TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

- Crops progressed well in most of the bimodal and unimodal areas.
- Where frequent rainfall is expected farmers are advised to take precaution against excessive soil moisture, flooding and crop damage.

No: 21 2016/17 Cropping Season **Review for April 21-30 and Outlook for May 1-10, 2017**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2017

During the period, the InterTropical 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 neutral to cool. This configuration supported the westerly winds that influenced rainfall conditions over some areas of the country, while suppressing rainfall in other areas.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, below normal rainfall (<80% of long term average) was observed in some areas of the country. The worst case scenarios of below normal rainfall (<30% of long term average) were experienced in some areas of the Lake Victoria basin, most of the southeastern highlands, western, central, southern coast and southern region as depicted in Figure 1. However, above normal rainfall (>120%) was observed in few areas of the Lake Victoria basin and some areas of the northern coast and northern Morogoro region.

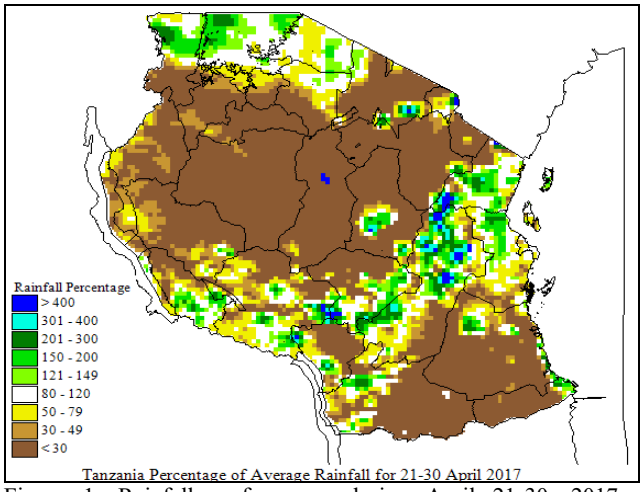

Figure 1: Rainfall performance during April 21-30, 2017 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2017

Crops progressed well in most of the country during the period. Most of the bimodal areas reported average soil moisture which was favourable for crops development. Maize crop in Mwanza, Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro and Pwani regions was at tasseling stage whereas in Tanga region maize was at ninth leaf stage. In the unimodal areas including Kigoma south, Tabora, Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Ruvuma, Singida and Mtwara, maize crop was at ripeness stage. In few of the unimodal areas including Lindi and Dodoma maize crop ranged from ninth leaf and tasseling stages. Water and pastures for livestock was in average conditions over most of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges was average with significant improvement over the unimodal areas due to the ongoing rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 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 whereas over the Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) are expected to be neutral to cool. This configuration is expected to provide favourable conditions for the ITCZ to remain over Tanzania and benefit mainly the eastern sector of the country. Due to intensification of the southern hemisphere pressure systems, periods of strong winds are likely to occur over some areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 1-10, 2017

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)**, northeastern highlands** (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions) **and western regions** (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora 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. Also periods of strong winds are likely to occur. **Central areas** (Dodoma and Singida regions)**:** Few rain showers with thunderstorms are expected over few areas. **Southwestern highlands** (Rukwa, Iringa, Songwe and Mbeya regions): Few 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. Also periods of strong winds are likely to occur. **Southern region** (Njombe and Ruvuma region): Frequent rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 1-10, 2017

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas will improve soil moisture conditions and favour crop development. 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 of fields especially in lowland areas. Farmers are advised to take precaution on crops damage by making close monitoring of their farms and get consultation from Agricultural Extension Officers. Livestock keepers over both unimodal and bimodal areas are advised to use the available water and pasture sustainably.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 1-10, 2017

Water levels and river flow discharge are expected to be moderate. Improvement in water levels will be contributed by frequent rainfall expected over northern coast, southern coast and southern region.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd, 4th& 10 th Floors - Ubungo Plaza – Morogoro Road.
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet1_tz@meteo.go.tz
Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA