



NIGERIAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
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SUMMARY

Surplus rainfall anomalies were observed in most parts of the south with parts of the southwest recording deficits during the 3rd dekad of March. Light to moderate rains fell across the south with Calabar recording the highest amount of 88.5mm followed by Asaba with 82.5mm. Colder than normal temperatures were experienced in and around Jos, Owerri, Umuahia, PH, Eket, Calabar and Ondo while Sokoto, Yelwa, Maiduguri, Nguru, Minna, Lafia, Sokoto and Yelwa had warmer than normal. Temperatures above 32 deg C were recorded in all parts of the country while Sokoto, Yelwa, Maiduguri and Yola recorded above 40 deg C. With light to moderate rains in most parts of the south during the past one month, some farmers have continued to clear their farmlands for seed bed preparations while others began planting. Farmers in the southern parts of the country are advised to adhere to 2011 NIMET's Seasonal Rainfall Prediction (SRP) for planting dates. The farmers in the northern parts are still required to continue to irrigate their farm land pending the time of rainfed cropping season.

1.0 RAINFALL TREND

1.1 Rainfall Anomaly

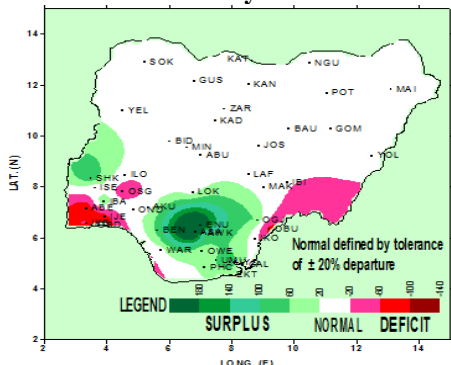


FIG. 1: 3rd DEKAD OF MARCH 2011 RAINFALL ANOMALIES (%) OVER THE COUNTRY. ANOMALIES ARE COMPUTED WITH RESPECT TO THE 1971 - 2000 BASE PERIOD DECADEAL MEANS.

Fig 1 above shows the rainfall anomaly during the dekad and indicates that some parts of the southeast and areas in and around Shaki (green areas) had surplus rainfall anomalies whereas deficits were recorded in most parts of the southwest and few areas of the southeast. Greater parts of the country (in white) remained normal.

1.2 Rainfall Amounts

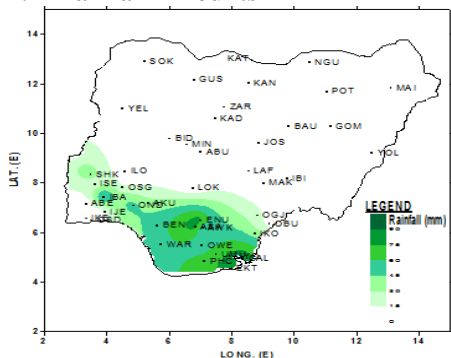


FIG. 2: ACTUAL RAINFALL AMOUNT FOR DEKAD 3, MARCH 2011

As shown in Fig 2, most parts of the south (in green) received light to moderate rains while the northern parts of the country (in white) had below 10mm of rainfall. Farmers especially those in the north are advised to continue to irrigate their crops as rains are still inadequate.

1.3 COMPARISON OF NORMAL WITH ACTUAL RAINFALL FOR THE DEKAD

The comparison of the actual rainfall amount with normal rainfall values in some selected stations across the south is shown in Fig 3 below and indicates that most stations that recorded rainfall received above normal while some stations especially the southwest had no rains.

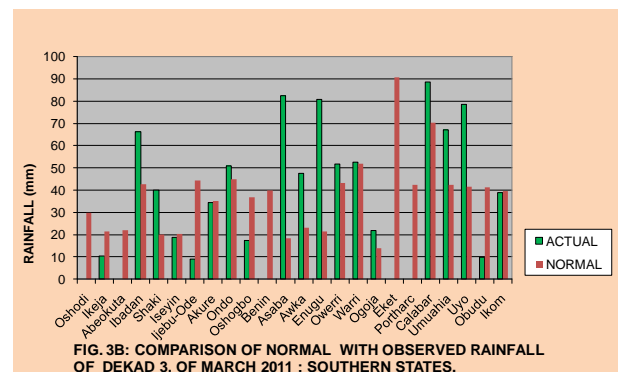


FIG. 3B: COMPARISON OF NORMAL WITH OBSERVED RAINFALL OF DEKAD 3, OF MARCH 2011 : SOUTHERN STATES.

1.4 Number of Rain Days

Fig 4 shows the number of rain days across the country and indicates that most stations in the south had 2- 4 raindays while the greater parts of the

country in white had between zero and one rainy day.

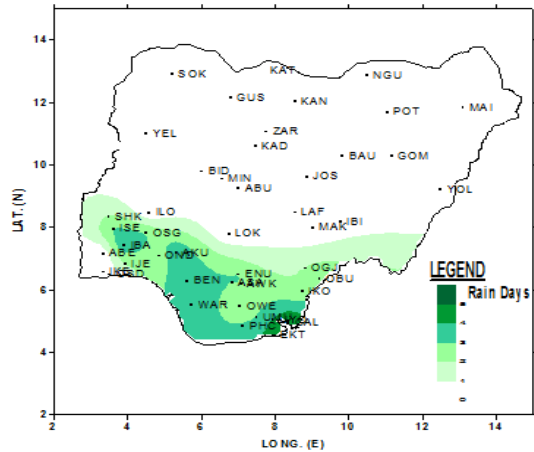


FIG. 4: ACTUAL NUMBER OF RAIN DAYS FOR DEKAD 3, MARCH 2011

2.0 Soil Moisture Condition

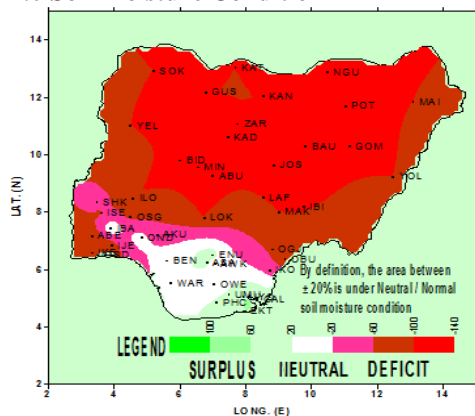


FIG. 5: 3rd DEKAD OF MARCH 2011 SOIL MOISTURE INDICES (%) OVER THE COUNTRY.

The decadal distribution of soil moisture across the country is shown in *Fig 5* above and reveals that most parts of the country had deficit soil moisture condition. Surpluses however were recorded in and around Eket, Calabar, Port Harcourt, Enugu and Awka. Farmers in the southern parts of the Niger delta and the coastal areas are advised to commence planting while the other parts of the south should commence bush clearing and seed bed preparation.

3.0 MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE TREND

3.1 Maximum Temperature Anomaly

Fig 6 shows the maximum temperature anomaly over the country and indicates that areas in and around Jos, Owerri, Umuahia, PH, Eket, Calabar and Ondo recorded colder than normal temperatures while Sokoto, Yelwa, Maiduguri, Nguru, Minna, Lafia, Sokoto and Yelwa had

warmer than normal. The white areas were normal with no significant change when compared with the normal temperatures.

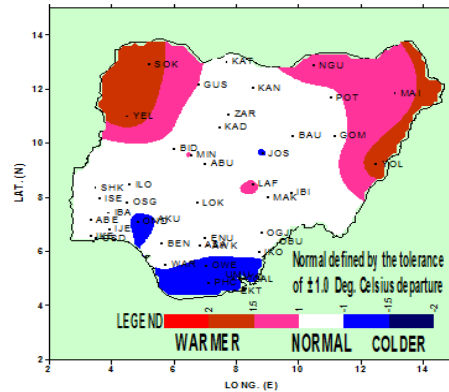


FIG. 6: 3rd DEKAD OF MARCH 2011 MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES (Deg. C) OVER THE COUNTRY. ANOMALIES ARE COMPUTED WITH RESPECT TO THE 1971 - 2000 BASE PERIOD DECADEAL MEANS.

3.2 Maximum Temperature Values

The actual mean maximum temperature distribution is shown in *Fig 7* below and reveals that all parts of the country recorded above *32 Deg C* while Sokoto, Yelwa, Maiduguri and Yola reported above *40 Deg C*.

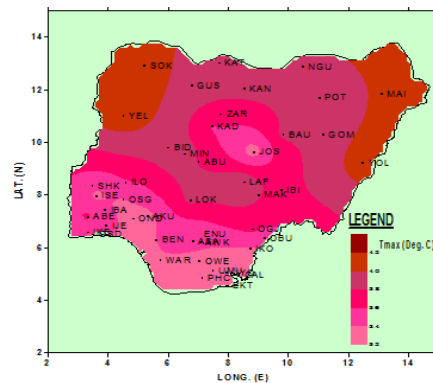


FIG. 7: MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (Deg. C) FOR DEKAD 3, MARCH 2011

4.0 WEATHER/AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FOR DEKAD 1 (1 TO 10), OF APRIL 2011

4.1 Weather Outlook

The Inter Tropical Discontinuity (ITD)'s position is expected to oscillate between Latitude *10.0 deg. North and 11.5 deg. North* during the dekad indicating slight northward movement. SW flows and convective activities along the coast are expected.

The Northern parts of the country are expected to experience sunny and hot weather while the central states will experience partly cloudy to cloudy weather conditions. Inland areas will witness cloudy weather conditions leading to localised rains while coastal areas will also

experience cloudy weather conditions with localised rain shower /thunderly activities.

The maximum temperatures for the north and central states will range between 37 deg. C and 40 deg. C while minimum temperatures will be between 22 deg. C and 27 deg. C. Maximum temperatures for Inland and Coastal parts of the country are expected to range from 34 deg. C to 36 deg. C while their minimum will be between 23 deg. C and 25 deg. C during the period.

Expected rainfall amounts will range from 0.0mm at the extreme north to 100mm at the extreme south.

4.2 Agricultural Summary

Reports of light to moderate rains were recorded in most parts of the south during the dekad. Planting of the staple food crops has commenced in some parts of the south.

In the north, farmers are advised to continue to irrigate their farm crops while the central areas are requested to engage in clearing of farm lands.

TABLE OF AGROMETEOROLOGICAL DATA FOR THE DEKAD

STATIONS	TOTAL RAINFAL (mm)	TOTAL RAIN DAYS	EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (mm)	MEAN MAXIMUM TEMP (°C)	MEAN MINIMUM TEMP (°C)	DEGREE DAYS (MAIZE)	MEAN RADIATION (MJ/m ² /day)
ABEOKUTA	0	0	62.1	36.4	24.3	223.1	22.4
ABUJA	0	0	68.7	37.9	23.0	224.3	24.7
AKURE	34.3	4	56	33.3	22.7	199.2	21
ASABA	82.5	3	60.8	35.8	24.2	219.7	22
AWKA	47.6	3	58.3	35.0	24.1	215.1	21.2
BAUCHI	0	0	72.1	38.4	21.2	221.1	26
BENIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BIDA	0	0	63.5	38.6	26.7	246.7	22
CALABAR	88.5	5	53	32.6	23.1	197.8	19.9
EKET	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENUGU	80.9	3	56.7	34.2	23.7	209	20.9
GOMBE	0	0	68.8	38.4	24.0	232.1	24.4
GUSAU	0	0	70.9	39.1	23.5	233.9	25.1
IBADAN	66.2	4	57.4	34.5	23.8	211	21.1
IJEBU ODE	8.9	2	56.5	34.8	24.7	217.1	20.5
IKEJA	10.4	1	51.6	34.1	25.8	219.7	18.7
IKOM	39	2	59.4	33.9	22.1	199.2	22.2
ILORIN	0	0	61.6	35.8	23.7	217.9	22.3
ISEYIN	18.8	3	56.3	33.6	22.9	201.4	21
JOS	0	0	65.5	32.9	16.3	165.6	26.1
KADUNA	0	0	66.2	35.9	21.0	203.1	24.6
KANO	0	0	73.8	38.6	20.5	215.3	26.9
KATSINA	0	0	76.4	38.3	18.0	199.5	28.6
LAFIA	0	0	67.7	39.8	26.6	252.2	23.2
LOKOJA	0	0	62.4	38.4	27.2	248.3	21.5
MAIDUGURI	0	0	78.1	40.2	20.6	224.9	28.1
MAKURDI	0	0	63.8	38.1	26.1	240.8	22.3
MINNA	0	0	70.1	39.3	24.6	239.1	24.5
NGURU	0	0	75.2	39.7	21.8	227.7	26.9
OGOJA	21.7	2	64.5	36.6	23.7	220.7	23.3
ONDO	51	2	53.5	33.3	23.9	205.5	19.8
OSHODI	0	0	47.9	33.9	26.7	223.1	17.2
OSOGBO	17.3	3	56.9	33.9	23.2	205.9	21.1
OWERRI	51.6	2	52.1	32.2	22.9	194.2	19.6
PHC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
POTISKUM	0	0	76.9	38.8	19.5	200.3	28.9
SHAKI	40	2	60.4	34.6	22.5	204.4	22.4
SOKOTO	0	0	74.7	41.0	24.5	246.7	25.8
UMUAHIA	67.2	3	53.3	32.9	23.4	200.3	19.9
UYO	78.5	4	50.3	32.1	23.6	197.6	18.9
WARRI	52.5	4	54.4	33.8	24.2	209	20
YELWA	0	0	74.3	41.5	25.3	252.5	25.5
YOLA	0	0	73.8	41.2	25.6	253.8	25.2
ZARIA	0	0	70.1	37.4	21.2	213.5	25.7
OBUDU	9.8	3	60.3	34.6	22.6	205.5	22.3

Dear All,

Comments and suggestions on how to improve this publication are welcome. Agrometeorologists, Agriculturists, Extension Workers, Research Officers, Users and the General Public should kindly send feedback to:

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