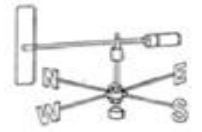




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.15: 2022/23 Cropping Season

Review of February 11-20, 2023, and Outlook for February 21-28, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- The expected rains in some areas of the country are likely to continue favouring crop growth and development
- Generally, maize crop over most areas in unimodal regime areas are in a good condition
- Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to utilize weather forecast and updates issued by TMA

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2023

During the dekad, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (the Azores and Siberian highs) maintained their strengths while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (the St. Helena and Mascarenes highs) slightly relaxed. This condition continued to favour the oscillation of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the southern sector the country. The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the eastern Indian Ocean were cooler than normal while SSTs over western Indian Ocean were observed to be generally normal. This scenario had no contribution on the advection of moisture from the Indian Ocean towards the coastal areas. On the other hand, low level westerly wind anomaly was observed over the country and thus favouring moisture influx from the Congo basin towards the western side of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2023

During the this dekad most areas of the country experienced less than 10 mm of rainfall with an exceptional of southern regions and southwestern highlands which experienced total rainfall between 26 mm to 100 mm. The highest amount of rainfall of more than 100 mm was recorded over few areas of Ruvuma region as indicated in Figure 1.

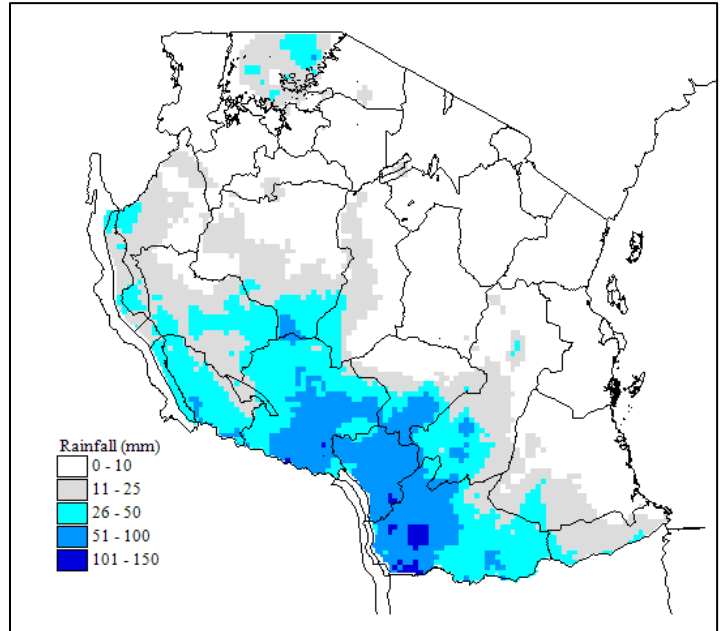


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of February 11-20, 2023

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2023

The ongoing rainfall activities in most areas of the country favoured crop growth and development following the improved soil moisture. In most of the unimodal areas, maize crop was reported to be in good condition. The maize crop over Tabora and Kigoma regions was at full ripeness stage. On the other hand, over bimodal rainfall regime specifically Kagera, Shinyanga and Simiyu farmers continued with maize harvesting and drying. Paddy crop was at the third leaf and tillering stages over Tabora, Mbeya, Morogoro and Rukwa regions, and farmers continued with weeding activities. Irish potatoes over Njombe and Mbeya regions were at flowering stage.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife have continued to improve in most areas of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued improving due to experienced rainfall conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2023

This dekad is expected to be dominated by slightly intensification of the northern hemisphere high pressure systems and maintenance of the southern hemisphere high pressure systems. This condition is expected to perpetuate the position and oscillation of the ITCZ over some areas of the country especially the southern sector. SSTs over the Indian Ocean are expected to be generally normal to slightly cooler than normal over a large area and thus no significant contribution on the advection of moisture from the Indian Ocean towards the coastal areas. Low level westerly wind anomaly is expected over the country and this will likely favour moisture influx from Congo basin towards the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2023

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

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern Morogoro) are expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) is expected to feature light rain showers over few areas especially during the second half of the dekad.

Northern coast (Tanga, northern Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam together with isles of Unguja and Pemba), central areas (Dodoma and Singida) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to feature rain showers with isolated cases of thunderstorms especially during the second half of the dekad.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2023

The expected rains in some areas of the country specifically over unimodal areas will continue favouring soil moisture replenishment that will eventually support crop growth and development.

Farmers in unimodal rainfall areas are advised to continue with weeding, fertilizer application, and control of pests and diseases in consultation with agriculture extension officers from their localities.

Fishers are advised to continue making good use of daily weather forecasts and warnings issued by TMA including marine forecasts for Indian Ocean and all great lakes for better decisions on fishing activities.

Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to utilize weather forecasts and updates as issued by TMA.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue improving due to the expected rainfall. However, communities are advised to harvest rainwater for future use.