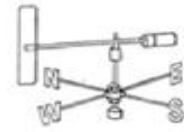




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.08: 2023/24 Cropping Season

Review of December 11-20, 2023, and Outlook for December 21-31, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- Crops and pasture are in good conditions
- The expected rainfall in few areas will continue favoring soil moisture improvement for crop growth and seed germination
- 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 DECEMBER 11-20, 2023

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued relaxing while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) continued intensifying. This condition continued maintaining the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over country. The slight warmer than normal Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) was observed over the western Indian Ocean while neutral to slight cool SSTs was observed over the eastern Indian Ocean. This condition had influence in advection of moist maritime wind towards the coastal areas of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2023

During this dekad, most areas of the country experienced rainy conditions with rainfall amounts of between 10 mm and 150 mm with some areas including large part of Ruvuma, Njombe, southern Morogoro, and Dodoma regions which received less than 10 mm of rainfall as indicated in Figure 1.

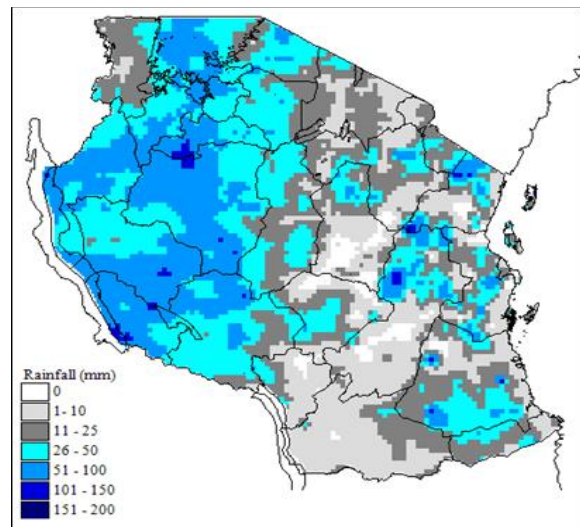


Figure 1: Total dekad rainfall for December 11-20, 2023

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2023

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

In the northern coast, northeastern highlands, and Lake Victoria basin, the maize crop was between vegetative and ninth leaf stage in some areas while early planted maize was at the wax ripeness stage in Kagera region and flowering stage in Tanga regions. Additionally, wet and cloudy conditions and a limited number of sunshine hours have affected the drying of beans that was at the full ripeness stage in Kagera region.

In unimodal rainfall pattern areas, maize crops were at the emergence and third leaf stages, and few farmers were engaged with planting activities.

The availability of water and pasture for livestock and wildlife has improved in the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have increased due to prevailing rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2023

During this period, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue slightly relaxing while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue slightly intensifying. This condition is expected to favour a southward movement of the ITCZ and therefore position itself over some areas of our country.

The slight warm SSTs are expected over western Indian Ocean while neutral to slight cool SSTs observed over the eastern Indian Ocean. This condition is expected to influence the advection of moist maritime wind towards the coastal areas of our country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2023

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

The western regions (Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora regions) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

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

The northern coast (Tanga, the northern part of Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam region, including the isles of Unguja and Pemba), southern regions (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) and southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions) are expected to feature rain showers over a few areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2023

The expected rainfall in few areas will likely continue favoring soil moisture improvement for crop growth and seed germination.

Farmers 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.

Livestock keepers are advised to plant more pastures and harvest rainwater for future use.

Fishing communities are advised to strengthen the infrastructure of fish farming and take precautions by continuing to follow 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 DECEMBER 21-31, 2023

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