

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Seasonal rainfall continued to feature well over the unimodal area during *January 21-31, 2016* with above normal to normal performance; above normal *out of season* rainfall was also observed in many places the bimodal area.
- Crops growth and development during the period was reported to progress well in general, with good condition.
- The expected frequent rainfall in some places during *February 1-10, 2016* may lead to water lodging conditions, flooding and soil erosion in the fields. Farmers are therefore advised to take precautionary measures against damage of crops and destruction of fields.

No: 14. 2015/16 Cropping Season

Review for January 21-31, 2016 and Outlook for February 11-10, 2016

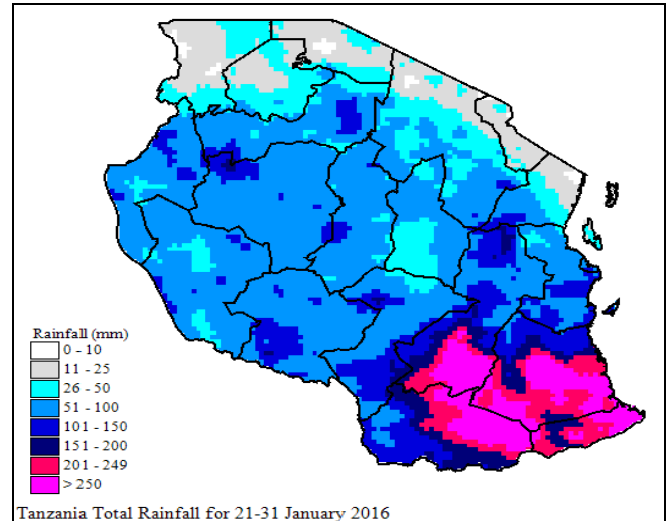
SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2016

During the period, both the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberia) and their counterparts in the southern hemisphere (St. Helena and Mascarene) generally maintained their intensities. Also, the slightly warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the eastern Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast as well as over the South-Western Indian Ocean persisted. On the other hand, persistence of neutral SSTs in the North-West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast) was observed; this caused convergence of northerly and westerly winds that influenced wet conditions over the central, south-western, southern and to a lesser extent north-eastern parts of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2016

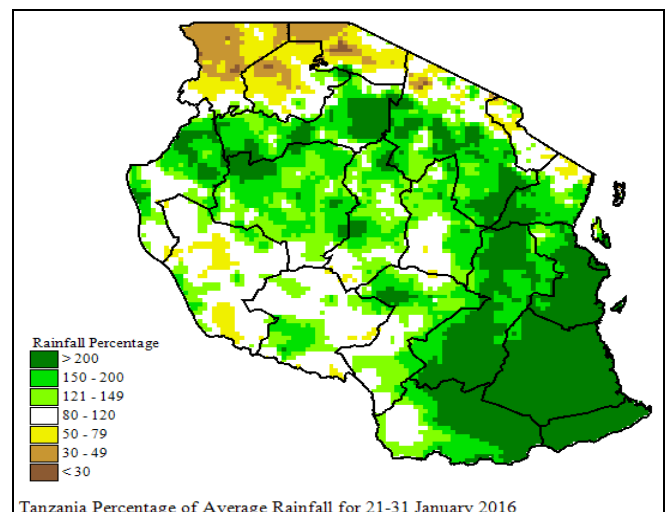
As a result of the observed synoptic condition, the country received rainfall in both the unimodal and bimodal areas. Over the unimodal area, seasonal rainfall continued to feature well whereby the highest total rainfall observed during the dekad as shown in Figure 1 was above 250 mm (371.7mm recorded over Mtwara meteorological station followed by 267.6mm recorded over Naliendele Agro meteorological station, both in extreme southern coast). Generally the rainfall performance over the unimodal area was above normal to normal. The bimodal area also received out of season rainfall which was above in many places as shown in Figure 2. Heavy rainfall was also observed at times in some places in both the unimodal and bimodal areas.

NOTE: In Figure 2, above normal rainfall performance is indicated by yellowish green and deep green regends, the whitish regend indicates normal rainfall performance while the brownish regend indicates below normal rainfall performance.



Tanzania Total Rainfall for 21-31 January 2016

Figure 1: Satellite rainfall estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania observation network showing rainfall distribution in Tanzania during January 21-31, 2016.



Tanzania Percentage of Average Rainfall for 21-31 January 2016

Figure 2: Satellite rainfall estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania observation network showing rainfall performance in Tanzania during January 21-31, 2016 as percentage of long term average.

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2016

Moderate to high temperature conditions were observed in the country during the period.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2016

With the observed good rainfall performance in the country, crops growth and development was generally reported to progress well in most areas where the growing season is ongoing. Maize crop over much of the unimodal area ranged mostly from ninth leaf to flowering except few places where crop was at establishment stage (e.g Parts of Manyara and Morogoro regions). Over the bimodal area, maize crop was between waxy and full ripeness stages in many places. Crops were generally reported in good condition except in lowland areas where excessive rainfall has caused maize crop to turn yellowish in colour. Pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife was generally good in most places of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2016

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate in many places of the country with cases of flooding in some places.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2016

During the period, the strengths of both the northern and southern high-pressure systems are expected to remain largely unchanged, which will keep the ITCZ to the extreme southern part of the country. Warm SSTs are expected to persist over the eastern Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast as well as over the South-Western Indian Ocean. Slightly neutral SSTs are expected in the North-West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast) and are expected to cause weak convergence of the northerly and westerly winds.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2016

Lake Victoria Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): few isolated, rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): few, scattered rain showers with occasional thunderstorms are expected, especially towards the end of the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): few, scattered rain showers are expected, especially towards the end of the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially towards the end of the period. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): occasional rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): frequent scattered rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): frequent scattered rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): frequent widespread rain showers and thunderstorms are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2016

Due to the fact that the soil has accumulated large amount of moisture, the expected frequent rainfall in some places during the period (south-western highlands, southern coast and southern region) may lead to water lodging conditions, flooding and soil erosion in the fields. Farmers are therefore advised to take precautionary measures against damage of crops and destruction of their fields. More importantly, farmers are advised to carry out their farm activities with consultation from Agricultural Extension Officers in their localities.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2016

Water levels in dams and river flow are expected to improve further in many parts of the country due to the expected rainfall during the dekad.

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