TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Below normal rainfall performance associated with long dry spell durations was experienced over much of the bimodal areas and some of the unimodal areas during March 11-20, 2016.
- Prolonged dry spells affected maize crop development in some of the unimodal areas, particularly Dodoma region where the crop was reported to have started wilting in many places of the region while at grain filling stage.
- The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during March 21-31, 2016, may favour development of the affected maize crop; farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to continue with planting whenever soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination.

No: 19. 2015/16 Cropping Season **Review for March 11-20, 2016 and Outlook for March 21-31, 2016**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2016

Pressure systems in the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to slowly relax while their counterparts to the south (St. Helena and Mascarene) maintained their intensities, allowing the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to continue moving slowly north-wards from its extreme position in the southern hemisphere. The slight warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) maintained over the eastern Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast as well as over the South-Western Indian Ocean. On the other hand, neutral to warm SSTs in the North-West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast) continued to persist, causing convergence of dry northerlies and westerlies that influenced few wet conditions in some areas of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 11-20, 2016

As the result of the observed synoptic conditions during the period, long dry spell durations were experienced over much of the bimodal areas and some of the unimodal areas. Good rainfall performance was observed mainly over southern coast, southern region and south-western highlands as shown in Figure 1 (Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution during the dekad). In view of that, a large part of the country experienced below normal rainfall performance except the southern region, southern coast and south-western highlands which received normal to above normal rainfall performance as shown in Figure 2. (Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing rainfall performance during the dekad as percentage of long-term average).

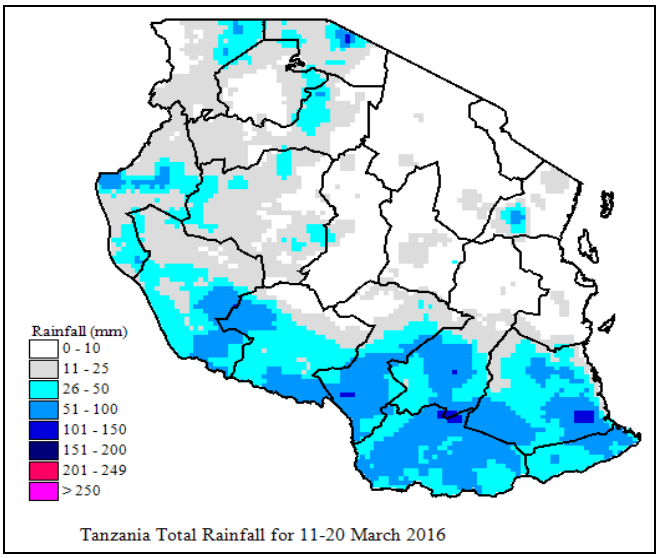

Figure 1: Tanzania total rainfall distribution during March 11-20, 2016

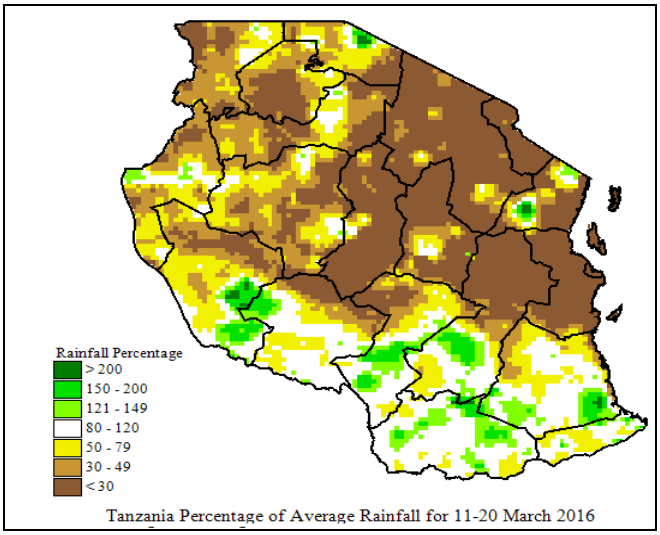

Figure 2: Rainfall performance during March 11-20, 2016 as percentage of long term average.

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2016

High to moderate temperature conditions prevailed in most places of the country. Some ares experienced very high temperatures that led to discomfort.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2016

The dry conditions that prevailed during the dekad was reported to affect crops development in some of the unimodal areas, especially Dodoma region where the maize crop has started wilting while at grain filling stage due to a prolonged dry spell which persisted for more than ten days. The maize crop over the rest of the unimodal area however, was in average condition at various stages ranging from flowering to full ripeness. Over the bimodal area, farmers were engaged more in finalizing of land preparation and planting of *masika* season crops; the farming activities generally progressed well. Pasture was good over most of the country whereas water availability for livestock and wildlife was moderate in many places.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2016

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate across of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2016

During the period, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to continue relaxing while their counterparts to the south are expected to intensify significantly. This situation is expected to allow the ITCZ to slowly continue moving northwards Warm SST patterns are expected to persist which will cause a weak convergence of the northerlies and westerlies and also weak easterly to south-easterly flow.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 21-31, 2016

Lake Victoria Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): few rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during the first half of the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): few isolated, rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during the first half of the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): rain showers and thunderstorms are expected during the period. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): few isolated, rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during the first half of the dekad. South-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): few isolated, rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Due to development of thunderstorms in the Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa, there is a possibility of occurrence of strong winds and large waves (rough waters). Lake users in those areas are advised to take precaution.

AGROMETEOLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2016

The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during March 21-31, 2016 may favor development of maize crop especially in areas which were affected by dry spells with the crop at critical stages of development. Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to continue with planting of maize crop whenever soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination. However, farmers should always consult Agricultural Extension Officers in their localities whenever they plan for their agricultural activities.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING MARCH 21-31,2016

During the period, water levels in dams and river flow in the country are expected to remain moderate.

Prepared by
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