No. 29: 2018/19 cropping season
Review for July 1-10, 2019 and Outlook for July 11 - 20, 2019

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JULY 1 - 10, 2019

During this dekad, the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) remained intensified while the northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) were relaxed. The position of Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was over the extreme north of Lake Victoria basin and caused southerly to southeasterly flow of winds at low levels over the country. Sea surface temperature (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean were neutral to cool which reduced the possibility of Tropical cyclone occurrence. The dominant wind flow pattern was southerly to southeasterly thus enhanced cooler temperatures over most parts of the country. Periods of easterly waves influenced weather over the coastal areas. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs were neutral to slight warm and resulted into less westerly wind flow, hence suppressed precipitation making mechanism over the western sector of the country.

Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of July 1 - 10, 2019.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JULY 1 - 10, 2019

During this dekad, the observed dry condition that prevailed over much of the country were favorable for crops harvesting, drying and storage activities over both the unimodal and bimodal areas. Farmers were therefore mostly engaged in out of season activities including crops harvesting and drying. In unimodal areas maize crop was reported to be at full ripeness to harvesting stage specifically in Njombe, Mbeya and Iringa. On the other hand, Ruvuma, Mtwara, Dodoma and Rukwa are finalizing harvesting activities. Wheat was at wax- ripeness to full ripeness in Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya regions. In most parts of bimodal rainfall regime maize crop was at full ripeness, while in Simiyu, Tanga, Moshi, Pwani and Mara regions harvesting

HIGHLIGHTS

- The expected dry conditions are likely to favor crop drying, harvesting and storage.
- The ongoing out of seasonal rains are not suitable for planting of seasonal crops.
activity is in progress. Paddy harvesting activities are carried out in Mbeya (Usangu and Kyela), Ruvuma, Tabora, Kigoma regions, Morogoro, Pwani, Simiyu and Shinyanga.

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges decreased as well due to prevailing seasonal dry conditions and windy conditions attributing to water loss through evaporation.

During this dekad, the southern high pressure systems are expected to intensify significantly thus will keep the over land East Africa ridge to be strong while the northern high pressure systems are expected to relax. The position of ITCZ expected to be over the extreme north of Lake Victoria basin. SSTs over the Tropical Southwestern Indian Ocean are expected to feature slight warming conditions and therefore influence frequent southeasterly to southerly winds along the coast. Also, SSTs over Northwest Indian Ocean (Near Somalian coast) expected to be cool this will defuse the zonal arm of ITCZ to remain over Lake Victoria basin. The dominant wind flow pattern is expected to be southerly to southeasterly which will enhance cooler temperatures over most parts of the country. The Southeast Atlantic Ocean are expected to continue experience warm to neutral SSTs, contributing to less periods of wet condition over areas of western part of the country and Lake Victoria basin during the period.

In view of the expected dekad areas around Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) are expected to feature thunderstorms over few areas.

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), western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora

Water levels in dams and river flow discharge are expected to continue decreasing over most parts of the country due to the ongoing dry conditions coupled with windy condition. Water users are advised to make good use of the available water.