



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 9 2017/18 Cropping season

Review for December 21-31 and Outlook for January 01-10, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- *Msimu* rains continue in most of unimodal regions where farmers are involved in land preparations and crop planting.
- Rainfall during January 01-10, 2018 is expected to favour crop and pasture development over much of the country.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2017

During the period under review, the southern high-pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to relax, while the northern systems (Azores and Siberian) intensified allowing the ITCZ to remain over southern parts of Tanzania. The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the tropical western Indian Ocean remained slightly warm. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) experienced slightly warm conditions which reduced rainfall activities over western parts of Tanzania as well as over the Lake Victoria Basin.

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic features, a few areas of unimodal regions mostly in Ruvuma, Mtwara, Njombe, Kigoma and Katavi regions experienced rainfall amounts above 120% of long-term average while the most parts of Dodoma, Tabora and Singida regions received less than 50% of long term ten-day (dekadal) average rainfall as shown in Figure 1.

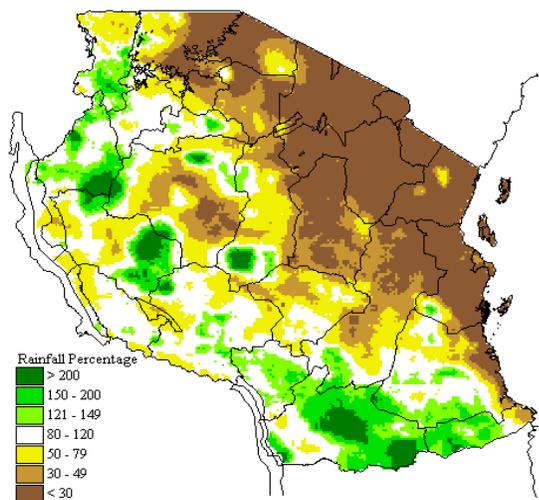


Figure 1: Rainfall performance during 21-31 December, 2017 as percentage of long term dekadal rainfall average.

Much of bimodal areas generally received less than 50% of long-term dekadal average rainfall except southern parts of Kagera and some pockets in Shinyanga regions which received above 120% of long term averages.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2017

During the dekad under review, the observed rainfall amounts provided favourable conditions for crops germination in most places of the unimodal areas. In these regions, farmers were mostly engaged in planting activities despite of reduced soil moisture levels reported over central regions. Over bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) did not get boost of soil moisture supply. This condition worsened the severe moisture stress to most crops that were between vegetative and earing stages. Bean crop over much of the bimodal areas were at ripeness stages. Water and pasture availability for livestock remained low over most parts central areas and northeastern highlands (Dodoma, Singida, Longido, Monduli, Ngorongoro and Kiteto) due to insufficient rainfall and prolonged dry spells.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have slightly improved over much of the country due to ongoing seasonal rains.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2018

The northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) are expected to experience slight relaxation while the

southern systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) will start to intensify gradually towards the north. The position of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) will remain over Tanzania maintaining rainfall activities in southwestern highlands and southern sector of the country. The SSTs over the tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to be slightly warm which may result into rainy showers over the northern coast. The southeast Atlantic Ocean SSTs is expected to cool thus resulting into active weather over the Lake Victoria Basin and western part of Tanzania.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2018**

The expected rainfall will improve soil moisture conditions over most of unimodal areas where crops are at early growth stages. These rains however, will be beneficial to maize but unfavorable to maturing beans over Lake Victoria basin particularly in Kagera region. Farmers are therefore advised to continue with routine farm activities and seek advice from agriculture extension officers. In bimodal areas, livestock keepers are advised to consult Livestock Extension Officers for optimal use of the available water and pasture.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2018**

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)** is expected to feature isolated rainy showers and thunderstorms. The **northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions)** and **northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba):** are expected to feature rainy showers.

**HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve mainly over unimodal areas due to the ongoing seasonal rains. However, water users are advised to continue using available water sparingly.

**Western region (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) and southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe, and Mbeya regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), and southern region (Ruvuma region):** These areas are expected to feature occasional rainy showers and thunderstorms.

**Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions):** are expected to feature occasional rainy showers.

*Prepared by*  
**TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Ubungo Plaza - Morogoro Road  
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 - (0) 22 - 2460706-8; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 - 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet@meteo.go.tz  
Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA