



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.7: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for December 1-10 and Outlook for December 11 - 20, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Msimu rains are progressing well in most of unimodal areas and farmers are mostly engaged in planting activities
- The expected rains in both unimodal and bimodal rains during December 11 -20, 2018 are likely to favor crop establishment and growth
- Farmers are advised to make follow up of the forecasts and receive advice from Agricultural Extension Officers on appropriate actions to be taken for proper utilization of the expected rains.
- Livestock keepers are advised to make good use of available water and pasture.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) further relaxed. This allowed the Inter Tropic Convergence Zone (ITCZ) being pushed southwards and covered parts of the country. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean was slight warm, hence resulted into the formation of lows. The SSTs over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) were neutral to slight cold. This situation contributed to the enhancement of precipitation making mechanisms over the western parts of the country.

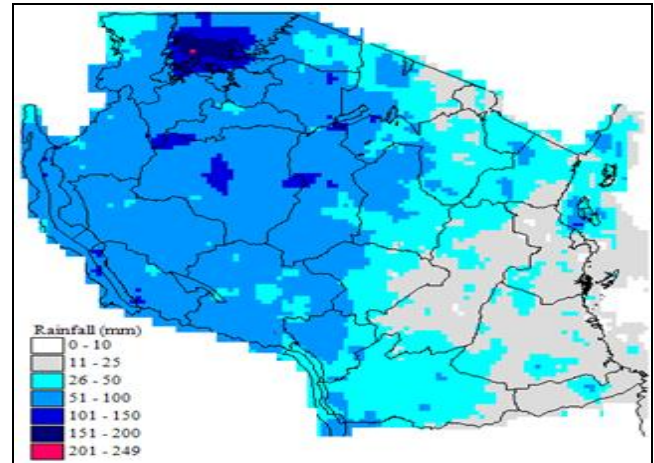


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of December 1 - 10, 2018.

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2018

During the ten-day (dekad) period, some of the bimodal areas experienced poor rainfall distribution. However, some rains of between 26 mm - 100 mm were experienced over a few localized areas in the Lake Victoria Basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast as shown in Figure 1. Over unimodal areas episodes of Msimu seasonal rains of between 26 mm to 100 mm have been reported over most parts of the western, southwestern highlands of the country as well as southern part as shown in Figure 1.

### AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2018

During the dekad under review, the observed rainfall provided favourable conditions for crops germination in most of the unimodal areas. In these regions, farmers were mostly engaged in planting activities while in bimodal weeding was the major activity.

In Kagera region maize and beans crops were at maturity stage and farmers over these areas were continuing with weeding activities for late grown crops. Many farmers in the northern coast (mainly Dar es Salaam and Coast regions) could not plant and few fields that were planted have been severely affected by soil moisture stress. Water and pasture availability for livestock has improved in some parts of the bimodal areas especially in Lake Zone areas as a result of ongoing *Vuli* season rainfall.

**HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS  
DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have not been improved significantly due to inadequate rainfall amounts reported across the bimodal rainfall regime as a result of ongoing *Vuli* season rainfall.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING  
DECEMBER 11-20, 2018**

The northern high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying while the southern high pressure systems are expected to further relax. This is expected to allow the ITCZ being pushed southwards and cover parts of the country. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean are expected to be warm, that may result into the formation of tropical cyclones especially during the second half of the period. The SSTs over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) are expected to be cold. This situation will increase the winds blowing from the west which is expected to enhance precipitation making mechanisms over the western sector of the country.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING  
DECEMBER 11-20, 2018**

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) and southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature thundery showers over few areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es

Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature thundery showers over some areas especially during the second half of the period.

Southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora) are expected to feature thundery showers over some areas.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND  
ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2018**

The expected rainfall will improve soil moisture conditions over most of unimodal areas where crops are at early growth stages. These rains however, will be beneficial to maize but unfavorable to maturing beans over Lake Victoria basin particularly in Kagera region. *Vuli* season is approaching to an end therefore farmers in bimodal areas including the northern coast should not be tempted by these rains to plant seasonal crops. Farmers are therefore advised to continue with routine farm activities and seek advice from agriculture extension officers. In bimodal areas, livestock keepers are advised to consult Livestock Extension Officers for optimal use of the available water and pasture.

**HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY  
DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2018.**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve mostly in bimodal areas due to ongoing *Vuli* rainfall season and improve silently in unimodal areas due to the start of *Msimu* rainfall season. Water users are advised to use available water carefully.

Prepared by

**TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Ubungo Plaza - Morogoro Road.