

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most of the country continued to experience below normal rainfall during January 11-20, 2017 except areas over Katavi, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Ruvuma regions that experienced normal rainfall with pockets of above normal.
- Prolonged dry spells contributed to delay of planting over some places of the unimodal areas including Lindi, Mtwara, Dodoma and Singida regions whereas in other areas including western, southwestern highlands and southern regions crops progressed well.
- The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during January 21-31, 2017 will be favourable for crops growth and development in some areas while in other places it will provide favourable conditions for germination and crops establishments.
- Farmers and livestock keepers are advised to consult Agriculture and Livestock Extension Officers in their localities on appropriate agricultural practices to carry out and sustainable use of pasture and water for livestock.

No: 11 2016/17 Cropping Season

Review for January 11-20, 2017 and Outlook for January 21-31, 2017

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2017

High pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems) relaxed further while the ones in the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian) intensified significantly. The Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) maintained its position over some parts of the southern sector of the country but remained diffuse. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were slightly warm over the Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) and neutral to slightly warm over the southwestern Indian Ocean close to the southern coast. The observed slightly warm SSTs over the Atlantic Ocean contributed to keep rains over the west and southwestern sector of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2017

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2017

Prolonged below normal rainfall performance with long dry spell durations hampered crop performance and contributed to delay of planting over some places of the unimodal areas. Planting of seasonal crops was delayed in Lindi, Mtwara, Dodoma and Singida regions due to inadequate soil moisture to support seed germination. However, in some places of the unimodal areas including western regions, southwestern highlands and southern regions crops progressed well. Crops in those places were reported at ninth leaf stage and in average condition. Pasture condition and water availability for livestock and wildlife remained poor in many places especially over Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mwanza and Mara regions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges remained low in many places due to prolonged below normal rainfall performance coupled with high evaporation rates.

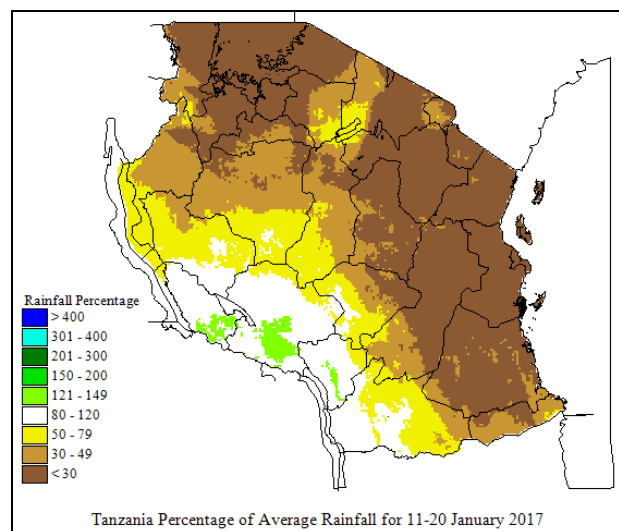


Figure 1: Rainfall performance during January 11-20, 2017 as percentage of long term averages.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2017

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to remain relaxed while their counterparts to the north are expected to remain intense thus holding the ITCZ to its extreme position in the southern hemisphere. Slightly warm SSTs are expected to persist over the Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) whereas over the southwestern Indian Ocean SSTs are expected to be neutral to slightly warm.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2017

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): Mainly dry conditions and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Mainly dry conditions and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, particularly over the high grounds. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Mainly dry conditions and few isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during second half of the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): Few rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during second half of the dekad. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Occasional rain showers and thunderstorms are expected, especially during second half of the dekad. Southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2017

The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during January 21-31, 2017 will provide favourable conditions for crops growth and development in some areas while in places where planting delayed, the rainfall will provide favourable conditions for germination and crops establishments but may not sustain long term crop varieties. Farmers are advised to grow drought tolerant and early maturing crops after getting consultation from Agriculture Extension Officers in their localities. Livestock keepers are also advised to consult Livestock Extension Officers in their localities on sustainable use of pasture and water for livestock.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2017

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to improve slightly in some places of the unimodal areas due to the expected rainfall, especially the contribution of frequent rainfall expected over southwestern highlands and southern region.

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