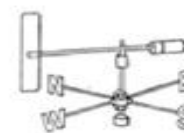




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.16: 2022/23 Cropping Season

Review of February 21-28, 2023, and Outlook for March 1-10, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry conditions that were observed in most of the bimodal areas led to soil moisture deficits that affected crop growth, particularly maize and paddy crops
- 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 21-28, 2023

The dekad was being influenced by a slight intensification of the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) and maintenance of their counterparts, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarenes). This condition continued to favour the position and oscillation of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over some areas of the country especially the southern sector.

The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over large part of the Indian Ocean were generally normal to slightly cooler than normal with less contribution in 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 Congo basin towards the western sector of the country.

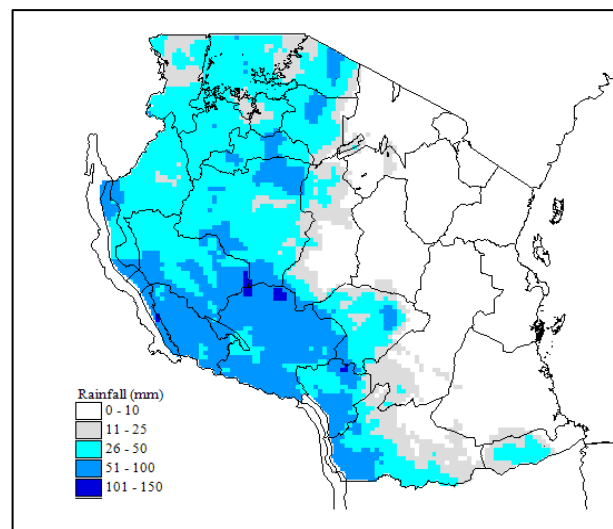


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of February 21-28, 2023

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2023

During the dekad some areas of the country experienced less than 10 mm of rainfall with an exceptional of areas around Lake Victoria basin, western, south western and southern regions which experienced more than 11mm of rainfall. The highest amount of rainfall of more than 100 mm was recorded over few areas in Mbeya region as indicated in Figure 1.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2023

The ongoing rainfall activities in some areas of the unimodal areas favoured crop growth and development following the improved soil moisture. Dry conditions that were observed in most of the bimodal areas led to soil moisture deficits that affected crop growth, particularly maize and paddy crops. In most of the unimodal areas, maize crop was reported to be in good condition. The maize crop over Tabora, and Kigoma regions was reported to be at wax ripeness stages. On the other hand, the bimodal rainfall regime area specifically Kagera, Shinyanga and Simiyu farmers continued with maize harvesting. Paddy crop was at the third leaf and tillering stages over Tabora, Mbeya, Morogoro and Rukwa regions.

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Irish potatoes over Njombe and Mbeya regions were reported to be at full ripeness stage and few farmers have started harvesting activities.

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

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued increasing particularly over south western highlands due to ongoing rainfall condition..

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 1-10, 2023

During this dekad, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to slightly intensify while its counterparts the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are likely to maintain their strength. This scenario is expected to allow the ITCZ to remain oscillating over some areas of the country.

The SSTs over large areas of the Indian Ocean are expected to be generally normal to slightly cooler than normal with less contribution in the advection of moisture from the Indian Ocean towards the coastal areas.

Low level westerly wind anomaly is expected over the country and likely favour moisture influx from Congo basin towards the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 1-10, 2023

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

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

Northern coast (Tanga, northern Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam together with isles of Unguja and Pemba), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro) as well as southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to feature mainly light rain showers.

Review of February 21-28, 2023 and Outlook for March 1-10, 2023

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida) are expected to feature rain showers with isolated cases of thunderstorms.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2023

The expected rains in some areas of the country specifically southern coast and south western highlands will continue favouring soil moisture replenishment that eventually support crop growth and development.

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

Fishers are advised to continue making good use of daily weather forecasts including marine forecast from Indian Ocean and from 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 MARCH 1-10, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to remain normal. However, communities are advised to harvest rainwater for future use.