

### Summary

- Forecast for November to April, 2017/2018 rainy season is special for areas with unimodal rainfall regime.
- Rains are likely to be mainly normal to above normal over most parts of Dodoma, Singida, Kigoma, Tabora, Rukwa, Katavi, Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Iringa, Ruvuma, southern sector of Morogoro region, Lindi and Mtwara regions.
- Rains over Kigoma, Tabora, Rukwa, Katavi, Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Iringa, Lindi, Mtwara and southern sector of Morogoro regions are expected to start in the first week of November, while over Dodoma and Singida regions rains are expected to start in December, 2017.
- Southeastern parts of the unimodal areas (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are likely to experience poor rainfall distribution during the months of January and February, 2018.
- Farmers are advised to prepare their farms early, plant timely and seek advice from agriculture extension experts.
- Livestock keepers are advised to practice good animal husbandry and harvest rainwater and pasture for future use

### CLIMATE SYSTEMS OUTLOOK FOR MSIMU RAINS, 2017/18

Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) currently being observed over the western Indian Ocean are likely to persist during the months of November, 2017 to April, 2018. Slightly warm SSTs are expected over Somali coast, while cool SSTs are likely over central equatorial Pacific Ocean. Over coast of Angola cool SSTs are likely during the months of November, 2017 to January, 2018 and warm SSTs are expected towards the months of February to April, 2018. Likelihood of deep low-pressure systems including tropical cyclones over southwestern Indian Ocean is expected to trigger westerly wind pattern across the country. The westerly wind pattern is expected to enhance moisture influx from Congo basin to western and southwestern parts of the country.

### MSIMU RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR 2017/18

*Msimu* rains are specific for the western, central, southwestern highlands, southern regions and southern coast. These regions experience unimodal rainfall pattern, which starts in November and ends between April and May of the following year.

Based on the current and expected climate systems there is an elevated chance of normal to above normal rains over most parts of unimodal areas of the country.

However, occasional heavy rains are expected over these areas especially towards the month of January, 2018. Details of the rainfall outlook are as follows:

#### *Western areas: (Tabora, Rukwa, Katavi and Kigoma regions):*

Normal to above normal rains are expected over much of these regions during the months of November, 2017 to January, 2018. Rains are expected to commence during the first week of November, 2017 over Kigoma, Rukwa and Katavi regions spreading to Tabora region during the second week of November, 2017. The cessation of these rains is expected in the fourth week of April, 2018.

#### *Central (Singida and Dodoma regions):*

Rains over these regions are expected to start during the first and second week of December, 2017. These regions are expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall during the months of November, 2017 to January, 2018. Similarly, for the months of February to April, 2018 normal to above normal rains are expected. The cessation of rainfall is expected in the fourth week of April, 2018.

#### *Southwestern highlands and Southern Region: (Songwe, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Ruvuma regions; and southern sector of Morogoro region):*

Rains are expected to start between the fourth week of November and first week of December, 2017 and are expected to be normal to above normal during the month of November, 2017 to January, 2018. Above normal rains are expected over much parts of these regions with pockets of below normal rainfall over southern sector of Morogoro

**EXPECTED IMPACTS AND ADVISORY  
FOR MSIMU RAINS 2017/18**

**Southern Coast: (Mtwara and Lindi regions):**

Rains over these regions are expected to start between the fourth week of November and first week of December, 2017 and are expected to be normal to above normal during November, 2017 to January, 2018.

During February to April, 2018 normal rains are expected over these regions and are expected to cease during the fourth week of April, 2018.

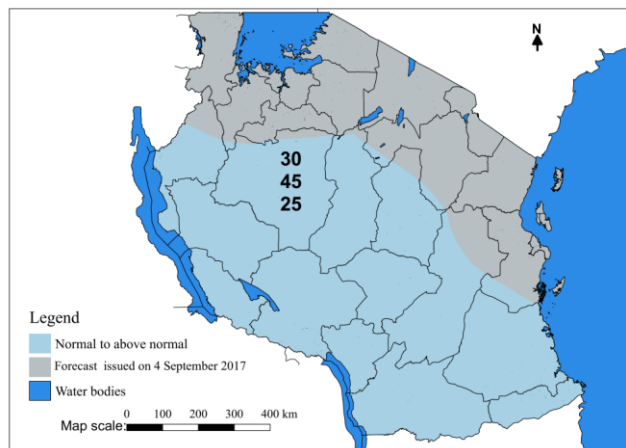


Figure 1: Rainfall outlook for *Msimu rainy season (November, 2017 - April, 2018)*

**Agriculture, Livestock, Wildlife and Fish Production**

Soil moisture levels for crop production as well as pasture production for livestock and wildlife is expected to improve. Fishers and fish farmers are advised to practice sustainable fishing and seek advisory from fisheries officers. Farmers and livestock keepers are advised to consult the agriculture and livestock experts on how best this forecast can be utilized to sustain their levels of production. Rainwater harvesting is also advised in water scarce areas.

**Disaster Management**

Disaster management authorities, humanitarian responders and other stakeholders are advised to take necessary mitigation measures such as good practice in livelihood activities, environmental conservation, land use and urban planning. Furthermore, sensitization and enforcement of the bylaws as well as preparedness for effective response to potential negative impacts that may result from the expected rains are highly encouraged.

**NOTE:** *The current status of seasonal forecasting allows for prediction of spatial and temporal averages over larger areas and may not fully account for all physical and dynamical factors that influence short-term climate variability. Users of this outlook are therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten-day and monthly updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Agency.*