TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Above normal *vuli* rainfall was observed over Lake Victoria basin and Kigoma region during *October 21-31, 2015* with early onset of seasonal rains in some places of the unimodal area.
- Over the bimodal area, maize crop germinated and established well in most regions around Lake Victoria basin (including northern Kigoma region) and few parts of northern coast.
- With the expected rainfall over most areas of country during *November 1-10, 2015,* farmers are advised to continue with routine farm activities over the bimodal area while over the unimodal areas they are advised to continue with land preparation.

No: 05. 2015/16 Cropping Season **Review for October 21-31, 2015 and Outlook for November 1-10, 2015**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 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 from its previous position in the northern hemisphere. 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 21-31, 2015

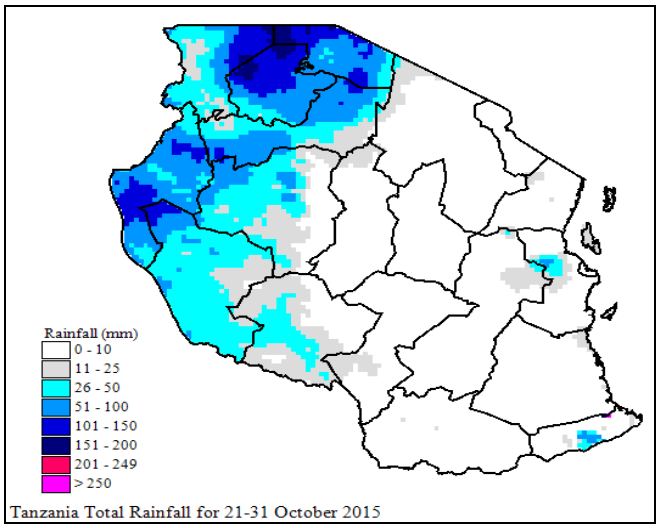

Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution in Tanzania during October 21-31, 2015

In view of the observed synoptic conditions during the period, the bimodal area continued to experience *vuli* rainfall which featured well mainly over Lake Victoria basin including northern Kigoma region. However, other parts of the bimodal area including north-eastern highlands and northern coast experienced low rainfall conditions. Over the unimodal area, early onset of seasonal rainfall was observed in some places particularly western regions and parts of south-western highlands, southern coast and southern region. Figure 1 is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution during the dekad whereby the highest rainfall was 157.8mm recorded over Mwanza airport. The rainfall that was received during the period was mostly above normal whereas the areas that were relatively drier experienced below normal rainfall performance as shown in Figure 2.

Note: Above normal rainfall is indicated by yellowish green and deep green colours whereas below normal rainfall is indicated by yellow and brown colours.

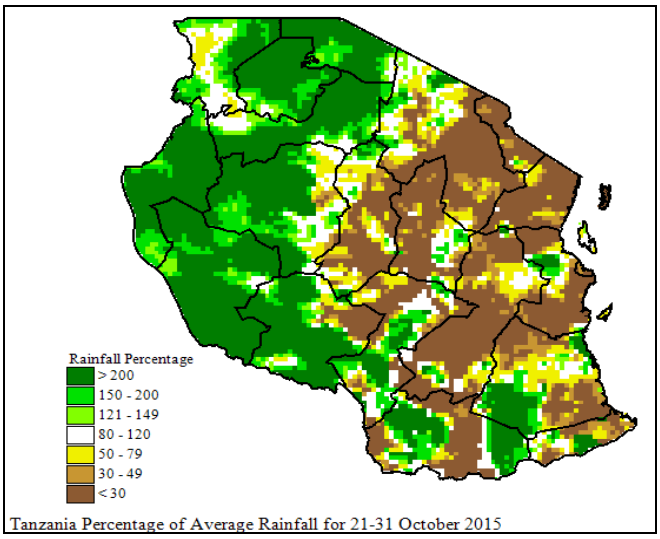

Figure 2: Rainfall performance in Tanzania during October 21-31, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2015

Mostly moderate to high temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2015

The observed rainfall over the Lake Victoria basin areas during the period provided adequate soil moisture for seed germination and crops establishment. Similarly, crops established well over parts of northern coast (Tanga region) and few areas over north-eastern highlands (mostly Same district), despite low rainfall conditions. There was no effect of adverse weather conditions on crops reported despite the cases of heavy rainfall in Kigoma and Mwanza regions. Over the unimodal area, farmers have started land preparation in some places. Pasture remained moderate over much of the country with slight improvement over the bimodal area while water for livestock and wildlife was low. Slight improvement was observed in few places of the bimodal area especially Lake Victoria basin due to the ongoing *vuli* rainfall.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were still low across the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2015

During the 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. Cool SSTs are expected to persist over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast, warm to neutral SSTs are expected in the North West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast) while warm SSTs are expected to persist over Central Indian Ocean and South West Indian Ocean (East Africa coast).

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2015

Lake Victoria Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions), western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), south-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions), southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers and thunderstorms over some areas are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): rains showers over few areas and the rains 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. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry conditions with occasional periods of rain showers over few areas are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2015

With the expected rainfall over most areas of country during *November 1-10, 2015,* farmers over the bimodal area are advised to continue with routinal farm activities while over the unimodal area they are advised to continue with land preparation. Howevers, farmers should always seek professional advice from Agricultural extension officers in their areas and take precautionary measures for their safety and properties.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2015

During the period, water levels in dams and river flow are expected to improve slightly especially over areas around Lake Victoria basin.

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