

NO. 1: 2019/20 Cropping Season

Review for September 21-30, 2019 and Outlook for October 1 - 10, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in bimodal and unimodal areas continued with land preparation for the coming “*Vuli*” and “*Msimu*” rain seasons.
- Farmers over Lake Victoria basin, northern coast, southern coast, and northeastern highlands are advised to continue with land preparation until there is sufficient soil moisture for crop germination.
- Farmers, fisheries and livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pasture due to excessive evaporation as a result of prevailing dry conditions over much of the country.

**SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING
SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2019**

During this dekad, the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued relaxing during the first half of the dekad while the northern high pressure systems (Azore and Siberian) intensified. The intensification of Azore and St. Helena high pressure systems squeezed the meridional arm of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further to extreme northern part of the country specifically lake Victoria basin. On the other hand, during the second half of the dekad, the southern high pressure systems intensified and create strong ridging high resulting to the strong winds along the entire coast. Slightly warmer Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) over the western Indian Ocean has continued during this dekad. Slightly enhanced warmer SSTs over the Angola coast persisted and became much stronger during the second half of the dekad, hence favored weak westerly wind towards the western sector of the country.

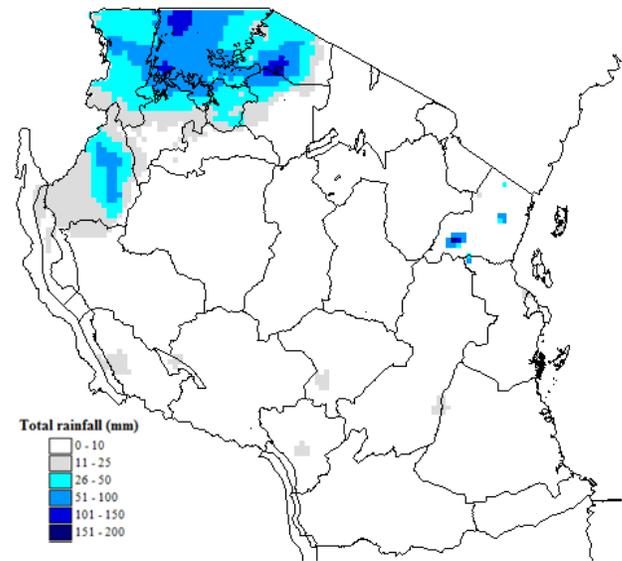


Figure 1. Total rainfall for the period of September 21-30, 2019

**RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING
SEPTEMBER 21 - 30, 2019**

During the dekad, most parts of the country were generally dry except for most areas around Lake Victoria except Shinyanga, most parts of Kigoma region, northern coast specifically Tanga region received off seasonal rains. The amount of rainfall recorded ranged from 11 mm to 100 mm as shown.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY
DURING SEPTEMBER 21 - 30, 2019**

Most farmers around bimodal areas continued with land preparation for the coming “*Vuli*” season, except in Kagera region where maize and beans crop planting were progressing. For the unimodal regime farmers mostly have started land preparations for the coming “*Msimu*” season that normally expected to start between November and December.

Water and pasture availability for livestock have continued to decrease significantly over much of Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Singida, Arusha, Manyara and Dodoma regions due prevailing seasonal dry conditions.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2019

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to decrease across the country due to current dry conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2019

During this dekad, the southern high pressure systems are expected to continue relaxing while the northern high pressure systems intensify therefore squeeze the meridional arm of the ITCZ further to extreme northern part of the country specifically over lake Victoria basin. This situation is likely to cause light to moderate wind and continue to push the ITCZ southwards from the northern hemisphere. Slightly warmer SST over the western Indian Ocean are expected to continue fostering rain showers over the northern coast during the dekad. Slightly enhanced warmer SST over the Angola coast is expected to persist resulting into weak westerly wind towards the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 1 - 10, 2019

In view of the expected weather, areas around lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), western parts (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) are expected to feature showers of rain over few areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions) are mainly expected to feature dry condition.

EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2019

The improved soil moisture level is expected in areas around lake Victoria basin, northern coast, southern coast, and northeastern highlands due to expected rains during the dekad. Farmers are advised to make use of these rains for planting crops when there is enough soil moisture. In unimodal areas the expected off seasonal rains are not adequate for planting seasonal crops. Farmers are advised to continue preparing their farms for the coming “*Masika*” seasons that is common to start between November and December. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER, 1-10 2019

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue declining especially in unimodal areas due to ongoing dry conditions. The increase is expected in bimodal areas due to *vuli* rainfall season kickoff. Water users are advised to use available water carefully.

Prepared by

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