

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 1: 2018/19 cropping season

Review for October 1-10 and Outlook for October 11-20, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- October to December rainfall season (Vuli) has started in some areas of Lake Victoria Basin, however farmers over these areas are advised to plant when there is sufficient soil moisture to allow crop germination
- Farmers in Kagera and Kigoma regions are continued with planting activities due to ongoing rainfall.
- Livestock keepers are advised to make good use of the available water and pasture due to excessive evaporation as a result of prevailing dry conditions over much of the country.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2018

The northern high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify while the southern systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed. Although, the zonal arm of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was still further north off the country. The presence of meridional arm of ITZC which was extended further south with slight fluctuations from west to east influenced some weather over the Lake Victoria basin and western part of the country. However, continued onshore south easterly wind flow were experienced over the coastal areas. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) over the south west Indian Ocean were neutral to slight warm resulted into moist south easterly. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs were neutral to slight cool which resulted into westerly wind contributed to precipitation activities over the western sector of the country.

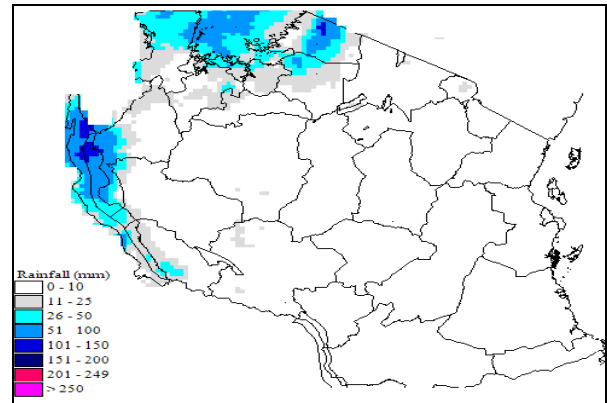


Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of September 21 - 30, 2018.

### AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2018

Farmers in bimodal areas continued with land preparation except in Kagera region where planting of maize and beans crops were going on. Over the unimodal areas, farmers have started land preparations for the coming *msimu* rainy season which normally expected to start between November and December. Water and pasture availability for livestock have been decreased slightly over much of Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Singida, Arusha, Manyara and Dodoma regions. Other areas had moderate water and pasture conditions..

### RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2018

During the ten day (dekad) period, the country was generally dry except in some parts of Lake Victoria and western areas which received more than 50 mm of rainfall as seen in Figure 1. Observed rains over bimodal areas specifically the Lake Victoria basin and north eastern highlands is the indication of onset of Vuli rains although their spatial distribution and amounts were generally poor during the dekad under review.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 1-10, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continued to decrease across the country due to current dry conditions.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2018.

The Azores and Siberian highs are expected to continue to intensify while the St. Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to relax. The zonal arm of the ITCZ is still expected to be further north off the country but orientation of its meridional arm is expected to influence precipitation making mechanisms over the Lake Victoria basin and western part of the country. Also the onshore south easterly flow is expected to continue over the coastal areas especially for the first half of this period. Over the south west Indian Ocean, SSTs is expected to continue being neutral to slight warm, that will result into moist south easterly but possibility of cyclonic activities is expected to be very low. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) SSTs is expected to be neutral to slight cool which is likely to enhance precipitation making mechanisms over the Lake Victoria basin and western sector of the country.

### EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2018

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

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions.

Northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature rain showers over few areas especially during the first half of the period.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions.

Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2018.

Over the bimodal areas generally Lake Victoria basin and northern coast, rains are expected to peak during the dekad. Farmers are advised to make use of these rains for planting when there is enough soil moisture. However over Kagera region, farmers are advised to plant drought tolerant and early maturing crops due to the expected normal to below normal *vuli* rains. In unimodal areas the expected off seasonal rains are not adequate for planting seasonal crops. Livestock keepers are advised to make use of the available water and pasture sparingly. Farmers, fishers and livestock keepers are advised to consult extension officers for optimal use of this forecast and advisory.

### HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2018

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to continue declining mostly in unimodal areas due to ongoing dry conditions. The increasing is expected in bimodal areas due to *vuli* rainfall season kickoff.

Water users are advised to use available water carefully.

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