

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 19: 2017/18 cropping season

Review for April 1-10 and Outlook for April 11-20, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly over much of bimodal areas enhancing growth and development of crops. In unimodal areas dry periods are likely to favour maturity of maize to harvesting. Water and pasture conditions are expected to improve significantly across the country.
- Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2018

The northern high pressure system (Azores and Siberian) relaxed while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to intensify. The position of Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) fluctuated or oscillated between the northern and the southern sectors of the country. Over the southwest Indian Ocean, Sea surface Temperatures (SSTs) were neutral to slight cool resulted into less cyclonic activities. Northeasterly to easterly wind flows over the northern sector of the country and southeasterly to easterly winds over the southern sector of the country were the indicators of the presence of the ITCZ over the region.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2018

During the period under review, many areas experienced rainfall activities which favoured crop growth and development. For unimodal areas maize crop was reported at wax ripeness to full ripeness stages specifically in Iringa, Mbeya, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Kigoma, Ruvuma and Mtwara. However in Ruvuma (Mbinga district) and Mtwara (Newala district) maize crop was at full maturity and harvest stage. On the other hand farmers were mostly engaged in weeding, and the planted beans were at flowering stage. In bimodal areas specifically in Mara, Kagera, Morogoro and Arusha (Longido district) regions farmers were engaged in weeding and pesticide application activities, maize crop was between third and ninth leaf. Army worms were reported in some areas of Mara, Manyara (Babati district) and Morogoro (Ilonga- Kilosa district) regions, moreover rats were reported in Morogoro region. In Kagera region water logging was reported in some areas due to heavy rains, and caused rotting of beans. Water and pasture availability were in good condition over much of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING APRIL 1-10, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), most parts of the country including isles of Unguja and Pemba received normal to above normal rains, except in some parts of Dodoma, Singida, Njombe, Kagera and Ruvuma regions received normal to below normal rains as indicated in Figure 1.

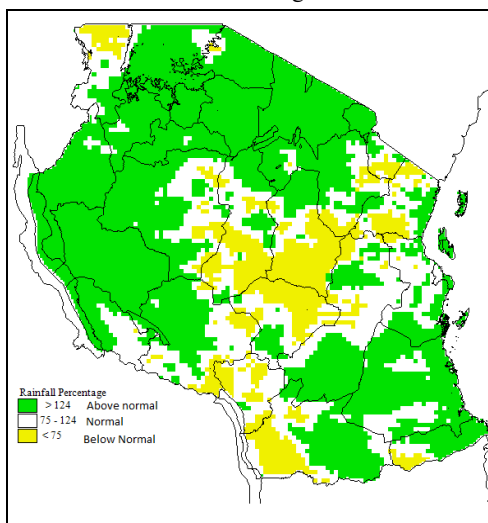


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 1-10 April, 2018

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to improve over much of Lake Victoria, Tanganyika, Ruvuma, Nyasa, Rufiji and Rukwa basins due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2018

The northern high pressure system are still expected to relax further while the southern high pressure systems are expected to continue to intensify. The ITCZ is expected to shift gradually towards the north. SSTs over the south-west Indian Ocean are expected to be neutral to slightly cool which reduces the possibility of occurrence of tropical cyclones. The dominant wind flow pattern is expected to be northeasterly to easterly over the extreme northern sector of the country during for the first half of the dekad and southeasterly to easterly flow over the southern sector of the country and later for most parts. The sea surface temperatures show warming towards the coastal area which is expected to result into precipitation activities along the northern coast zone and the nearby areas. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs are expected to experience neutral to slight warm resulting into easterly wind flow, which is likely to reduce precipitation activities over the western sector of the country especially during the second half of the period.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) and Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions)** are expected to feature showers and thunderstorms over some areas. **Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions)** are expected to feature showers and thunderstorms over few areas

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature light showers over few areas

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 11- 20, 2018

Soil moisture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly over much of bimodal areas enhancing growth and development of crops. However, for some areas excessive soil moisture is likely to affect crops like beans. In unimodal areas dry periods are likely to favour maturity of maize to harvesting. Water and pasture conditions are expected to improve significantly across the country. Farmers, fishers and pastoralists are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve across the country due to expected rains. Despite of expected improvement of water resource, users are advised to continue harvesting and using available water sparingly.

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