

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- During *October 11-20, 2015*, *vuli* rainfall featured well mainly over Lake Victoria basin and Kigoma region.
- The observed rainfall over the bimodal area provided favourable conditions mostly for planting of *vuli* crops.
- The expected rainfall over the bimodal area during *October 21-31, 2015*, will be useful for seeds germination and crops establishment but farmers are advised to take precautionary measures against excessive soil moisture conditions that may damage planted seeds or germinating crops.

No: 04. 2015/16 Cropping Season

Review for October 11-20, 2015 and Outlook for October 21-31, 2015

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2015

Pressure systems in the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberia) continued to intensify (slightly) while their counterparts in the southern hemisphere (St. Hellena and Mascarene high pressure systems) slightly relaxed. The observed pressure setting caused the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to slightly shift south-wards within the northern hemisphere, south of the Great Horn of Africa. On the other hand, cool Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) persisted over the Eastern Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast while neutral to warm SSTs were observed in the North-West Indian Ocean closer to Somali coast, and South-Western Indian Ocean close to East Africa coast.

RAINFALL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2015

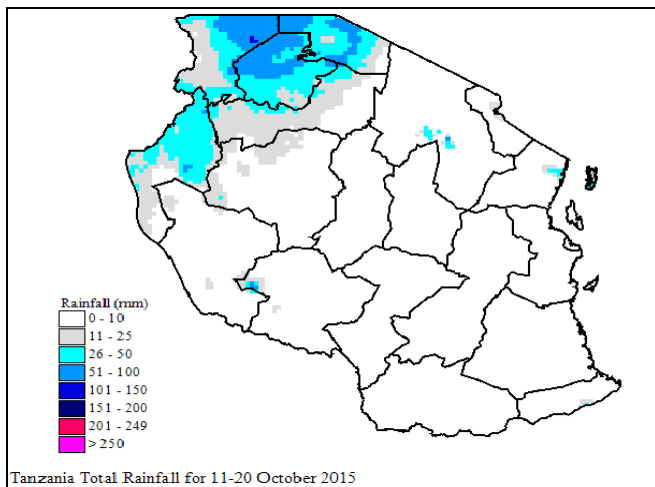


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution in Tanzania during October 11-20, 2015

Due to the observed synoptic conditions during the period, the bimodal area continued to experience *vuli* rainfall which

featured well mainly over Lake Victoria basin and Kigoma region. Rainfall was also observed in pocket areas over Manyara region (North-Eastern highlands), Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions, Pemba Island (all in the Northern coast) and Mbeya region (South-western highlands). The remaining part of the country including much of the unimodal area and some places in the bimodal area featured dry conditions as shown in Figure 1 (a map of total rainfall distribution during the dekad from Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network). Figure 2 (rainfall performance as percentage of long-term average) shows that, the rainfall that was received during the period was mostly above normal (indicated by yellowish green to deep green colours) while a large part of the country had below normal rainfall performance (indicated by yellow and brown colours).

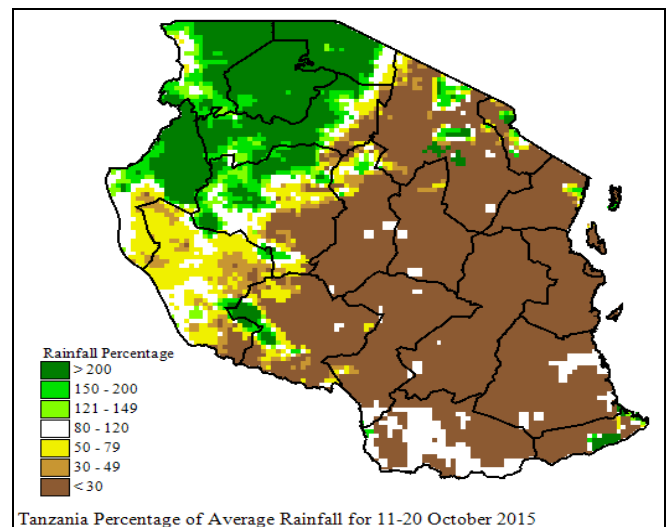


Figure 2: Rainfall performance in Tanzania during October 11-20, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2015

Mostly moderate temperature conditions prevailed in the country. Slightly cool temperatures were observed in high altitude areas particularly during the night.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2015

The observed rainfall during the period was reported to have provided adequate soil moisture for planting of *vuli* crops in most places of the bimodal area including Northern Kigoma region. Planting of maize crop was reported from Kibondo district (Kigoma region), Sengerema and Magu districts (Mwanza region), Musoma district (Mara region) and Same district (Kilimanjaro region) whereas planting of beans crop was reported from Moshi district (Kilimanjaro region). In some places of the bimodal area including Muheza district (Tanga region), maize crop has already germinated and it is at third leaf stage. No extreme weather event was reported to damage crops in the field. Pasture remained moderate over much of the country except in semi-arid areas (Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga and Manyara regions) where it was low. Water for livestock and wildlife on the other hand was low with further decrease over the unimodal area due to the prevailing dry conditions. Slight improvement was observed in few places of the bimodal area especially Lake Victoria basin.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were still low due to the dry conditions that continued to prevail over much of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2015

During this ten days period, high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere (the Azores and Siberian highs) are expected to continue intensifying while for southern hemisphere high pressure systems, the St. Helena is expected to intensify slightly whereas the Mascarene is expected to relax. This situation will continue pushing the ITCZ south wards from its current position in the northern hemisphere. Warm SSTs are expected in the North-West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast) and Central Indian Ocean. Neutral to warm SSTs are expected to persist over South-West Indian Ocean (East Africa coast) while cool SSTs are expected to persist over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast. This setting will continue to influence mainly dry conditions over most parts of the country, except the Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and the coast where rainfall is likely.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2015

Lake Victoria Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): rain showers and thunderstorm over some areas are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): rain showers over few areas are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): rains showers over few areas especially during the second half of the dekad are expected. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions): mainly dry conditions are expected except northern parts of Kigoma region where rain showers associated with thunderstorms are expected. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): mainly dry conditions with occasional periods of rain showers are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southern region (Ruvuma region): mainly dry conditions are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2015

The expected rainfall during *October 21-31, 2015*, will be useful for seeds germination and crops establishment over the bimodal area. However, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures against excessive soil moisture conditions that may damage germinating crops.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2015

During the period, water levels in dams and river flow are expected to continue decreasing mainly over the unimodal area. Slight improvement is expected over Lake Victoria basin, especially areas around Lake Victoria basin.

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