

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHT

- During *July 21-31, 2015*, the country continued to experience mostly seasonal dry conditions which were favourable for crops harvesting, drying and storage; *off-season* rainfall was observed over few places in the bimodal areas.
- The expected dry conditions during *August 1-10, 2015* will be favorable for grain drying and storage but may cause further decrease in pasture and water for livestock in some areas of the country.

No: 32. 2014/15 Cropping Season

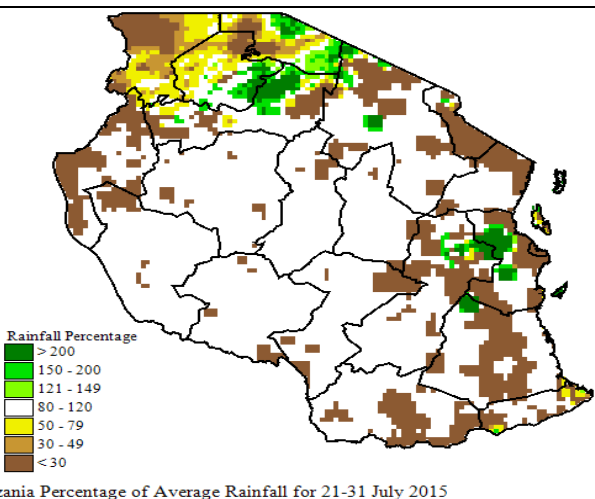
Review for July 21-31, 2015 and Outlook for August 1-10, 2015

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JULY 21-31, 2015

During July 21-31, 2015, the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere continued to relax significantly. Meanwhile in the southern hemisphere, the St. Hellena high pressure system intensified while the Mascarene high pressure system slightly relaxed. However, the overland East Africa Ridge continued to dominate most parts of Tanzania hinterlands. As for Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs), warm SSTs continued to dominate the Western Indian Ocean closer to East African coast extending to central Indian Ocean whereas neutral to cool SSTs persisted over north-western Indian Ocean closer to Somali coast and the Atlantic Ocean near Angola coast. This configuration made the Meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to slightly shift north-east wards from its previous position in the Congo basin with the zonal arm of the ITCZ maintaining its position in the northern hemisphere.

WEATHER (RAINFALL) SUMMARY DURING JULY 21-31, 2015

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, the country continued to experience mostly seasonal dry conditions except a few places over the bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and northern coast of the country) that received *off-season* rainfall. Figure 1 is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing rainfall distribution in the country during the dekad as percentage of long term average whereby a large part of the country experienced normal to below normal rainfall performance with pocket areas of above normal rainfall over the bimodal areas (Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Coast and Morogoro regions).



Tanzania Percentage of Average Rainfall for 21-31 July 2015

Figure 1: Rainfall performance during July 21-31, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JULY 21-31, 2015

During July 21-31, 2015, the observed seasonal dry conditions provided favourable conditions for finalizing of crops harvesting, drying of cereals and storage especially over the bimodal areas as reported from Magu, Musoma, Rorya, Arumeru, Moshi Rural and Muheza districts (All are in the bimodal areas). However, the observed *off-seasonal* rains were useful for off-seasonal agricultural activities such as horticulture. Despite the *off-seasonal* rainfall in some areas, pasture and water for livestock were low due to the prevailing seasonal dry conditions in the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JULY 21-31, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were low due to the prevailing seasonal dry conditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING JULY 21-31, 2015

During July 21-31, 2015 cool temperature conditions continued to prevail across the country, especially during the night.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

During August 1-10, 2015, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue relaxing. In the southern hemisphere, the St. Hellena high pressure system is expected to intensify while the Mascarene high is expected to remain relaxed, thus maintaining the ITCZ in its current position in the northern hemisphere. Warm SSTs are expected to persist over South-West Indian Ocean (East African coast) and Central Indian Ocean while cool SSTs are expected to persist over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast and North-West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast). This setting is expected to influence dry conditions over most parts of the country, except the Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and the coast where isolated wet condition are likely. However, during the period low level low to moderate wind speeds is likely to be observed over some parts of the country, and the wind are expected to be characterized by southerly to south-easterly winds most of the time. Nights are expected to be dominated by clear sky and slightly cool temperatures.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

Lake Victoria basin Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): mainly dry conditions with isolated thunderstorm and showers over few areas are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions) and northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): mainly dry conditions with isolated rain showers over few areas are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): mainly dry conditions are expected. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions), south-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions), southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma region): mainly dry conditions with occasional periods of rain showers over few areas are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

During August 1-10, 2015, the expected seasonal dry conditions will be favourable for grain drying and storage activities. However the conditions may cause a further decrease in pasture and water for livestock in some areas of the country. In areas with critical conditions for water and pasture, pastoralists are advised to seek professional advice from Livestock Extension Officers in their localities on how to cope with the situation.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2015

During August 1-10, 2015, a further decrease in water levels in dams and river flow discharges is expected over most parts of the country.

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