

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 20. 2014/15 Cropping Season

Review for March 21-31, 2015 and Outlook for April 1-10, 2015

HIGHLIGHT

- During *March 21-31, 2015*, seasonal rains featured well over most parts of the country; both the unimodal and bimodal areas.
- The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during *April 1-10, 2015* will be favourable for crop growth whereas over the unimodal areas the expected rainfall may be useful for late grown crops; seasonal rains are expected to end over some of the unimodal areas.
- Where thunderstorms are predicted, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

During March 21-31, 2015, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (both Azores and Siberia) generally relaxed, while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Hellen and Mascarene) intensified slightly. As a result, the Meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) slightly shifted east ward to western parts of the country while the zonal arm of the ITCZ slightly moved north wards to Tanzania from its extreme position in the southern hemisphere. Neutral to slightly warm Sea Surface Temperature (SST) pattern was observed over the Eastern Indian Ocean and Central Indian Ocean respectively while cool to neutral conditions were observed over the Somali coast in the Western Indian Ocean. The configuration above and setting of the ITCZ influenced generally wet conditions over most parts of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

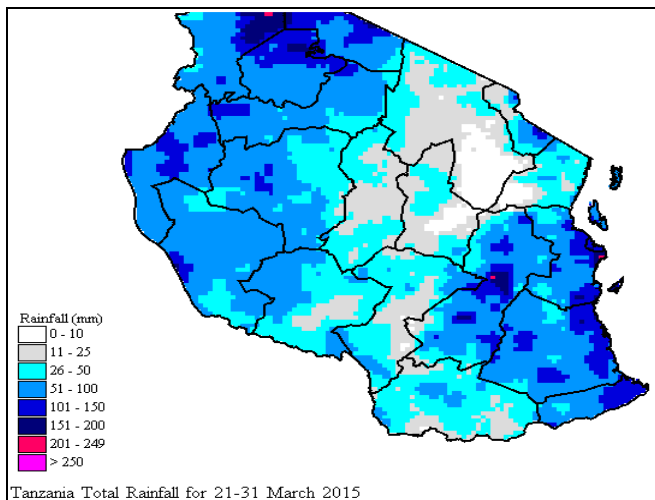


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution (mm) during March 21-31, 2015.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions during March 11-20, 2015, seasonal rains featured well over most parts of the country particularly Lake Victoria basin, western regions and coastal areas. Figure 1 is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution during the dekad whereby rainfall above 26 mm can be observed over most parts of the country. However, some areas over north-eastern highlands, central areas, parts of south-western highlands and southern region experienced poor rainfall performance. These areas experienced mostly below normal rainfall as shown in Figure 2 (rainfall performance during the dekad as percentage of long term average) whereas the rest of the country received above normal to normal rainfall.

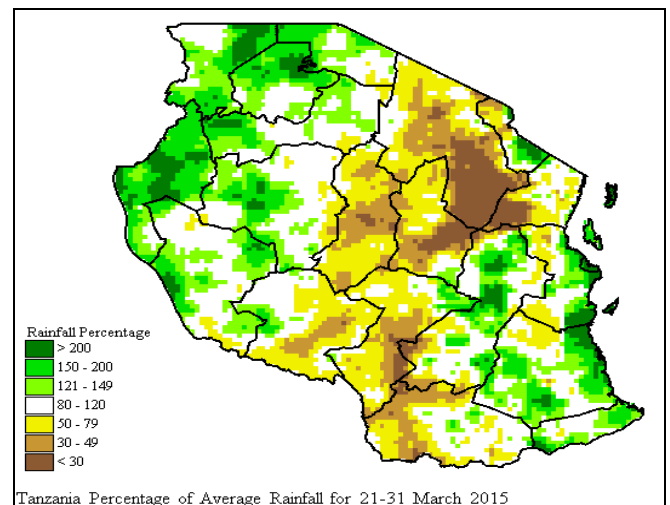


Figure 2: Rainfall performance during March 21-31, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

During March 21-31, 2015, the observed rainfall was useful for crops growth over the bimodal areas whereas over the unimodal areas the observed rainfall was reported to have provided

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favourable conditions for crops development. Maize crop over much of bimodal areas was between germination and crop establishment stages whereas over the unimodal areas maize crop was between waxy ripeness and full ripeness stages. The crops were generally in moderate condition. However some of the bimodal areas including Dodoma and Shinyanga regions experienced crop failure due to prolonged dry spells. Plate 1 below shows wilted maize crop at flowering stage in Kishapu district, Shinyanga region observed during the dekad. Water availability for livestock and wildlife was moderate across the country.



Plate 1: Wilted maize at flowering stage in Kishapu district
(Photo by Pamela Levira)

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate in most areas of the country but significant improvements were observed over coastal areas, Lake Victoria basin and western regions. Cases of flooding conditions were observed in Dar-es-Salaam city and led to loss of lives of some people.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

During March 21-31, 2015 moderate to cool temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

During April 1-10, 2015, the southern high pressure systems are expected intensify, while their counterparts to the north are expected to relax. Thus the ITCZ is expected to continue moving northwards from its current position in the southern hemisphere. This movement will influence weather over unimodal and bimodal areas of the country. Cool SSTs are expected over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast whereas cool to Neutral SSTs are expected over East African and Somali coasts and over Mozambique Channel

in the West Indian Ocean. Low level south-easterly and westerly wind convergence is expected to dominate over the western and south-western areas of the country, while low level easterly turning to south-easterly wind is expected to dominate over the remaining parts of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 1-10, 2015

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): thunderstorm and rain showers are expected over some areas. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): thunderstorm and rain showers are expected over some areas especially during the first half of the dekad. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): thunderstorm and rain showers are expected over few areas especially during the first half of the dekad. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): rain showers are expected over few areas. Seasonal rains are expected to end over some areas. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions), south-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions), southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers with occasional thunderstorms over few areas are expected. Seasonal rains are expected to end over some areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2015

During April 1-10, 2015, the expected rainfall over the unimodal areas may be useful for late grown crops where as the expected rainfall over the bimodal areas will be favourable for crops growth. Where thunderstorms are predicted, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties. Farmers are also advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural and livestock extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING APRIL 1-10, 2015

During April 1-10, 2015, moderate water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected across the country.

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