

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 6: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for November 21 - 30 and Outlook for December 1 - 10, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Msimu rains have started in most of unimodal regions and farmers are involved in land preparation and crop planting
- The expected rains in both unimodal and bimodal rains during December 11 -20 December 2018 will likely favor crop establishment and growth
- Farmers are advised to make follow up of the 10-day forecasts and receive advice from Agricultural Extension Officers on appropriate actions to be taken for proper utilization of the expected rains.
- Livestock keepers are advised to make good use of available water and pasture.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) are expected to continue intensifying while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to further relax. This is likely to allow the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move southwards and cover parts of the country. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean are expected to be warm, which may result into the formation of Tropical cyclones especially during the second half of the period. The sea surface temperatures over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) are expected to be cold. This situation will increase the winds blowing from west which is expected to enhance precipitation making mechanisms over the western sector of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2018

During the ten-day (dekad) period, some of the bimodal areas experienced poor rainfall distribution. However, some rains of between 26 mm - 100 mm were experienced over a few localized areas in the Lake Victoria Basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast as shown in Figure 1. Over unimodal areas episodes of Msimu seasonal rains of between 26 mm - 100 mm have been reported over most parts of the western, southwestern highlands of the country as well as southern part as shown in Figure1.

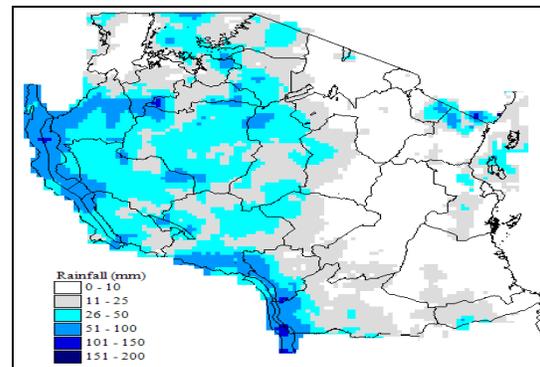


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of November 21 - 30, 2018.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2018

Most farmers in bimodal and unimodal areas were continuing with planting activities due to ongoing *Vuli* rains and the start of *Msimu* rains. However, in some areas of unimodal and bimodal rainfall regimes specifically Mtwara, Shinyanga and Longido, farmers were continuing with land preparation due to late start and poor distribution of the rainfall season.

In Kagera region maize and beans crops are at maturity stage and farmers over these areas are continuing with weeding activities for late grown crops. Water and pasture availability for livestock has improved in some parts of the bimodal areas especially in Lake Zone areas as a result of ongoing *Vuli* season rainfall.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have silently improved across the bimodal rainfall regime as a result of ongoing *Vuli* season rainfall.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2018

The northern high-pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying while the southern high-pressure systems are expected to further relax during the first dekad of December 2018. This is expected to allow the ITCZ to move southwards and cover parts of the country. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean are expected to be warm resulting into the formation of tropical cyclones especially during the second half of the period. The SSTs over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) are expected to be cold. This situation will increase the winds blowing from west which is expected to enhance precipitation making mechanisms over the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southwestern highland (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) are expected to feature thundery showers over few areas.

Northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature thundery showers over some areas especially during the second half of the period

Southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are expected to feature thundery showers over some areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2018

The expected rains in bimodal and unimodal areas is likely to improve soil moisture condition for crop growth. Farmers are advised to make follow up of the 10-day forecasts and receive advice from Agricultural Extension Officers on appropriate actions to be taken for proper utilization of the expected rains. However, in unimodal areas farmers are advised to make use of the expected Msimu rains for planting when there is enough soil moisture. Livestock keepers are advised to make use of the available water and pasture sparingly.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2018.

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve mostly in bimodal areas due to ongoing Vuli rainfall season and improve silently in unimodal areas due to the start of *Msimu* rainfall season. Water users are advised to use available water carefully.

Prepared by

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