

HIGHLIGHTS

- The prolonged rainfall conditions have affected maize crops in the fields and paddy planting activities, particularly in Tabora, Morogoro, and Mbeya (Mbarali).
- The expected rainfall particularly in most unimodal areas will continue favoring pastures and crop growth and development.
- 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
FEBRUARY 1-10, 2024**

During this dekad, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) intensified while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarenes) relaxed. This scenario allowed the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move further south and occupy areas along the southwestern highlands and the southern region of the country.

Warmer than normal Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were observed over both the western and eastern Indian Ocean (East African coast and Indonesian coast respectively), this condition had less influence in the advection of humid maritime air towards our country resulting in less precipitation-making mechanisms along the coastal areas.

Generally, during this dekad areas located over the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB), west, southwestern highlands, and the southern region experienced rainfall with thunderstorm activities. Other areas received light to moderate rain showers.

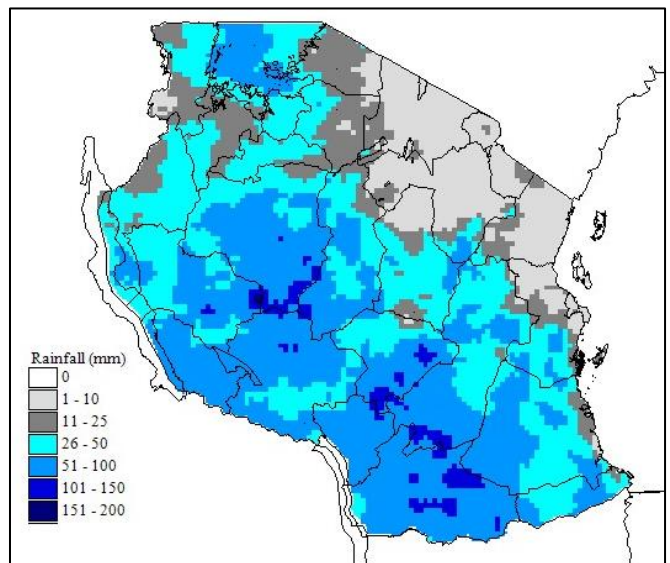


Figure 1: Total dekad rainfall for February 1-10, 2024

**RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING
FEBRUARY 1-10, 2024**

During this dekad, most areas of the country experienced rainy conditions with dekad amounts ranging between 11 mm and 150 mm except for most areas in the northern coast and northeastern highlands which experienced dekad rainfall amounts of less than 10 mm. However, few areas in the southern Morogoro, Ruvuma, Iringa, Katavi, and Tabora regions received dekad rainfall amounts between 150 mm and 200 mm as indicated in Figure 1.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY
DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2024**

During this dekad, rainy conditions experienced in most areas supported crop growth and development, particularly in unimodal areas. However, the prolonged rainfall conditions have affected maize crops in the fields and paddy planting activities, particularly in some areas in Tabora, Mbeya (Mbarali), and Morogoro.

In most bimodal areas, the maize crop was in full ripeness stages and some farmers were engaged in harvesting. However, in most areas, the maize crop was affected by the prolonged rainy conditions during the ripeness stage.

Over unimodal rainfall pattern areas, maize crops were at the vegetative stages except in Kigoma and Tabora regions, where maize crops were between flowering and wax ripeness.

Irish potatoes were at the ripeness stage in Njombe region.

No.12: 2023/24 Cropping Season

Moreover, in Rukwa, Tabora, Mbeya, Shinyanga, and Morogoro regions farmers were engaged in planting paddy crops. The paddy crop was in good condition in a few areas where the crop was planted early. The availability of water and pasture for livestock and wildlife continued to improve in most areas of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2024

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

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2024

During this period, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue relaxing. This scenario is expected to allow the ITCZ to remain further south of the country.

Warmer than normal SSTs are expected over the western Indian Ocean while slightly warm SSTs over the eastern Indian Ocean. This condition is expected to influence the advection of weak to moderate humid maritime winds towards our country, particularly the eastern sector.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2024

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

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

In 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 light to moderate rain showers over few areas.

The 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 rain showers with thunderstorms over some areas.

Review of February 1-10, 2023, and Outlook for February 11-20, 2024

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2024

The expected rainfall in most unimodal areas will likely continue favoring soil moisture improvement that supports crop growth and development. However, the excessive rainy conditions are likely to affect crop growth.

Dry conditions expected over most bimodal areas will likely support maize and bean crop drying and harvesting as well as land preparation for the coming Masika rainy season.

Farmers over bimodal areas are advised to harvest Vuli season crops timely as well as engage in land preparation for the Masika rainfall season.

For unimodal areas, 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 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 for fishing to avoid the effects of strong winds and heavy rains.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 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.