TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.03: 2023/24 Cropping Season *Review of October 21-31, 2023 and Outlook for November 1-10, 2023*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers over unimodal areas are advised to finalize with land preparation ready for ***Msimu*** rainfall season
- Farmers from areas experiencing ***Vuli*** rainy season are advised to continue making follow-ups on crops and crop fields for management, control of the excessive water, and the outbreak of pests and diseases in consultation with extension officers from their localities.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2023

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarenes) continued relaxing while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) intensified slightly. This condition continued to maintain the meridional arm of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over some areas of the Lake Victoria basin and the western part of the country.

Slightly warmer than normal Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were observed over the western Indian Ocean while neutral to slightly cool SSTs were observed over the eastern Indian Ocean, this condition had a slight influence in the advection of moist maritime wind towards the coastal areas.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2023

During this dekad, most areas of the country experienced rainy conditions with few areas of the Lake Victoria basin, western, northern coast and western experiencing a dekadal total rainfall ranging from 11 to 100 mm. However, few areas in Pwani region experienced rainfall between 100 mm to 150 mm as indicated in Figure 1.

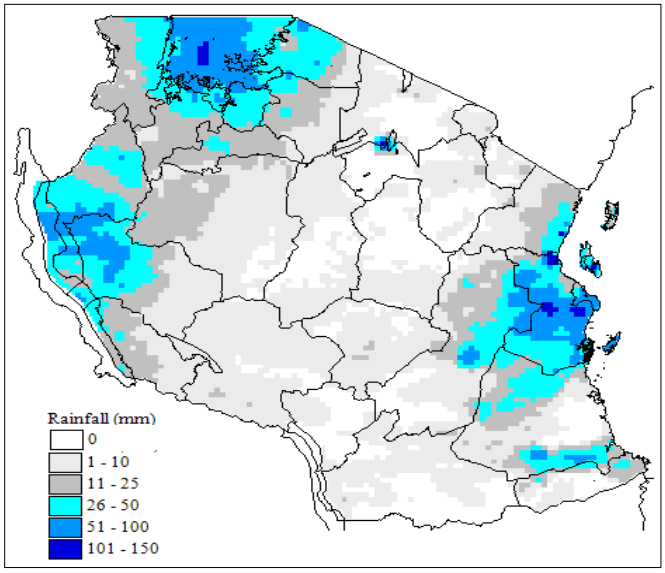

Figure 1: Total dekadal rainfall for the period of October 21-31, 2023

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2023

During this dekad, most of the bimodal areas experienced rainy conditions that supported crop growth and development.

In bimodal areas, particularly the northern coast and Lake Victoria basin, maize crops were between emergence to the 3rd leaf stages over some areas except in the Kagera region where maize crops were at the 9th leaf stage and farmers continued with weeding.

Over the northeastern highlands, farmers were engaged in maize planting with few areas having maize crops at emergence to third leaf stages.

The prevailing rainy conditions over Unguja and Pemba Islands affected the process of drying cloves in those areas.

Farmers in unimodal areas were engaged with land preparation.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife continued to be a challenge in most areas due to experienced prolonged dry conditions, particularly in the unimodal areas.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges in most bimodal areas slightly increased. However, due to prolonged dry conditions in most of the unimodal areas, a decrease in water was observed.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2023

During this period, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue relaxing while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to intensify slightly. This condition is expected to continue keeping the ITCZ over the country.

Slightly warmer than normal SSTs are expected over the western Indian Ocean while neutral to slightly cool SSTs are expected over the eastern Indian Ocean. This condition is expected to have a slight influence on the advection of moist maritime wind towards the coastal belt.
Neutral SSTs are expected over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast). This scenario is expected to have a slight influence on the advection of moist westerly winds from the Congo Basin towards the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2023

Areas around the Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu, and Mara regions) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora regions) are expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

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

The southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions) are expected to feature light rain showers over a few areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature dry conditions.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2023

The expected rainfall over areas around bimodal areas is likely to favor soil moisture replenishment for the growth and development of the crop.
Farmers from areas experiencing ***Vuli*** are advised to continue making follow-ups on crops, and crop fields for management and control of the excessive water, and the outbreak of pests and diseases in consultation with extension officers from their localities.

Farmers in unimodal areas are advised to finalize land preparation for the ***Msimu*** rainfall season.

Fishing communities are advised to continue using daily weather forecasts and advisories including marine forecasts for the Indian Ocean and the Great Lakes for better decisions.

Due to persistent dry conditions expected particularly over unimodal areas, livestock keepers are advised to use carefully the available water and pastures.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to slightly increase particularly over bimodal areas due to the expected rainy conditions.
The communities particularly in unimodal areas are advised to make good use of available water due to prevailing dry condition.

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