

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 06. 2014/15 Cropping Season

Review for November 1-10, 2014 and Outlook for November 11-20, 2014

### HIGHLIGHT

- During November 1-10, 2014, seasonal rainfall continued to feature over the bimodal areas and provided favorable conditions for crops growth and development as well as pasture development. The unimodal areas remained seasonally dry.
- The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during November 11-20, 2014, may be favourable for crops growth and development.
- Farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties where frequent thunderstorms and rain showers are predicted.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2014

During November 1-10, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian highs) slightly relaxed especially the Arabian ridge, while the high pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St Hellen and Mascarene highs) slightly intensified. As a result, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was diffuse over the country. This configuration influenced weather over the north-eastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) and northern coast parts of the country (Tanga, Coast and Dar es Salaam regions including Unguja and Pemba Isles).

### WEATHER SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2014

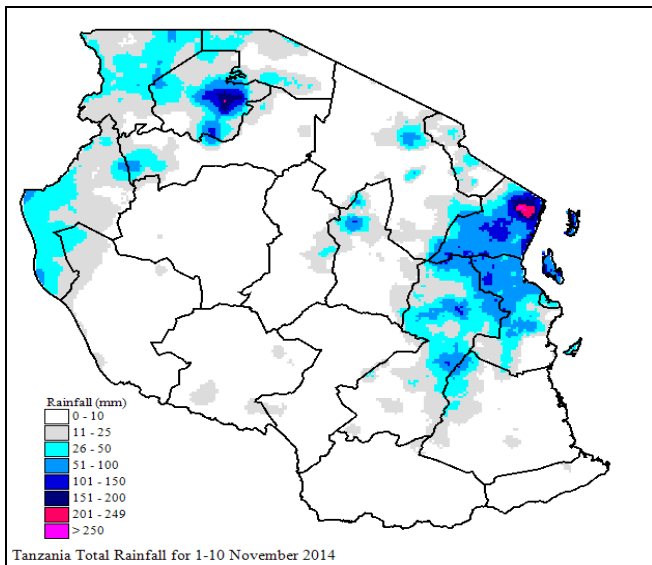


Figure 1: Improved Rainfall Estimates from Satellite Rainfall Estimates (RFE) showing total rainfall distribution in Tanzania during November 1-10, 2014.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, seasonal rainfall continued to feature over the bimodal areas particularly Lake Victoria basin and northern coast, and a few areas over north-eastern

highlands. Figure 1 shows improved Rainfall Estimates from Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution in the country whereby the highest total rainfall was 201-249mm observed Over Tanga and Mwanza regions. The unimodal areas featured mostly seasonal dry conditions.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2014

During November 1-10, 2014, the observed seasonal rainfall over the bimodal areas provided favourable conditions for crops growth and development as well as pasture development. The major farm activities were weeding and fertilizer applications over much of the bimodal areas. Maize crop was reported on average at ninth leaf stage over Sengerema, Magu, Musoma, Same, Tanga and Unguja but early planted maize crop has entered tasselling stage in some areas. The crops were in good condition. Over the unimodal areas, farmers were engaged mainly in land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs. Water and pasture availability for livestock and wildlife were moderate, but improved over the bimodal areas due to the on prevailing *vuli* rains.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2014

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate, with slight improvements over the bimodal areas.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2014

During November 1-10, 2014 high temperature conditions prevailed in most places of the country.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

During November 11-20, 2014 the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St Hellenia and Mascarene highs) are expected to relax while northern hemisphere systems (Azores and Siberian highs) are expected to intensify. The zonal arm of the ITCZ is expected to lie over the northern part of the country. However, due to expected neutral to warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the Angola and Namibian coast, the meridional arm of the ITCZ is expected to maintain its position over the extreme western part and reduce its influence to weather over western parts of the country. Neutral to warm SSTs are expected to recur over the Somali coast while neutral to warm SSTs are expected over the East African coast.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions together with northern Kigoma regions): frequent thunderstorms and rain showers, and periods of strong wind are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially at the beginning and end of the dekad. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): few rain showers and thunderstorms are expected during the period. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): occasional thunderstorms and rain showers, and periods of strong wind are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): mainly dry conditions are expected. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): mainly dry conditions with few periods of few rains over high grounds and periods of strong wind over Rukwa and Katavi regions are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry conditions, with few rain showers are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): mainly dry conditions with periods of few rains over high grounds are expected.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during November 11-20, 2014 may be favorable for crops growth and development as well as pasture development. However, timely weeding is recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Where frequent thunderstorms and rain showers are expected (Lake Victoria basin), farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and their properties. Farmers are also advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural extension and livestock officers. Over the unimodal areas, farmers are advised to finalize land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs.

#### BIMODAL AND UNIMODAL AREAS

- 1. Bimodal areas:* Areas which experience two rainfall seasons (Oct - Dec/Jan and March - May). These are areas covering Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions including northern parts of Kigoma region), northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions together with the Isles of Unguja and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions).
- 2. Unimodal areas:* Areas which experience one rainfall season (Nov - Apr). These are areas covering western areas (Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern areas (Ruvuma region).

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