

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 05. 2014/15 Cropping Season

Review for October 21-31, 2014 and Outlook for November 1-10, 2014

### HIGHLIGHT

- Seasonal rainfall continued to feature over some of the bimodal areas during October 21-31, 2014 and provided favorable conditions for crops growth. The unimodal areas remained seasonally dry.
- The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during November 1-10, 2014 will be favorable for crops growth and development.
- Farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties where frequent rainfall and thunderstorms are predicted.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2014

During October 21-31, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere relaxed slightly, while those in the southern hemisphere intensified slightly. As a result, the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was diffused while the meridional arm of the ITCZ maintained its position in the west. This configuration influenced weather over the Lake Victoria Basin and western, while suppressing activities over the northern coast.

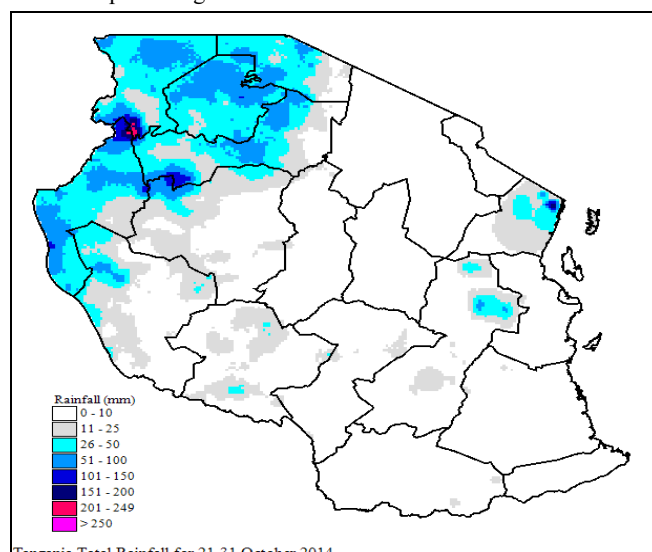
### WEATHER SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2014

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, seasonal rainfall continued to feature over some of the bimodal areas particularly areas around Lake Victoria basin, northern Kigoma region and a few places over Tanga and Morogoro regions. However, periods of dry spells were observed over some of the bimodal areas including Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Coast, and Dar-es-Salaam regions. The unimodal areas featured mostly seasonal dry conditions except some parts over the western regions that received rainfall above 26 mm. Figure 1 below is improved Rainfall Estimates from Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution in the country during the period whereby the highest total rainfall was between 201-249mm observed over Kagera region.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2014

During October 21-31, 2014, the observed seasonal rainfall over the bimodal areas provided favourable conditions for crops growth, weeding and fertilizer applications. Maize crop was reported at ninth leaf stage over Mwanza, Mara, northern Kigoma and Tanga regions. The crops were in good condition despite the occurrence of dry spells experienced over some areas. 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, slight improvement was observed over the bimodal areas particularly Lake Victoria basin due to the prevailing *vuli* rains.



Tanzania Total Rainfall for 21-31 October 2014

Figure 1: Improved Rainfall Estimates from Satellite Rainfall Estimates (RFE) showing total rainfall distribution in Tanzania during October 21-31, 2014.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2014

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate, slight improvement was observed over the bimodal areas due to the prevailing *vuli* rains.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2014

During October 21-31, 2014 high temperature conditions prevailed across the country except Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and south-western highlands where temperatures were relatively lower.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2014

During November 1-10, 2014 the two northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to start intensifying significantly while the southern hemisphere systems are expected to relax significantly. The zonal arm of the ITCZ is expected to move southwards and lie over the northern coast of the country. Slight warming is expected to be maintained over the Somali coast while neutral conditions are expected over the East African coast. As for low level winds, easterly to south-easterly winds are expected to dominate during the period.

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

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions together with northern Kigoma regions): Frequent thunderstorms and rain showers are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Frequent rain showers are expected. North-Eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Occasional rain showers are expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Occasional thunderstorms and rain showers 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 are expected, with few periods of rains especially over the high grounds. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Occasional rain showers are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mainly dry conditions are expected.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2014

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during November 1-10, 2014 will be favorable for crops growth and development. Where frequent rainfall is expected (Lake Victoria basin and northern coast), farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and their properties. However, timely weeding is recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for

crops. 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).

Prepared by

TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Floors - Ubungo Plaza - Morogoro Road.

P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 - 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 - 2460718 E-mail: (1) [met@meteo.go.tz](mailto:met@meteo.go.tz) (2) [agromet1\\_tz@meteo.go.tz](mailto:agromet1_tz@meteo.go.tz)

Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA