

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Doc No: TEA 3/3/7/2 F-004

Revision No: 1

Effective Date: 01.07.2017

Page No: 1 of 4

Approved by:

**REPORTING PERIOD:
11 – 20 JANUARY 2018**



ISSUE No.: 11

SEASON: 2017/18

RELEASED: 25/01/2018

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Insignificant rainfall received...**
- **No much improvement in vegetation**
- **Weeding activities observed....**
- **Improved rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Slight improvement in soil moisture expected.....**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ **SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS**

No much rainfall was received in most parts of the country. This drying effect is due to the current positioning of the upper level convergence over the country.

➤ **PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS**

The current positioning of the upper high over our region is expected to shift during the outlook period; thus increasing the probability of improved rainfall in some parts of the country in the next dekad.

Compiled and Issued by: Agrometeorological Unit,
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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Insignificant rainfall was observed in the Highveld while the rest of the country received no rainfall during the reporting period (Figure 1). The dekad was dry in most parts (Map 1)

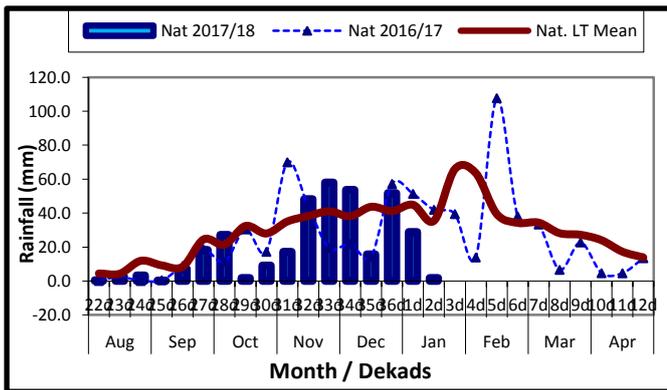
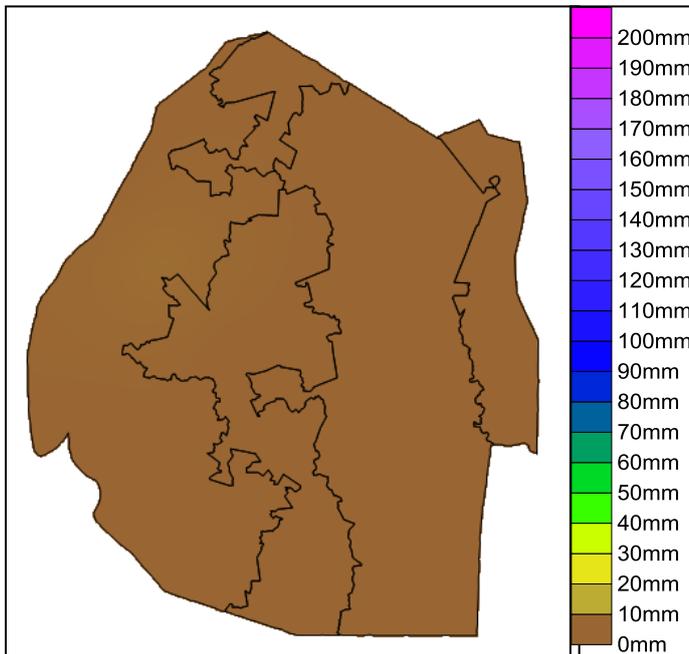


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as 2nd dekad of January 2018



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for 2nd dekad January 2018

Most of the agro-ecological zones received no rainfall during the reporting period (Table 1).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 2nd dekad January 2018

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2016/17	45	49	32	41
Average	52	32	29	29
2017/18	7	0	0	0
Anomaly	-45	-32	-29	-29

TEMPERATURES

Most stations recorded below average temperatures save for Bigbend in the Lubombo region (Figure 2) and (Figure 3).

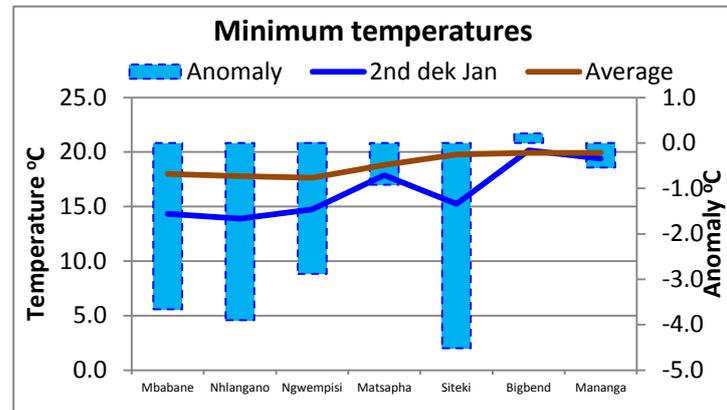


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as 2nd dekad of January 2018

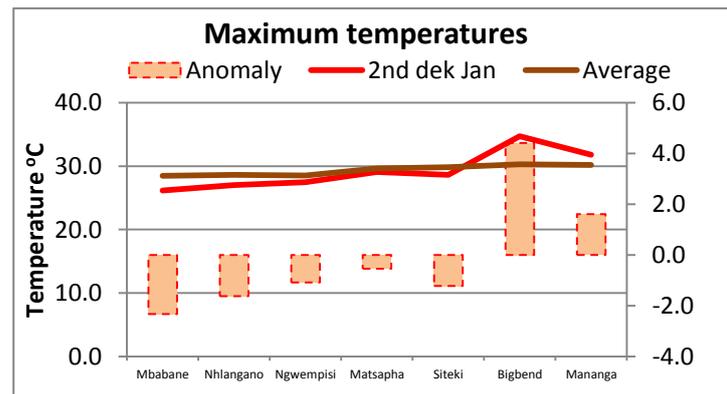


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as 2nd dekad of January 2018

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MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Maize is at varying stages of growth, but mostly at early vegetative stage. The crop is reported to have suffered from water stress due to lack of rainfall coupled with high temperatures (**Picture 1**). Damage is more severe in maize at production stage.



Picture 1: Maize suffered from water stress at Tikhuba

OTHER CROPS

Planted legumes reported to be growing well in most parts in spite of the recent dry spell (**Picture 2**)



Picture 2: Beans intercropped with maize at Kabhekinkosi in the Manzini region

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Most farmers are busy with weeding (**Picture 3**) and pest control activities.



Picture 3: Farmers weeding at Kabhekinkosi in the Manzini region

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock reported to be in good condition in most places (**Picture 4**). Vegetation continues to be satisfactory in most places.



Picture 4: Cattle grazing at Ngwazini

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WATER SITUATION

The persistent dry spells experienced in the past dekad adversely affected small streams (**Picture 5**), but big rivers and major reservoirs continue to improve their capacities.



Picture 4: Dried up water source at Tikhuba

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Improved rainfall expected in the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures will be warm to hot in the outlook period.

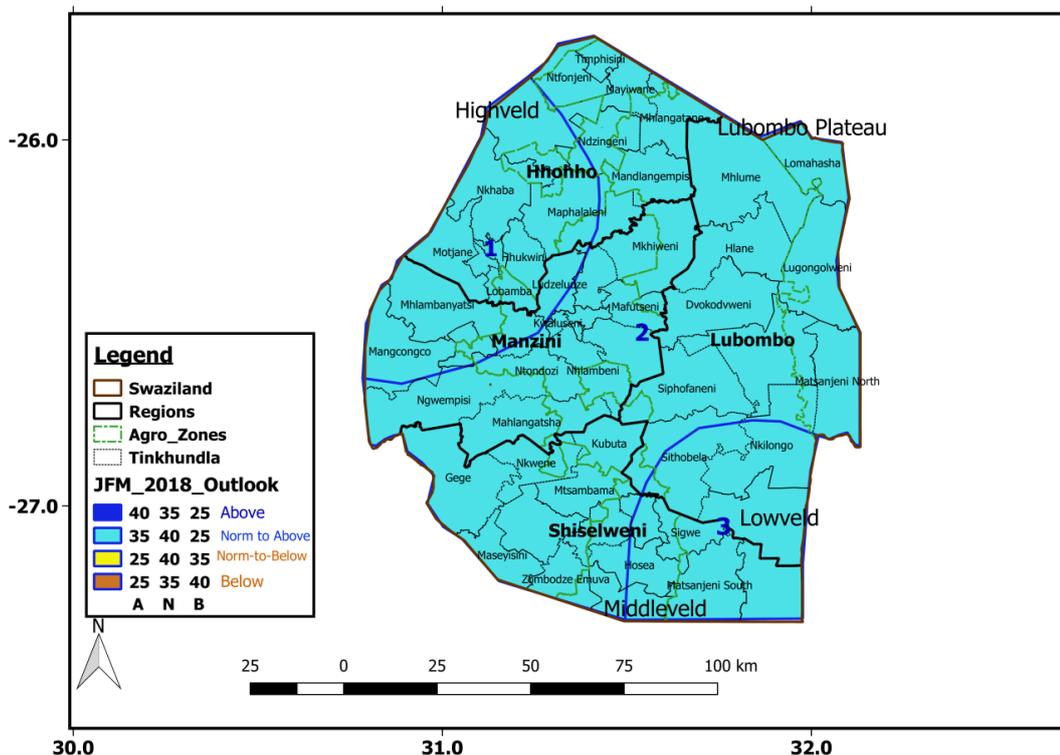
SOIL MOISTURE

Slight improvement in soil moisture anticipated in the outlook period.

WIND SPEED

Gentle to light breeze speeds forecasted for the outlook period

The predictors used put most of the country in **Normal-to-Above-Normal** rainfall over the forecast period. The regional breakdown of the predicted January-February-March (JFM) 2018 rainfall probabilities are as presented below:



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