TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 5 2017/18 Cropping season **Review for November 11-20 and Outlook for November 21-30, 2017**

HIGHLIGHTS

- During November 11-20, 2017, weeding was the major activity over the bimodal areas except Shinyanga region.
- Msimu rains has started in Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora where farmers are mostly engaged in planting activities
- Due to prolonged dry conditions over most parts of Shinyanga, Dodoma, Singida, Longido and Kiteto areas, livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pastures.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2017

During the period under review, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to relax while the north systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify, which allowed the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to migrate towards southern hemisphere. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the tropical western Indian Ocean remained slightly warm, a condition which resulted into isolated rainfall over the entire coast. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (closer to Angola coast) experienced a significant warming which contributed to the suppression of activities over the western parts of the country and the Lake Victoria basin.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2017

In view of the observed synoptic features, amounts less than long-term dekadal average rainfall were observed in most area of Tabora, Mara, Geita, Shinyanga and some areas of Kigoma, Rukwa, Mbeya, Mtwara, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions. Figure 1 shows that during a ten days period under review, rainfall over much of these areas decreased by 20 to 50 mm, with a few pocket areas of Mara, northern Morogoro, and west of Lindi regions received much less rainfall by about 100 mm from long-term average. The remaining parts of country experienced rainfall exceeding long-term average rainfall by more than 20 mm. Moreover, the highest rainfall exceeding long term average by more than 100 mm rainfall was recorded in few pocket areas of isle of Pemba, Lindi and Manyara as indicated in Figure 1.

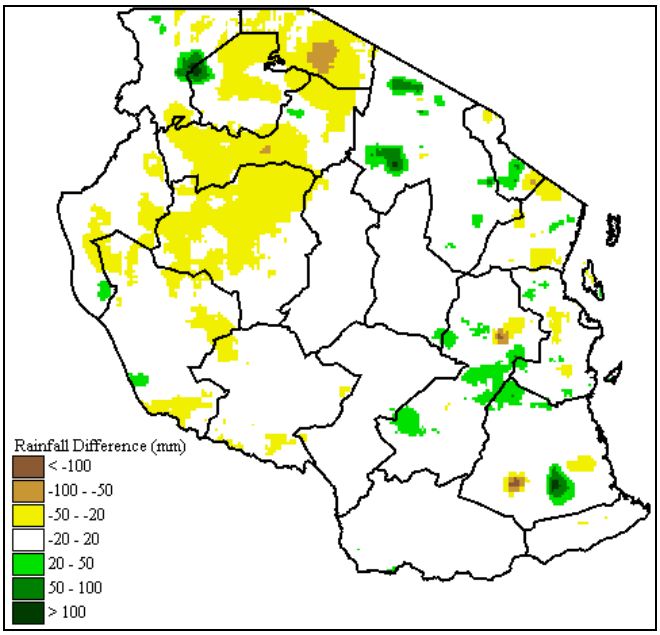

Figure 1: Difference from log-term average rainfall for 11 -20 November, 2017

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2017

Much of the country experienced reduced soil moisture conditions improved slightly over much of the country was observed rainfall performance in much of the bimodal area, was favorable for farming activities. For the early planted crops, weeding was the major activity in many places of the Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast except for Shinyanga region where rains have not started. Crops over Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast are in good condition at ninth leaf and budding for maize and beans respectively. For the unimodal area, *Msimu* rainy season has stated in some areas of Rukwa, Kigoma and Tabora where farmers are mostly engaged in planting activities. For the remaining unimodal areas farmers are continuing with land preparation while waiting for *Msimu* season expected to start between the fourth week of

November and second week of December 2017. However, water and pasture availability for livestock remain low over most parts of Simiyu, Shinyanga, Dodoma, Singida, Longido and Kiteto due to prolonged dry conditions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges had improved slightly specifically in some areas over bimodal rainfall regime due to ongoing *Vuli* rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2017

Southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to intensify. This situation will cause the ITCZ to continue migrating towards southern hemisphere. Warm SSTs over the tropical western Indian Ocean is expected to be slightly warm which may result into occasional rain showers over the entire coast. The southeast Atlantic Ocean is expected to continue warming resulting into reduced rainfall over the western parts of Tanzania and the Lake Victoria Basin.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2017

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, the **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions)** is expected to have isolated rainy showers and thunderstorms**. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions), Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions)** and **Southern region (Ruvuma)** is expected to have isolated rain showers. **Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba)** and **Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions**) are expected to have occasional rain showers. **Southwestern highland (Rukwa, Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Mbeya regions)** and **Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions)** are expected to have occasional rainy showers and thunderstorm.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2017

The expected rainfall conditions over much of bimodal and some unimodal areas will be favorable for improving soil moisture condition for crops and pastures. Farmers in these areas are advised to continue with routinely farm activities while over the unimodal areas where *Msimu* rains are not yet started are advised to continue with land preparation. However, farmers should always seek professional advice from Agricultural extension officers in their localities and take precautionary measures for their safety and properties. Pastoralists are also advised to use the available water and pasture resources sparingly in consultation with livestock extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2017

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to increase over bimodal areas, mainly over lake Victoria, Pangani and Wami/Ruvu water basins. Yet water users are advised to use available water carefully.

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