

No.14: 2019/20 cropping season

Review for February 11-20, 2020 and Outlook for February 21 - 29, 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The expected rains in unimodal areas are likely to favour crop growth and improvement.
- The ongoing off-season rains some areas in bimodal regime may affect harvesting and drying of matured crops.
- Farmers, livestock keepers and fisheries are advised to take appropriate measures against expected excessive soil moisture, insects and strong winds.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2020

During this dekad, the northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) intensified while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed. This condition allowed the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to remain over the southern part of the country. The slight warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the south west indian Ocean were experienced to trigger weak formation of low pressure system. Over southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), SSTs were neutral to slight warm that caused low level weak westerly wind flow and hence less contribution of moisture flux from Congo forests to some parts of the county.

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING FEBRUARY 11 - 20, 2020

The weather system contributed to enhanced rain over most areas of the country mainly in unimodal sector. The amount of rainfall ranging from 26 mm to 100 mm was recorded in most areas over the unimodal regime (southern coast, sothern region, southwestern highlands, central parts and weastern regions. Either, few spots of rainfall more than 100 mm were observed over Mtwara, Lindi, Ruvuma, Morogoro Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi na Tabora as indicated in Figure 1.

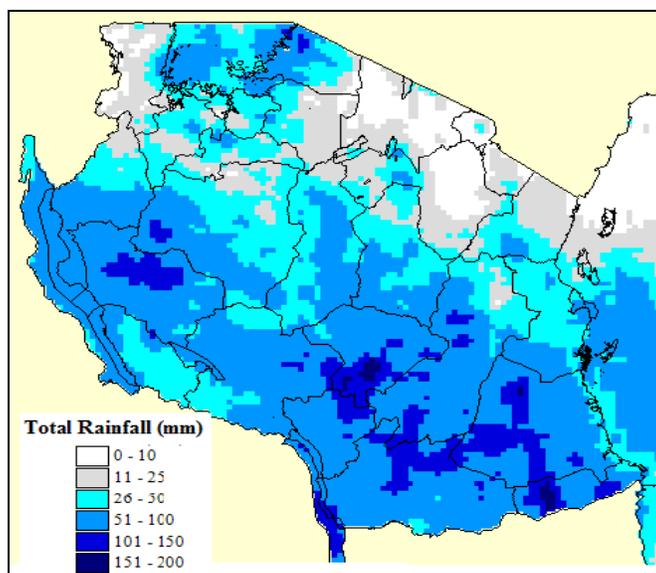


Figure 1: Rainfall total for the period of February 11 - 20, 2020.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING FEBRUARY 11 - 20, 2020

During this dekad, edequate soil moisture has been experienced in most parts of unimodal areas. In bimodal areas specifically Kiteto, Lyamungo, and Morogoro farmers were mostly engaged with harvesting of maize and beans while in Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, and Shinyanga regions maize was at ninth leaf and farmers were mostly involved with weeding activities. Elsewhere in Tanga, Mtwara, Mbeya, and Iringa maize was at flowering stage.

Few areas of northern coast (Pemba, Unguja, and Morogoro) farmers progressed with sowing of paddy crop. Either, the region like Simiyu and Mtwara farmers engaged in weeding of cotton and cleaning of cashew trees respectively. However, in Mbeya

and Iringa maize crop were at flowering stage. Land preparation for wheat crop was reported in Mbeya.

#### HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2020

most part of the country was generally good and likely to improve over the unimodal areas.

#### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 2020

In this dekad, the northern high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying while the southern high pressure systems relaxing. This will allow the ITCZ to remain over the southern part of the country. Warm SSTs are expected over the south west Indian Ocean. This situation is likely to trigger weak formation of low pressure system. The SSTs Over southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) are expected to be slight warm to cause low level weak westerly wind flow and enhance less contribution of moisture flux from Congo forests to some parts of the county.

#### EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 21 - 29, 2020

Areas around Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara), western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora), central areas (Dodoma and Singida) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to have moderate rain showers over few areas.

Northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro) are expected to have moderate rain showers over some areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro) is expected to have light rain showers over few areas.

#### EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 2020

The expected rains in unimodal areas is likely to favour soil moisture improvement. Farmers over by bimodal regions are advised to take precaution and measures of protecting “Vuli” season matured crops against adverse effects of ongoing off seasonal rains. The ongoing off seasonal rains over the bimodal areas are likely to coincide with the start of MAM, 2020 season, particularly over the northern coast. Farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers are advised to seek more advice from agriculture extension officers and use meteorological update issued by TMA

#### EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 2020

Water levels in dams, lakes, and river flow discharges are expected to maintain. Water users are advised to harvest adequate water for the future uses.

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