

No.20: 2019/20 cropping season

Review for April 11-20, 2020 and Outlook for April 21 - 30, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- Crop development in most parts of the country is progressing well due to ongoing seasonal rains
- Farmers are advised to use fungicides where excessive soil moisture and water logging has caused fungal infection to plants
- Farmers, livestock keepers and fishers are advised to consult extension officers for effective use of the forecast

**SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING
APRIL 11-20, 2020**

During this dekad, the northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) 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 (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean (off Madagascar coast) prevailed and fostered the development of tropical depressions. Meanwhile, the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) experienced slightly cooler SST that contributed to westerly wind flow from Congo basin towards the country. The presence of the tropical depressions and cool SSTs over the southeast Angola possessed a considerable contribution to enhanced rainfall over some areas of the country.

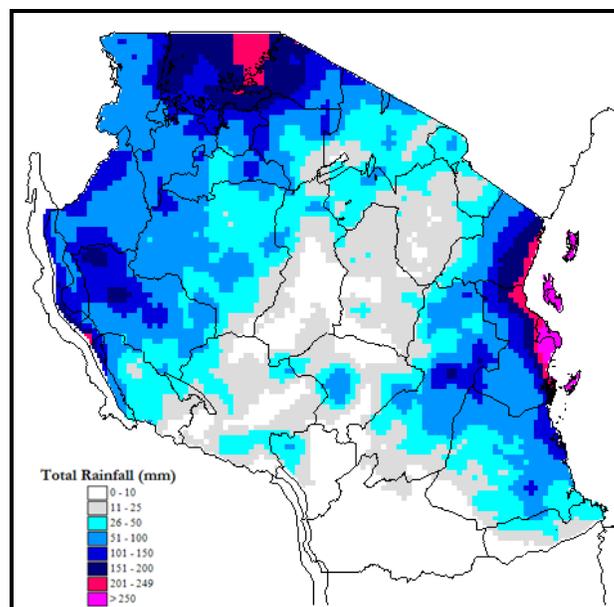


Figure 1: Rainfall total for the period of April 11 - 20, 2020.

**RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING
APRIL 11 - 20, 2020**

Most parts of the western, Lake Victoria basin, and coastal areas recorded more rainfall than other parts of the country (see Figure 1). Heavy rainfall exceeding 250 mm of rainfall was recorded in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions, and Islands of Unguja and Pemba. Generally, much of unimodal rainfall regime experienced decrease rainfall whereby less than 10 mm was received specifically in Ruvuma, Rukwa and Singida as indicated in Figure 1.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY
DURING APRIL 11 - 20, 2020**

During the period under review, crops continued to progress well in most areas of the country due to ongoing seasonal rains. In most areas of unimodal, maize crop was at wax ripeness to full maturity. Farmers in Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora and Kigoma regions were mostly progressing with harvesting of beans, although water logging was reported to affect crops.

On the other hand, in bimodal areas specifically Mara, Kagera, Morogoro and Arusha regions maize crop was between third and ninth leaf stage and farmers were mostly engaged in weeding and pesticide application. Rotting and leaf yellowing in beans

No.20: 2019/20 cropping season

was observed in Kagera due to prolonged rains that caused water logging and flooding. Farmers in some areas of northern coast specifically Morogoro, Tanga and isles of Pemba and Unguja, continued with weeding of paddy crop that was reported to be at flowering stage.

Review for April 11-20, 2020 and Outlook for April 21 - 30, 2020

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa) is expected to feature moderate rainy showers over few areas.

Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature mainly slight rainy shower.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 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 21-30, 2020

The northern high pressure systems are expected to relax while the southern high pressure systems will slightly intensify. This scenario will still confine the ITCZ to some areas within the northern sector of the country. Warm SSTs to the southwestern Indian Ocean with cooler SSTs to the southeast Atlantic (near Angola) is expected to persist to favor the development of tropical depressions over the southwestern Indian Ocean with enhanced westerly wind blowing from Congo basin towards the country. This condition will likely have much influence on rainfall in most parts of the western, Lake Victoria basin, northern coast and northern sector of the country mainly during the first half of the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21 - 30, 2020

Areas around Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara) 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 rainy showers over some areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro), western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora) and central areas (Dodoma and Singida) are expected to feature moderate rainy showers over some areas mainly during the first half of the dekad.

EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2020

Soil moisture is expected to continue improving over much of bimodal areas for crop growth and development. However, excessive soil moisture due to ongoing rains specifically in Kagera is likely to affect crops. In some areas of the country water logging has caused fungal infections on plants, therefore farmers are advised to use fungicide in controlling the disease. Soil moisture and pasture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly across the country. Farmers, fishers and pastoralists are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 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.

Prepared by

TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

3rd Floor - Ubungo Plaza - 388 Morogoro Road.

P.O. Box 3056, 16102 Dar es Salaam, Tel. 255 - (0) 22 - 2460706-8; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 - 2460718, E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet@meteo.go.tz,

website: www.met@meteo.go.tz UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA