

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.17: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for March 11-20 and Outlook for March 21 - 31, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- During March 11 -20, 2019, dry spells were observed in some parts of Kilimanjaro, Moshi, Same, Kiteto, Pwani, Dar es salaam and Isles of Unguja, Pemba, Singida and Dodoma.
- Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are recommended to consult extension officers and seek the advise in optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11 - 20, 2019

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) were slightly intensifying while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) were slightly relaxing causing the northern part of Tanzania to experience subsidence. Cool Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) over the west Indian Ocean were persisting, that blocked northeasterly winds and hence reduced precipitation over the north-eastern part of the country. Over south west Indian Ocean, warm SSTs were persisting, that enhanced Tropical cyclones. Over southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), SSTs were neutral which lead to no significant impact to the weather over the western parts of the county.

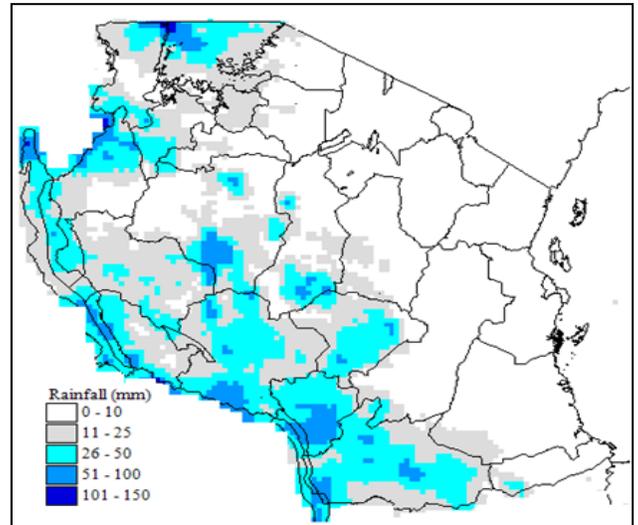


Figure 1. Total rainfall for the period of March 11 - 20, 2019.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 11 - 20, 2019

During the ten day (dekad) period, few areas around Lake Victoria basin, west, southwestern highlands and southern sector of the country received rains of between 11 mm – 100mm as shown in Figure 1. The remaining parts of the country specifically northeastern highlands, northern coast and most part of central area were generally dry with total rainfall not exceeding 10 mm in a dekad as shown in figure.

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11 - 20, 2019

During the dekad, in most of the unimodal areas, maize crop was at flowering to the wax ripeness stage. Farmers over these areas were mostly engaged with weeding. However, poor condition of maize crop was reported in Dodoma, Singida, Tabora due to prolonged dry conditions. On the other hand, dry spells were observed in some parts of bimodal areas, specifically Kilimanjaro, Moshi, Same, Kiteto, Pwani, Dar es salaam and Isles of Unguja and Pemba that may affect crops development and growth. On the contrary, the Kagera region specifically Bukoba continued to receive rains which will support seeds germination and development. Water and pasture availability for livestock were in good conditions over most parts of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2019

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are improving slightly due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2019

The Azores and Siberian highs are expected to slightly intensify while the St. Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to slightly relax. This will likely allow the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to remain over the southern part of the country. SSTs over the west Indian Ocean are expected to persist and likely to cause the formation of tropical depression, which may lead to enhancement of precipitation over the western part and southern sector of the country and reducing precipitation over the northern coast and northeastern highland. Over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), SSTs are expected to be warm, which may lead to no significant impact to the weather over the western parts of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21- 31, 2019

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), western (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) is expected to feature thundershowers over few areas.

Northern coast (Tanga, Northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and

Kilimanjaro regions) is expected to feature rain showers over few areas especially second half of the dekad.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) is expected to feature light rain showers over few areas.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions) is expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 21 - 31, 2019

The expected rains over some areas in the southwestern highlands, the south coast and south of the country will improve soil moisture conditions for crop development. Farmers and livestock keepers over the bimodal and unimodal areas are advised to consult an agricultural extension officer for proper utilization of the expected light rains for the decade. The observed dry spell around central areas, northern coast and northeastern highlands is likely to continue during the first half of this dekad and the expected rains during second half of the dekad may have no significant impact to the soil moisture. Therefore, farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are recommended to consult extension officers and seek the advise in optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 21 - 31, 2019.

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to slightly improve in unimodal and bimodal areas as the Msimu and Masika rains continues over those regions. Water users are advised to use available water carefully despite expected rainfall over some areas.

Prepared by

TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd 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; website: www.met@meteo.go.tz

Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA