TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.17: 2023/24 Cropping Season *Review of March 11-20, 2024, and Outlook for March 21-31, 2024*

HIGHLIGHTS

- During this dekad, the expected rainfall in most parts of the country will continue favoring pastures and crop growth and development.
- Farmers in bimodal areas are advised to plant crops for the *Masika* cropping season in consultation with the extension officers from their localities.
- 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 MARCH 11-20, 2024

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarenes) intensified slightly while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) slightly relaxed. This scenario allowed the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move slightly northwards and cover some parts of the country.

The warmer than normal Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) continued to spread across the southwestern Indian Ocean, especially over the Mozambique Channel, this condition influenced the mechanism that triggered the formation of low pressure systems. These low pressure systems enhanced rainfall-making mechanisms over the southern coast, southwestern highlands, and the southern regions while suppressing rainfall-making mechanisms over the northern areas particularly the northeastern highlands and the nearby areas.

The above weather systems favored thunder showers activities over the Lake Victoria Basin, west, southern region, southwestern highlands, and along the coastal areas.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 11-20, 2024

During this dekad, most areas of the country received total rainfall for ten days ranging from11 mm to 100 mm except in some areas of Arusha, Mara, Geita, Kagera, Ruvuma, Tabora, Singida, and Dodoma regions which received dekadal rainfall amounts of less than 11mm as indicated in Figure 1.

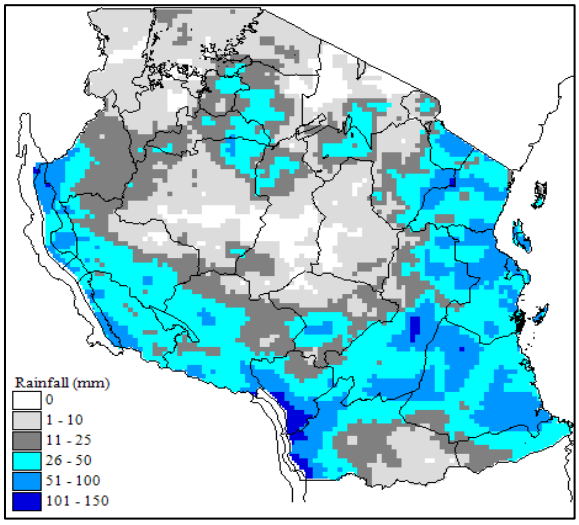

Figure 1: Total dekadal rainfall for March 11-20, 2024

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2024

During this dekad, rainy conditions experienced in some areas of the country supported crop growth and development.

In most bimodal areas, farmers were engaged in maize crop planting and land preparation for sunflower crop planting.

Over unimodal rainfall pattern areas, maize crops were between the tasselling and flowering stages. On the other hand, in Kigoma, Tabora, Dodoma, Mbeya, Iringa, Ruvuma, and Rukwa regions the crop was at the wax ripeness stage.

Moreover, in Rukwa, Tabora, Mbeya, Shinyanga, and Morogoro regions, the paddy crops were at the shooting stage.

The availability of water and pasture for livestock and wildlife was sufficient in most areas of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2024

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

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2024

During this period, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to slightly intensify while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to slightly relax. This condition is expected to maintain the ITCZ over some parts of the country

The SSTs over south western Indian Ocean are expected to be slightly warmer than normal, especially over the northern Madagascar areas, the condition is expected to influence into low pressure development and enhance rainfall-making mechanisms along the coast and nearby areas, especially during the first half of the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 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), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro regions) and southern regions (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature thundershowers over few areas.

The northern coast (Tanga, the northern part of Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam region, including the isles of Unguja and Pemba), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), are expected to feature thunderstorms over some areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2024

The expected rainfall will likely continue favoring and support crop growth and development in both bimodal and unimodal areas.

Farmers over bimodal areas are advised to plant crops when soil is moist enough while consulting the extension officers from their localities for the Masika cropping season.

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 continue making follow-ups on daily weather forecasts, especially for the Indian Ocean and the Great Lakes on the right decisions and plans for fishing activities

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 MARCH 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.

Administration Block, College of Informatics and Virtual Education, University of Dodoma,
1 CIVE Street, P.O. Box 27, 41218 Dodoma, Tel: + 255 26 2962610, Fax: +255 26 2962610,
Email: met@meteo.go.tz; agromet@meteo.go.tz; Website: *www.meteo.go.tz*
(ISO 9001:2015 Certified in Aviation Services)