

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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Page No: 1 of 4

Approved by:

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Above average rainfall received...**
- **Improvement in vegetation...**
- **Much more farming activity observed....**
- **Improved rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Cold to warm temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Improvement in soil moisture expected.....**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ **SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS**

The past ten days recorded above average rainfall due to the continued strengthening of the rain bearing systems over the country. Temperatures observed were below average in most parts of the country.

➤ **PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS**

Due to the Tropical air system some thundershowers will be observed in some parts in the beginning of the outlook period and then the Surface High will take over resulting in cloudy, sunny conditions and occasional light rain in the rest of the outlook period. Temperatures will be mostly cold to warm throughout the country.

Compiled and Issued by: Agrometeorological Unit,
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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Slightly improved above average rainfall continued to be observed during the reporting period (**Figure 1**). This was mostly in the Western and Northern parts of the country (**Map 1**).

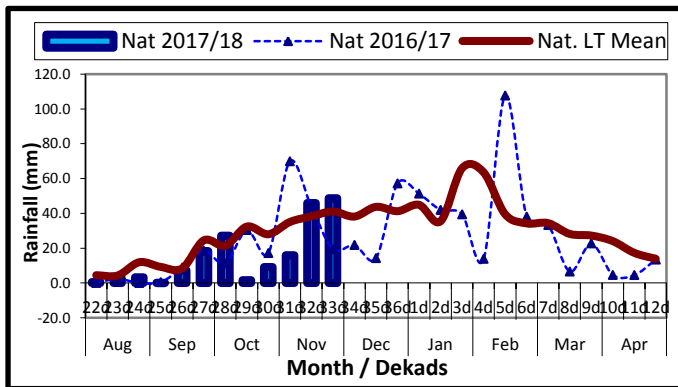
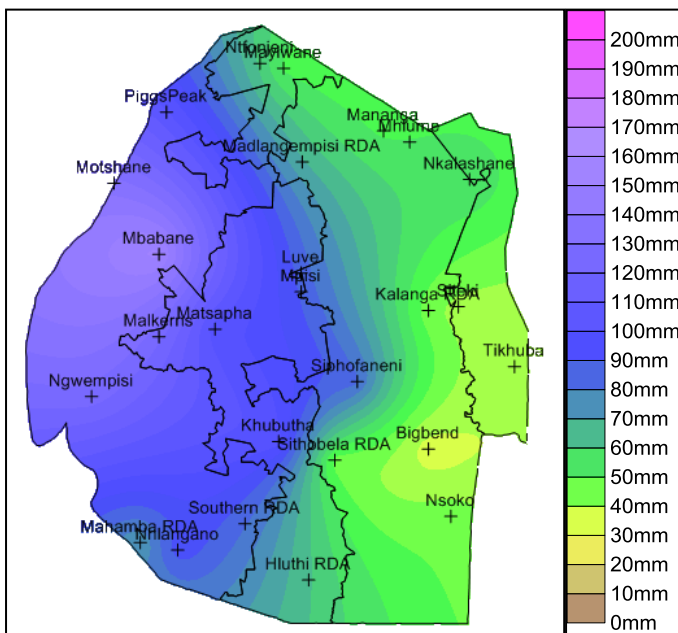


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as third dekad of November 2017



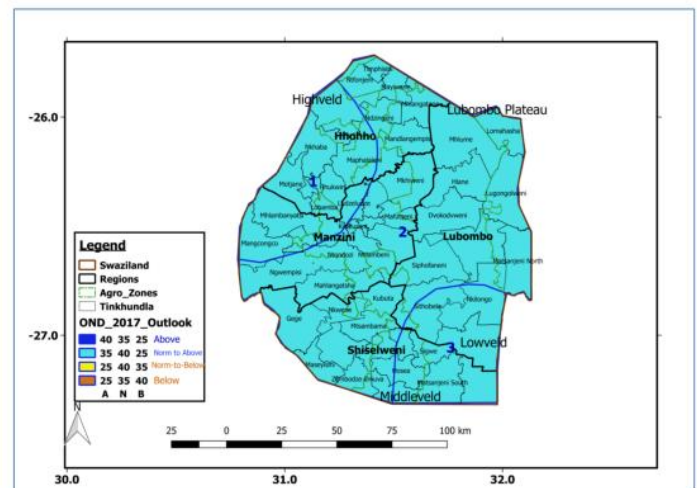
Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for third dekad November 2017

Almost all the Agroecological zones received above average rainfall except for the Middleveld which recorded slightly below average rainfall (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 3rd dekad November 2017

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2016/17	26	18	14	20
Average	53	45	32	35
2017/18	70	41	46	38
Anomaly	18	-4	13	3

The predictors used put most of the country in Normal-to Above-Normal rainfall over the period October-November-December (OND) 2017 (**Map 2**)



TEMPERATURES

Below average maximum temperatures were experienced throughout the country as observed by all reporting stations (**Figure 2**). This is also the case with minimum temperatures with an exception of Bigbend which observed slightly above average minimum temperatures (**Figure 3**).

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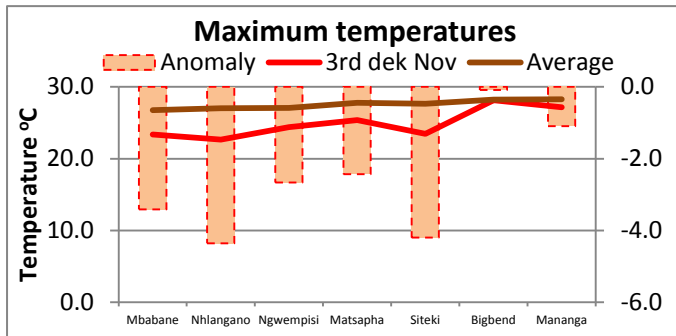


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as third dekad of November 2017

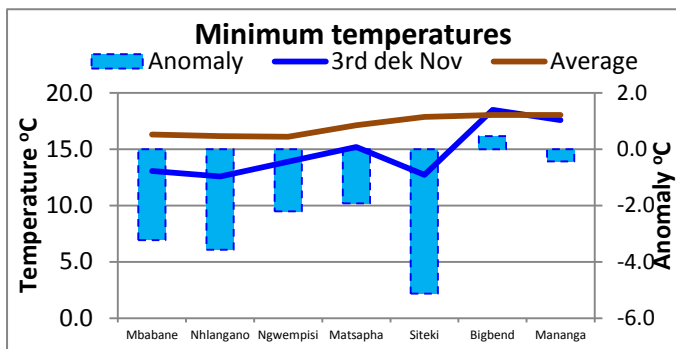


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as third dekad of November 2017

MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Some maize farmers who planted earlier have their crops at early vegetative stage and in a good condition (**Picture 1**).



Picture 1: Maize at Maguga in the Hhohho region

OTHER CROPS

No other crops reported to have been planted.

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Most farmers are still busy with land preparation and planting (**Picture 2**) whilst those who planted early are already weeding.



Picture 2: Ploughed and planted fields at Maguga in the Hhohho region

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock shows signs of improving in most parts of the country. Pastures are also showing signs of regeneration as the rains continue to pick up (**Picture 2**).



Picture 2: Cattle grazing at Lwandle in the Manzini region

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WATER SITUATION

Most major rivers show signs of improvement in the country, but the flow levels are still low. There is hope for improvement as rains continue to improve.



Picture 4: Hawane as of November 2017

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Improved rainfall is expected in the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Cold to warm temperatures forecasted in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

Much improvement in soil moisture anticipated.

WIND SPEED

Light to moderate wind speeds are predicted during the outlook period.