

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 14. 2014/15 Cropping Season

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

### HIGHLIGHT

- During *January 21-31, 2014*, seasonal rainfall continued to feature over most of the unimodal areas of the country and was reported to provide adequate moisture for crops growth and development as well as pasture development.
- The bimodal areas experienced mostly seasonal dry conditions except some areas around Lake Victoria basin that experienced off-seasonal rainfall.
- The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during February 1-10, 2015 will be useful for crops and pasture development.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

During January 21-31, 2015, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian highs) slightly intensified whereas the high pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St Helena and Mascarene highs) slightly relaxed. As a result, the Meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was slightly located in the extreme western part of the country while the zonal arm of the ITCZ moved south wards to extreme southern sector of the country. Sustained warm sea surface temperature (SST) pattern was observed over the Eastern Indian Ocean and Central Indian Ocean respectively while neutral to cool conditions was observed over Western Indian Ocean. The Arabian ridge was generally intensified, allowing penetration of the northerlies to north-westerly winds towards the Tanzanian coastal line. This configuration influenced rainfall conditions over most parts of the country particularly the unimodal areas.

### WEATHER SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

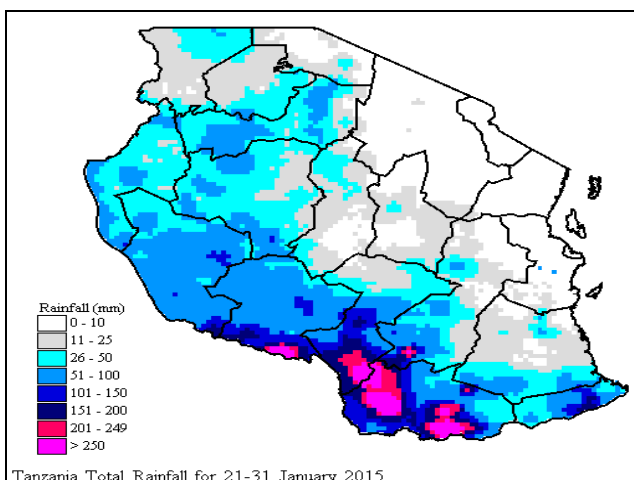


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution (mm) during January 21-31, 2015.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions during January 21-31, 2015, seasonal rains continued to feature over most of the unimodal areas of the country whereas the bimodal areas remained seasonally dry except areas around Lake Victoria basin that experienced out of season rainfall. Figure 1 is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution during the period. The highest total rainfall was above 250 mm recorded over Southern Morogoro, Ruvuma, Iringa and Mbeya regions. However, in Figure 2 showing rainfall performance as percentage of long term average during the period, some of the unimodal areas particularly central areas and Lindi region received below normal rainfall. A large part of the unimodal areas however received normal to above normal rainfall. Most of bimodal areas received below normal rainfall except some pocket areas around Lake Victoria basin that received above normal rainfall.

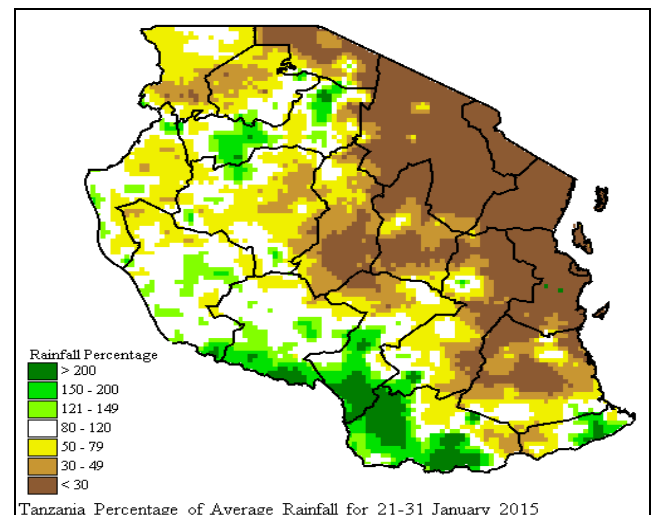


Figure 2: Rainfall performance during January 21-31, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

During January 21-31, 2015, the observed rainfall over the unimodal areas was reported to provide adequate soil moisture favorable for crops growth and development, and pasture development. Maize crop over much of western, central areas, southern coast and southern region was entering tasseling stage while over south-western highlands maize crop was mostly between ninth leaf and tasseling stage. The crops were reported to be in good condition over much of the unimodal areas. Farm activity during the period was mainly weeding. Over the bimodal areas, maize crop was at full ripeness stage. Water availability for livestock and wildlife was moderate across the country.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

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

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

During January 21-31, 2015 moderate temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2015

During February 1-10, 2015, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying whereas their counterpart to the southern hemisphere particularly the Mascarin are expected to remain relatively relaxed. This configuration is expected to maintain the ITCZ over unimodal areas of the country, especially over Western, South-western highlands, Southern regions, Southern coast regions and central regions of the country.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2015

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): mainly dry conditions, with periods of occasional thunderstorm and showers are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): mainly dry conditions are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): mainly dry conditions, with periods of strong winds especially during the first half of the period are expected. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions): normal rains, especially during the second half of the period are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): normal to below normal rains are expected. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): normal rains are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): normal rains, especially during the second half of the period, are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): normal rains, especially during the second half of the period, are expected.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2015

The expected normal rains over the unimodal areas during February 1-10, 2015 will be useful for crops and pasture development. However, timely weeding is recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Farmers are advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural and livestock extension officers.

### HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2015

During February 1-10, 2015, water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to be in moderate condition over the unimodal areas but low over the bimodal areas.

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