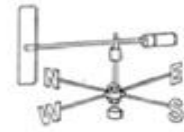




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.14: 2023/24 Cropping Season

Review of February 11-20, 2024, and Outlook for February 21-29, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in bimodal areas are advised to continue with land preparation for the *Masika* cropping season and planting crops when the soil is moist enough while consulting the extension officers from their localities.
- 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 11-20, 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 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.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2024

During this dekad, most areas of the country experienced rainy conditions with dekadal amounts ranging between 11 mm and 150 mm except for most areas on the northern coast including Unguja and Pemba islands and northeastern highlands which were relatively dry. However, few areas in the southern Morogoro, Ruvuma, Njombe, Lindi, and Mtwara regions received dekadal rainfall amounts between 151 mm and 200 mm as indicated in Figure 1.

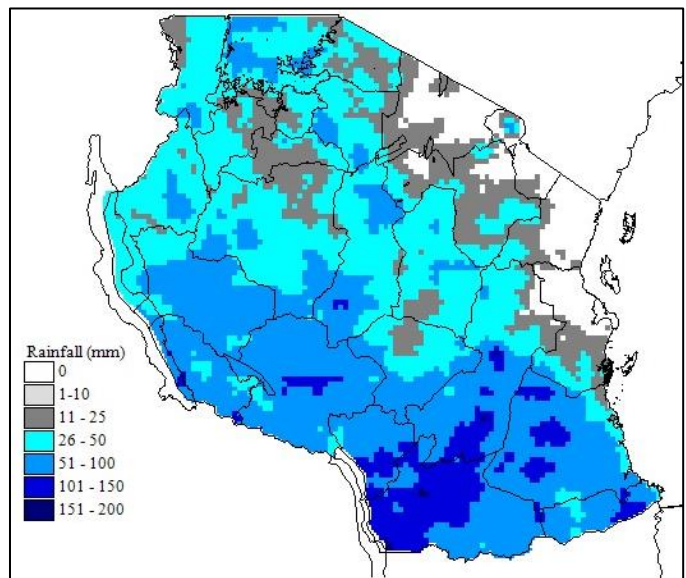


Figure 1: Total dekadal rainfall for February 11-20, 2024

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2024

During this dekad, rainy conditions experienced in most areas of the country, particularly in unimodal areas, supported crop growth and development. However, the dry conditions experienced in most bimodal areas supported crop drying and harvesting activities, especially the maize crop.

In most bimodal areas, the maize crop was at full ripeness stages and farmers continued with harvesting and land preparation for the *Masika* rainy season. However, in areas around Lake Victoria, farmers were engaged with maize and bean planting for the *Masika* cropping season. Over unimodal rainfall pattern areas, maize crops were at the vegetative stages while Irish potatoes were at the ripeness stage, particularly in Njombe region. On the other hand, in Kigoma, Tabora, and Dodoma regions, maize crops were at wax ripeness while in Mbeya, Iringa,

No.14: 2023/24 Cropping Season

Ruvuma, and Rukwa regions the crop was at the tasselling stage. Most farmers in unimodal areas were engaged in weeding and application of fertilizers and pesticides. Apart from that, the cotton crop was affected by the prolonged rainy conditions experienced in the Tabora region.

Moreover, in Rukwa, Tabora, Mbeya, Shinyanga, and Morogoro regions farmers were engaged in planting and few farmers engaged in weeding of 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 11-20, 2024**

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

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS
DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 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 to continue over the western Indian Ocean while slightly warm SSTs are expected to continue over the eastern Indian Ocean, this condition is expected to influence the advection of some humid maritime winds to our country particularly the eastern sector particularly towards the second half of the dekad.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING
FEBRUARY 21-29, 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 rain showers over few areas, especially during the second half of the dekad.

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 a few areas, especially during the second half of the dekad.

The southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), and

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southern regions (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature rain showers with thunderstorms over some areas.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND
ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 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.

Farmers over bimodal areas are advised to finalize the harvesting activities for *Vuli* season crops. Moreover, they are advised to continue with land preparation for the *Masika* cropping season and planting crops when the soil is moist enough while consulting the extension officers from their localities.

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 fishing to avoid the effects of strong winds and heavy rains.

**EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS
DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 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.