

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.12: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for January 21-31 and Outlook for February 1 - 10, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Msimu rains continued to progress well in most of unimodal areas
- Observed off seasonal rains in some of bimodal areas may affect matured and harvested crops
- Central and southwestern highlands and southern regions are expected to feature thundery showers over some areas, accompanied with short periods of strong winds.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2019

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) were relaxed. This allowed the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to be over the southern part of the country. Warm Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were observed over the south west Indian Ocean resulted into formation of tropical perturbations over the northern part of Madagascar island and Mozambique channel. On the other hand, neutral to slight cool SSTs were observed over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), which caused westerly wind flow and moisture influx from Congo forest into the country.

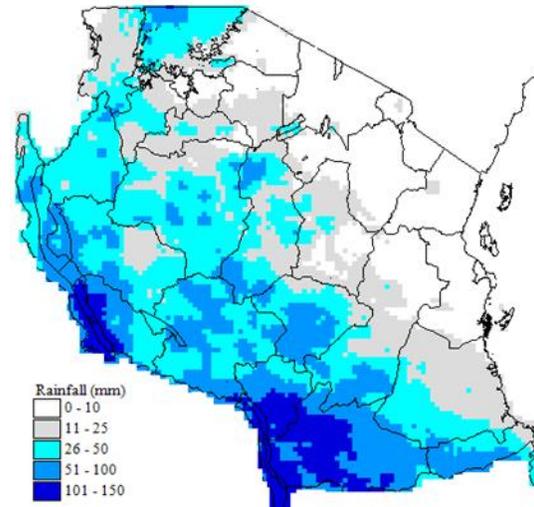


Figure 1. Total rainfall for the period of January 21 - 31, 2019.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2019

During the ten-day (dekad) period, much of the bimodal areas experienced significant reduction of amounts of rainfall except for some parts of lake Victoria Basin which received less than 50 mm as indicated in Figure 1. Observed amounts of rainfall of more than 100 mm were recorded in few parts of unimodal areas mainly over Ruvuma, Njombe and Rukwa regions as shown in Figure 1.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21 -31, 2018

During the dekad, the observed rains provided favourable conditions for crop growth and development in most of the unimodal areas. Farmers over these areas were mostly engaged with weeding activities. Maize crop were at vegetative stages and in good state. However, in most of bimodal areas crops were at ripening stage except in Kagera region and few areas of Kigoma region where farmers are engaged with harvesting of beans. Water and pasture availability for livestock have improved in most parts of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2018

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

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2019

The northern highs are expected to continue intensifying while the southern highs are also expected to continue relaxing. This will likely allow the ITCZ to continue being over the southern part of our country. Warm SSTs over the south west Indian Ocean are expected to persist, and likely to trigger the formation of tropical cyclones.

Over southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), SSTs are expected to be neutral to slight cool, and likely to cause low level westerly wind flow associated with moisture influx from Congo forest hence contributing to rainfall activities over most parts of the county during the first half of the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 1- 10, 2019

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) is expected to feature isolated thundershowers over few areas. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) and northern coast (Tanga, Northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature light rain showers over few areas.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) is expected to feature thundershowers over few areas. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) is expected to feature thundershowers over few areas, accompanied with short periods of strong winds.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature thundershowers over some areas, accompanied with short periods of strong winds.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2019

The expected rains will continue to improve soil moisture conditions over most of unimodal areas where crops are at vegetative growth stages. However, farmers are reminded to take necessary precaution against strong winds expected over central, southern, and southwestern highlands areas.

The expected episodes of off seasonal rains during this dekad can affect matured crops, but on the other hand will favour late grown crops over bimodal areas where vuli rains have ceased. 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 FEBRUARY 1-10, 2018.

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

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