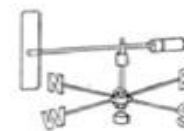




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



## AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.17: 2022/23 Cropping Season

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in bimodal areas are advised to continue with land preparation ready for the *Masika* season. However, they are advised to plant early matured and drought tolerant 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 forecasts and updates for their operational and planning activities.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2023

During this dekad, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberia) slightly intensified while their counterparts the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) observed insignificant changes. The scenario allowed the ITCZ to remain oscillating over some areas of the country. Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) over large areas 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 the Congo basin towards the western sector of the country.

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 1-10, 2023

During this dekad, most areas of the country experienced rainy activities except over some areas of Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Tanga, Pwani, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Lindi as well as Unguja and Pemba Isles, which received total rainfall less than 10 mm. The highest amount of rainfall of more than 100 mm was recorded over a few areas in Tabora region as indicated in Figure 1.

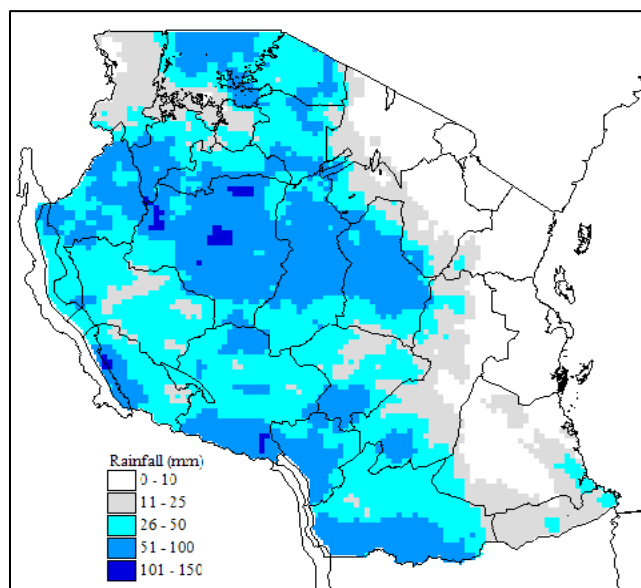


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of March 1-10, 2023

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2023

The ongoing rainfall activities in some areas of the unimodal rainfall regime 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 late-grown crop growth, particularly a maize crop. In most unimodal areas, the 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. Some farmers in bimodal areas continued with land preparation and most of them are planning to plant sunflowers and sesame crops for the MAM cropping season. Growing a maize crop has recently become a challenge due to uncertainties in rainfall performance.

Paddy crop was in vegetative stages over Tabora, Mbeya, Morogoro, and Rukwa regions.

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

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife remained normal in most parts of the country.

### HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 1-10, 2023

**W**ater levels in dams and river flow discharges remained normal in most areas.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2023

**D**uring this dekad, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to slightly intensify while their counterparts the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are likely to maintain. 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.

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

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 11-20, 2023

**A**reas around, Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu, and Mara) are expected to feature isolated thundershowers.

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

The northern coast (Tanga, northern Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam together with the isles of Unguja and Pemba), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro) as well as southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to feature rain showers with isolated cases of thunderstorms over few areas, especially during the second half of the dekad.

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

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2023

**T**he expected rains in some areas of the country specifically the southern coast and southwestern 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.

Farmers in bimodal areas are advised to continue with land preparation ready for the *Masika* season. However, they are advised to plant early matured and drought-tolerant crops such as Cassava, sunflowers, pigeon pea, sesame, millet, sorghum, etc.

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

They are both advised to utilize weather forecasts and updates as issued by TMA.

### EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2023

**W**ater levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to remain normal. However, communities are advised to harvest rainwater whenever possible for future use.