

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 19. 2014/15 Cropping Season

Review for March 11-20, 2015 and Outlook for March 21-31, 2015

### HIGHLIGHT

- During March 11-20, 2015, seasonal rains were observed to feature over some areas of the country but the country featured dry conditions over most parts of central, north-eastern highlands, western and Lake Victoria basin.
- The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during March 21-31, 2015 may be favourable for late grown crops where as the expected rainfall over the bimodal areas will be favourable for the ongoing planting activities.
- Where thunderstorms and rain showers are predicted, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2015

During March 11-20, 2015, both northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberia) generally relaxed while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Hellenia and Mascarene) intensified slightly. As a result, the meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) slightly shifted east ward towards western parts of the country while the zonal arm of the ITCZ slightly moved north wards towards the country from its extreme position in the southern hemisphere. Neutral to slightly warm Sea Surface Temperature (SST) patterns was observed over the Eastern Indian Ocean and Central Indian Ocean respectively while cool conditions were observed over the Somali coast in the Western Indian Ocean (Mozambique Channel).

### WEATHER SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2015

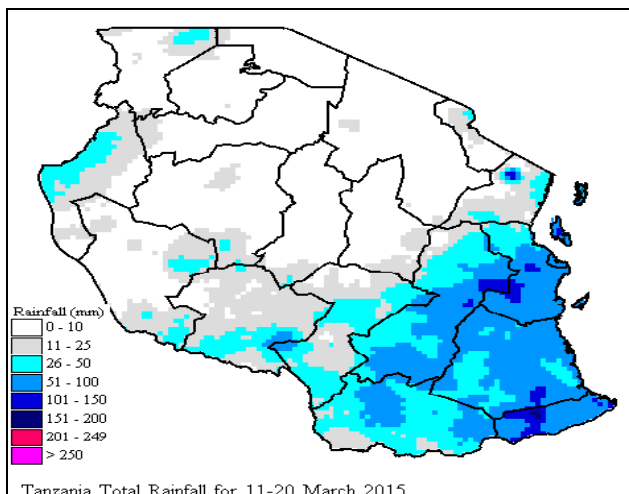


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution (mm) during March 11-20, 2015.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions during March 11-20, 2015, seasonal rains were observed to feature over some areas of the country particularly coastal areas, southern region, south-western highlands and

pocket areas over Kigoma, Kagera and Kilimanjaro regions. Figure 1 is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution during the period whereby rainfall is shown to feature well over some areas. However, the country featured dry conditions over most parts of central, north-eastern highlands, western and Lake Victoria basin. Figure 2 also shows rainfall performance during the dekad as percentage of long term average whereby a large part of the country (Lake Victoria basin, western, central, south-western highlands and north-eastern highlands) received below normal rainfall.

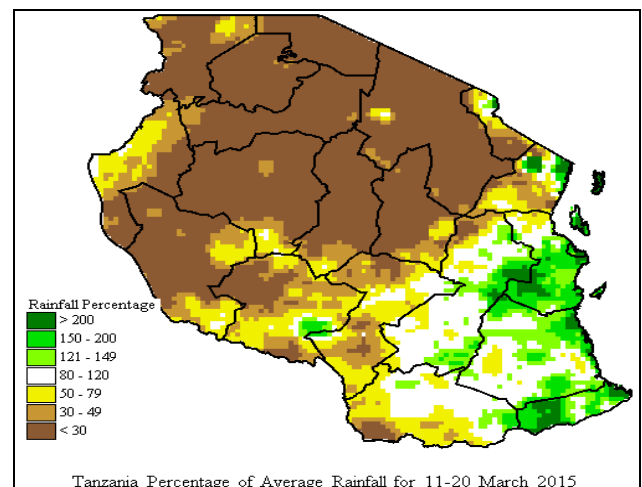


Figure 2: Rainfall performance during March 11-20, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2015

During March 11-20, 2015, the observed rainfall was useful for development of crops over the unimodal areas. Maize crop over much of unimodal areas was at waxy ripeness stage and in moderate condition. However crops did not perform well due to long dry spells that led to wilting of conditions in some places of the unimodal areas including central areas and Western regions. Over the bimodal areas, farmers were engaged mostly in planting. Water availability for livestock and wildlife was moderate over much of the country.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate over much of the country but improvements were observed over coastal areas and southern region.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2015

During March 11-20, 2015 moderate to higher temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

During March 21-31, 2015, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax while the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected continue intensifying. With this configuration, the ITCZ is expected to continue moving northwards from its current position in the southern hemisphere. This movement is expected to influence weather over unimodal and bimodal areas of the country, especially over Western, South-western highlands, Southern, Southern coast and central regions, northern coast, north-eastern highland and Lake Victoria basin. Slight cool SSTs are expected to be observed over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast. Neutral to warm SSTs are expected to be observed over the East Africa coast, while neutral to cool SSTs are expected over Somali coast and the Mozambique Channel in the West Indian Ocean. Low level easterly turning to south-easterly wind is expected to dominate over most parts of the country while Low level south-easterly and westerly wind convergence is expected to dominate over the western and south-western areas of the country.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): thunderstorms and rain showers over some areas are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): thunderstorms and rain showers over few areas especially during the second half of the decade are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam,

Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): thunderstorms and rain showers over some areas are expected. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions): thundershowers over some areas are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): rain showers over few areas especially during the second half of the period are expected. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): rain showers with isolated thunderstorms are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): rain showers with isolated thunderstorms are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers with isolated thunderstorms are expected.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

During March 21-31, 2015, the expected rainfall over the unimodal areas may be favourable for late grown crops where as the expected rainfall over the bimodal areas will be favourable for the ongoing planting activities. However, proper farm management is recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Where thunderstorms and thundershowers are predicted, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties. Farmers are also advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural and livestock extension officers.

### HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING MARCH 21-31, 2015

During March 21-31, 2015, water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve slightly across the country.

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