

No.21: 2019/20 cropping season

Review for April 21-30, 2020 and Outlook for May 1 - 10, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- Excessive soil moisture and waterlogging are likely to affect nutrient uptake and may damage some of the crops.
- Wet and humid conditions are likely to favour crop pest and diseases.
- Farmers, fishers and pastoralists are advised to consult extension officers to make the best of this advisory.

**SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING
APRIL 21-30, 2020**

During this period, the northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) relaxed while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) intensified. This scenario confined the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further to the north. The slight warm Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the southwest Indian Ocean prevailed and fostered the development of tropical depressions. Meanwhile, the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) experienced a slightly cooler SST which contributed to westerly wind flow from Congo basin towards the country. The presence of the tropical depressions, cool SST over the southeast Angola and the active phase of Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) possessed a considerable contribution to enhanced rainfall over some areas of the country.

**RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING APRIL
21 - 30, 2020**

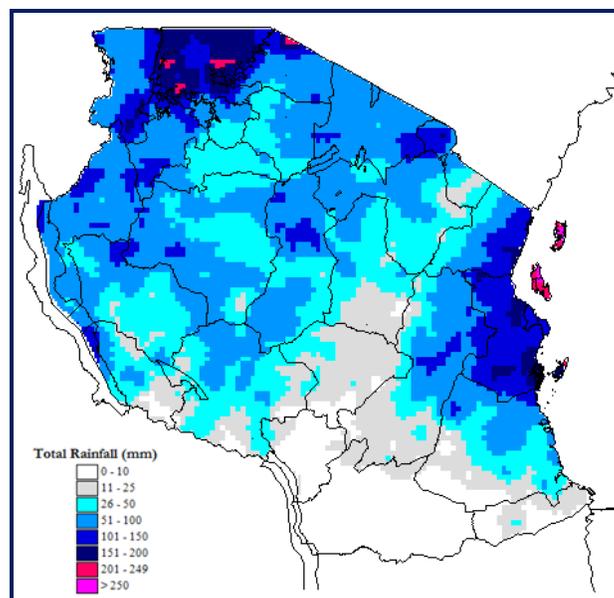


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of April 21 - 30, 2020.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY
DURING APRIL 21 - 30, 2020**

Most parts of the western, Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and coastal areas received rainfall ranging from 50 mm to 200 mm. Rainfall exceeding 200 mm was recorded in Mara region and Islands of Pemba and Unguja. Generally, much of unimodal rainfall regime experienced decrease rainfall whereby less than 26 mm was received specifically in Njombe, Ruvuma, Iringa, Mtwara, southern parts of Morogoro and Lindi regions as indicated in Figure 1.

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 rainfall regime, maize crop was at full maturity and harvesting was going on. Farmers in Mtwara, Lindi, Ruvuma, Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Rukwa, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora and Kigoma regions were progressing with harvesting of maize and beans, although excessive soil moisture was reported to affect crops. On the other hand, in bimodal areas specifically Mwanza, Simiyu, Mara, Kagera, Morogoro and Arusha regions maize crop was at full ripeness stage and farmers were mostly engaged in harvesting activities and pesticide application for late grown

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crops. Few cases of fall army worms were reported in Mara region. Rotting and leaf yellowing in beans was observed in Kagera due to prolonged rains that caused waterlogging and flooding. Flooding was reported in Kilimanjaro region and led to soil erosion and waterlogging. Some areas of northern coast specifically Morogoro, Tanga and isles of Pemba and Unguja, paddy was reported to be at wax ripeness stage despite waterlogging conditions.

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highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa) are expected to feature moderate rainy showers over few areas. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro) are expected to feature mainly slight rainy shower. Central area (Dodoma and Singida) is expected to feature mainly dry conditions with chance of slight rainy showers during the last half of the dekad.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2020

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to improve over much of Lake Victoria, Tanganyika, Ruvuma, Nyasa, Rufiji and Rukwa basins due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 2020

The northern high pressure systems are expected to weaken while the southern high pressure systems intensifying. This scenario will continue squeezing the ITCZ further northwards. Warm SST to the South Western Indian Ocean (SWIO) with cooler SST to the southeast Atlantic (near Angola) is expected to persist. The situation is likely to favor the development of tropical depressions over the SWIO with enhanced westerly wind blowing from Congo basin towards the country. This condition is likely to favor rainfall over some areas of the west, Lake Victoria basin, northern coast and northeastern highlands of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1 - 10, 2020

Areas around Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara) is expected to feature moderate rainy showers over some areas, mainly to the western and eastern Lake Victoria basin. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro) 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 especially during the last half of the dekad.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora) and southwestern

EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 2020

Soil moisture is expected to continue improving over much of bimodal areas favoring crop growth and development. However, excessive soil moisture due to ongoing rains specifically in Kagera, Morogoro, Islands of Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro is likely to affect crops. In some areas of the country waterlogging has caused fungal infections on plants, therefore farmers are advised to use fungicide in controlling the disease. Few areas in Mara where cases of fall army worms were reported farmers are advised to continue with pesticide application based on extension officers' advisory. Soil moisture and pasture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly across the country. Farmers, fishers and pastoralists are advised to consult extension officers to make the best of this advisory.

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 2020

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue to improve over most areas of the country. Water users are advised to strengthen irrigation canals and dam infrastructures.

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