



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.15: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for February 21-28 and Outlook for March 1 - 10, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in most parts of the unimodal regions were mainly engaged with weeding and fertilizer application
- Farmers in the bimodal areas are mostly engaged with land preparation and planting for the Masika season
- Farmers, Fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of the forecast and advisory

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2019

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) intensified while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed. This allowed the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to be over the southern part of the country. Slight warm Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were observed over the south west Indian Ocean that enhanced thundershowers over the southern part of the country. On the other hand, neutral to slight cool SSTs were observed over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), that caused westerly wind flow and moisture influx from Congo forest into the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2019

During the ten day (dekad) period, most area of the country received rainfall amounts between 26 mm to 150 mm. The observed rainfall in most of bimodal areas indicate the start of the *Masika* rainfall season in these areas. However, few areas around the country received rainfall not exceeding 25 mm as shown in Figure 1.

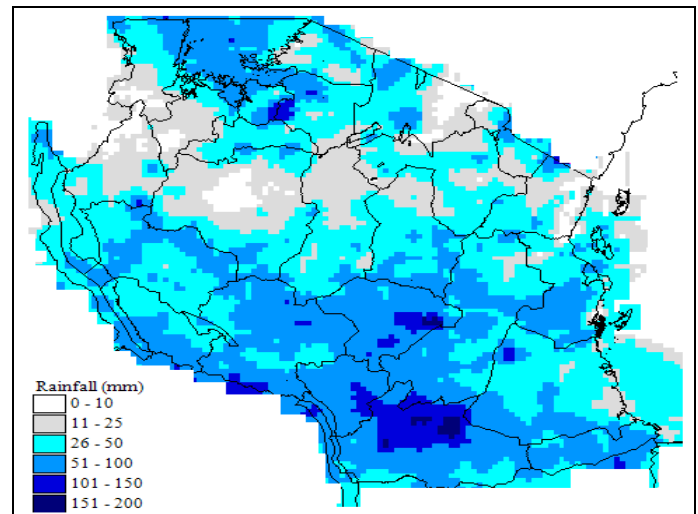


Figure 1. Total rainfall for the period of February 21 - 28, 2019.

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 21 -28, 2019

During the dekad, for the most of the unimodal areas maize crop was at tasseling stage. Farmers over these areas were mostly engaged with weeding and fertilizer application. On the other hand farmers over the bimodal areas continued with land preparation and planting activities in most areas. However, harvesting of late grown vuli maize crop was reported in Simiyu and Mwanza region. Water and pasture availability for livestock have improved in most parts of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2019

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

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa 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.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 1-10, 2019

The northern high pressure systems are still expected to continue intensifying while the southern high pressure systems are expected to continue relaxing. This is expected to allow the ITCZ to continue being over the southern part of the country. SSTs over the south west Indian Ocean are expected to persist, and likely to trigger the formation of tropical cyclones which may cause enhancement of precipitation over the country. Over southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), SST are expected to be neutral and likely to cause short track low level westerly wind flow

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2019

The expected rains will improve soil moisture conditions over most of unimodal for crops development and planting and germination of seeds in bimodal areas. The Masika rainfall seasonal is expected to start on the fourth week of February 2019. Farmers and livestock keepers over the bimodal and unimodal areas are advised to consult agriculture extension officer for proper utilization of Masika and Msimu rains.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21- 28, 2019

In view of the expected synoptic conditions Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) and Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2019.

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

Northern coast (Tanga, northern parts of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) is expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

Northeastern highland (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) is expected to feature

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