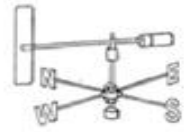




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY



AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No.19: 2022/23 Cropping Season

Review of March 21-31, 2023, and Outlook for April 1-10, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in bimodal areas are advised to finalize planting activities in consultation with local extension officer.
- Generally, maize crop over most unimodal areas are in good condition
- Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to utilize weather forecasts, advisory and updates for their operational and planning activities.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2023

During this period, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) intensified while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberia) relaxed. This condition moved the ITCZ northwards toward the northern parts of Tanzania. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean were slightly warmer than average, especially over the north of Madagascar.

This condition favoured the development of low pressure thereby intensifying the ITCZ. During the same period, also the MJO was in an active phase which favoured convective activities over some areas within the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 21-31, 2023

During this dekad, most areas of the country experienced rainfall condition of more than 10 mm. The highest amount of total rainfall of more than 200 mm was recorded over a few areas in Rukwa, Katavi, Tabora and Lindi regions as indicated in Figure 1.

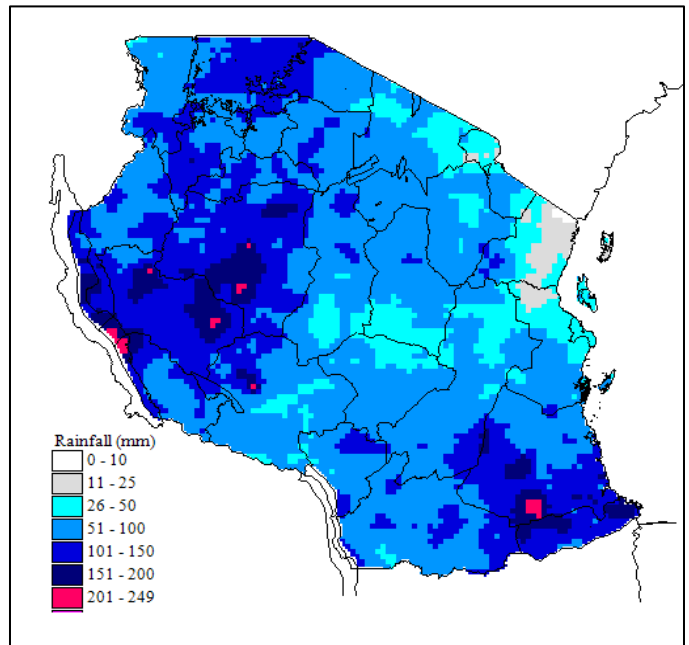


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of March 21-31, 2023

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2023

The ongoing rainfall activities in most areas of the country favoured crop growth and development following the improved soil moisture conditions. For the unimodal areas, the maize crop was between flowering and wax ripeness stages in some areas of Njombe region except in Iringa, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Tabora and Kigoma regions. Generally, maize over those areas was in good condition.

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

No.19: 2022/23 Cropping Season

Irish potatoes in 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 were generally good in most parts of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

DURING MARCH 21-31, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges remained normal in most areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS

DURING APRIL 1-10, 2023

During this period, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to slightly intensify while the northern high pressure systems are expected to relax. This condition is expected to maintain the northward movement of ITCZ towards the bimodal areas. The SSTs over the southwestern Indian Ocean are expected to be slightly warmer, especially over the northern Madagascar and therefore influence the development of low-pressure areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING

APRIL 1-10, 2023

Areas around, Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu, and Mara), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa), southern region (Ruvuma and southern Morogoro), western regions (Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi), northern coast (Tanga, northern Morogoro, Pwani, and Dar es Salaam together with the isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro) are expected to feature rainshowers with isolated cases of thunderstorms over few areas.

The central areas (Dodoma and Singida) are expected to feature rain showers over few areas.

Review of March 21-31, 2023 and Outlook for April 1-10, 2023

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING

APRIL 1-10, 2023

The expected rains in most areas of the country will continue favouring soil moisture replenishment that eventually supports crop growth and development.

Farmers in unimodal rainfall areas are advised to continue making follow-up on their crop fields particularly outbreak of pests and diseases in consultation with local extension officers.

Farmers in bimodal areas are advised to finalize planting activities especially the early matured and drought-tolerant crops in consultation with local extension officer particularly on crop types and seed varieties suitable for the *masika* cropping season.

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

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

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL

CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2023

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to slightly increase due to the expected rainfall condition. However, communities are advised to harvest rainwater whenever possible for future use.