TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.24: 2023/24 Cropping Season *Review of May 21-31, 2024, and Outlook for June 1-10, 2024*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry conditions expected over most unimodal areas will likely favor ripening and drying of crops such as maize and sunflower as well as support harvesting of matured crops.
- Farmers, livestock keepers, and fishers are advised to continue monitoring and act appropriately against any negative impacts of forecasted weather on crops, crop fields, livestock, and fishing activities.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MAY 21-31, 2024

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere high-pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarenes) intensified while the northern hemisphere high-pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) relaxed. This condition allowed the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to touch some parts of Lake Victoria Basin (LVB).

The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the eastern and western Indian Ocean were slightly warmer than normal. This condition had less influence on precipitation making mechanisms. On the other hand, the position of the tropical storm "IALY" strengthened precipitation-making mechanisms along the coastal areas especially during the beginning of the dekad.

The above weather systems favoured thundery showers over the Lake Victoria basin and northern coast while other areas were mainly dry.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MAY 21-31, 2024

During this dekad, most areas of the country were generally dry while some areas around LakeVictoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast received total dekadal rainfall between 1mm and 25mm. However, a few areas in Morogoro, Lindi and Mara regions experienced a dekadal rainfall total ranging from 26 mm to 100 mm as indicated in Figure 1.

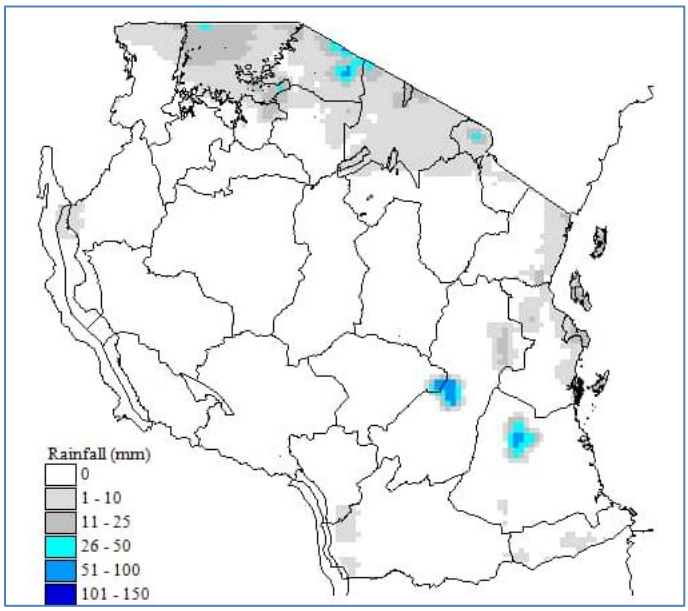

Figure 1: Total dekadal rainfall for May 21-31, 2024

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MAY 21-31, 2024

During this dekad, rainy conditions experienced particularly in coastal belt areas continued to support crop growth and development.

In most of the bimodal areas, maize crop was between flowering and wax ripeness stages except in areas around Lake Victoria where the crop was at full ripeness stage.

Over unimodal rainfall pattern areas, maize crop was at full ripeness and farmers particularly in Mtwara region were engaged in harvesting.

Moreover, paddy crop was at the full ripeness stage and farmers were engaged in harvesting activities.

The Sunflower was at the ripeness stages in Dodoma and Singida and some farmers were engaging in harvesting while in Morogoro region sunflowers were in the flowering stage.
The wheat crop was at the flowering stage, particularly in Njombe and Mbeya regions, while bean crop was at the ripeness stage in Mbeya and Songwe regions.
Water and pasture for livestock and wildlife were sufficient over most areas in the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MAY 21-31, 2024

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges had no significant change in most areas of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 1-10, 2024

During this period, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to intensify while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax. This condition is expected to allow the ITCZ to remain touching small part of the LVB.
The SSTs over the eastern Indian Ocean are expected to be warmer and slightly warmer in the western parts of the ocean. This condition is expected to have less influence on precipitation making mechanisms. Over the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean, the SSTs are expected to be neutral to slight cooler.
Wind at low levels is expected to be westerlies and at high levels are expected to be weak easterlies. This condition is not favourable in bringing moisture from Congo towards western parts of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 1-10, 2024

Areas around the Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu, and Mara regions) are expected to feature isolated thundery showers over a few areas.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), western regions (Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora) and southern regions (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature mainly dry conditions.

The northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam regions, including the isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature light rain showers over few areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JUNE 1-10, 2024

The dry conditions expected over most areas of the country will likely favor the ripening and drying of matured crops such as maize and sunflower as well as support harvesting activities.
However, the dry condition expected over the northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro regions) is likely to affect the late planted *Masika* season crop over those areas.

Generally, farmers are advised to make follow-ups on crops, and crop fields in consultation with the extension officers from their localities.

Livestock keepers are advised to gather and store pastures for future use.

Fishing communities are advised to continue making follow up on daily weather forecasts, especially for the Indian Ocean and the Great Lakes to make decisions on the right time to go out for fishing to avoid the effects of severe weather particularly strong winds and large waves.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 1-10, 2024

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges specifically over the coastal areas are expected to decrease slightly due to expected dry and windy conditions.

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