

No: 31: 2017/18 cropping season

Review for August 01-10 and Outlook for August 11-20, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- The expected dry conditions are favorable for drying and storage activities, however this condition may lead to reduction of water and pastures for livestock.
- The expected light rain showers in some areas are not suitable for planting seasonal crops
- Farmers are advised to store surplus to avoid food scarcity, especially in areas where harvesting activities have been finalized.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 01-10, 2018

he northern high-pressure system (Azores and Siberian) remained intense while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) experienced slight relaxation. The position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was still further north off the country. Over the south-west Indian Ocean sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were neutral while the dominant wind flow pattern was southerly to south-easterly over the most parts of the country. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs was neutral to slight cool resulted into period of westerly wind flow over the western parts of the country thereby contributing to rainfall over some parts of Lake Victoria basin.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING AUGUST 01-10, 2018

During the ten days (dekad), the country was generally dry except a few areas in northeaster highlands, northern coast and Lake Victoria basin areas that recorded out of season rainfall less than 20 mm.

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 01-10, 2018

D uring the period under review, most parts of the unimodal and bimodal rainfall regimes were finalizing maize harvesting activities. Farmers in bimodal areas also were finalizing paddy and cotton harvesting activities.

Water and pasture were in good condition over much of the country except in Dodoma and Tabora where there was a slight decrease.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 01-10,2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate across the country and good over Lake Victoria and Pangani basins.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2018

The Azores and Siberian highs are expected to continue intensifying while the St. Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to experience slight relaxation but this will be expected to keep the ITCZ north (off the country) thereby influencing southeasterly to easterly low level winds over the coastal areas. SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean are expected to be neutral to slight warm hence reducing the possibility of occurrence of tropical cyclones. The dominant wind flow pattern is expected to be southeasterly to easterly over most parts of the country. Periods of easterly waves are expected to continue influencing weather over the coastal areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2018

I n view of the expected synoptic conditions Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) are expected to feature thunder showers over few areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature light showers 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 over few areas for the first half of the period.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) and central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) and Southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2018

The expected dry conditions are likely to favor crop drying and storage activities, and it may lead to further reduction in water and pastures for livestock. Livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pasture. Farmers are also advised to store surplus to avoid food scarcity, specifically in the areas where harvesting activities have been finalized.

For the areas expecting out of seasonal rain showers, farmers are advised not to use for planting seasonal crops such as maize. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to remain moderate. Water users are advised to use available water sparingly for sustainable water use.