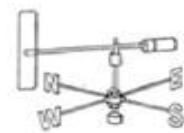




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.11: 2023/24 Cropping Season

Review of January 11-20, 2024, and Outlook for January 21-31, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- Crops and pastures are in good conditions in most areas;
- The expected rainfall in most areas will continue favoring pastures and crop growth and development; and
- 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 JANUARY 11-20, 2024

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere high-pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarenes) relaxed while the northern hemisphere high-pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) intensified. This scenario allowed the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to continue oscillating over the southern sector of our country. On the other hand, the Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwestern Indian Ocean were warmer than normal, especially over the area east of Madagascar. This condition favored the occurrence of low-pressure systems over the southwestern Indian Ocean which pulled, north-westerly wind from the Congo forests through the western sector of the country towards the coastal areas. This condition favored the advection of humidity from the Congo forests and hence substantially contributed to the rainfall-making mechanism over those areas.

The weather system above influenced rain showers associated with thunderstorms, particularly over some areas of the southern region, southwestern highlands, entire coast, and western parts of the country. However, other areas experienced periods of light to moderate rain showers over few areas.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2024

During this dekad, most areas of the country experienced rainy conditions with dekadal amounts ranging between 11 mm and 150mm with few areas in Morogoro and Pwani regions receiving dekadal rainfall amounts of more than 200mm as indicated in Figure 1.

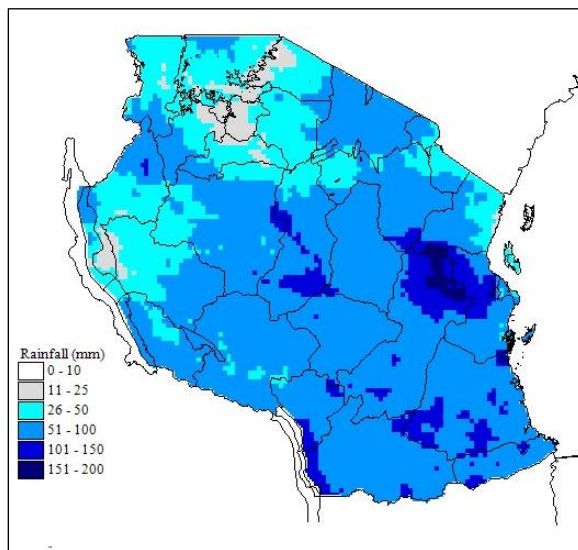


Figure 1: Total dekadal rainfall for January 11-20, 2024

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2024

During this dekad, rainy conditions experienced in most areas supported crop growth and development.

In most bimodal areas, the maize crop was between the wax and full ripeness stages while in the Kagera region, the crop was at the full ripeness stage. However, heavy rains associated with strong winds and hail have affected crops such as bananas, particularly in Kilimanjaro region. Apart from that, a bean crop that was at the ripeness stage was affected by the prevailing rainy conditions over Kagera, Mwanza, and Kilimanjaro.

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 are at the flowering stage in Njombe region.

No.11: 2023/24 Cropping Season

Moreover, in Rukwa, Tabora, Mbeya, Shinyanga, and Morogoro regions farmers were engaged in planting paddy crops.

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

**HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS
DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2024**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges slightly increased in some areas due to prevailing rains.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS
DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2024**

During this period, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue relaxing while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying. This condition is expected to allow the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to continue oscillating over the southern sector of the country. Warmer than normal SSTs are expected to continue over the southwest Indian Ocean, this condition is expected to influence the formation of low pressure systems in the ocean hence, pulling northwesterly winds through our country thereby enhancing the rainfall-making mechanism.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING
JANUARY 21-31, 2024**

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

The western regions (Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora regions) are expected to feature thundershowers over **some** areas.

The southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) is expected to feature thundershowers over most areas.

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

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature rain showers and thunderstorms 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), rain showers with thunderstorms are expected over **some** areas.

The southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions) and southern regions (Ruvuma and southern part of

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Morogoro regions) are expected to feature rain showers with thunderstorms over most areas.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND
ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2024**

The expected rainfall in most 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 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 JANUARY 21-31, 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.