

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 22: 2017/18 cropping season

Review for May 01-10 and Outlook for May 11-20, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry periods are likely to favour maturity to harvesting stages of maize crop over some parts in the unimodal areas
- Excessive soil moisture and water logging are likely to affect nutrient uptake and damage to some of the crops mainly maize and beans in low land areas particularly in the northern coast

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MAY 01-10, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) relaxed while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) slightly intensified. The position of Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) shifted towards northern sector of the country. Over the southwest Indian Ocean, Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were neutral to slight cool which resulted into less cyclonic activities though there were slightly warmer SSTs along the East African coast which resulted into the low level trough along the coast. The dominant wind flow pattern was southerly to south easterly over the most parts of the country. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs was neutral to slight warm resulted into weak easterly wind flow over the western parts of the country (Congo Air mass) thereby reducing rainfall activities over the western sector of the country.

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MAY 01-10, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), most parts of the country received normal to below normal rains, except some parts of Morogoro, Pwani, Dar es salaam, Mtwara and isles of Unguja and Pemba and few parts of Lindi, Dodoma, Ruvuma, Njombe, Iringa, Singida, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Katavi and Rukwa regions received above normal rains as indicated in Figure 1.

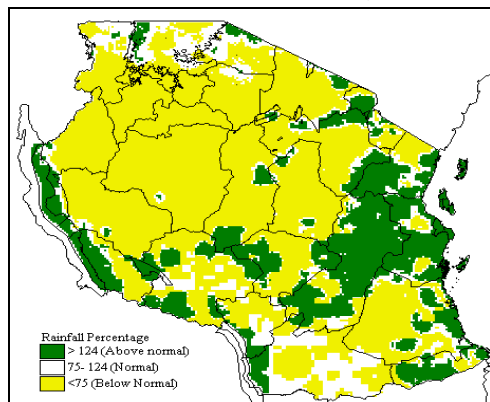


Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 1-10 May, 2018

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MAY 01-10, 2018

During the period under review, many areas experienced rainfall activities which favored crop growth and development. For unimodal areas maize crop was reported to be at wax ripeness to full ripeness stages specifically in Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Singida, and Rukwa regions. However in Ruvuma, Dodoma and Mtwara are in harvesting stage. In Mbeya region planted beans were at flowering stage.

In bimodal areas specifically in Pwani, Mara, Kagera, and northern part of Morogoro regions, maize crop was at tasselling to wax ripeness stage. However, Kizimbani in Zanzibar maize crop was at ninth leaf stage, where Mwanza and Simiyu maize crop was at harvesting stage. In most of the bimodal areas beans were at budding stage and good condition. However in Manyara (Longido district) heavy rains and excessive soil moisture were reported to damage bean crop.

Paddy was at full ripeness to harvesting stages in Mwanza, Shinyage and Tabora region. Water and pasture were in good condition over much of the country.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MAY 01-10, 2018

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

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 11-20, 2018

The Azores and Siberian highs are expected to relax further while the St. Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to continue intensifying. This is expected to move the ITCZ gradually towards the north thereby influencing southerly low level winds. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean are expected to be neutral which reduces the possibility of occurrence of tropical cyclones. The dominant wind flow pattern is expected to be southerly which will enhance precipitation making mechanism over the northern half of the country especially during the first five days. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs is expected to experience neutral to slight warm resulting into less westerly wind flow, which is likely to reduce the intensity of precipitation making mechanism over the western sector of the country.

### EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING MAY 11-20, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are expected to feature showers and thunderstorms over few areas.

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) is expected to feature showers and thunderstorms over some areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy.

Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature light showers over few areas

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 11- 20, 2018

Soil moisture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly over much of bimodal areas enhancing growth and development of crops. However, excessive soil moisture and water logging are likely to affect nutrient uptake and damage to some of the crops mainly maize and beans in low land areas particularly in the northern coast. Dry periods are likely to favor crop drying, harvesting and storage specifically in Tabora, Dodoma, Ruvuma, Mtwara, Simiyu, and Mwanza. Wet and humid conditions are likely to favour crop diseases including fungus. Water and pasture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly across the country. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

### HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 11-20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve across the country due to expected rains. However, water users are advised to ensure robustness of water harvesting infrastructures to avoid damage due to overflow.

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