No.21: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for April 11-20 and Outlook for April 21 - 30, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Crops development in some parts of the unimodal areas progressed well due to ongoing seasonal rains
- Poor rainfall performance has continued to affects crops development in the central areas and northeastern highlands
- Farmers, Livestock keepers and fisheries are advised to consult extension officers for effective use of the forecast

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11 - 20, 2019

uring this period, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) were slightly relaxing while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) were slightly intensifying. This caused the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move slightly northward but remained within the country. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean persisted hence influenced development of low pressure systems around the coastline of Tanzania. Over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), were slightly warm hence less influence to the precipitation making mechanism over the western sector of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING APRIL 11 - 20, 2019

uring the dekad, the weather systems enhanced precipitation over some areas of southwestern high land, southern regions, southern coast, northern coast and Lake Victoria basin as well as western parts of the country. The amount of rainfall recorded over these areas ranged from 26 mm to 100 mm. However, few areas of Ruvuma, Mara, and Morogoro received more than 150 mm of rainfall. Other parts of the country specifically central and northeastern highlands were still dry in most areas with rainfall amount less than 10mm as shown in figure 1.

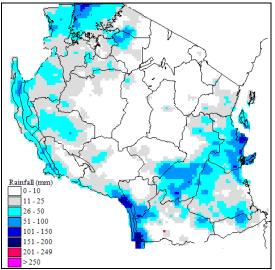


Figure: Total rainfall for the period of April 11 - 20, 2019.

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11 - 10, 2019

rops continued to progress well in some parts of unimodal areas specifically Mbeya, Iringa, Rukwa, and Ruvuma due to ongoing seasonal rains. However, poor rainfall performance in most parts of central areas and south of Manyara regions has affected field crops. In some of bimodal areas including northern coast and northeastern highlands, the prolonged dry spells have led to late start or no planting activities for the season. In some areas of Tanga, Morogoro and Pwani, maize crop is at third leaf stage while in some parts of Shinyanga and Mwanza farmers are continuing with harvesting of Maize crop which were planted during the 2018 *Vuli* rains. Moreover, Kagera region has continued to receive *Masika* rains where maize and beans crops are in good condition.

No.21: 2018/19 cropping season

Farmers over these areas are continuing with weeding activities. Water and pasture availability for livestock were in good conditions over most parts of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2019

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have improved slightly due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2019

uring this period, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax while the southern high pressure systems are expected to further intensify. This is expected to move the ITCZ slightly northward but within the country especial over the Lake Victoria basin. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean are expected to persist hence influence development of low pressure systems. Over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), the sea surface temperatures are expected to be neutral to cool. This condition is expected to enhance precipitation over the Lake Victoria Basin and western sector country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITION DURING APRIL 21 - 30, 2019

n view of the expected synoptic conditions Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) are expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

Northern coast (Tanga, Northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), are expected to feature thundershowers over few areas.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are

Review for April 11 -20 and Outlook for April 21 - 30, 2019 expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are mainly expected to feature dry condition with chance of light rain over few areas.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature showers over few areas.

EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2019

he expected rainfall over few areas in the southwestern highlands, southern coast, Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, southern regions, and western regions will improve soil moisture conditions for crops development. Short maturing crop varieties are more encouraged in most areas of bimodal areas due to short duration and poor distribution of *Masika* rains. Farmers and livestock keepers are advised to consult agriculture extension officers for optimal use of the forecast and advisory.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 21 - 30, 2019

ater levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve more both for unimodal and bimodal areas as the *Msimu* and *Masika* rains continues over those regions. Water users are advised to use available water carefully despite of the expected rainfall over some areas.