Malawi 10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

Period: 11 – 20 Novemberr 2008 | Season: 2008/2009 | Issue No.5

Release date: 24 November 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Dry in the north, sporadic rains over central and southern Malawi…**
- **Land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs continued…**
- **Rainfall performance likely to improve in the last days of November…**

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

Some parts of central and southern Malawi continued to experience sporadic light to moderate rainfall amounts while generally dry conditions persisted over the north. However, during the period higher rainfall amounts were confined to central Malawi where ome places particularly around Dedza reported total rainfall amounts of more than 40mm for instance Dedza Met registered 61.8mm, Mtakataka Airwing 54.2mm, Mlangeni-Njolomole 51.0mm and Dedza Agric 40.6mm See more details in Table 1.

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Generally hot temperatures were experienced over Malawi during the period under review. Mean maximum air temperatures ranged from 26°C at Mzuzu to around 40°C at Ngabu in the lower Shire Valley. Average minimum temperatures ranged from 16°C at Mzuzu to 26°C at Ngabu. See more details in Table 2.

1.4 MEAN WIND SPEEDS

Mean wind speeds at a height of two metres above ground level ranged from 0.9 m/s (3.2 Km/h) at Chichiri to 4.6 m/s (16.6 Km/h) at Ngabu (see Table 2).

1.5 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The atmosphere remained relatively dry during the period 11 – 20 November 2008. Daily average relative humidity values ranged from 44% at Bolero to 63% at Bvumbwe. More details are in the Table 2.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Light to moderate rainfall that was received in some parts of the country particularly in the south and centre encouraged few farmers begin planting crops and in other few areas the rains supported germination of crops. In Malawi, planting rains are generally expected in November in the south and December in the northern half. By 20th November 2008, rainfall over the country remained sporadic in both time and space. As such, land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs were the main agricultural activities for farmers. Distribution of vouchers for the government agricultural inputs (fertilizer and seeds) subsidy program to help increase access to agricultural inputs and hence boost agricultural production was in progress in most parts of the country.

3. PROSPECTS OF 2008/09 RAINFALL SEASON

Climate models suggest that during 2008/2009 rainfall season, a greater part of Malawi will experience normal total rainfall amounts. However, just like in any ENSO-neutral season, extreme weather events like floods and prolonged dry spells may occur in some places.

4. OUTLOOK 21 – 30 NOVEMBER 2008

The main rain bearing systems are expected to get established over Malawi during 21 to 30 of November 2008. Hence rainfall amounts and distribution are anticipated to improve over Malawi during the last days of November 2008.

All inquiries should be addressed to: The Director of Meteorological Services, P.O. Box 1808, Blantyre, MALAWI
Tel: (265) 1 822 014/106 Fax: (265) 1 822 205 E-mail: metdept@metmalawi.com Homepage: www.metmalawi.com

TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL SUMMARY FOR 11 – 20 NOVEMBER 2008 AT SELECTED STATIONS

STATION NAME	DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL	DEKADAL NORMAL	**DEKADAL TOTAL AS % NORMAL**	TOTAL TO DATE	NORMAL TO DATE	**TOTAL TODATE AS % NORMAL**	RAINY DAYS
SOUTH	mm	mm		mm	mm		
Balaka Township	6.1	28.4	**21**	6.5	69.5	**9**	2
Bvumbwe Met.	17.2	27.8	**62**	100.4	82.6	**122**	3
Chichiri Met.	5.0	29.1	**17**	45.5	101.2	**45**	1
Chikwawa Boma	0.0	16.6	**0**	16.4	46.5	**35**	0
Chileka Airport	22.1	23.4	**94**	27.9	78.7	**35**	4
Chingale Agric	0.0	25.0	**0**	25.5	55.3	**46**	0
Chizunga Factory	16.0	38.1	**42**	84.0	115.6	**73**	1
Lujeri Tea Estate	35.3	90.5	**39**	46.8	248.4	**19**	3
Makoka Met	0.7	20.3	**3**	2.9	67.8	**4**	1
Mangochi Met.	29.1	12.3	**237**	40.9	45.8	**89**	3
Masambanjati Agric	0.0	39.5	**0**	33.5	105.0	**32**	0
Mimosa Met.	14.4	52.0	**28**	63.5	148.2	**43**	1
Monkey Bay Met.	18.0	8.5	**212**	24.8	31.0	**80**	4
Mpemba Vet	27.2	29.4	**93**	63.6	100.3	**63**	3
Mwanza Boma	13.0	24.0	**54**	13.0	85.6	**15**	2
Namiasi Agric	8.8	15.7	**56**	12.3	30.8	**40**	3
Nchalo Sucoma	6.6	13.2	**50**	11.1	62.7	**18**	1
Neno Agric	29.0	23.2	**125**	33.0	82.6	**40**	2
Ngabu Met.	0.0	13.5	**0**	5.3	59.0	**9**	0
Nsanje Boma	0.0	31.9	**0**	18.3	87.5	**21**	0
Ntaja Met.	23.0	14.3	**161**	25.6	41.2	**62**	2
Satemwa	4.6	31.1	**15**	29.9	118.9	**25**	3
Thyolo Met	3.8	24.2	**16**	30.9	104.5	**30**	1
CENTRAL							
Chileka Namitete	34.9	29.1	**120**	42.9	60.3	**71**	3
Chitedze Met.	12.6	30.2	**42**	19.1	54.7	**35**	2
Dedza Met	61.8	17.6	**351**	76.4	41.9	**182**	6
Dowa Agric	6.2	14.2	**44**	6.2	30.5	**20**	2
Dwangwa	19.0	45.0	**42**	20.5	73.3	**28**	1
K.I.A Met	4.3	26.9	**16**	32.7	49 .0	**67**	2
Kasungu Met	1.4	17.2	**8**	1.4	44.9	**3**	2
Mlangeni Njolomole	51.0	23.2	**220**	51.0	64.7	**79**	2
Mponela Agric	0.0	14.6	**0**	0.0	28.2	**0**	0
Mwimba Research	0.0	19.7	**0**	0.0	42.5	**0**	0
Mtakataka Airwing	54.2	19.0	**285**	54.2	56.0	**97**	2
Nathenje Agric	18.5	23.4	**79**	38.5	47.2	**82**	2
Nkhotakota Met	0.0	20.0	**0**	5.0	39.9	**13**	0
Ntcheu - Nkhande	0.0	15.6	**0**	11.2	54.2	**21**	0
Ntchisi Boma	0.0	11.8	**0**	1.7	23.8	**7**	0
Salima Met	28.1	8.8	**319**	38.3	27.1	**141**	4
Dedza RTC	40.6	24.8	**164**	62.9	60.6	**104**	4
NORTH							
Bolero Met	0.0	12.2	**0**	3.4	62.9	**5**	0
Chitipa Met	0.0	19.0	**0**	0.0	31.1	**0**	0
Euthini Agric.	0.0	15.2	**0**	0.0	35.2	**0**	0
Karonga Met.	0.2	8.6	**2**	0.2	13.4	**1**	0
Lupembe	0.0	12.0	**0**	0.0	19.2	**0**	0
Mbawa Res. Stn	0.0	18.2	**0**	5.0	36.2	**14**	0
Mzimba Met	0.0	18.1	**0**	20.9	35.6	**59**	0
Mzuzu Met.	8.6	31.7	**27**	19.9	86.1	**23**	1
NkhataBay Met.	7.5	116.6	**6**	12.5	255.1	**5**	2

TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR 11 – 20 November 2008

STATION	MAX TEMP (℃)	MIN TEMP (℃)	ABS MAX (℃)	ABS MIN (℃)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BOLERO	33.4	19.3	36.0	16.5	1.0	44
BVUMBWE	29.4	18.5	32.0	15.0	2.4	63
CHICHIRI	31.2	19.4	33.5	15.3	0.9	55
CHILEKA	33.8	22.4	36.8	19.0	3.1	56
CHITEDZE	32.9	19.5	34.7	17.9	1.3	52
CHITIPA	32.4	19.5	33.4	17.2	2.4	49
DEDZA	27.4	16.8	29.8	13.3	1.3	62
K I A	31.2	19.1	33.4	17.2	2.0	50
KARONGA	35.5	24.3	37.5	22.5	1.8	49
KASUNGU	33.5	20.8	35.2	18.4	2.8	52
MAKOKA	32.7	20.4	35.0	15.7	1.8	53
MANGOCHI	36.3	24.1	39.6	20.2	2.1	51
MIMOSA	35.2	19.7	38.6	16.6	1.7	45
MONKEY BAY	35.5	25.2	37.8	22.7	2.6	51
MZIMBA	31.1	18.7	33.3	16.8	1.1	48
MZUZU	26.2	16.4	32.4	12.5	1.9	55
NGABU	39.6	25.7	42.4	23.1	4.6	49
NKHATA BAY	35.4	21.2	37.9	19.0	1.1	54
NKHOTAKOTA	34.7	24.6	36.3	23.3	2.5	53
NTAJA	35.0	23.8	38.0	20.7	2.6	61
SALIMA	35.0	24.4	38.2	22.7	3.2	52

Glossary of some terms on this table

- RH = Relative Humidity
- Mean Temperature of the day =(Max of the day + Min of the same day)/2
- ABS Max (Min) = Absolute Maximum (minimum) is the highest (lowest) of maximum (minimum) temperatures observed for a given number of days (calendar month) of a specified period of months (years).
- To convert Meters Per Second (mps) to Kilometers per hour (Km/hr) = mpsx3.6