

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 24: 2017/18 cropping season

Review for May 21-31 and Outlook for June 01-10, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- The expected dry conditions over the unimodal areas are likely to favor crop drying, harvesting and storage.
- The invasion of fall armyworms are expected to threaten food security over affected areas.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MAY 21-31, 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) shifted further north of the country. Over the south west Indian Ocean, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were slight warm to neutral resulted into less cyclonic activities although there were warmer SSTs northwest Indian Ocean close to Horn of Africa which resulted into strong winds over the coast and reduction of activities over the region. The dominant wind flow pattern was southerly to southeasterly over the most parts of the country. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs were neutral to slight warm resulted into less westerly wind flow over the western parts of the country (Congo Air mass) thereby reducing rainfall making mechanism over the western areas of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MAY 21-31, 2018

With the observed synoptic conditions during May 21-31, 2018, seasonal rains (*masika*) continued to feature over some of the bimodal areas especially north-eastern highlands and Lake Victoria Basin. However, parts of those areas and much of the northern coast experienced dry conditions. The unimodal areas on the other hand experienced mostly dry conditions with exception of few areas (including southern Morogoro region) where rainfall was observed as shown in Figure 1 which is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution during the dekad.

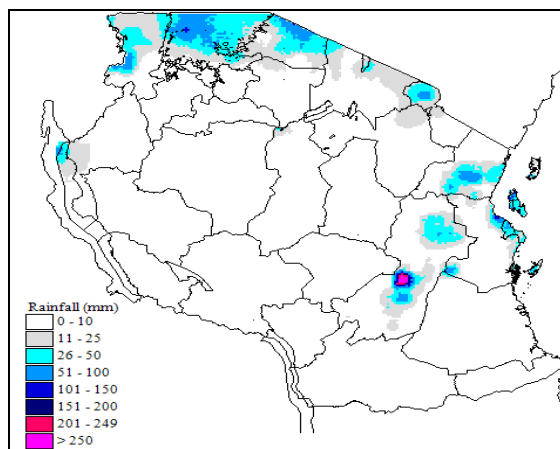


Figure 1: Spatial total rainfall (mm) distribution for 21-31 May, 2018

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MAY 21-31, 2018

During the period under review, in some of the unimodal areas farmers are mostly engaged with maize harvesting while in bimodal areas maize are still at flowering to wax ripeness stage. However, in Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe and Singida regions, maize crop was reported to be at wax to full ripeness stages. In bimodal areas specifically Tanga, Pwani, Mara, Kagera, and northern part of Morogoro regions, maize crop was at flowering to wax ripeness stage.

In most parts of the bimodal areas beans were progressing well and at full ripeness stage. Paddy is being harvested in Kigoma, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Rukwa and Tabora regions. Additionally, farmers in Mwanza, Kigoma and Shinyanga regions are continuing with cotton harvesting. Fall armyworms were reported to continue causing damage in maize crop in Arusha (Arumeru district) and Morogoro (Kilosa district). Water and pasture were in good condition over much of the country.

**HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS
DURING MAY 21-31, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate across the country.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING
JUNE 01-10, 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 further north thereby influencing southerly to southeasterly low level winds over the country. SSTs over the south-west Indian Ocean are expected to be neutral which will reduce the possibility of occurrence of tropical cyclones. The dominant wind flow pattern is expected to be southerly to southeasterly which will enhance cooler temperatures over some parts of the country especially those located over the south. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs is expected to be neutral to slight warm which is expected to result into less westerly wind flow, hence suppress precipitation activities over the western sector of the country.

**EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS
DURING JUNE 01-10, 2018**

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) are expected to have showers and thunderstorms over few areas especially during the first half.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) are expected to have light showers over few areas especially over the high grounds.

Northern coast (Tanga, Northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) and Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to have light showers over few areas.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions);

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) and Southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to have mainly partly cloudy conditions.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to have partly cloudy conditions.

**AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND
ADVISORY DURING JUNE 01- 10, 2018**

The expected dry conditions over the unimodal areas are likely to favor crop drying, harvesting and storage. The invasion of fall armyworms in Arumeru and Kilosa district are expected to threaten food security over those areas. Farmers are advised to store surplus food to avoid food shortage.

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 JUNE 01-10, 2018**

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to remain moderate over the bimodal areas but slightly decrease is expected over the unimodal areas. Water users are advised to ensure robustness of water harvesting infrastructures to avoid damage due to overflow.

Prepared by

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