

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Vuli* rainfall continued to feature over some places of the bimodal area during *October 1-10, 2015* and was adequate for planting of maize crop in few places.
- With the expected rainfall over the bimodal area during *October 11-20, 2015*, farmers are advised to start planting where soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination but they should adhere to the professional advice from Agricultural Extension Officers in their localities.

No: 03. 2015/16 Cropping Season

Review for October 1-10, 2015 and Outlook for October 11-20, 2015

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2015

During this period, the pressure systems in the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberia) intensified slightly while their counterparts in the southern hemisphere (St. Hellena and Mascarene high pressure systems) slightly relaxed. With the observed setting, the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) slightly shifted south wards within the northern hemisphere south of the Great Horn of Africa. On the other hand, Sea Surface Temperature (SST) patterns continued to persist whereby cool SSTs were observed 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.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions during the period, *vuli* rainfall continued to feature over some places in the bimodal area (Kagera Mwaza, Mara, Shinyanga, Northern Kigoma, Manyara, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions). Rainfall was also observed in few places of the unimodal area, particularly Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions. However, much of the unimodal area and some places in the bimodal area continued to experience dry conditions as shown in Figure 1 (Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution in the country during the dekad).

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2015

Moderate to cool temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2015

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2015

The observed rainfall during the period was adequate for planting of maize crop in few places of the bimodal area. Planting activities were reported from Muheza district (Tanga region) and Tarime district (Mara region). However, farmers in many places of the bimodal area were still going on with land preparation; planting could not start due to inadequate soil moisture conditions. Pasture was moderate over much of the country except in semi-arid areas (Dodoma, Singida and Manyara regions) where it was low. Water for livestock and wildlife however continued to decrease over much of the country especially over the unimodal area due to the prevailing dry conditions. Slight improvement was observed in few places of the bimodal area.

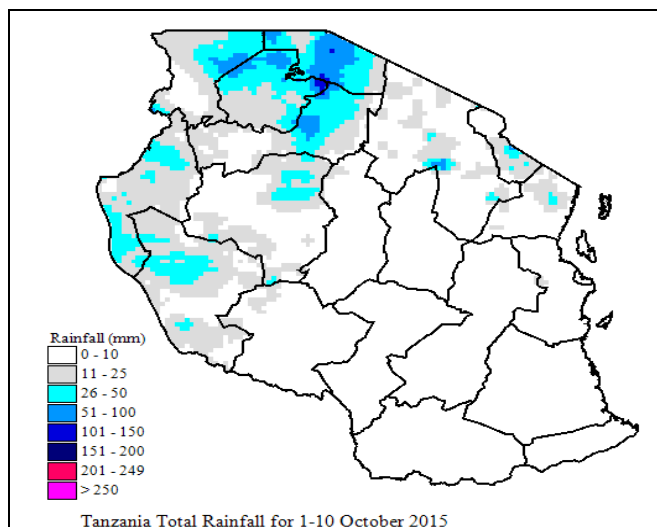


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution in Tanzania during October 1-10, 2015

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2015

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

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 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. Cool SSTs are expected to persist over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast, and 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). This setting will influence wet conditions over the Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and the coast.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2015

Lake Victoria Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): rain showers and thunderstorms 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 first 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-shower associated with thunderstorms are expected. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): mainly dry conditions with occasional periods of rain showers are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma region): mainly dry conditions are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2015

With the expected rainfall over the bimodal area during October 11-20, 2015, farmers are advised to start planting where soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination. However, they should adhere to the professional advice from Agricultural Extension Officers in their localities.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2015

During the period, water levels in dams and river flow are expected to continue decreasing over most parts of the country mainly unimodal areas.

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