

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 32 2016/17 Cropping season

Review for August 11-20 and Outlook for August 21-31, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry conditions continued to prevail over most of the country during August 11-20, 2017 with off-seasonal light rains observed in few areas of Kigoma, Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Pwani, Dar es Salaam regions and Unguja island.
- Off-seasonal rains are not adequate for planting seasonal crops but may affect cereal crops that are not stored properly.
- Periods of strong winds are likely to occur over coastal regions during August 21-31, 2017.
- Dry conditions coupled with strong winds will lead to further declining in water and pastures for livestock. Livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pastures.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2017

During the period under review, high pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St. Helena and Mascarene) intensified significantly while the high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberia) remained relaxed. The situation contributed to the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to remain in the northern hemisphere. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the western Indian Ocean were warm, causing southerly to southeasterly winds along the coast whereas over the eastern Atlantic Ocean (close to Angola coast) neutral to cool SSTs were observed.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic features, dry conditions continued to prevail over most of the country during August 11-20, 2017 with off-seasonal light rains observed in few areas of Kigoma, Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Pwani, Dar es Salaam regions and Unguja island as shown in Figure 1.

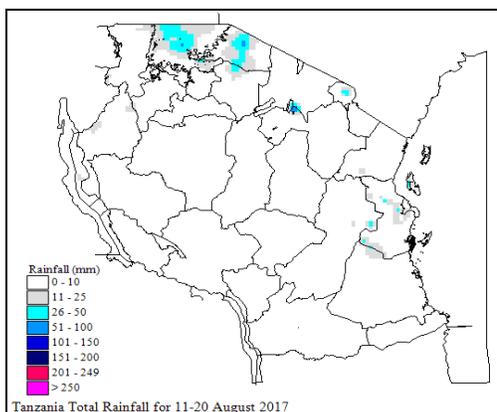


Figure 1: Total rainfall during August 11-20, 2017

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2017

Most farmers in the country are through with harvesting and are planning for the coming October – December (*vuli*) season for bimodal and seasonal rains for unimodal areas. Water and pasture availability for livestock declined over much of Dodoma, Simiyu, Arusha and Manyara regions. Other areas had moderate water and pasture conditions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to decrease over most areas of the country due to the ongoing dry and windy conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2017

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to remain intense while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax. This situation will cause the ITCZ to maintain its position in the northern hemisphere. SSTs over tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to continue being warm and continue to influence frequent southerly to southeasterly winds along the coast. On the other hand, SSTs over the southeastern Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) are expected to be cool.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2017

The country is expected to experience dry conditions with cool to cold temperatures due to intensification of the southern hemisphere pressure systems. However, off seasonal light rains are expected over few areas of Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions), northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions), northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region). Periods of strong winds are also likely to occur over coastal regions including Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Lindi, Mtwara, and Pwani regions and the isles of Unguja and Pemba.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2017

Off- seasonal rains are not adequate for planting seasonal crops but may affect cereal crops that are not stored properly and those in fields. Dry conditions coupled with strong winds are likely to lead to further declines in water for livestock and human use in water scarce areas. Pastoralists are advised to use the available water and pasture resources sparingly in consultation with extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue decreasing over most parts of the country due to the ongoing dry season coupled with strong winds. Water users are advised to make good use of the available water.

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