

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHT

- During August 1-10, 2015, much of the country continued to experience seasonal dry conditions which were favorable for the ongoing crops harvesting, drying and storage; *off-season* rainfall was also observed over some of the bimodal areas.
- The *off-season* rainfall expected over some of the bimodal areas during August 11-20, 2015 may destroy mature maize crops which are still in the field or not well stored.

No: 33. 2014/15 Cropping Season

Review for August 1-10, 2015 and Outlook for August 11-20, 2015

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

During August 1-10, 2015, the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere relaxed. In the southern hemisphere, the St. Hellena high pressure system intensified while the Mascarene high pressure system maintained its strength thus maintaining the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in the northern hemisphere. On the other hand, cool Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) persisted over the eastern Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast while neutral to warm SSTs were observed in the North West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast).

WEATHER (RAINFALL) SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, the country experienced off-seasonal rainfall in some areas of the country, particularly areas around Lake Victoria basin and northern coast. However, seasonal dry conditions dominated during the dekad and covered a large part of the country. Figure 1 shows total rainfall distribution during the dekad whereby the highest rainfall was 79.5mm observed at Bukoba meteorological station. Figure 2 Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing rainfall distribution in the country during the dekad as percentage of long term average whereby normal to below normal rainfall performance was observed over much of the country except areas around lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara and Simiyu regions), northern coast (Dar-es-Salaam, Morogoro and Zanzibar regions) and pocket areas over Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya and Singida regions which received above normal rainfall.

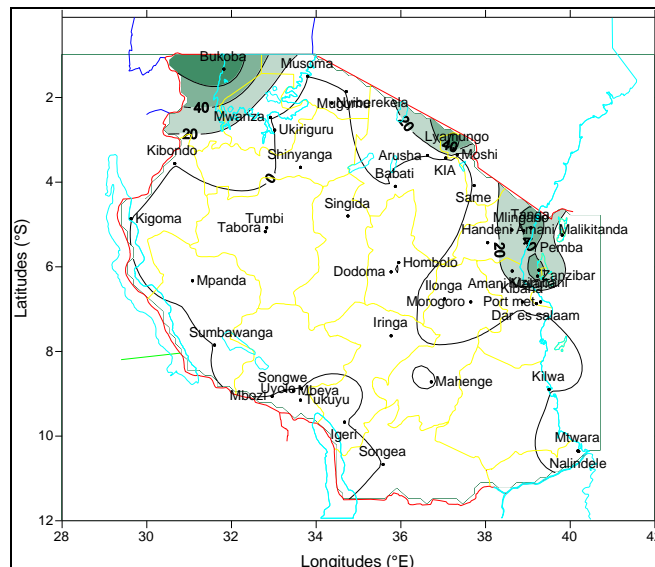


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution during August 1-10, 2015

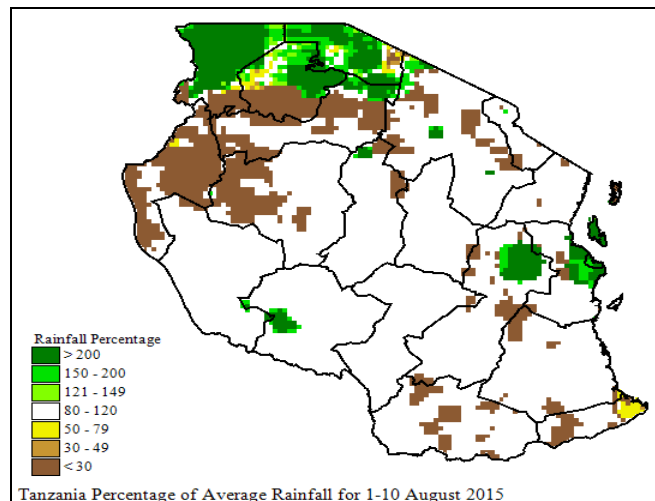


Figure 2: Rainfall performance during August 1-10, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

During August 1-10, 2015, the observed seasonal dry conditions provided favorable conditions for the ongoing crops harvesting, drying of cereals and storage activities especially over the bimodal areas. However the off-seasonal rainfall observed over some of the bimodal areas was reported to affect harvesting and drying activities especially Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions. Pasture was moderate in most areas but was poor over central areas and north-eastern highlands. Water for livestock on the other hand was low across the country due to the prevailing seasonal dry conditions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were low due to the prevailing seasonal dry conditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

During August 1-10, 2015 cool temperature conditions continued to prevail across the country, especially during the night.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2015

During August 11-20, 2015, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to remain weak while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to remain intense and therefore the ITCZ is expected to maintain its current position in the northern hemisphere. Warm SSTs are expected to persist over South-West Indian Ocean (East African coast) and Central Indian Ocean while cool SSTs are expected to persist over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast and neutral to warm SSTs are expected in the North West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast). This setting will influence dry conditions over most parts of the country, except the Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and the coast where isolated wet condition are likely.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2015

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): few rain showers and thunderstorms over few areas are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): few light rains over few areas. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): mainly dry conditions with isolated light rains over few areas. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions) and Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): mainly dry conditions with occasional periods of rain showers over few areas. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry conditions with few periods of light rain showers over few areas. Southern region (Ruvuma region): mainly dry conditions with few periods of rain showers over few areas. Cold nights are also expected over the entire country.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2015

During August 11-20, 2015, the expected off-seasonal rainfall over bimodal areas may eventually destroy mature maize crops which are still in the field or not well stored. Farmers are advised to harvest all mature crops and/or store them well. On the other hand, the seasonal dry conditions expected over much of the country may cause a further decrease in pasture and water for livestock especially in central areas and south-eastern highlands. Pastoralists are therefore advised to reduce the number of livestock and/or seek professional advice from Livestock Extension Officers in their localities.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2015

During August 11-20, 2015, a further decrease in water levels in dams and river flow discharges is expected over most parts of the country.

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