

No.19: 2019/20 cropping season

Review for April 1-10, 2020 and Outlook for April 11 - 20, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- The ongoing rains in most parts of the country is favorable for crop growth and development.
- In areas with excessive soil moisture farmers are advised to practice best agricultural techniques for crop harvesting, drying and storage especially over low lands.
- Farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers are advised to consult agricultural extension officers for proper crop management

**SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING
APRIL 1-10, 2020**

During this dekad, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) slightly relaxed while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) intensified. The scenario confined the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further to the north. Slightly warm Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the southwest Indian Ocean (off Madagascar coast) prevailed and led to the development of tropical depressions. Meanwhile, the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) experienced slightly cooler SSTs with much contribution to westerly wind flow from Congo basin towards the country. The presence of the tropical depressions and cool SST over the southeast Angola contributed to enhanced rainfall over some areas of the country.

**RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING
APRIL 1 - 10, 2020**

Most parts of the country received rainfall ranging from 10 mm to 200 mm. The highest amount of rainfall of more than 200 mm was recorded in Katavi. However, in some areas of Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma, northern Iringa, Dodoma, Singida and Mbeya received rainfall amount of less than 10 mm as indicated in Figure 1.

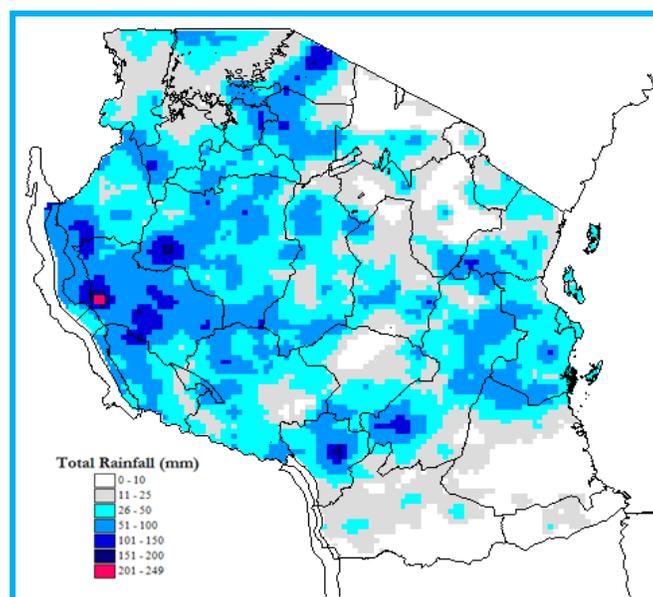


Figure 1: Rainfall total for the period of April 1 - 10, 2020.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY
DURING APRIL 1 - 10, 2020**

The ongoing seasonal rains on both bimodal and unimodal areas were favourable for crop growth and development. The maize crop in most parts of unimodal areas was reported to be at full ripeness and harvesting stages. Farmers in Iringa, Njombe, Singida and Ruvuma regions were mostly engaged with harvesting of beans. On the other hand, in bimodal rainfall regime farmers were mostly engaged with weeding and planting activities. In some 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.

(Mtwara and Lindi) are mainly expected to feature slight rainy shower.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 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 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2020

The expected rains in this dekad will lead to favourable soil moisture conditions over many areas of bimodal regime except those lowland areas where excessive soil moisture levels have been reported (Dodoma, Singida, Dar es Salaam, Coast, Lindi, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Morogoro, Rukwa and Mbeya). A few incidences of soil moisture deficit was reported in Tunduru district. Farmers are advised to practice best agricultural techniques for field drainage, crop harvesting, drying and storage. Furthermore, farmers, fishers, and livestock keepers are advised to consult agricultural extension officers for proper crop management.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2020

During this dekad the northern high pressure systems are expected to weaken while its counterparts, the southern high pressure systems to strengthen. The scenario will confine the ITCZ within the northern sector of our country. Warm SST to the south western Indian Ocean (SWIO) with cooler SST to the south east Atlantic (near Angola) is expected to persist. This scenario is likely to favor the development of tropical depressions over the SWIO with enhanced westerly wind blowing from Congo basin towards our country. This condition is likely have much influence on rainfall over much parts of the western, Lake Victoria basin and northern sector of the country mainly during the last half of the dekad.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 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.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1 - 10, 2020

Areas around Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora) are expected to feature moderate rain showers over some areas mainly during the second half of the dekad.

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

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa), southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro) are expected to feature moderate rainy showers over few areas.

Central regions (Dodoma and Singida) and southern coast

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