



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 17: 2017/18 cropping season

Review for March 11-20 and Outlook for March 21-31, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in the bimodal areas are mostly engaged with planting and weeding.
- Excessive soil moisture and waterlogging conditions may impair crop growth and development over some fields in the low laying areas
- Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2018

The northern high pressure system (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 Tanzania. Over the southwest Indian Ocean, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were neutral to slight cool resulted into northeasterly to easterly wind over the northern sector of the country and southeasterly to easterly wind over the southern sector of the country. Over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs were slightly cool.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2018

During the ten days (dekad) period, the observed rains provided favourable conditions for crops and pasture development, despite some pocket areas which had excess soil moisture and others dry conditions. For the unimodal areas maize crop was reported at flowering to wax ripeness stage specifically in Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Kigoma, Ruvuma and Mtwara. Farmers over these areas were mostly engaged with weeding and planting of crops like beans and sweet potatoes. Farmers in the bimodal areas continued with planting, however, harvesting of late grown *vuli* maize crop was reported in Simiyu and Shinyanga regions. Water and pasture availability were in good condition over much of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 11-20, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), most parts of the country including isles of Unguja and Pemba received above normal rains (above 124% of the long term ten days average rainfall). Below normal rains (below 75% of the long term ten days average rainfall) were observed in some areas of Songwe, Njombe, Kigoma and Ruvuma regions as indicated in Figure 1.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2018

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

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2018

The northern high pressure system are expected to experience slight relaxation while the southern high pressure systems are expected to intensify. The ITCZ is expected to shift gradually towards the north. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean are expected to be slightly cool which may influence the northeasterly to easterly 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 slight warm SSTs which may cause easterly wind flow, hence reduction of rains over the eastern sector of the country.

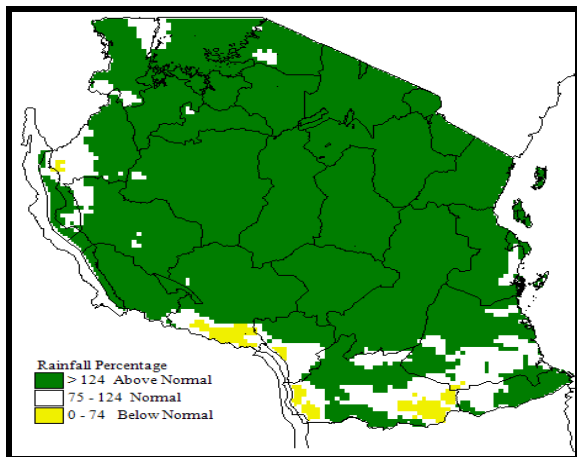


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 11-20 March, 2018

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS
DURING MARCH 21-31, 2018**

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

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) and southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature showers and thunderstorms over few areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature showers of rain over few areas.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND
ADVISORY DURING MARCH 21- 31, 2018**

The expected rainfall condition is likely to favor growth and development of crops and pastures. However, excessive soil moisture and waterlogging conditions may impair crop growth and development in some fields over the low laying areas. Water and pasture 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 MARCH 21-31, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve across the country due to expected rains. Despite of expected improvement of water resource, users are advised to continue harvesting and using available water sparingly.

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