

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 26: 2017/18 cropping season

Review for June 11-20 and Outlook for June 21-30, 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 JUNE 11-20, 2018

The northern high pressure system (Azores and Siberian) relaxed while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continue to intensify. The position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was further north off the country. Apart from the intensification of the southern pressure systems, there was low pressure systems over Madagascar which resulted into high pressure gradient and strong winds over most parts of the country. Over the south-west Indian Ocean, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were neutral resulted into no cyclonic activities. 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 less westerly wind flow over the western parts of the country thereby reducing rainfall making mechanism over the western sector of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING JUNE 11-20, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), the country was generally dry except a few areas in northern highlands, northern coast and Lake Victoria that recorded rainfall between 10 mm and 100 mm as indicated in Figure 1.

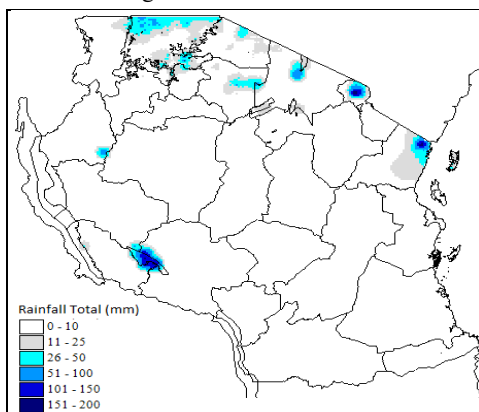


Figure 1: Rainfall Totals for the period of 11-20 June, 2018

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JUNE 11-20, 2018

During the period under review, farmers are engaged with maize harvesting in some parts of unimodal areas, particularly in Ruvuma, Mtwara, Rukwa and Njombe. In most of the unimodal areas the crop was at full ripeness stage. Beans crop was reported in good condition and at ripeness stage in Mbeya, while in Tabora and Kigoma paddy harvesting activities are carried out.

In most parts of the bimodal areas harvesting activities in progress, paddy and potatoes are harvested in Shinyanga region, Beans harvesting in Mara and Kagera regions, and sorghum is harvested in Mara region. Maize crop were reported to be at full ripeness stage in most of the bimodal areas. Harvesting of maize crop was taking place in Simiyu, Tabora, Shinyanga,, Mara and Kagera regions.

Damage due to fall armyworms still exists with significant crop (maize) loss particularly in Arusha (Arumeru district), Manyara (Babati and Kiteto districts), Morogoro (Kilosa district), Mwanza (Same district) and Mara region. Water and pasture were in good condition over much of the country except in Dodoma and Tabora where there was a slight decrease.

The impact of floods due to masika rains and fall armyworms has caused serious damage to crops and food shortage as a result in Mwanza (Same district), where farmers are currently getting food aid from the Government.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 11-20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate across the country and good over Lake Victoria and Pangani basins.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 21-30, 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 to cool 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 most parts of the country especially those located over the south and over the high grounds. 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 making mechanism over the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 21-30, 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.

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

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

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JUNE 21- 30, 2018

The expected dry conditions over much of the country is likely to favor crop drying, harvesting and storage. The invasion of fall armyworms in Arusha (Arumeru district), Mara region, Manyara (Babati and Kiteto districts), Mwanza (Same district) and Morogoro (Kilosa district) are expected to threaten food security over these areas. Farmers are advised to continue with control measures of fall armyworms and other pests to avoid further damages to crops, and make the optimal use of surplus food to avoid famine.

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 21-30, 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 use available water sparingly for sustainable water usage .

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