

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.8: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for December 11-20 and Outlook for December 21 - 31, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- The observed seasonal rains during 11 -20, December 2018, were favorable for crop establishment in most of unimodal areas.
- The expected rains during December 21 - 31, 2018 are likely to favor crop and pasture development over the country
- Farmers are advised to make follow up of the forecasts and get advice from Agricultural Extension Officers on appropriate actions to be taken for proper utilization of the expected rains.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) further relaxed. This allowed the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) being pushed southwards and covered parts of the country. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean was warm that resulted into the formation of two tropical cyclones, namely Kenanga and Cilida. The SST over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) were cold resulted into enhancement of precipitation making mechanisms over the western sector.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2018

During the ten day (dekad) period, the entire country received thundershowers influenced by the position of ITCZ and the tropical cyclones Kenanga and Cilida. Rains of between 26 mm - 100 mm were experienced over a most part of the country as shown in Figure 1. In some areas over northeastern highlands received rains of between 11 mm to 25 mm which was few amount of rains recorded at this dekad compared to the rest of the country as shown in Figure1.

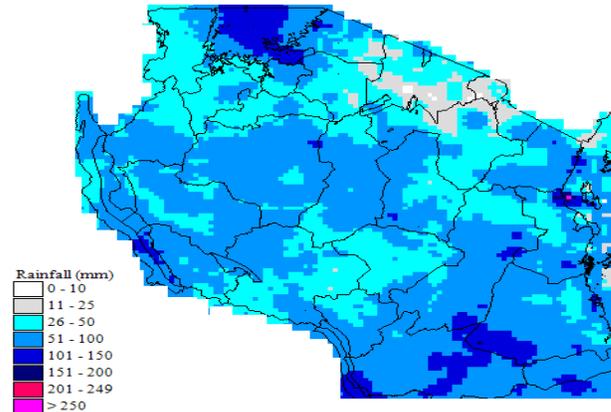


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of December 11 -

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING DECEMBER 11 - 20, 2018

During the dekad under review, the observed rainfall provided favourable conditions for crops germination in most of the unimodal areas. In these regions, farmers were mostly engaged in planting activities. In bimodal areas crops were at maturity stage and farmers were continuing with weeding activities for late grown crops. Many farmers in the northern coast (mainly Dar es Salaam and Coast regions) could not plant and few fields that were planted have been severely affected by soil moisture stress despite the amount of rainfall reported. Water and pasture availability for livestock has improved in some parts of the bimodal areas especially in Lake Zone areas as a result of ongoing *Vuli* season rainfall.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 11- 20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are improving slightly due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2018

The northern high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying while the southern high are expected to further relax. This is expected to allow the ITCZ being pushed southwards and cover parts of the country. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean is expected to be warm that may result into the formation of Tropical cyclones. The SSTs over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) is expected to be slight cold. This situation will increase the winds blowing from west which is expected to enhance precipitation making mechanisms over the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 21-31, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions), 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) are expected to feature thunder showers

over few areas.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro) are expected to feature thunder showers over most areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are expected to feature thunder showers over some areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 21- 31, 2018

The expected rains will improve soil moisture conditions over most of unimodal areas where crops are at early growth stages. *Vuli* season is approaching to the end therefore farmers in bimodal areas including the northern coast should not be tempted by those short-lived rains to plant seasonal crops. Farmers are therefore advised to continue with routine farm activities and seek advice from agriculture extension officers. In bimodal areas, livestock keepers are advised to consult Livestock Extension Officers for optimal use of the available water and pasture.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 21- 31, 2018.

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve mostly in bimodal areas due to ongoing *Vuli* rainfall season and improve silently in unimodal areas as the *Msimu* rainfall season peaks up over those regions. Water users are advised to use available water carefully despite expected rainfall over some areas.

Prepared by

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