

No. 9: 2019/20 cropping season

Review for December 21-31, 2019 and Outlook for January 01 - 10, 2020

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Rainfall during January 01-10, 2020 is likely to maintain soil moisture condition for crops and pastures over most areas of the country.
- Excessive soil moisture condition may affect crop growth and management over low land areas due water logging.
- Farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers are advised to consult agriculture extension officers for crop management and use meteorological update.

**SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2019**

During this period, the Azores and Siberian high-pressure systems continued to intensify while the St. Helena and Mascarene were relaxed. This allowed the ITCZ to be over the southern part of our country. Warm Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were observed over the south-west Indian Ocean and resulted into formation of tropical perturbations over the area. On the other hand, neutral to slight cool SSTs were observed over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), this caused westerly wind flow and moisture influx from Congo forest into the country.

**RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING DECEMBER 11 - 20, 2019**

Generally, in this dekad the entire country recorded significant rainfall amounts as shown in Figure 1. However, many areas of unimodal rainfall pattern such as central, southwestern highlands, and southern regions depict total rainfall ranging from 100 mm to 250mm. Few areas over Dodoma, Singida, Njombe, Southern Morogoro, Lindi, and Mtwara reported the highest rainfall amount between 200 mm to 250 mm. Most of bimodal rainfall pattern received total rainfall ranging from 11mm to 100 mm.

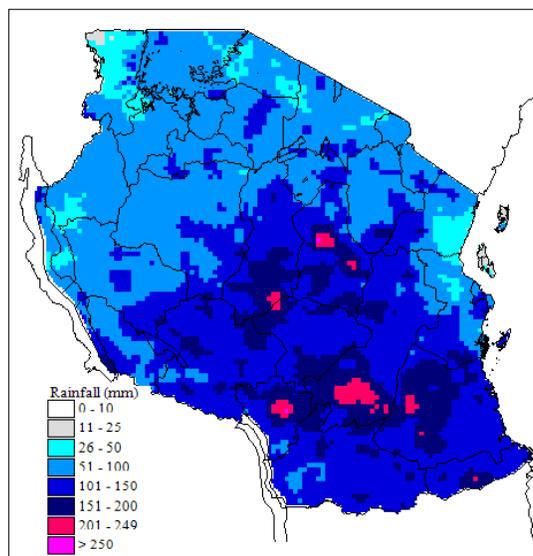


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of December 21 - 31, 2019.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2019**

The rainfall observed during this dekad, provided favorable conditions for crop growth and development. Most parts of northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Moshi and Manyara) the major field activities were crop weeding and northern coast (Tanga, Pwani, Northern Morogoro, Island of Pemba and Unguja) the farmers were engaged in harvesting of maize and beans. Some areas in this regime reported, maize at tasseling and full ripeness phases while beans were at flowering and ripeness phases except in Kagera region beans were harvesting has started. Over unimodal areas, mainly the farmers engaged in the planting of maize, millet and sunflower over

central, southern coast, and southern regions while weeding of maize and beans was reported over western regions (Kigoma and Tabora) and Irish potatoes over southwestern highlands (Njombe and Mbeya). Maize crop was at ninth in Njombe, Mbeya, Tabora, and Kigoma while Irish potatoes were at budding phase in Mbeya and Njombe. However, in Rukwa region Maize and beans at emergence and budding stage respectively.

Generally, during this dekad most areas crops were in good condition and sufficient soil moisture. However, excess soil moisture was reported to affect crop development example Irish potatoes and maize in Njombe and Simiyu respectively.

**HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING  
DECEMBER 21-31, 2019**

Due to ongoing season rains in most areas over the country, water levels in dams and river flow discharges were improved significantly.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING  
JANUARY 01-10, 2020**

During this dekad, quasi-stationary high-pressure systems Azores and Siberian are expected to continue intensifying while the St. Helena and Mascarene are expected to continue relaxing. This is expected to allow the ITCZ to remain over the southern part of the country. Warm Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) over the south-west Indian Ocean are expected to persist, this condition is likely to trigger the formation of tropical depressions. Over southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), SSTs are expected to be neutral to slight warm, this condition is likely to cause low level weak westerly wind flow and in hence less contribution to moisture flux from Congo forests to some parts of the county during this period.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING  
JANUARY 01 - 10, 2020**

During january (01–10) dekad, few areas around Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara) together with western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora) are expected to receive thundershowers while northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro) and northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience rainshowers over few areas. Either, central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to experience thundershowers over some areas which accompanied with short periods of strong winds. The southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe, and Iringa regions) are expected to feature thundershowers associated with short periods of strong winds over most areas.

**EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND  
ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2020**

The expected rainfall over most areas across the country is likely to maintain soil moisture condition favorable for crops and pasture for growth and development. However, excessive soil moisture condition may affect crop growth and management over low land areas due water logging. Farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers are advised to consult agriculture extension officers for crop management and use meteorological update insured by TMA which is available at <http://www.meteo.go.tz/>.

**EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS  
DURING JANUARY 01-10, 2020**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to slightly decrease mainly over the bimodal regime. However, water users are advised to continue using available water carefully.

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