



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 18: 2017/18 cropping season

Review for March 21-31 and Outlook for April 1-10, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rains are likely over some parts of Lake Victoria basin, west and southwestern highlands especially for the first half of the dekad while southern region and entire coast are expected to experience wet conditions throughout the period.
- Crop and pasture condition is likely to improve due to improved soil moisture levels

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 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 northern sector of 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 and southeasterly to easterly wind over the southern sector of the country. Over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs were neutral to slight warm.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 21-31, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), most parts of the country including isles of Unguja and Pemba received below normal rains. Above normal rains were observed in some areas of Katavi, Kigoma, Ruvuma and parts of Tabora regions as indicated in Figure 1.

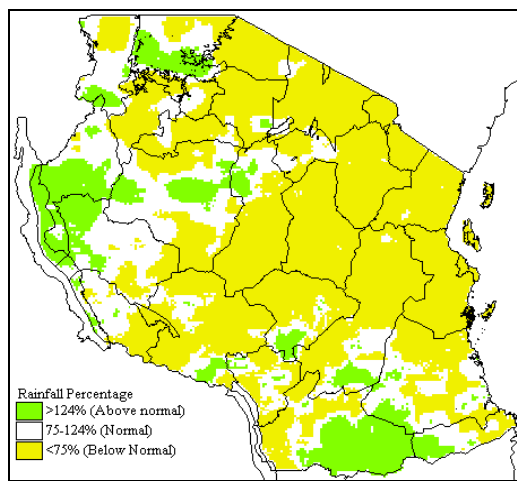


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 21-31 March, 2018

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2018

reduced rainfall activities whereby dry periods were favorable for crop weeding and application of pesticides. 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 planted beans were at emergence stage. Farmers in the bimodal areas (Mara, Kagera and Manyara-Longido regions) were engaged in weeding activities where maize crop was between third and ninth leaf except Babati and Mwanza where the crop was at tasselling stage. Army worms were reported in many areas of Mara region where Serengeti was the most affected district in the region. Water and pasture availability were in good condition over much of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to improve over much of Lake Victoria, Tanganyika, Wami, Ruvu, Ruvuma and Rukwa basins due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2018

The northern high pressure systems are expected to experience 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 neutral to 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) SSTs are expected to experience neutral to slight warm which may cause easterly wind flow, hence reduction of rainfall activities over the

eastern sector of the country. Generally, rains are still expected to persist over some parts of Lake Victoria basin, west and southwestern highlands especially for the first half of the dekad while southern region and entire coast are expected to experience wet conditions throughout the period.

**HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY
DURING APRIL 1-10, 2018**

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

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions): Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora): Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions): Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions): Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions):** Showers and thunderstorms over few areas. **Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions):** Showers of rain over few areas. **Northern coast (Tanga, Northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba):** Showers over few areas. **Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions):** Light rain over few areas.

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.

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

Soil moisture conditions is expected to improve significantly over much of southern regions and entire coast. However, some parts of Lake Victoria basin, western, and southwestern highlands are expected to experience the same during first half of the dekad. Dry periods are likely to favour weeding activities and pesticide application. Water and pasture conditions are expected to improve gradually across the country. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd Floor - Ubungo Plaza - Morogoro Road.
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 - (0) 22 - 2460706-8; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 - 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet@meteo.go.tz; website: www.met@meteo.go.tz
Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA