

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 03. 2014/15 Cropping Season

Review for October 1-10, 2014 and Outlook for October 11-20, 2014

HIGHLIGHT

- The observed seasonal rains over bimodal areas during October 1-10, 2014 provided favorable conditions for planting.
- The expected rainfall during October 11-20, 2014 will be favorable for planting and seed germination. Farmers are advised to take precautionary measures against soil erosion and water lodging conditions attributed to rain showers that may damage planted seeds.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2014

During October 1-10, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere intensified slightly, while those in the southern hemisphere relaxed slightly. As a result, the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) moved slightly southward in the horn of Africa while the meridional arm maintained its position in the west. This configuration influenced weather over the northern and extreme western parts of the country, particularly the Lake Victoria Basin, Kigoma and along the northern coast.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2014

During the period under review, mainly seasonal rainfall was observed over bimodal areas (regions around Lake Victoria basin, northern coast and some parts of northeastern highlands particularly Kilimanjaro region). The unimodal areas featured mainly dry conditions except few places especially northern Kigoma and Tabora regions which received total rainfall of 20 mm and above. The highest total rainfall during this period was recorded over Mwanza (85.8 mm) followed by Lyamungo (69.4 mm), Kibondo (60.7 mm), Tumbi (50.6 mm), Tanga (47.1mm), Ukiriguru (40.0 mm), Tabora (39.7mm), Moshi (38.2mm), Mlingano (35.6), Bukoba (31.3mm), Morogoro (30.9 mm), Nyiberekerera (30.9 mm), Amani (29.0 mm), Pemba (28.9 mm), Zanzibar (26.9 mm), Tukuyu (25.5 mm), Ilonga (23.3 mm), and Mpanda (20.2). The remaining areas received rainfall less than 20 mm as shown in Figure 1

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2014

During October 1-10, 2014, the observed seasonal rainfall over the bimodal areas provided favourable conditions for planting. As reported from most of the bimodal areas, farmers were engaged mostly in planting. However, early planted crops at emergence stage were observed in some areas including Mwanza and Mara regions. Farmers over the unimodal areas were observed to have started land

preparation in many areas. Water and pasture availability for livestock and wildlife were moderate, but with slight improvement over the bimodal areas due to the prevailing *vuli* rains.

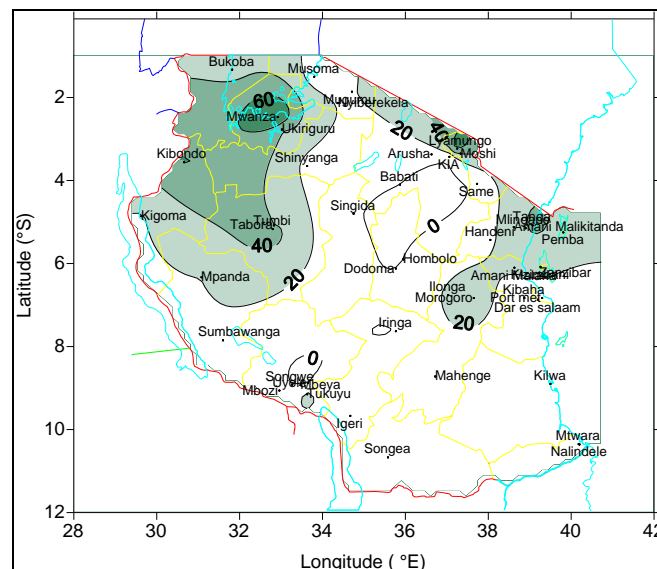


Figure 1: Spatial total rainfall distribution in the country during October 1-10, 2014

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2014

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate but with slight improvement over the bimodal areas due to the prevailing *vuli* rains.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2014

During October 1-10 dekad, warm temperature conditions were observed over most parts of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2014

During the October 11-20, 2014 the two southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to start relaxing slightly while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to slowly continue intensifying. However, during the first half of the dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to intensify slightly and the zonal arm of the ITCZ is expected to remain in the northern hemisphere. However, due to expected cool SSTs over the Angola and Namibia coast, the meridional arm of the ITCZ is expected to continue influencing weather over the extreme western areas of Tanzania. Neutral to cool Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are expected over the Somali coast while neutral to slight warm SSTs are expected over the East African coast.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2014

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions together with northern Kigoma regions): Frequent thunderstorms and rain showers are expected especially during the second half of the dekad. Periods of strong wind are also likely during the first half of the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Rain showers are expected, especially at the beginning and end of the dekad. North Eastern Highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Few rain showers are expected, especially during the second half of the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Occasional thunderstorms and rain showers are expected. Periods of strong winds are also expected during the first half of the dekad. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions are expected. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): Mainly dry conditions are expected. Periods of strong winds are also expected during the first half of the dekad over Rukwa and Katavi regions. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry conditions, with few rain showers are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mainly dry conditions are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2014

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during October 11-20, 2014 will be favorable for planting and seed germination. However, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures against soil erosion and water lodging conditions attributed to rain showers that may damage planted seeds. Farmers are also advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural extension and livestock officers. Over the unimodal areas, farmers are advised to finalize land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs.

BIMODAL AND UNIMODAL AREAS

1. Bimodal areas: Areas which experience two rainfall seasons (Oct - Dec/Jan and March - May). These are areas covering Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions including northern parts of Kigoma region), northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions together with the Isles of Unguja and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions).

2. Unimodal areas: Areas which experience one rainfall season (Nov - Apr). These are areas covering western areas (Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern areas (Ruvuma region).

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