



NO. 2: 2019/20 Cropping Season

Review for October 11-20, 2019 and Outlook for October 21 - 31, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in bimodal areas are progressing with land preparation and planting except Kagera region where early-planted *vuli* crop is at weeding stage.
- Due to ongoing dry conditions over most parts of northeastern highlands and unimodal areas, livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pastures.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2019

During this period, the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed while the northern high pressure systems (Azore and Siberian) were intensified and squeezed the meridional arm of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further to extreme northern part of the country specifically Lake Victoria basin. This situation caused light to moderate winds and continues to push the ITCZ southwards from the Northern hemisphere. Slightly warmer Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) over the south western Indian Ocean especially over the east African coast were fostering rain showers over the northern coast during the dekad. Slightly warmer SST over the Angola coast were persisting and resulted to weak westerly wind towards the western sector of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING OCTOBER 11 - 20, 2019

During the dekad the weather system above, favored moderate rain showers over the Lake Victoria basin, western parts and northern coast. Some areas over the northern coast, northeastern highlands, south western highlands and southern coast experienced light rain showers. The amount of rainfall recorded ranged from 26 mm and above 250 mm as described by the figure below

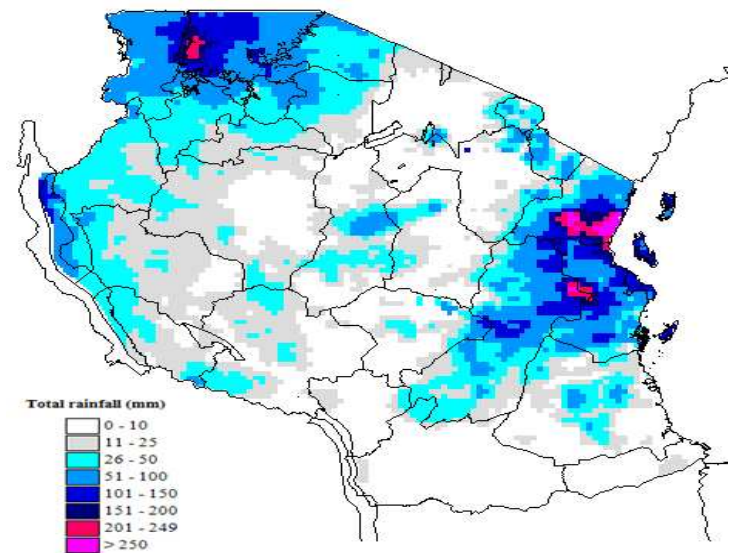


Figure 1. Total rainfall for the period of October 11-20, 2019

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 11 - 20, 2019

Farmers in bimodal areas especially Lake Victoria basin continued with land preparation and planting. Over the unimodal areas, farmers continued with land preparation and planning for the coming *msimu* rainy season which starts normally between November and December. Water and pasture availability for livestock improved over most parts of Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu,

Shinyanga, Singida, Arusha, Manyara and Dodoma regions. Other areas had moderate water and pasture conditions.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2019

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were slightly improved over much of the the bimodal rainfall regime .

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2019

During this period, the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to continue relaxing while the northern high pressure systems (Azore and Siberian) intensifying. This effect will squeeze the meridional arm of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further to extreme northern part of the country. Light to moderate wind is likely to continue to push the ITCZ southwards from the Northern hemisphere. Slightly warmer SST over the western Indian Ocean are expected to continue fostering rain showers over the northern coast during the dekad. Slightly warmer SST over the Angola coast is expected to persist resulting to weak westerly wind towards the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21 - 31, 2019

In view of the expected weather, areas around Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), northern coast (Tanga, Northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba region) and western area (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are expected to feature moderate showers .

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) is expected to feature light rain showers over few areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), 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 mainly a dry conditions.

EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2019

Over the bimodal areas specifically lake Victoria basin, northern coast and western regions rains are expected to peak during the dekad. Farmers are advised to make use of these rains for planting when there is enough soil moisture. However over the northeastern highlands, central areas and southern coast farmers are advised to plant drought tolerant and early maturing crops due to the expected normal to below normal “*vuli*” rains. In unimodal areas the expected off seasonal rains are not adequate for planting seasonal crops, however farmers are advised to continue with farms preparations for the coming “*Msimu*” rains that is expected to commence between November and December. Livestock keepers are advised to make use of the available water and pasture sparingly. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31 2019

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue slightly declining especially in unimodal areas due to ongoing dry conditions. The improvement is expected in bimodal areas due to *vuli* rainfall season kickoff. Water users are advised to use available water carefully.

Prepared by

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