TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 21: 2017/18 cropping season **Review for April 21-30 and Outlook for May 1-10, 2018**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry periods are likely to favour maize crop at maturity to harvesting stages over some parts in the unimodal areas
- Excessive soil moisture and water logging are likely to affect nutrient uptake and damage to some of the crops.
- Wet and humid conditions are likely to favour crop diseases.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) relaxed while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to intensify. The position of Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) shifted towards northern sector of the country. Over the southwest Indian Ocean, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were neutral to slight cool resulted into less cyclonic activities. Northeasterly to easterly winds over the northern sector of the country and southeasterly to easterly winds over the southern sector of the country indicated the presence of the ITCZ over the region. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs were neutral to slight warm resulting into easterly wind flow and retraction of the Congo Air mass thereby reducing rainfall making mechanism over the western sector of the country especially during the second half of the dekad.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING APRIL 21-30, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), most parts of the country received above normal rains, except in some parts of Mara, Tabora, Katavi, Rukwa, Mbeya, Dodoma, Iringa, Morogoro, Pwani, Dar es Salaam, Lindi and Mtwara regions received normal to below normal rains as indicated in Figure 1.

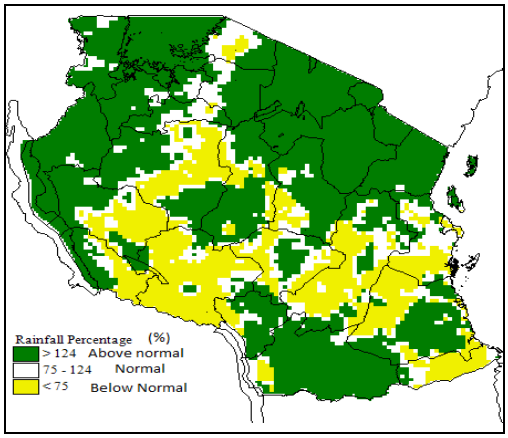

Figure 1: Percentage of average rainfall for 21-30 April, 2018

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2018

During the period under review, many areas experienced rainfall activities which favored crop growth and development. For unimodal areas maize crop was reported at wax ripeness to full ripeness stages specifically in Iringa, Mbeya, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Kigoma, Ruvuma, Mtwara and Rukwa regions. However in Ruvuma (Mbinga district) and Mtwara (Newala district) have started harvesting maize crop. In Mbeya region planted beans were at flowering stage, and damage due to water logging was reported over some areas.

In bimodal areas specifically in Mara, Kagera, northern part of Morogoro and Arusha (Longido district) regions farmers were engaged in weeding and pesticide application. Maize crop was between third and ninth leaf stage. However, in Mwanza, Arusha and Manyara regions maize was reported to be at full ripeness. Armyworms were reported to affect crops in Morogoro region (Ilonga- Kilosa District). In some areas of Mara, and Manyara (Babati district) there was reduction of armyworms as a result of pesticides applications. In Kagera region excessive rains affected pod filling in bean crop. Water and pasture availability were in good condition over much of the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30,2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to improve over much of Lake Victoria, Tanganyika, Ruvuma, Nyasa, Rufiji and Rukwa basins due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 01-10, 2018

The Azores and Siberian highs are expected to relax further while the St. Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to

continue to intensify. This is expected to move the ITCZ gradually towards the north. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean are expected to be neutral which reduces the possibility of occurrence of tropical cyclones. The dominant wind flow pattern is expected to be south easterly to easterly which will enhance precipitation making mechanism over the northern coast especially during the first five days. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs are expected to experience neutral to slight warm resulting into easterly wind flow, which is likely to reduce the intensity of precipitation making mechanism mover the western sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING MAY 01-10, 2018

In view of the expected synoptic conditions, **Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions); Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions)** and **Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora)** are expected to feature showers and thunderstorms over few areas.

Northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature showers and thunderstorms over some areas.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions); southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions); southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and **southern region (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro regions)** are expected to feature light showers over few areas.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 01- 10, 2018

Soil moisture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly over much of bimodal areas enhancing growth and development of crops. However, excessive soil moisture due to ongoing rains is likely to affect crops mainly maize and beans. In the unimodal areas dry periods are likely to favour maize crop at maturity to harvesting stages specifically in Dodoma, Singida, Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro. Excessive soil moisture and water logging are likely to affect nutrient uptake and damage to some of the crops. Wet and humid conditions are likely to favour development of crop diseases including fungus. Therefore, farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

Water and pasture conditions are expected to continue improving significantly across the country.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 01-10, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve across the country due to expected rains. However, water users are advised to ensure robustness of water harvesting infrastructures to avoid damage due to overflow.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd Floor - 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) agromet@meteo.go.tz; website: www.met@meteo.go.tz
Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA