

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 20: 2017/18 cropping season

Review for April 11-20 and Outlook for April 21-30, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture conditions are expected to continue improving more significantly over much of the bimodal areas enhancing crop growth.
- Dry periods are likely to favour maturity of maize to harvesting in most of unimodal areas.
- Farmers are advised to use fungicide in controlling the effects of fungus due to water logging.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2018

The northern high pressure system (Azores and Siberian) intensified while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) also continued to intensify. The position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) fluctuated between the northern and the southern sectors of the country. Over the large part of the south-west Indian Ocean, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were neutral to slight cool hence proceeded into less cyclonic activities. Slight warm SSTs were experienced around the East African Coast hence there were development of low pressure system. This condition was caused by the extension of the ITCZ which influenced precipitation over most parts of the country.

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING APRIL 11-20, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), most parts of the country including isles of Unguja and Pemba received above normal rains, except in few parts of Kagera, Musoma and Kigoma regions received normal rains as indicated in the figure below.

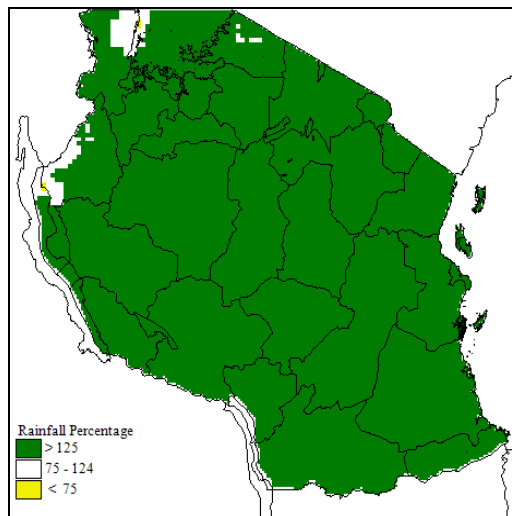


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 1-10 April, 2018

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2018

During the period under review, many areas experienced rainfall activities which favored crop growth and development. For unimodal areas maize crop was reported at wax ripeness to full ripeness stages specifically in Iringa, Mbeya, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Kigoma, Ruvuma, Mtwara and Rukwa regions. However in Ruvuma (Mbinga district) and Mtwara (Newala district) maize crop was at full maturity and harvest stage. In Mbeya region the planted beans were at flowering stage, however water logging incident was reported which affect bean crops. In bimodal areas specifically in Mara, Kagera, Morogoro and Arusha (Longido district) regions farmers were engaged in weeding and pesticide application. Maize crop was between third and ninth leaf stage however, in Mwanza, Arusha and Manyara regions maize was reported to be at wax ripeness stage. Army worms were reported in some areas of Mara, Manyara (Babati district), and Morogoro (Ilonga- Kilosa district) regions. Moreover the reported rats in Morogoro region has been reduced due to ongoing heavy rain falls. In Kagera region water logging continued to affect bean crop due to continued heavy rains, and caused rotting and leaf-yellowing of beans. Water and pasture availability were in good condition over much of the country.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2018

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

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2018

The Azores and Siberian highs are expected to relax further while St. Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to continue to intensify. The ITCZ is expected to shift gradually towards the north and the ridge from the south is expected to cover most parts of the country thereby reducing weather over most parts. SSTs over the south-west Indian Ocean are expected to be neutral to slightly cool which reduces the possibility of occurrence of tropical cyclones. The dominant wind flow pattern is expected to be easterly to southeasterly over the most parts of the country. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs is expected to experience neutral to slight warm resulting into easterly wind flow, which is likely to reduce precipitation activities over the western sector of the country especially during the second half of the period.

### EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions); Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) and Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions)** are expected to feature showers and thunderstorms over few areas.

**Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions)** are expected to feature showers over few areas.

**Northern coast (Tanga, Northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) and Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions)** are expected to feature light showers over few areas.

**Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and Southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions)** are expected to feature Mainly dry conditions.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 21- 30, 2018

Soil moisture conditions are expected to continue improving more significantly over much of bimodal areas enhancing growth and development of crops. However, excessive soil moisture due to ongoing rains is likely to affect crops. In the unimodal areas dry periods are likely to favour maturity of maize to harvesting specifically in Dodoma, Singida, Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro. Water logging seem to affect some areas of the country due to excessive soil moisture, which lead to fungal infections on plants. Therefore, farmers are advised to use fungicide in controlling the effects. Water and pasture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly across the country. Farmers, fishers and pastoralists are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

### HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2018

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

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