

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 6 2017/18 Cropping season

Review for November 21-31 and Outlook for December 1-10, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- During November 21-31, 2017, weeding was the major activity over the bimodal areas except Shinyanga region where farmers are still engaged in planting activities.
- *Msimu* rains has started in Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora where farmers are mostly engaged in planting activities
- Due to prolonged dry conditions over most parts of Shinyanga, Dodoma, Singida, Longido and Kiteto areas, livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pastures.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 21-31, 2017

During the period under review, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to relax while the north systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify, which allows the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to migrate towards southern hemisphere. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the Tropical Western Indian Ocean remained slightly warm resulted into isolated rainfall over the entire coast. The Southeast Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) experienced significant warming which contributed to the suppression of activities over the western part as well as Lake Victoria basin.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING NOVEMBER 21-31, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic features, some parts of Kagera, Tabora, Ruvuma, Shinyanga, Singida and Songwe regions experienced rainfall exceeding long-term average rainfall by more than 50 mm (Figure 1). Moreover, the highest rainfall exceeding long term average by more than 100 mm rainfall was recorded over few areas of Ruvuma, Tanga, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mara and Kagera region. However, some few areas of Rukwa, Morogoro, Kilimajaro and Tanga received less than 20 – 50 mm below long term average rainfall as indicated in Figure 1.

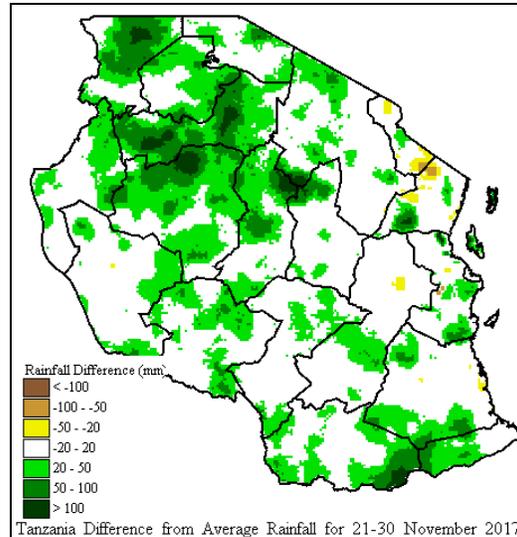


Figure 1: Difference from average rainfall for 21 -31 November, 2017

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 21-31, 2017

The observed rainfall performance in most of the bimodal area, was favorable for farming activities. Weeding was the major activity in many places of the Lake Victoria basin, North eastern highlands and Northern coast except for some areas of Shinyanga where farmers are still engaged in planting activities. Crops are in good conditions and at ninth leaf stage for maize while budding stage for beans during the period. For the unimodal area, *Msimu* rain season has started in some areas of Rukwa, Kigoma and Tabora where farmers are mostly engaged in planting activities. For the remaining Unimodal areas farmers are continuing with land preparation while waiting for *Msimu* season expected to start between the fourth week of November and second week of December 2017. Soil moisture condition was improved in much of bimodal areas due to ongoing *Vuli* rains. However, water and pasture availability for livestock remain low over most parts of Simiyu, Shinyanga, Dodoma, Singida, Longido and Kiteto due to prolonged dry conditions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 21-31, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges has slightly improved mainly in bimodal areas due to ongoing Vuli rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2017

The northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azore and Siberia) are still intensifying and the southern hemisphere high pressure system (St.Helena) is becoming strong. On the other hand the southern hemisphere high pressure system (Mascarene) will continue to relax gradually. The position of ITCZ will remain in Tanzania especially the southwestern highland and southern region which lead to enhancement of activities over those areas. SST over the Tropical Western Indian Ocean is expected to continue warming which may result into isolated rain showers over the entire coast. The warming condition over the Southeast Atlantic Ocean is expected to continue which will reduce rainfall over the Western part of Tanzania as well as to the Lake Victoria Basin.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2017

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)** and **Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions)** are expected to feature isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. **Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions)**, **Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba)** and **Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions)** are expected to feature isolated rain showers. **Southwestern highland (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Mbeya regions)**, **Southern region (Ruvuma)** and **Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions)** are expected to feature occasional rain showers and thunderstorm.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2017

The expected rainfall conditions will be favorable for improving soil moisture condition for crops and pastures over most areas of the country. Farmers are advised to continue with routinely farm activities while over the unimodal areas where *Msimu* rains are about to start should continue with land preparation. However, farmers should always seek professional advice from Agricultural extension officers in their localities and take precautionary measures. Pastoralists are also advised to use the available water and pasture resources sparingly in consultation with extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to increase mainly over lake Victoria basin, Pangani, Rufiji and Wami/Ruvu. Water users are advised to continue using available water carefully.