

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 11: 2017/18 Cropping season

Review for January 11-20 and Outlook for January 21-31, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Msimu* rains continued well in most parts of unimodal regions where farmers are involved in routine activities.
- Rainfall during January 21-31, 2018 is expected to favour crops and pasture development mainly over unimodal areas.
- *Vuli* off- season rainfall over bimodal areas will continue to enhance soil moisture for pasture and late grown crops.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2018

During the period under review, the northern hemisphere systems (Azores and Siberian highs) experienced slight relaxation while the southern systems (St. Helena and Mascarene highs) started to intensify gradually towards the north. The position of Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained over Tanzania especially over southwestern highlands and southern sector of the country resulting into enhanced weather activities over those areas. The Sea surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the tropical western Indian Ocean were slightly cool to neutral conditions hence resulted into isolated to occasional thundershowers over the coastal areas. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) experienced slight warming conditions, which resulted into reduction of rainfall activities over the Lake Victoria Basin and western part of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2018

In view of the observed synoptic features, many areas in the country experienced above 120% of long term ten-day average rainfall as shown in Figure 1. However, most part of Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Kagera, Geita, Simiyu, Kigoma, Tabora, Rukwa regions and isles of Unguja and Pemba received below 80% of long term ten-day average rainfall. Also, pocket areas of below average rainfall were observed in Mara, Arusha, and north of Coast region. During the dekad under review, there was a marked off season rains over some parts of bimodal areas particularly the Coast, Manyara, Arusha, Mara, Mwanza, Kagera and northeastern Morogoro regions where *vuli* rains cease normally in December.

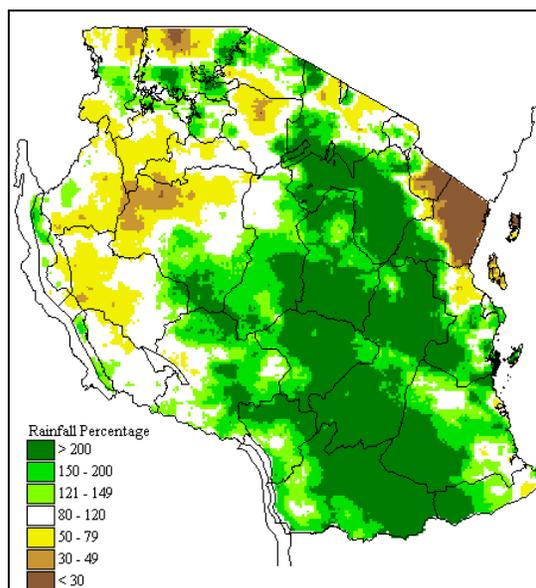


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 11-20 January, 2018

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2018

During the period under review, the observed rainfall amounts continued to provide favourable moisture conditions for crop growth and development. However, above average rainfall negatively affected weeding and fertilizers application activities due to excessive soil moisture levels. Over bimodal areas the off *vuli*-season rainfall enhanced soil moisture conditions for pastures and late planted crops while impeding harvesting and drying of matured crops like beans. Water and pasture condition have improved over much of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have improved in most parts of the country due to ongoing rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2018

The Azores and Siberian high pressure systems are expected to experience slight relaxation while the St. Helena and Mascarene highs will continue to intensify gradually towards the north. The position of ITCZ will remain over Tanzania especially over southwestern highlands and southern sector of the country resulting into enhancement of activities over those areas. SSTs over the tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to be at neutral condition, which may result into fewer weather activities especially over the northern coast. The SSTs over southeast Atlantic Ocean are expected to increase, hence deny weather activities over the Lake Victoria Basin and western part of the county. However, presences of tropical cyclones over Madagascar is likely to contribute in enhancement of rainfall activities over southern sector, central and northern coast.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITION DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)** and **western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions)** are expected to feature isolated rainy showers and thunderstorms.

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.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and **southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Mbeya regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions)** and **southern region (Ruvuma region)** are expected to feature

Occasional rainy showers and thunderstorms.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2018

The expected rainfall conditions will favorable growth and development of crops and pastures mainly over much of the unimodal areas. Farmers are advised to continue with routinely farm activities and also carry out rainwater harvesting for future use during periods of water deficits. Off seasonal rainfall over bimodal areas will favour late plated crops although harvesting and drying of matured crops may be affected. Water and pastures conditions are expected to improve significantly across the country. Farmers, fisheries and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges will continue improving in Pangani, Rufiji, Wami/Ruvu and Ruvuma basins due to ongoing rains. However, water users are advised to continue using available water sustainably.

Prepared by

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