

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.9: 2018/19 cropping season Review for December 21-31 and Outlook for January 1 - 10, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- The observed seasonal rains during 1 -10, January 2019, were favorable for crop establishment in most of unimodal areas.
- *Vuli* season is approaching to the end therefore farmers in bimodal areas should not be tempted by those short-lived rains to plant new seasonal crops.
- Farmers are advised to make follow up of the forecasts and get advice from Agricultural Extension Officers on appropriate actions to be taken for proper utilization of the expected rains.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) further relaxed. This allowed the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to be pushed southwards and covered most parts of the country. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were observed over the southwest Indian Ocean, but no tropical cyclones were formed. On the other hand, slightly cool to neutral SST were observed over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), that caused westerly wind flow and moisture influx from Congo basin into the country.

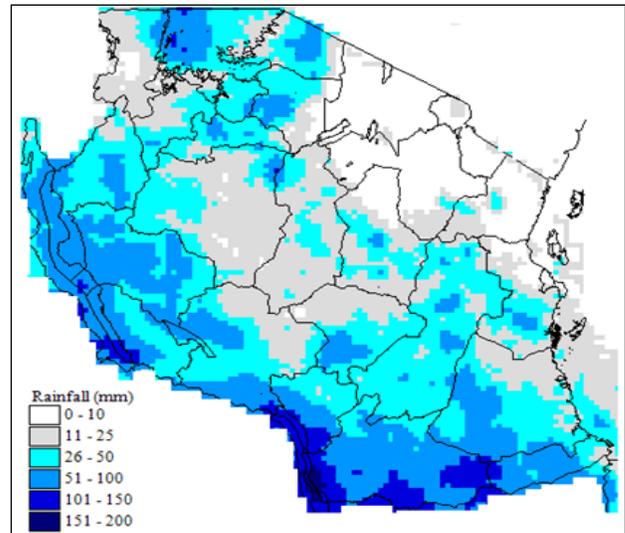


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of December 21 - 31, 2018.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2018

During the ten-days (dekad) period, areas around Lake Victoria Basin, west, southwestern highlands and southern sector of the country received rains of between 26 mm - 100 as shown in Figure 1. Most areas over northeastern highlands and northern coast received were generally dry with total rainfall not exceeding 25 mm in dekad.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2018

During the dekad, the observed rainfall provided favourable conditions for crops at emergency and early development stages in most of the unimodal areas. In most of bimodal areas crops were at maturity stage except in Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara and Tanga regions where late grown crops were still at ripening stages. Water and pasture availability for livestock has improved in some parts of the bimodal areas especially in Lake Zone areas as a result of *Vuli* season rainfall.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21- 31, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are improving slightly due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2019

The northern high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying while the southern high are expected to further relax. This is expected to allow the ITCZ being pushed southwards and cover parts of the country. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean is expected to be warm that may result into the formation of Tropical cyclones. The SSTs over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) is expected to be slightly cold. This situation will increase the winds blowing from west which is expected to enhance precipitation making mechanism over the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2019

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature thundery showers

over few areas.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro) are expected to feature thundery showers over most areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are expected to feature thundery showers over some areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2019

The expected rains will improve soil moisture conditions over most of unimodal areas where crops are at early growth stages. Episodes of off seasonal rains likely during this decade can affect matured crops, but on the other hand will favour late grown crops. Farmers are therefore advised to continue with routine farm activities and seek advice from agriculture extension and livestock keepers for optimal use of the forecast and advisory.

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

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve in unimodal areas as the *Msimu* rainfall season peaks up over those regions. Water users are advised to use available water carefully despite expected rainfall over some areas.

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