

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 22. 2014/15 Cropping Season

Review for April 11-20, 2015 and Outlook for April 21-30, 2015

HIGHLIGHT

- During April 11-20, 2015, seasonal rains continued to feature over most parts of the country.
- During April 21-31, 2015 rainfall is expected over both the bimodal and unimodal areas of the country; the expected rainfall over the bimodal areas may be favorable for crops at development stages.
- Where thunderstorms are predicted, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2015

During April 11-20, 2015, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberia) relaxed significantly whereas the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) intensified. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were observed over the north western Indian Ocean closer to Somali coast. Neutral to slightly warm SST pattern was observed over the Eastern and Central Indian Ocean where neutral conditions were observed over the Western Indian Ocean closer to East African coast. This configuration influenced the Meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to shift slightly east ward towards western parts of the country. The zonal arm of the ITCZ on the other hand, moved north wards to cover most of the northern part of Tanzania and reducing the ITCZ rainfall influence to the southern sector of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2015

With the observed synoptic conditions during April 11-20, 2015, seasonal rains continued to feature in the country. Figure 1 is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing rainfall performance during the dekad as percentage of long term average whereby most areas in the country (western areas, Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and central areas) received above normal rainfall. However, some areas including the entire coast, southern region and part of south-western highlands received mostly below normal rainfall.

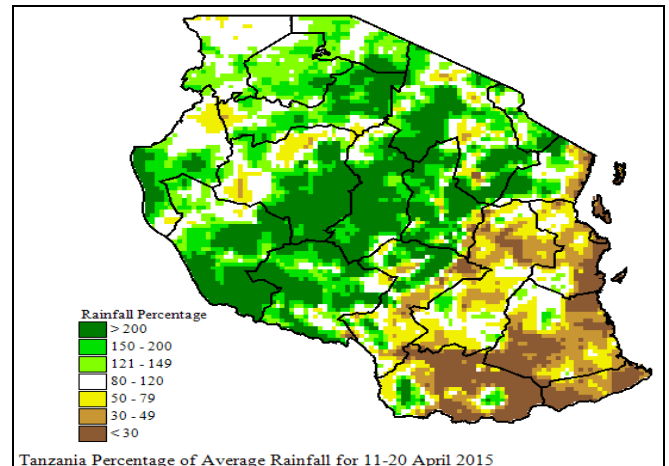


Figure 1: Rainfall performance during April 11-20, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11-30, 2015

During April 11-20, 2015, the observed rainfall was reported to have provided good soil moisture. Over the bimodal areas, the acquired soil moisture was favourable for crops growth. Maize crop over much of these areas was at tasseling stage with generally good condition. However, cases of heavy rainfall and flooding conditions were reported in some areas including Monduli district (Arusha region in north-eastern highlands) that eroded soils and crops in the field causing losses to farmers. Over the unimodal areas, maize crop has entered full ripeness stage but the crop failed in many places (including Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Tabora and Kigoma regions) due to prolonged dry spells during the previous dekads.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate in most areas of the country but cases of flooding conditions were reported in some areas including Monduli district in Arusha region.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2015

During April 11-20, 2015 moderate temperature conditions prevailed across the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

During April 21-30, 2015, the high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are expected to remain relaxed while their counterparts in the southern hemisphere are expected intensify significantly. Therefore, the ITCZ is expected to continue moving northwards from its current position. This movement is expected to influence weather over both unimodal and bimodal areas of the country. Neutral to warm SSTs are expected over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast. Neutral to slightly warm SSTs are expected to be observed East Africa coast while warm SSTs are expected over the Somali coast in the West Indian Ocean. Lower level wind speed is likely to start rising over some parts of the country and are expected to be characterized by south-easterly and westerly wind convergence over the western and south-western areas of the country. Over the remaining parts of the country, south-easterly turning to southerly wind is expected.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions), north-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions) and northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): thunderstorms and showers over some areas are expected, especially during the second half of the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions), south-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers with occasional thunderstorms over few areas are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): rain showers over few areas are expected during the period. Seasonal rains are expected to end over some of the unimodal areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

During April 21-30, 2015, the expected rainfall over the bimodal areas favorable for crops at development stages. However, timely weeding and proper soil water conservation practices are recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Where thunderstorms are predicted, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties. Farmers are also advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural and livestock extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

During April 21-30, 2015, water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve over the bimodal areas.

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