

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most of the country received rainfall during March 21-31, 2016 which was normal to above normal in many places except over Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions, and Unguja and Pemba islands where the rainfall performance was below normal.
- Planting activities over some of the bimodal areas and crops development over the unimodal areas progressed well except in Dodoma region where the maize crop has already failed in many places.
- With the expected rainfall over the bimodal area during April 1-10, 2016, farmers are advised to continue with planting of crops whenever soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination.

No: 20. 2015/16 Cropping Season

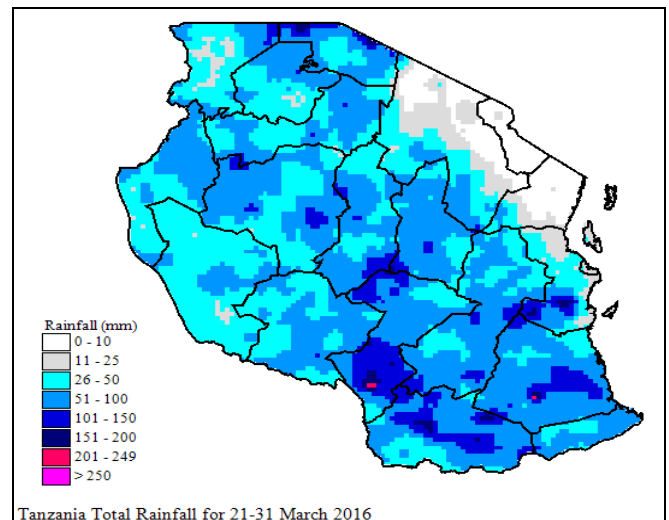
Review for March 21-31, 2016 and Outlook for April 1-10, 2016

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2016

Pressure systems in the Northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) intensified while their counterparts to the South (St. Helena and Mascarene) slightly relaxed causing the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to retreat to Southern part of the country in the Southern hemisphere. The slight warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) maintained over the South-Eastern Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast as well as over the South-Western Indian Ocean and Central 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 wet conditions over most parts of the country.

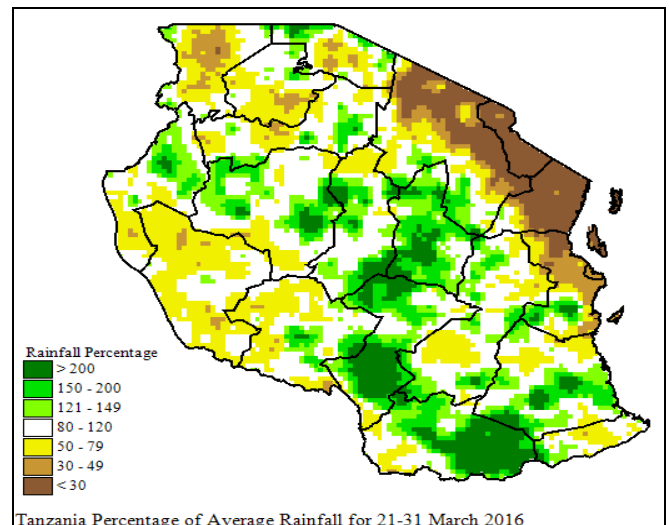
RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MARCH 21-31, 2016

Most of the country received rainfall during the period as shown in Figure 1 (Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution during the dekad) due to the synoptic conditions that prevailed during the period. However, some places over the bimodal area especially over Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions, and Unguja and Pemba islands continued to experience dry conditions. On the other hand, all places of the unimodal area received seasonal rainfall during the period. The receive rainfall was normal to above normal in many places of the country as depicted in Figure 2 except few areas including Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions, and Unguja and Pemba islands where the rainfall performance was below normal.



Tanzania Total Rainfall for 21-31 March 2016

Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution in Tanzania during March 21-31, 2016



Tanzania Percentage of Average Rainfall for 21-31 March 2016

Figure 2: Rainfall performance during March 21-31, 2016 as percentage of long term average.

NOTE: In Figure 2, above normal rainfall is indicated by greenish-yellow and deep green colours, normal is indicated by white colour whereas below normal is indicated by yellow and blown colours.

TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2016

High to moderate temperature conditions prevailed in most places of the country.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2016

The observed rainfall over the bimodal areas provided favourable conditions for the ongoing planting activity over Lake Victoria basin and Northern coast. Over the unimodal area, the rainfall improved soil moisture for crop development and the maize crop was reported in average condition. However, the crop in Dodoma region has already failed in many places due to prolonged dry spells that occurred in the past decades. Pasture was generally good across the country whereas water availability for livestock and wildlife was moderate.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2016

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

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2016

During the period, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax while their counterparts to the south are expected to intensify significantly. This situation is expected to allow the ITCZ to continue moving northwards. Slightly cool SSTs over the South-Eastern Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast, slightly warm SSTs over the South-Western Indian Ocean and warm SSTs over the Central Indian Ocean are expected. On the other hand, slightly neutral to warm SSTs in the North-West Indian Ocean (closer to Somali coast) are expected to persist and cause weak convergence of the northerly and westerly winds and influence wet conditions over the Lake Victoria basin, Western, Central and Southern parts of the country. Also, weak easterly to

South-easterly flow is expected which will influence wet conditions over the North-Eastern highlands and coastal areas of the country. However, chances of development of Tropical Cyclones in the South-Western Indian Ocean are likely during the period and may influence intensity of the rainfall over the country depending on the position of the cyclones.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 1-10, 2016

Lake Victoria Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions), Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions), South-Western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions) and Southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Northeastern 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) and Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during the first half of the dekad. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Development of thunderstorms within or near the Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa is likely to occur and result into occasional windy conditions. Users of these lakes are advised to take precautionary measures.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 1-10, 2016

The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during April 1-10, 2016 may favor development of maize crop including the one which survived from the long dry spells in Dodoma region. Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to continue with planting of crops whenever soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination. However, farmers should always consult Agricultural Extension Officers in their localities whenever they plan their agricultural activities.

Prepared by

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