TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most parts of the country experienced above normal to normal rainfall during March 11-20, 2017 except northeastern highlands,Geita and Mwanza regions, southern regions, some areas of northern coast and few areas over Mbeya,Tabora, and Singida experienced below normal rainfall performances.
- Crops were progressing well at various stages while over the bimodal areas farmers were mostly engaged n weeding activities.
- Water and Pastures for livestock were improving over most parts of the country.
- Farmers over the bimodal areas are advised to continue weeding while in some places of the unimodal areas where frequent rainfall is expected, farmers advised to take precaution against weed infestation, excessive soil moisture and crop damage.
- Livestock keepers over both unimodal and bimodal areas are advised to use pasture and water legibly and get consultation from livestock extension officers in their localities on sustainable use of the available resources.

No: 17 2016/17Cropping Season **Review for March 11-20, 2017and Outlook forMarch 21-31, 2017**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2017

During the period, the IntertropicalConvergence Zone (ITCZ) was well organized and dominated across central parts of Tanzania. The Southwestern Indian Ocean remained warm enhancing activities over most parts of the country. The western Atlantic Ocean (close to Angola coast) featured slightly cool Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) and supported the westerly winds and therefore activities over the Western parts of the country were enhanced.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, above normal to normal rainfall performance was observed over most parts of central, western, southwestern highlands and eastern part of lake Victoria basin, as illustrated in Figure 1.Below normal rainfall performance was observed to feature over thenortheastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara), Lake Victoria basin (Geita and Mwanza),southern (Ruvuma) and southern coastal (Lindi and Mtwara) regionsof the country.

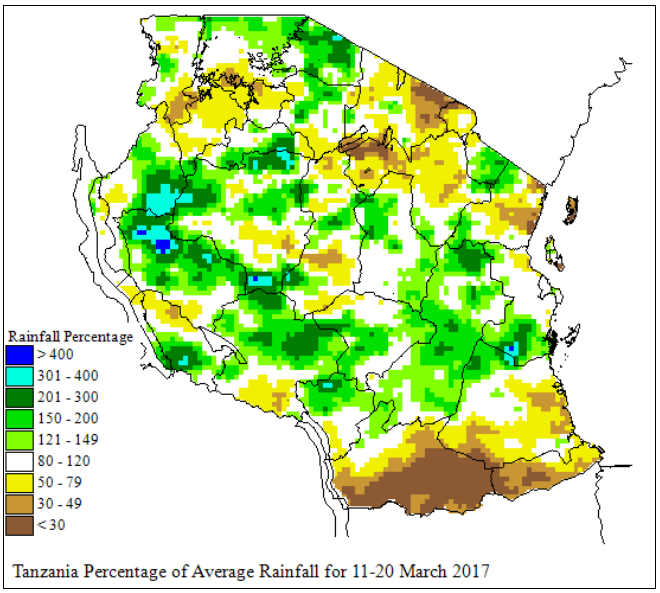

Figure 1: Rainfall performance during March 11-20, 2017 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MARCH 11-20, 2017

The observed above normal rainfall over some parts the unimodalareas provided adequate soil moisture favourable for growth and development of crops despite some pocket areas that experienced excessive soil moisture and others dry conditions. Maize crop over Kigoma region was reported at waxy ripeness stage whereas over Tabora, Katavi, Rukwa, Mtwara and southern Morogoro maize crop was observed at flowering stage.Much of the northern coast including northern Morogoro and coast region, the

maize crop in these areas was at vegetative stage. Over Njombe, Mbeya, Iringa and Songwe regionsmaize crop was at tasseling stage. The replanted maize over some places of the unimodal areas including Lindi, Mtwara and Dodoma regions were also observed to establish well. Crops were observed in average condition in most places. Over the bimodal areas, the observed soil moisture was usefulmostly for planting. Water availability for livestock was moderate while pasture availability was still inadequate in some areas of Dodoma, Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mwanza and Mara regions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow dischargeswas still low with slight improvements over the unimodal areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017

Southern highpressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to intensify, however their counterparts in the north (Azores and Siberian highs) are expected to relax, thus allowingthe ITCZ to continue moving northwards from its current position.Tropical western Indian Ocean is expected to feature warm conditions and therefore enhancethe ITCZ across Tanzania. This configuration is likely to benefit the large area of Tanzania, causing significant rainfall over those areas. SSTs over the Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast are expected to experience neutral to cool SSTs, keeping relatively active over western regions and Lake Victoria Basin.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017

LakeVictoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas.**Northeastern highlands** (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions):Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas.**Northern coast** (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba):Frequent rain showers with thunderstorms are expected over some areas.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions): Occasional rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over some areas. **Central areas** (Dodoma and Singida regions):Rain showers with thunderstorms are expected over some areas. **Southwestern highlands** (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions)**:** Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas.**Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions):** Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas.**Southern region (Njombe and Ruvuma region):**Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over many areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017

Theexpected rainfall over the unimodal areas during March21-31, 2017 will provide favourable conditions for crops development. However, the expected frequent rainfall over southwestern highlands, southern coast and southern region may favour growth of weeds and possible flooding in the lowland fields. Farmers are advised to seek advice from Agriculture Extension Officers in their localities and take precaution on crops damage which may be attributed to frequent rainfall.Livestock keepers over both unimodal and bimodal areas are advised to continue using pasture and water legibly and get consultation from livestock extension officers in their localities on sustainable use of the available resources.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MARCH 21-31, 2017

Waterlevels and river flow discharge are expected to improvein many places of the country, especially unimodal areas due to the contribution of expected frequent rainfall in some areas.

Prepared by
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