TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Mostly normal to above normal rainfall featured in the country during *Janauary 1-10, 2016* with below normal rainfall performance experienced along the coastal strip, north-eastern highlands and parts of central, western and Lake Victoria basin.
- Crops growth and development was reported to progress well over much of the country except in some parts of north-eastern highlands and northern coast where crops were affected by prolonged dry spells.
- With the expected rainfall over much of the country during *January 11-20, 2016,* farmers are advised to continue with routinely farm activities but the expected dry conditions over northern coast may affect late grown maize crop.

No: 12. 2015/16 Cropping Season **Review for January 1-10, 2016 and Outlook for January 11-20, 2016**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2016

Pressure systems in the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberia) continued to intensify while their counterparts in the southern hemisphere (St. Hellena and Mascarene high pressure systems) continued to relax. With that setting, the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) reached its extreme position in the southern hemisphere. On the other hand, Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) as observed were slightly warm over the eastern Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast, neutral in the North-West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast) and warm in the South-Western Indian Ocean closer to East Africa coast. This configuration of the climatic systems continued to influence wet conditions over western, central and southern parts of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2016

As a result of the synoptic conditions that prevailed during the dekad, mostly normal to above normal rainfall featured in the country both in the bimodal and unimodal areas with below normal rainfall performance experienced in some areas. Figure 1 is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge rainfall data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing rainfall performance as percentage of long-term average during the dekad whereby the country experienced mostly normal to above normal rainfall performance. Above normal rainfall (indicated by greenish yellow and deep green regends) was observed mainly over Lake Victoria basin, western regions (Kigoma region) and south-western highlands and few areas of southern coast, southern region and central areas (Dodoma region). However, below normal rainfall performance (yellow and brown regends) with long dry spells was experienced mostly along the coastal strip, Zanzibar and Pemba isles, north-eastern highlands as well as some places of Singida region (central areas), Tabora reigion (western) and northern Kagera region (Lake Victoria basin). The rest of the country experienced normal rainfall performance (indicated by white regend).

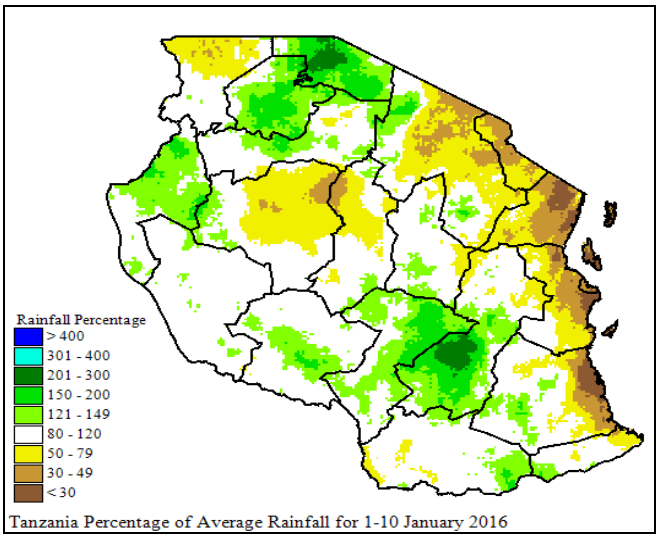

Figure 1: Rainfall performance in Tanzania during January 1-10, 2016 as percentage of long term average.

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2016

Mostly high temperature conditions were observed in the country during the period.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2016

With the observed rainfall performance, crops growth and development was reported to progress well in most areas, both in the bimodal and unimodal areas of the country. Over the bimodal area, maize crop in different areas ranged from flowering to waxy ripeness while over the unimodal area, maize crop was mostly

at nineth leaf stage with weeding and fertilizer application going on. In a few places of the unimodal area including Kigoma and Tabora regons, the crop was between tasseling and floweing stages. Genarally, crops were reported in average condition. However, prolonged dry spells over north-esatern highlands and northern coast lead to permanent wilting of beans crop in Moshi district, and temporary wilting of maize crop in Same district and Pwani region. Pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife was generally good over much of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate over much of the country but with cases of flooding in some areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2016

During the period, high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify significantly while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax. This situation will continue holding the ITCZ at current position in extreme climatological position in the southern hemisphere. Warm SSTs are expected to persist over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast, neutral to cool SSTs are expected in the North-West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast) while over central Indian Ocean and South-West Indian Ocean (East Africa coast) warm SSTs are expected to persist. This setting will continue to influence-wet conditions over most parts especially western, central and southern sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2015

Lake Victoria Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions) and north-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): rain showers and thunderstorms over few areas are expected, mostly during the first half of the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): mainly dry with few periods of normal rain showers over few areas are expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions, southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers and thunderstorms over some areas are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): rain showers and thunderstorms over few areas expected, mostly during the first half of the dekad. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya regions): rain showers and thunderstorms over some areas are expected, mostly during the first half of the dekad.

AGROMETEOLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2016

With the expected rainfall over much of the country, during December 11-20, 2015, farmers are advised to continue with routinely farm activities. However, the expected dry conditions over the northern coast may affect late grown maize crop. Farmers are therefore advised to conserve the available soil moisture and get consultation from Agricultural Extension Officers in their localities on how to cope with the shortage where it happens.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING JANUARY 11-20,2016

Due to the expected normal rainfall over most parts of the country during the period, water levels in dams and river flow are expected to remain moderate.

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