

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 2: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for October 11-20 and Outlook for October 21-31, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- The persistence of warmer than normal temperatures off the Somali coast has led to poor distribution of Vuli rains in most of the bimodal areas, hence farmers are advised to make follow up of ten days forecast and receive advise from extensions officers.
- Livestock keepers are advised to make good use of available water and pasture due to excessive evaporation as a result of prevailing dry conditions over much of the country.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) were intensifying while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) were relaxing. The zonal arm of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was further north off the country but orientation of its meridional arm was influencing precipitation making mechanisms over the Lake Victoria basin and western part of the country. The onshore south easterly flow was observed over the coastal areas especially for the first half of the period. Over the south west Indian Ocean, Sea Surface temperatures (SSTs) were neutral to slight warm, that resulted into moist south easterly with no cyclonic activities. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs were neutral to slight cool which led to enhance the precipitation making mechanisms over the Lake Victoria basin and western sector of the country.

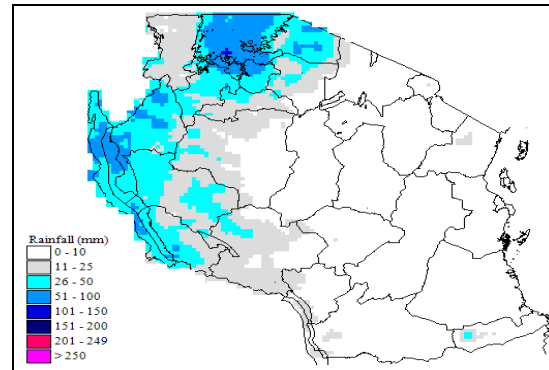


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of October 11 - 20, 2018.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2018

During the ten day (dekad) period, the country was generally dry except in some parts of Lake Victoria and western areas which received more than 50 mm of rainfall as seen in Figure 1. Vuli season has started in bimodal areas although their spatial distribution and amounts were generally poor due persistence of warmer than normal temperatures off the Somali coast which cause decrease of moistures over the northern coast and northeastern highland.

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2018

Farmers in bimodal areas continued with land preparation and planting, except in Kagera region where weeding activities on maize and beans crops were carried out. Over the unimodal areas, farmers have started land preparations for the coming *msimu* rainy season which is normally expected to start between November and December. Water and pasture availability for livestock have decreased as a result of prevailing dry condition in most of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to decrease across the country due prevailing dry conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2018.

The Azores and Siberian highs are expected to continue to intensify while the St. Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to relax. During the beginning of the dekad there is slight intensification of southern systems, this will lead to slow the movement of the ITCZ southward. Also the onshore easterly to northeasterly flow is expected over the coastal areas. SSTs is expected to be neutral to slight warm over the south west Indian Ocean, resulted into moist air and the likelihood of occurrence of cyclonic activities over the south east of Madagascar. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs is expected to be neutral to slight warm. This situation will reduce the winds blowing from west which is expected to suppress precipitation activities over the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are expected to feature thunder showers over few areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) and northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature rain showers over few areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions.

Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2018.

Over the bimodal areas generally Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast, rains are expected to peak during the dekad. Farmers are advised to make use of these rains for planting when there is enough soil moisture. However over Kagera region, farmers are advised to plant drought tolerant and early maturing crops due to the expected normal to below normal *vuli* rains. In unimodal areas, particularly western regions the expected off seasonal rains are not adequate for planting seasonal crops. Livestock keepers are advised to make use of the available water and pasture sparingly. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue declining mostly in unimodal areas due to ongoing dry conditions. The increasing is expected in bimodal areas due to *vuli* rainfall season kickoff. Water users are advised to use available water carefully.

Prepared by

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