During the period, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was well organized and dominated across central parts of Tanzania. The Southwestern Indian Ocean remained warm enhancing activities over most parts of the country. The western Atlantic Ocean (close to Angola coast) featured slightly cool Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) and supported the westerly winds and therefore activities over the Western parts of the country were enhanced.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, above normal to normal rainfall performance was observed over most parts of central, western, southwestern highlands and eastern part of lake Victoria basin, as illustrated in Figure 1. Below normal rainfall performance was observed to feature over the northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara), Lake Victoria basin (Geita and Mwanza), southern (Ruvuma) and southern coastal (Lindi and Mtwara) regions of the country.

The observed above normal rainfall over some parts the unimodal areas provided adequate soil moisture favourable for growth and development of crops despite some pocket areas that experienced excessive soil moisture and others dry conditions. Maize crop over Kigoma region was reported at waxy ripeness stage whereas over Tabora, Katavi, Rukwa, Mtwara and southern Morogoro maize crop was observed at flowering stage. Much of the northern coast including northern Morogoro and coast region, the

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Most parts of the country experienced above normal to normal rainfall during March 11–20, 2017 except northeastern highlands, Geita and Mwanza regions, southern regions, some areas of northern coast and few areas over Mbeya, Tabora, and Singida experienced below normal rainfall performances.
- Crops were progressing well at various stages while over the bimodal areas farmers were mostly engaged in weeding activities.
- Water and Pastures for livestock were improving over most parts of the country.
- Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to continue weeding while in some places of the unimodal areas where frequent rainfall is expected, farmers advised to take precaution against weed infestation, excessive soil moisture and crop damage.
- Livestock keepers over both unimodal and bimodal areas are advised to use pasture and water legibly and get consultation from livestock extension officers in their localities on sustainable use of the available resources.

**SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11–20, 2017**

**WEATHER SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11–20, 2017**

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11–20, 2017**

Figure 1: Rainfall performance during March 11–20, 2017 as percentage of long term average.
maize crop in these areas was at vegetative stage. Over Njombe, Mbeya, Iringa and Songwe regions maize crop was at tasseling stage. The replanted maize over some places of the unimodal areas including Lindi, Mtwara and Dodoma regions were also observed to establish well. Crops were observed in average condition in most places. Over the bimodal areas, the observed soil moisture was useful mostly for planting. Water availability for livestock was moderate while pasture availability was still inadequate in some areas of Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mwanza and Mara regions.

**Western regions** (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): Occasional rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over some areas. **Central areas** (Dodoma and Singida regions): Rain showers with thunderstorms are expected over some areas. **Southwestern highlands** (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas. **Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions)**: Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas. **Southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region)**: Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas.

**EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017**

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas. **Northeastern highlands** (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas. **Northern coast** (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Frequent rain showers with thunderstorms are expected over some areas.