

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.19: 2023/24 Cropping Season

Review of April 1-10, 2024 and Outlook for April 11-20, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- The expected rainfall in most parts of the country will continue favoring pastures, crop growth and development.
- Due to the expected rainfall in most areas of the northern coast, farmers in those areas are advised to take proper measures to control excessive water and the outbreak of pests and diseases in consultation with extension officers.
- Farmers and livestock keepers are advised to continue monitoring and take appropriate measures against any negative impacts on crops, crop fields, livestock, and pasture.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2024

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere highpressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarenes) slightly intensified while the northern hemisphere highpressure systems (Azores and Siberian) slightly relaxed. This condition maintained the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over some parts of the country. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over a large part of the western Indian Ocean were warmer than normal compared to that of the eastern Indian Ocean, this condition is influenced by moist maritime wind flow towards the coastal areas of the country thereby enhancing rainfall-making mechanisms. The above weather systems favoured thundershowers over the Lake Victoria Basin, west, southwestern highlands, northeastern highlands, and along the coast. Central areas experienced light to moderate rain showers.

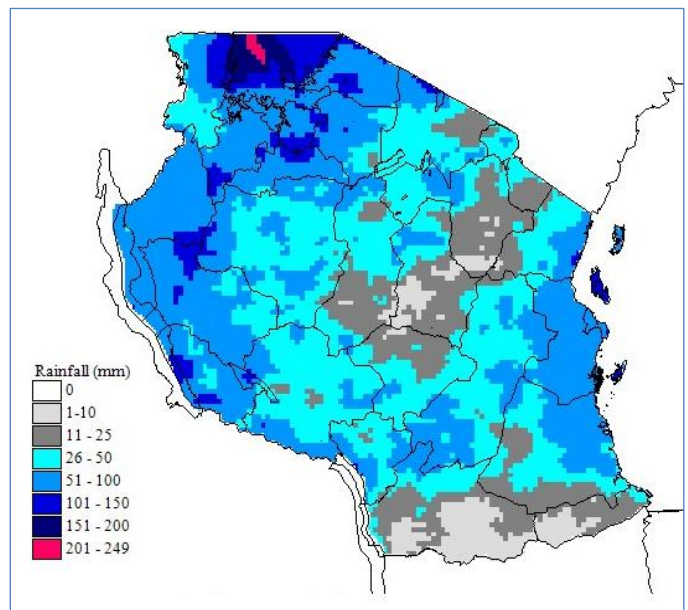


Figure 1: Total dekad rainfall for April 1-10, 2024

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING APRIL 1-10, 2024

During this dekad, most areas of the country received total rainfall for ten days ranging from 26 mm to 100 mm except in a few areas of Dodoma, Singida, Manyara, Ruvuma, and Mtwara regions which experienced a total rainfall of less than 11mm as indicated in Figure 1.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2024

During this dekad, rainy conditions experienced in some areas of the country supported crop growth and development. In most bimodal areas, maize crop was at vegetative stage except in areas around Lake Victoria, where the crop was at the tasselling stage while in Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions maize it was at the emergence and third leaf stages. Over unimodal rainfall pattern areas, particularly in Kigoma, Tabora, Dodoma, Mbeya, Iringa, Ruvuma, and Rukwa regions maize crop was between wax and full ripeness. Moreover, in the Rukwa, Tabora, Mbeya, Shinyanga, and Morogoro regions, paddy was between tasselling to waxy ripeness stages.

The Sunflower was at vegetative and flowering stages, particularly in Dodoma and Morogoro regions while wheat crop was between tillering and wax ripeness, particularly in Njombe and Mbeya regions. Water and pasture for livestock and wildlife were sufficient over most areas of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

DURING APRIL 1-10,2024

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued increasing in most areas due to prevailing rainy conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS

DURING APRIL 11-20, 2024

During this period, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue slightly intensifying while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax. This condition is expected to allow the ITCZ to continue oscillating northwards. SSTs over the large part of the western Indian Ocean are expected to be warmer than normal compared to that of the eastern Indian Ocean. This condition is expected to influence moist maritime wind flow towards the coastal areas of the country thereby enhancing rainfall-making mechanisms.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING

APRIL 11-20, 2024

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

The northern coast (Tanga, the northern part of Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam region, including the isles of Unguja and Pemba) is expected to feature thundershowers over most areas.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), and southern regions (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature thunderstorms over some areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature mainly dry conditions.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro regions) are expected to feature periods of rain showers over few areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND

ADVISORY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2024

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The expected rainfall will likely continue favoring and supporting crop growth and development in both bimodal and unimodal areas. However, the rainfall expected over most areas of the northern coast may likely affect crop growth due to water logging. Farmers in those areas are advised to take proper measures to control excessive water and the outbreak of pests and diseases in consultation with extension officers from their localities. Generally, farmers are advised to make 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 the extension officers from their localities.

Livestock keepers are advised to grow fodders and harvest rainwater for future use.

Fishing communities are advised to strengthen the infrastructure of fish farming and take precautions by continuing to make follow-up on daily weather forecasts, especially for the Indian Ocean and the Great Lakes to make decisions on the right time to go fishing to avoid the effects of strong winds and heavy rains.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

DURING APRIL 11-20, 2024

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue increasing due to the expected rainy conditions. The community is advised to continue harvesting rainwater for future use.