

HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture condition in most parts of the country is expected to continue improving due to ongoing ‘*Masika*’ and ‘*Msimu*’ rains
- Excessive soil moisture conditions is likely, crops in lowland areas may be affected
- Farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers are advised to consult agricultural extension officers for crop management and use of meteorological update issued by TMA

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2020

During this period, the northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) slightly relaxed while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) slightly intensified. This scenario allowed the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) slowly to migrate towards the northern part of the country. The existence of slightly warm Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the southwest Indian Ocean (off Madagascar coast) triggered the development of low pressure systems. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) experienced slightly warmer SST and hence less contribution of westerlies from Congo basin. However the Oscillation of the ITCZ over the country enhanced rainfall activities especially over the bimodal areas.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 21 - 31, 2020

The weather system during this dekad, contributed to enhanced rainfall over most areas of the country. The amount of rainfall ranging from 26 mm to 200 mm was recorded in most areas of the country. Either, areas around, southern Morogoro and western Ruvuma received rainfall of above 200 mm as indicated in Figure 1.

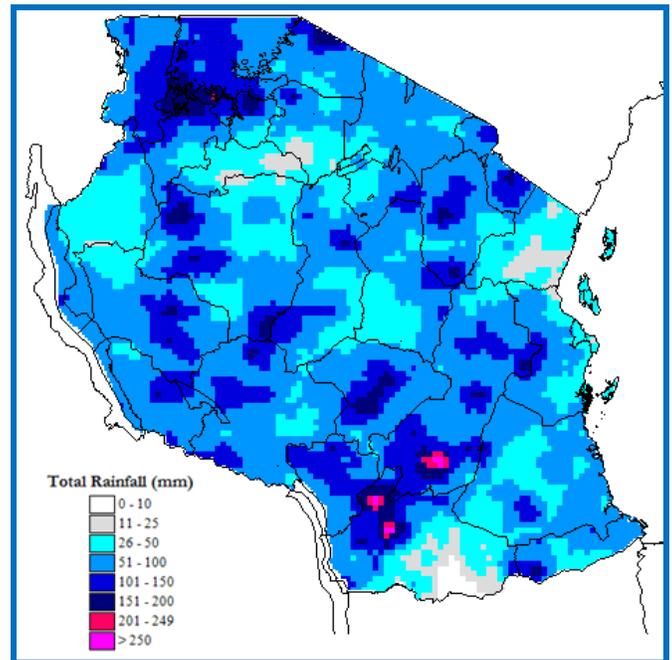


Figure 1: Rainfall total for the period of March 21 - 31, 2020.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21 - 31, 2020

During the dekad, enhanced rainfall was favourable for agriculture activities in both unimodal and bimodal areas. However, most areas specifically Dodoma, Singida, Dar es salaam, Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Morogoro, Rukwa and Mbeya regions have experienced excessive soil moisture that led to soil leaching and erosion. In unimodal areas, the maize crop was reported to be at wax ripeness stage. In Iringa, Njombe, Singida

and Ruvuma regions farmers were mostly engaged with harvesting of beans. Few areas in Iringa and Njombe farmers were reported to engage with harvesting of Irish potatoes. On the other hand, in bimodal regime farmers were mostly engaged with weeding activities. In Simiyu and Kagera regions, farmers were involved with planting of beans while Mwanza, Shinyanga and Simiyu farmers were finalizing harvesting of late grown 'Vuli' maize crop. Few areas of northern coast specifically Morogoro, Tanga and isles of Pemba and Unguja farmers continued with weeding of paddy crop that was reported to be at flowering stage.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2020

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were improving over most parts of the country due to ongoing *Masika* and *Msimu* rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2020

During this dekad, the northern high pressure systems is expected to continue slightly relaxing while their counterparts, the southern high pressure systems will continue intensifying slightly. This condition will confine the ITCZ over some areas of the northern sector of the country favoring enhanced convection within the domain. Warm SST over the southwestern Indian Ocean (SWIO) and southeast Atlantic (near Angola) is expected to persist and favor the development of tropical depressions over the SWIO with weak westerly wind blowing from Congo basin towards the country. This scenario will have much influence on rainfall formation mechanisms over the south western highlands, coastal belt and the north eastern highlands of the country

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1 - 10, 2020

Areas around southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa) is expected to feature moderate showers over some areas especially during the first half of the dekad.

Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu

and Mara) is expected to feature moderate showers over some areas especially on the second half of the dekad.

Southern regions (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro) and northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature moderate showers over some areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora) are expected to feature moderate showers over few areas.

Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) and central areas (Dodoma and Singida) are expected to feature slight rain showers over few areas.

EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2020

Soil moisture condition in most parts of the country is expected to continue improving due to ongoing '*Masika*' and '*Msimu*' rains. These rains will have significant impact to areas with excessive soil moisture (Dodoma, Singida, Dar es salaam, Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Morogoro, Rukwa and Mbeya). Farmers are advised to take precautions of these rains especially for areas with excessive soil moisture to avoid crop failure. Also, farmers are advised to practice good techniques for land preparation, crop harvesting and crop choice especially over low lands. Farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers are advised to consult agricultural extension officers for crop management and use meteorological update issued by TMA

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2020

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue to improve over most areas of the country. Users are advised to continue using available water carefully.