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.

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.

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 Kigoma, Rukwa 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 Fuli 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.

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

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.

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 thunderstorms.