Malawi 10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

Period: 11 – 20 October 2008 | Season: 2008/2009 | Issue No.2

Release date: 23 October 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hot and dry weather persisted over Malawi…**
- **Land preparation continued to be the major on-farm agricultural activity…**
- **Hot to very hot weather with isolated thunderstorms expected…**

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

Malawi continued to experience mainly hot and dry weather. Only a few places received little amounts of sporadic rainfall during the second dekad of October 2008. Such places included Mimosa (11.1 mm), Dedza (10.1 mm), Bvumbwe (5.5 mm), Chitedze (4.5 mm), Neno Agriculture (4.0 mm), Dwangwa (1.5 mm) and Dedza RTC (1.0 mm).

Hot conditions and localized thunderstorms are expected up to the end of October until major rain bearing systems get established over the country, normally between November and December.

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Mean maximum air temperatures were generally hot except in lower Shire Valley where Ngabu reported an average maximum temperatures of 38°C. Overall, average maximum temperatures ranged from 26°C at Dedza to 38°C at Ngabu while average lowest temperatures ranged from 15°C at Mzuzu to 24°C at Ngabu and Monkey Bay. For more details see Table 1 below.

1.4 MEAN WIND SPEEDS

Mean Wind speeds at a height of two metres above the ground level ranged from 0.9 at Nkhata Bay to 4.6 metres per second at Chitipa or 3.2 – 16.6 Km/hr (see Table 1).

1.5 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

During the period under review, air over Malawi was fairly dry. Daily average relative humidity values ranged from 40 % at Bolero to 62 % at Bvumbwe. Details are on the Table 1 on page 2.

2.AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Land preparation, in readiness for the coming main rains, continued to be the main on-farm agricultural activity in Malawi during the period under review.

3. PROSPECTS OF 2008/09 RAINFALL SEASON

The climate models indicate that during the period October to December 2008, the northern half of Malawi has 40% chance of rainfall total being normal, 35% chance of being below normal and 25% chance of being above normal while the Southern half has 40% chance of rainfall total being normal, 35% chance of being above normal and 25% chance of being below normal. During the period January to March 2009 Malawi as a whole has 40% chance of rainfall total being normal, 35% chance of being above normal and 25% chance of being below normal.

In summary, the 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 OCTOBER 2008

During the period 21 - 31 October 2008 Malawi is expected to experience hot to locally very hot weather with thunderstorms in many areas.

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: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR 11 – 20 OCTOBER 2008

STATION	MAX TEMP (℃)	MIN TEMP (℃)	ABS MAX (℃)	ABS MIN (℃)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BVUMBWE	29.2	17.4	31.5	15.4	2.6	62
BOLERO	32.6	19.8	34.0	17.1	N/A	40
CHICHIRI	30.1	18.3	32.5	16.5	1.0	54
CHILEKA	32.4	21.3	34.8	19.1	4.1	54
NTAJA	33.7	21.6	36.6	20.6	2.8	50
CHITEDZE	31.0	17.2	33.1	14.4	1.3	45
CHITIPA	31.2	19.0	32.3	17.6	4.6	48
DEDZA	26.4	16.8	29.0	15.0	1.8	56
KASUNGU	N/A	19.4	N/A	18.0	3.0	50
KARONGA	31.3	22.8	36.0	22.0	1.9	50
K I A	29.8	16.3	32.0	14.0	2.1	49
MAKOKA	31.1	18.6	33.0	15.9	1.7	54
MANGOCHI	35.6	22.7	37.0	20.2	1.9	46
MIMOSA	34.2	16.5	36.5	16.0	1.8	54
MONKEY BAY	34.4	23.9	36.0	18.9	2.2	45
MZIMBA	29.7	18.6	31.9	14.2	1.6	50
MZUZU	28.8	15.2	29.9	12.7	2.1	51
NGABU	38.2	23.8	40.2	21.8	4.3	50
NKHATA BAY	34.6	17.9	35.5	16.6	0.9	59
NKHOTAKOTA	33.0	22.3	34.6	21.0	N/A	51
SALIMA	34.4	23.3	35.8	21.0	2.9	46

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