10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Increased rainfall received particularly over the south…**
- **Rains prompted some farmers in the south to start planting crops …**
- **Isolated rains expected during the next 10-days…**

. WEATHER SUMMARY

1.1 RAINFALL

In the first 10 days of November 2005 moist unstable northweasterly air mass caused locally heavy rains over some parts of the country. As a result some areas received rainfall greater than 20mm. Significant rainfall amounts during the period were reported at Thyolo Boma (126mm), Chileka Airport (89mm), Chitipa (87mm), Dwangwa (76mm), Satemwa (58mm), Chichiri (34mm) and Makoka (32mm). Due to locally heavy downpour some areas received more than 100% above normal such as Chitipa (1342%), Dwangwa (434%), Thyolo Boma (427%), Chileka (338%), Bvumbwe (303%), Lifuwu (220%), Mulanje Boma (167%) and Makoka (156%). Cumulative rainfall as total todate since October 1st shows that few areas have so far received above normal rainfall. Substantial rainfall as a percentage of normal were reported at Chitipa (721%), Dwangwa (270%), Thyolo Boma (193%), Chileka (161%), Bvumbwe 152%) and Lifuwu (137%). See Table 1.

. MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

The country continued to experience hot temperatures during the dekad under review. Maximum temperatures ranged from 30° C (Bvumbwe & Mzuzu) to 39° C (Ngabu). Highest absolute temperature was reported at Ngabu (41°C) on 7 November and lowest absolute temperature was reported at Mzuzu (12°C) on 1st November.

. MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

At 2 meters height, observed wind speeds ranged from 1 to 4 metres per second or 3 to 14 Km/hr (Table 2). The highest wind speed was reported at Chileka Airport (4m/s or 14Km/hr), with the lowest at Chichiri (1m/s or 3.6Km/hr).

. MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Mean relative humidity slightly increased over the country. The daily average relative humidity values over Malawi ranged from 42% at Mangochi to 67% at Bvumbwe. The values show a build up of moisture in the atmosphere over the country.

. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs and equipment continued to be the major agricultural activities in Malawi in readiness for the main rains. The substantial rains that were received over some areas of the country resulted in build up of soil moisture such that some farmers particularly in the south were promoted to start planting crops.

. FORECAST FOR – NOVEMBER

Meanwhile pressure systems indicate favourable conditions for isolated rains over the country during the period 11 –20 November 2005.

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TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR DEKAD 1 OF NOVEMBER 2005: PERIOD 1 - 10

STATION NAME **SOUTHERN REGION**	DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL mm	DEKADAL NORMAL mm	**DEKADAL TOTAL AS % NORMAL**	TOTAL TO DATE mm	NORMAL TO DATE mm	**TOTAL TO DATE AS % NORMAL**	RAINY DAYS [3] **0.3 mm**
Bvumbwe Met.	71.0	23.4	**303**	83.2	54.8	**152**	6
Chancellor College	16.0	20.1	**80**	20.0	47.9	**42**	1
Chichiri Met.	33.8	38.5	**88**	33.8	72.1	**47**	4
Chileka Airport	88.9	26.3	**338**	88.9	55.3	**161**	5
Liwonde Township	3.0	13.6	**22**	16.0	27.0	**59**	2
Lujeri Tea Estate	19.5	57.9	**34**	40.2	157.9	**25**	4
Makoka Met	32.1	20.6	**156**	45.8	47.5	**96**	5
Mangochi Met.	0.0	18.3	**0**	0.0	33.5	**0**	0
Monkey Bay Met.	0.0	13.6	**0**	0.0	22.5	**0**	0
Mulanje Boma	63.2	37.8	**167**	75.7	139.7	**54**	3
Namiasi Agric	0.0	5.0	**0**	0.0	15.1	**0**	0
Namwera Agric	0.0	20.3	**0**	0.0	34.5	**0**	0
Nchalo Sucoma	13.7	22.0	**62**	13.7	49.5	**28**	1
Ngabu Met.	0.0	19.1	**0**	0.0	45.5	**0**	2
Nsanje Boma	2.5	27.1	**9**	2.5	55.6	**4**	1
Ntaja Met.	5.8	11.5	**50**	5.8	26.9	**22**	1
Satemwa Tea Est. No.1	57.9	38.8	**149**	76.5	87.8	**87**	4
Toleza Farm	15.9	21.9	**73**	15.9	37.7	**42**	2
Thyolo Boma	126.0	29.5	**427**	126.0	65.4	**193**	2
CENTRAL REGION							
Dedza Met	6.8	13.7	**50**	6.8	24.3	**28**	2
Dwangwa Sugar Corp.	76.4	17.6	**434**	76.4	28.3	**270**	1
L.I.A. Met.	3.3	11.0	**30**	3.3	22.1	**15**	2
Kasungu Met	1.5	18.3	**8**	1.5	27.7	**5**	1
Lifuwu	11.2	5.1	**220**	11.2	8.2	**137**	1
Natural Res. College	2.7	11.1	**24**	2.7	20.5	**13**	2
Ntcheu - Nkhande	2.2	16.0	**14**	2.2	38.6	**6**	1
Salima Met	8.3	12.2	**68**	8.5	18.3	**46**	1
NORTHERN REGION							
Bolero Met	2.8	44.0	**6**	2.8	50.7	**6**	2
Chikangawa forest	7.6	19.8	**38**	15.9	33.4	**48**	3
Chitipa Met	87.2	6.5	**1342**	87.2	12.1	**721**	5
Euthini Agric.	8.5	11.1	**77**	8.5	20.0	**43**	2
Karonga Met.	0.0	3.9	**0**	0.0	4.8	**0**	0
Mzimba Met	11.3	12.8	**88**	11.3	17.5	**65**	1
Mzuzu Met.	0.0	20.3	**0**	0.2	54.4	**0**	0
NkhataBay Met.	0.0	69.1	**0**	0.0	138.5	**0**	0
Vinthukutu Agric	0.0	8.9	**0**	0.0	18.5	**0**	0

TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR DEKAD 1 OF NOVEMBER 2005

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BVUMBWE	29.8	18.4	31.6	15.5	2.0	67
CHICHIRI	30.4	19.5	33.0	17.0	0.9	56
CHILEKA	32.2	22.2	34.6	18.4	4.0	54
NTAJA	33.7	23.0	35.1	21.2	3.0	48
CHITEDZE	31.8	18.8	33.2	16.8	1.2	53
CHITIPA	30.2	17.8	33.8	15.8	2.8	60
KASUNGU	31.7	20.4	32.9	19.3	3.1	50
KARONGA	33.9	24.1	33.6	22.9	1.8	44
K I A	30.3	18.6	31.3	16.5	2.0	52
MAKOKA	30.3	19.8	32.2	17.3	1.6	58
MANGOCHI	32.5	21.4	34.6	19.0	1.3	61
MONKEY BAY	34.1	25.9	34.8	22.3	2.9	46
MZIMBA	30.5	18.9	32.2	17.2	1.2	51
MZUZU	29.8	15.7	31.3	12.3	1.8	52
NGABU	38.8	25.1	41.0	23.0	3.3	45
NKHATA BAY	34.8	20.2	36.2	17.9		50
SALIMA	34.2	24.2	35.0	22.0	2.9	47

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