# 10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

## Department of Meteorological Services

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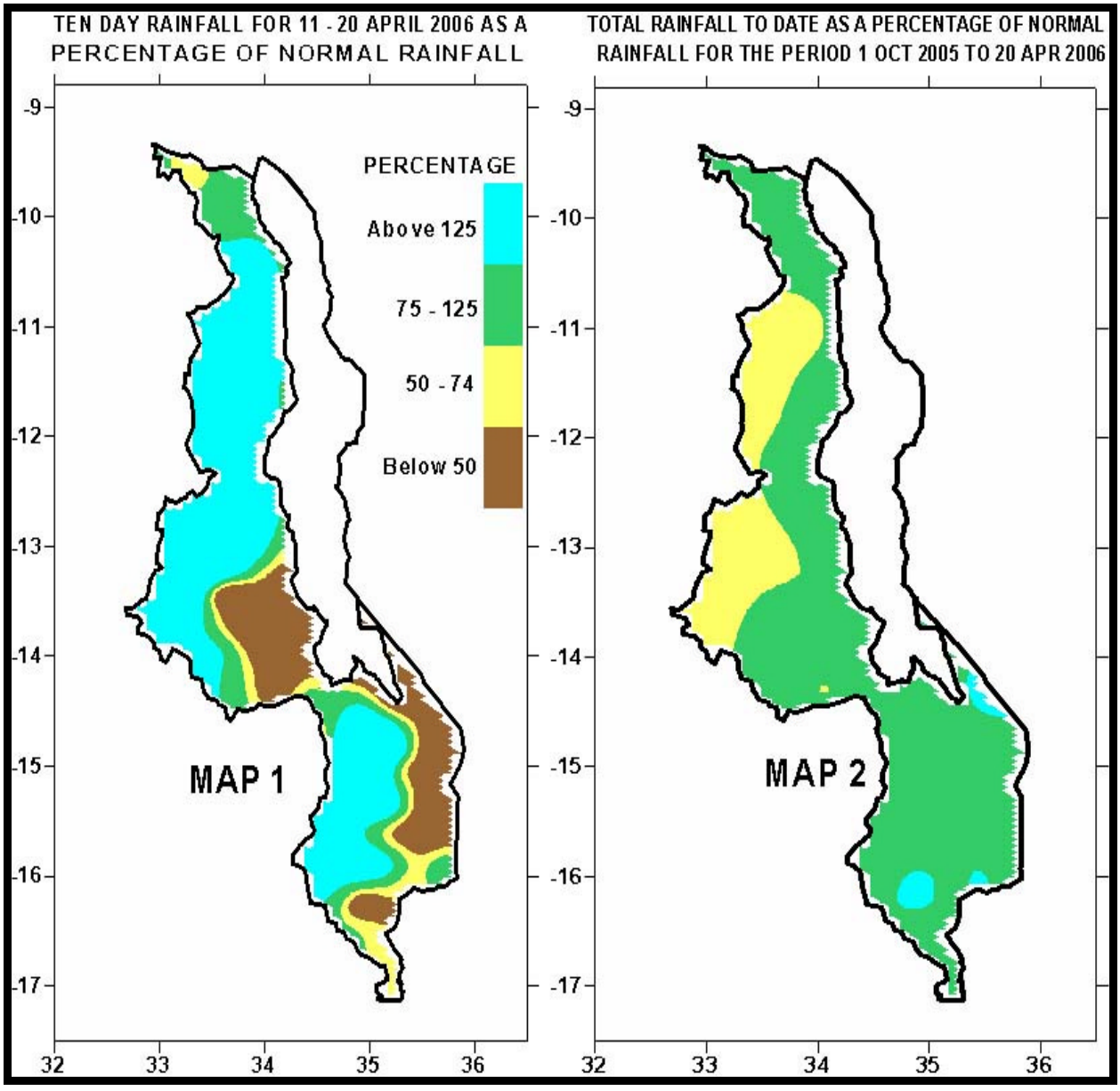
## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reduced amounts of rainfall experienced...**
- **Harvesting of matured crops was in progress in most areas ...**
- **Generally light rainfall expected during 21 – 30 April 2006...**

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## . WEATHER SUMMARY

### 1.1 RAINFALL

Rainfall activities continued to reduce in most areas of the country as the main rainfall season is coming to an end. However some areas continued to receive above normal dekadal rainfall amounts. Dekadal total rainfall amounts of above 90mm were reported at Lujeri in Mulanje (113mm), Dwangwa in Nkhotakota (110mm), Toleza farm in Balaka (99mm), Mzuzu (95mm) and Nkhata Bay (94mm) during the dekad under review. In the north along the lakeshore, high rainfall caused flash floods over Chintheche in Nkhata Bay district. See Table 1 and Map 1.

Cumulative rainfall performance since 1st October 2005 up to 20 April 2006 indicated that most parts of the country had received normal rainfall amounts (between 75 and 125. See Table 1 and Map 2.

## . MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Day time temperatures remained in the range of warm to hot. Mean maximum temperatures ranged from 23°C to 31°C while mean minimum temperatures were in the range of 14°C to 22°C See Table 2.

## . MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Winds measured at a height of 2m above the ground has shown that light to variable winds prevailed over the country. The average speeds ranged from 0.7m/s (2.5 Km/hr) at Chitedze to 2.9 m/s (10.4 Km/hr) at Chileka Airport. See Table 2.

## . MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Relative humidity values during this dekad were in the range of 50 to 84%, just slightly lower than the extremes for the past dekad. Dedza reported 50% while Mzuzu and Nkhata Bay reported 84% each. See Table 2.

## . AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Incessant rains continued to cause problems for matured crops particularly in the south and some parts of central region where most crops have reached drying and harvesting stages. However, the rains received over most areas encouraged planting, growth and development of tuber crops. The maize crop in the north was reported at maturity and drying stages while harvesting of matured crops was in progress in most areas.

## . FORECAST FOR – APRIL

Air flow over Malawi will generally be easterly to south easterly. Therefore, generally sunny intervals are expected with light rainfall mainly over highlands and along the lakeshore areas during the period 21 – 30 April 2006.

## TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR DEKAD 2 OF APRIL 2006: PERIOD 11- 20

| STATION NAME<br>***SOUTHERN REGION*** | DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL mm | DEKADAL NORMAL mm | **DEKADAL TOTAL AS % OF NORMAL** | TOTAL TO DATE mm | NORMAL TO DATE mm | **TOTAL TO DATE AS % OF NORMAL** | RAINY DAYS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chancellor College | 17.2 | 26.2 | 66 | 1274.9 | 1380.0 | 92 | 4 |
| Chichiri Met. | 65.2 | 21.1 | 309 | 1260.2 | 1053.7 | 120 | 5 |
| Chikwawa Boma | 22.1 | 13.6 | 163 | 745.8 | 722.8 | 103 | 2 |
| Chileka Airport | 14.4 | 16.9 | 85 | 1019.8 | 874.6 | 117 | 3 |
| Chingale Agric | 40.5 | 21.4 | 189 | 908.4 | 939.3 | 97 | 3 |
| Chiradzulu Agric | 12.4 | 24.3 | 51 | 1031.1 | 1035.8 | 100 | 3 |
| Kasinthula Res. Stn. | 15.3 | 12.4 | 123 | 1144.4 | 697.7 | 164 | 2 |
| Liwonde Township | 7.0 | 12.5 | 56 | 877.9 | 821.7 | 107 | 4 |
| Lujeri Tea Estate | 113.1 | 70.2 | 161 | 1906.4 | 1920.7 | 99 | 4 |
| Makoka Met | 10.0 | 13.2 | 76 | 1244.3 | 984.7 | 126 | 3 |
| Mangochi Met. | 0.5 | 9.2 | 5 | 816.8 | 817.3 | 100 | 1 |
| Mimosa Met. | 17.7 | 51.3 | 35 | 1573.7 | 1401.9 | 112 | 5 |
| Monkey Bay Met. | 0.5 | 8.5 | 6 | 878.9 | 912.7 | 96 | 1 |
| Mulanje Boma | 29.9 | 63 | 47 | 2203.6 | 1577.4 | 140 | 3 |
| Mwanza Boma | 36.3 | 18.9 | 192 | 990.2 | 974.3 | 102 | 3 |
| Namiasi Agric | 0.0 | 3.3 | 0 | 837.7 | 789.5 | 106 | 0 |
| Naminjiwa Agric | 4.4 | 11.5 | 38 | 1105.9 | 925.9 | 119 | 1 |
| Namwera Agric | 3.5 | 19.6 | 18 | 1519.1 | 1051.7 | 144 | 3 |
| Nchalo Sucoma | 1.8 | 18 | 10 | 873.6 | 668.2 | 131 | 2 |
| Ngabu Met. | 13 | 17.4 | 75 | 781.3 | 755.3 | 103 | 3 |
| Ntaja Met. | 3.9 | 16 | 24 | 852.2 | 881.6 | 97 | 1 |
| Satemwa Tea Est. No.1 | 40.4 | 43.5 | 93 | 1282.4 | 1261.8 | 102 | 3 |
| Toleza Farm | 98.8 | 12.9 | 766 | 968.4 | 831.4 | 116 | 5 |
| Zomba RTC. | 0.0 | 22.2 | 0 | 1775.4 | 1190.7 | 149 | 0 |
| ***CENTRAL REGION*** | | | | | | | |
| Chitedze Met. | 19.0 | 14.9 | 128 | 714.5 | 897.0 | 80 | 1 |
| Dedza Met | 0.0 | 18.3 | 0 | 660.9 | 926.2 | 71 | 0 |
| Dowa Agric | 0.0 | 12.5 | 0 | 672.5 | 862.1 | 78 | 0 |
| Dwangwa Sugar Corp. | 109.6 | 74.6 | 147 | 1420.2 | 1358.4 | 105 | 5 |
| K.I.A Met | 0.2 | 3.5 | 6 | 779.2 | 823.7 | 95 | 0 |
| Kasungu Met | 4.5 | 0.8 | 563 | 519.5 | 840.7 | 62 | 2 |
| Lifuwu | 7.2 | 59.8 | 12 | 1372.0 | 1321.5 | 104 | 2 |
| Madisi Admarc | 0.0 | 15.5 | 0 | 627.6 | 817.7 | 77 | 0 |
| Mlangeni Njolomole | 4.8 | 12.9 | 37 | 1206.1 | 983.8 | 123 | 1 |
| Nkhotakota Met | 33.6 | 61.3 | 55 | 1268.9 | 1429.5 | 89 | 4 |
| Ntcheu - Nkhande | 5.1 | 19.2 | 27 | 1102.6 | 1050.4 | 105 | 2 |
| Ntchisi Boma | 1.6 | 17 | 9 | 674.7 | 862.2 | 78 | 2 |
| Salima Met | 15.1 | 38.6 | 39 | 1668.4 | 1247.2 | 134 | 2 |
| Dedza RTC | 7.1 | 6.4 | 111 | 912.1 | 973.9 | 94 | 2 |
| ***NORTHERN REGION*** | | | | | | | |
| Bolero Met | 19.6 | 12.5 | 157 | 457.3 | 723.5 | 63 | 3 |
| Bwengu Agric. | 39.0 | 23.1 | 169 | 587.8 | 817.3 | 72 | 4 |
| Chitipa Met | 10.9 | 16.7 | 65 | 987.9 | 970.2 | 102 | 3 |
| Karonga Met. | 84.6 | 69.2 | 122 | 1010.9 | 1015.7 | 100 | 4 |
| Mzimba Met | 30.7 | 14.8 | 207 | 650.1 | 874.9 | 74 | 5 |
| Mzuzu Met. | 95.1 | 67 | 142 | 912.9 | 1124.9 | 81 | 8 |
| NkhataBay Met. | 94.3 | 91.1 | 104 | 1191.0 | 1490.8 | 80 | 7 |

## TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR DEKAD 2 OF APRIL 2006

| STATION | MAX TEMP (°C) | MIN TEMP (°C) | ABS MAX (°C) | ABS MIN (°C) | WIND SPEED m/s | RH % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BOLERO | 27.4 | 16.0 | 29.0 | 11.3 | 0.9 | 75 |
| CHICHIRI | 24.7 | 16.7 | 26.7 | 14.6 | 0.9 | 80 |
| CHILEKA | 27.0 | 18.5 | 28.8 | 17.0 | 2.9 | 79 |
| NTAJA | 27.7 | 19.5 | 29.6 | 15.4 | 1.3 | 77 |
| CHITEDZE | 26.5 | 15.6 | 28.0 | 12.5 | 0.7 | 75 |
| CHITIPA | 24.9 | 16.7 | 26.2 | 14.4 | 1.9 | 78 |
| DEDZA | 22.7 | 14.1 | 23.7 | 11.1 | 1.1 | 50 |
| KASUNGU | 27.0 | 16.0 | 28.7 | 12.6 | 1.5 | 74 |
| KARONGA | 28.7 | 20.9 | 29.3 | 18.9 | 1.4 | 77 |
| K I A | 23.9 | 15.0 | 27.6 | 11.6 | 1.6 | 72 |
| MAKOKA | 26.1 | 16.9 | 29.0 | 14.0 | 1.2 | 75 |
| MANGOCHI | 29.5 | 21.0 | 31.0 | 18.5 | 1.4 | 58 |
| MIMOSA | 28.3 | 17.3 | 30.5 | 14.2 | 1.5 | 80 |
| MONKEY BAY | 29.5 | 21.6 | 30.9 | 19.4 | 1.5 | 70 |
| MZIMBA | 25.9 | 16.3 | 28.1 | 14.4 | 1.0 | 72 |
| MZUZU | 23.3 | 16.1 | 25.3 | 12.0 | 1.5 | 84 |
| NGABU | 31.3 | 20.8 | 33.3 | 17.9 | 1.3 | 66 |
| NKHATA BAY | 28.0 | 19.5 | 29.9 | 16.2 | N/A | 84 |
| NKHOTAKOTA | 27.9 | 20.7 | 28.5 | 19.6 | 2.0 | 57 |
| SALIMA | 28.8 | 21.7 | 30.3 | 19.2 | 2.5 | 72 |

**Glossary of some terms on this table**

- RH = Relative Humidity
- Mean Temperature of the day =(Max of the day + Min of the same day )/2
- ABS Max (Min) = Absolute Maximum (minimum) is the highest (lowest) of maximum (minimum) temperatures observed for a given number of days (calendar month) of a specified period of months (years).
- To convert Meters Per Second (mps) to Kilometers per hour (Km/hr) = mpsx3.6