

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 11. 2014/15 Cropping Season

Review for December 21-31, 2014 and Outlook for January 1-10, 2015

HIGHLIGHT

- During *December 21-31, 2014*, seasonal rainfall continued to feature over most areas of the country. The rainfall was favorable for crops and pasture despite the observed dry spells over some areas.
- The expected rainfall during *January 1-10, 2015* will be favorable for crops growth over the unimodal areas. Over the bimodal areas, the expected rainfall may favour late grown crops.
- Community is advised to take precautionary measures for people's safety and properties where thundershowers are

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2014

During December 11-20, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian highs) remained strong while the high pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St Hellena and Mascarene highs) relaxed thus contributing to significant southward shifting of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the country. Northerly wind flow and occasional westerly flow dominated a greater part of the country resulting into persistent wind convergence. The above configuration, associated with abundant moisture over the lower levels, contributed to rainfall activities over the western, central, southwestern highlands and southern parts of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2014

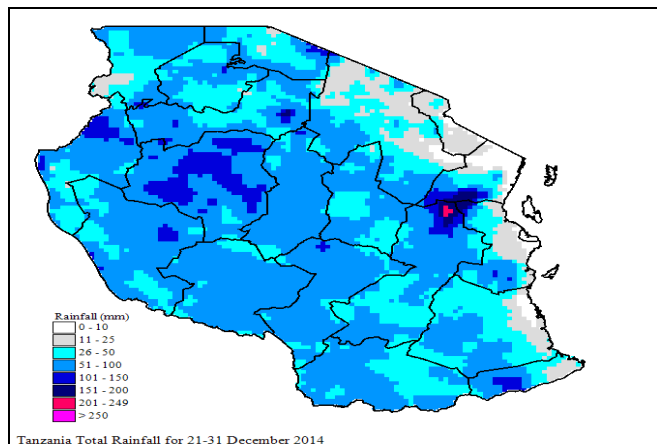


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution (mm) during December 21-31, 2014.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions during December 21-31, 2014, seasonal rains continued to feature in most places of the country over both the bimodal and unimodal areas whereby the

highest total rainfall was 201-249mm recorded over Morogoro. However, dry conditions continued to prevail in some areas over the northern coast and north-eastern highlands as shown in Figure 1 (total rainfall distribution in the country). Figure 2 (improved Satellite Rainfall Estimates from Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network) is also showing rainfall performance as percentage of long term average whereby normal to above normal rainfall was observed across the country except some areas over the northern coast and north-eastern highlands that received below normal rainfall.

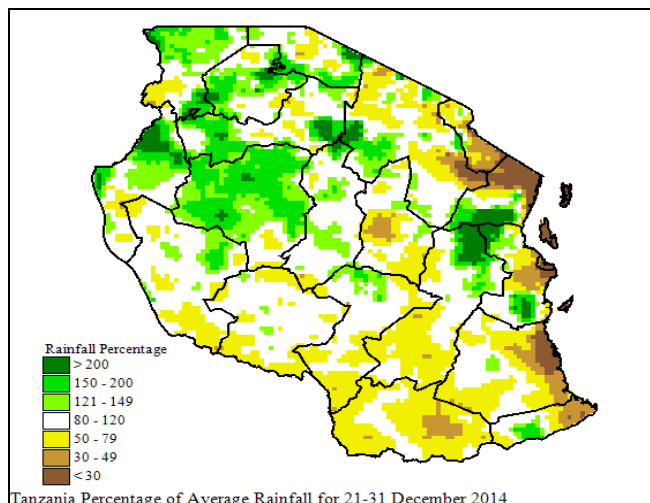


Figure 2: Rainfall performance during December 21-31, 2014 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2014

During December 21-31, 2014, the observed rainfall provided favorable conditions for crops and pasture in many areas despite the observed dry spells in some places including north-eastern highlands and northern coast. Maize crop over much of the bimodal areas was mostly at waxy ripeness stages and in good

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condition except in some areas including Same district where late grown maize crop was at tasseling stage and in average condition.

Over the unimodal areas, maize crop was reported to establish well in many places. However, re-planting of maize crop was carried out in some areas of the unimodal areas including Ruvuma region due to long dry spell durations that affected the crop at germination stage. Water and pasture availability for livestock and wildlife were moderate across the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2014

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate across the country, with slight improvements.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2014

During December 21-31, 2014 moderate to high temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2015

During January 1-10, 2015 the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian highs) are expected to remain intense thus allowing the ITCZ to move further southwards over the country whereas southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St Hellena and Mascarene highs) are expected to remain relaxed with occasional intensification especially during the first half of the dekad. The warming trend of Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the South-west Indian Ocean is expected to persist. Low level westerly flow over the western, central and southern sector of the country is therefore likely to allow moisture influx over those areas. However, significant warming of SSTs over Eastern coast of Madagascar Island and Mozambique channel is likely to allow development of depressions in the channel which may influence weather over Southern parts of the country during the dekad. If no depression will be formed, the trend can change as only less moisture will be allowed to reach the coast strip of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2015

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions together with northern Kigoma regions): occasional thunderstorms and few rain showers are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): occasional few rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over most areas, especially during second half of the dekad. North-Eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): few rain showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected especially during second half of the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): occasional thunderstorms and rain showers are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): thundershowers are expected. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): thunderstorms and rains are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): rain showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected during the period. Southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected during the period.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2015

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during January 1-10, 2015 will favour late grown maize crops at advanced vegetative stages as well as pasture development. Over the unimodal areas, the expected rainfall will be favourable for crops growth. However, soil water conservation measures are recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Where thunderstorms are expected, community is advised to take precautionary measures for people's safety and their properties. Farmers are also advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural extension and livestock officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2015

During January 1-10, 2015, water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve.

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