TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Above normal rainfall performance was observed in most places of the country during April 11-20, 2017.
- Pests continued to affect maize crop in most of the bimodal areas.
- Farmers over bimodal areas are advised to continue with application of pesticides guided by daily weather forecasts and in consultation with agriculture extension officers.
- Where frequent rainfall is expected farmers are advised to take precaution against excessive soil moisture, flooding and crop damage.

No: 20 2016/17 Cropping Season **Review for April 11-20 and Outlook for April 21-30, 2017**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2017

During the period, the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was dominant across Tanzania. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwestern Indian Ocean remained warm whereas SSTs over western Atlantic Ocean (close to Angola coast) were slightly cool. This configuration supported the westerly winds hence influenced rainfall conditions over most places of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, above normal rainfall (>120% of long term average) was observed in most places of the country except Mara region and few areas of Kagera, Tanga, Lindi, Ruvuma regions that experienced below normal rainfall performance (<80% of long term average) as illustrated in Figure 1. The highest percentage of average was experienced in few areas of Njombe, Ruvuma and Manyara regions (>400% of average).

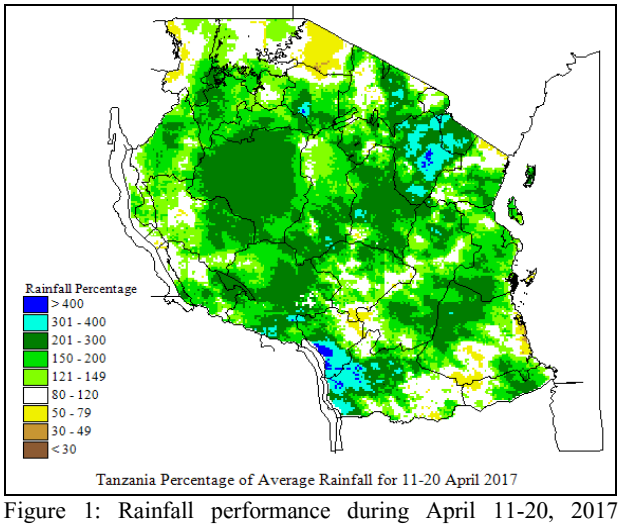

Figure 1: Rainfall performance during April 11-20, 2017 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 11-20, 2017

Crop growth and development progressed well in most areas of the country during the period. Most of the bimodal areas reported average soil moisture which was favourable for crops growth. Maize crop in Mwanza, Mara, Arusha, Tanga, Morogoro and Pwani regions was mostly at ninth leaf stage. However, pests (maize stalk borers) continued to affect its growth. Maize in most of the unimodal areas including Kigoma, Tabora, Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Ruvuma and Mtwara was at ripeness stage. In few of the unimodal areas including Lindi, Dodoma and Singida, maize crop ranged from ninth leaf and tasseling stages. Water and pastures for livestock improved slightly over most of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have improved significantly due to ongoing *masika* rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2017

Southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to continue intensifying while their counterparts to the north (Azores and Siberian highs) are expected to remain relaxed, thus allowing the ITCZ to continue moving northwards. SSTs over tropical western Indian Ocean are expected to be warm and contribute to the favorable conditions of the ITCZ to remain over Tanzania. This configuration is likely to benefit mainly the eastern sector of the country causing significant rainfall, especially during the second half of the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 21-30, 2017

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions) and **northeastern highlands** (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Occasional 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 occasional 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): Few rain showers with thunderstorms are expected over few areas. **Southwestern highlands** (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions) and **southern region** (Njombe and Ruvuma region): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas**. Southern Coast** (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over some areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2017

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas will improve soil moisture conditions favorable for maize growth and development. Farmers are advised to continue with application of pesticides with close consultation from agriculture extension officers. The expected frequent rainfall over some of the bimodal regions (northern coast) and the unimodal regions (southwestern highlands, southern coast and southern region) may cause flooding especially in lowland areas. Farmers are advised to take precaution on crops damage and soil erosion. Livestock keepers over both unimodal and bimodal areas are advised to use the available resources sustainably.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 21-30 2017

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to improve, especially over the unimodal areas due to the expected frequent rainfall in some areas. However, the community is advised to continue with rainwater harvesting and use it sustainably.

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