



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 16: 2017/18 Cropping season

Review for March 1-10 and Outlook for March 11-20, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in many areas of unimodal rainfall regime are mainly engaged with weeding and fertilizer application.
- Farmers in the bimodal areas are mostly engaged with land preparation and planting.
- Excessive soil moisture and rainy conditions over the unimodal areas may have effect on fertilizer application and weeding activities.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) experienced slight relaxation while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) intensified slightly. The position of Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained over the southern sector of Tanzania. The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwestern Indian Ocean were slight warm to neutral resulted into northeasterly to easterly winds and southeasterly to easterly winds over the northern and southern sectors of the country respectively. The slight warm to cool SSTs were experienced over southeast of the Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast).

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 1-10, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), most parts of the bimodal areas including isles of Unguja and Pemba received above normal rains (above 124% of the long term ten days average rainfall). Below normal rains (below 75 % of the long term ten days average rainfall) were observed in some areas of Simiyu, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Geita and Kagera regions as indicated in Figure 1. Most part of unimodal areas received normal and above normal rainfall except Tabora, northern Singida, Rukwa, Ruvuma, Katavi, Kigoma, northern Njombe regions which received below normal rains.

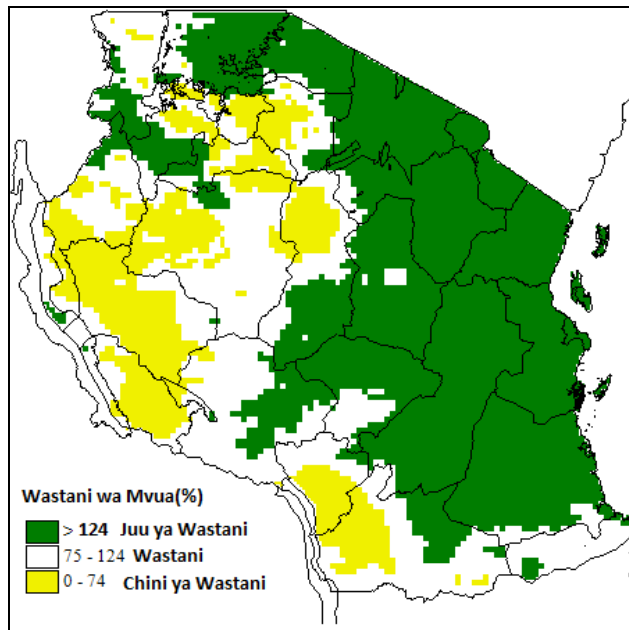


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 1-10 March, 2018

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 1-10, 2018

During the ten days (dekad) period, for the most of the unimodal areas maize crop was at tasseling stage. Farmers over these areas were mostly engaged with weeding and fertilizer application. Farmers over bimodal areas continued with land preparation and planting, however, harvesting of late grown *vuli* maize crop was reported in Simiyu and Mwanza regions. Water and pasture availability were in good condition over much of the country.

**HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS  
DURING MARCH 1-10, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have continued to improve over much of Rukwa, Nyasa and Rufiji basins due to ongoing seasonal rains.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS  
DURING MARCH 11-20, 2018**

The northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to experience slight relaxation while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to intensify. The ITCZ is expected to shift gradually towards north. The SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean is expected to experience slightly warm to neutral conditions which may result into northeasterly to easterly wind flow over the northern sector of the country and southeasterly to easterly wind flow over the southern sector of the country. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) is expected to experience neutral to cool SSTs resulting into westerly wind flow, which is likely to drag moisture from Congo basin towards western sector of the country. Therefore, enhancement of activities is expected over the most parts of the country especially for the first half of the dekad.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS  
DURING MARCH 11-20, 2018**

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba):** Rainy showers and thunderstorms are expected over some areas.

**Western areas (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) and Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions):** Rains and thunderstorms are expected over few areas.

**Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions), and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions):** Rainy showers and thunderstorms are expected over some areas.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND  
ADVISORY DURING MARCH 11- 20, 2018**

The expected rainfall condition is likely to favour growth and development of crops and pastures. However, excessive soil moisture and rainy conditions over the unimodal areas may have effect on fertilizer application and weeding activities. For the bimodal areas the expected rains will improve the soil moisture for crops establishment. Water and pasture conditions are expected to improve significantly across the country. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

**HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY  
DURING MARCH 11-20, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve across the country due to expected rains. Despite of expected improvement of water resource, users are advised to continue harvesting and using available water sparingly.

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