern sector of the country which will result into reduction of activities over most parts of the country. SSTs over the tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to be neutral, resulting into northeasterly winds, which may cause light rains over coastal belts especially over southern coast. The southeast Atlantic Ocean is expected to experience slight warming to warming SSTs resulting into easterly winds contributing to less activity over the western, Lake Victoria Basin and southwestern highlands.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS  
DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2018**

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)**, **western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions)** and **southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Mbeya regions)** are expected to feature isolated rainy showers and thunderstorms.

**Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions)** and **central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions)** are expected to feature mainly dry conditions and sunny periods.

**Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the islands of Unguja and Pemba)** and **southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions)** are expected to feature light rainy showers.

**Southern region (Ruvuma region)** is expected to feature occasional rainy showers and thunderstorms.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND  
ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2018**

The expected rainfall is likely to favour growth and development of crops and pastures as a result of improved soil moisture conditions mainly over much of the unimodal areas. Farmers are advised to manage their farms and also carry out rainwater harvesting for future use during periods of water deficits. Off-season rains expected over bimodal areas will favor 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 and advisory.

**HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY  
DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve slightly in some water basin mainly Rufiji, Ruvuma, Rukwa and Nyasa basins due to expected rains. Despite of observed improvement of water resource, water users are advised to continue using available water sparingly.

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