

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 15: 2017/18 Cropping season

Review for February 21-28 and Outlook for March 1-10, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in most parts of unimodal regions are mainly engaged with weeding and fertilizer application
- Farmers in the bimodal areas are mostly engaged with land preparation for the coming *Masika* rainy season
- The expected *Masika* rains for bimodal areas will improve soil moisture conditions for crop planting

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) experienced slight relaxation while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) intensified slightly. The position of Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained over the southern sector of Tanzania. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean were neutral. Northeasterly to easterly winds and southeasterly to easterly winds were dominant over the northern and southern sectors of the country respectively. The slight warm to cool SSTs were experienced over southeast of the Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast).

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), most parts of the country received above normal rains (above 124% of the long term ten days average rainfall) as shown in Figure 1. Also, below normal rains (below 75 % of the long term ten days average rainfall) were observed in some areas of Pwani, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha (eastern sector), Manyara, Kagera, Kigoma, central Morogoro, eastern Lindi and Mtwara, and isles of Unguja and Pemba as indicated in Figure 1.

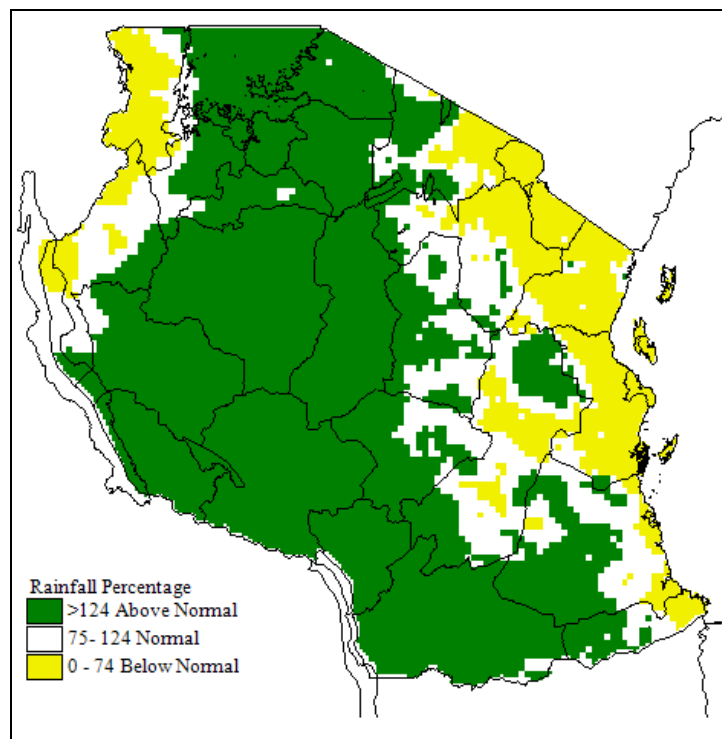


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 21-28 February, 2018

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2018

During the ten day (dekad) period, over unimodal areas maize crop was at ninth leaf and tasselling stages and at good condition. Farmers over these areas were mostly engaged with weeding and fertilizer application. On the other hand farmers over bimodal areas continued with harvesting and land preparation for the coming *Masika* rainy season. 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 21-28,2018**

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 MARCH 1-10, 2018**

The northern high pressure systems are expected to experience slight relaxation while the southern high pressure systems are expected to intensify. The ITCZ is expected to shift gradually towards north. The SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean is expected to experience slightly warm to neutral conditions which may result into northeasterly to easterly wind flow over the northern sector of the country and southeasterly to easterly flow over the southern sector of the country. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) is expected to experience neutral to cool SSTs resulting into westerly wind flow, which is likely to drag moisture from Congo basin towards western sector of the country. Therefore, enhancement of activities is expected over the most parts of the country especially for the first half of the dekad.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS
DURING MARCH 1-10, 2018**

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions):** Are expected to feature rainy showers and thunderstorms over some areas.

Northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba), western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) and central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Are expected to feature rain and thunderstorms over few areas.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND
ADVISORY DURING MARCH 1- 10, 2018**

The expected rainfall conditions is likely to favour growth and development of crops and pastures. However, excessive soil moisture and rainy condition over unimodal areas may impede fertilizer application and weeding activities. For the bimodal areas the expected rains will improve the soil moisture for planting activities. Water and pasture conditions are expected to improve slightly 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 MARCH 1-10, 2018**

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

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