TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.23: 2018/19 cropping season **Review for May 1-10, 2019 and Outlook for May 11 - 20, 2019**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Excessive soil moisture condition and flooding were experienced over northern coast including islands of Zanzibar
- Soil moisture condition is expected to continue improving in some parts around northeastern highlands, southwestern highlands, northern coast, western regions, southern coast and southern regions due to forecasted rainfall activities.
- Farmers, livestock keepers and fishers are advised to consult extension officers for effective use of the forecasted rainfall.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING MAY 01 - 10, 2019

During this period under review, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) were relaxing while the southern high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) were intensifying. Therefore, the Intertropical Convergence Zone was in the north but still within the country especial over the Lake Victoria basin as well as north eastern highland. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean persisted hence influenced development of tropical storm and south easterly wind over the coast which resulted into heavy rain over the entire coast. SSTs over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), were slightly cool hence influenced the precipitation making mechanism to stay over the Lake Victoria basin and the western sector of the county.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING MAY 01 - 10, 2019

During the dekad, the weather systems enhanced precipitation over Lake victoria basin, some areas of the coastal belt, Pwani region, and some parts of central region. The amount of rainfall recorded over these areas ranged from 26 mm to 250 mm. Other parts of the country specifically northerneastern highlands, western regions, southwestern highlands and, southern region, remain relatively dry with total rainfall less than 25 mm in a dekad as shown in Figure 1.

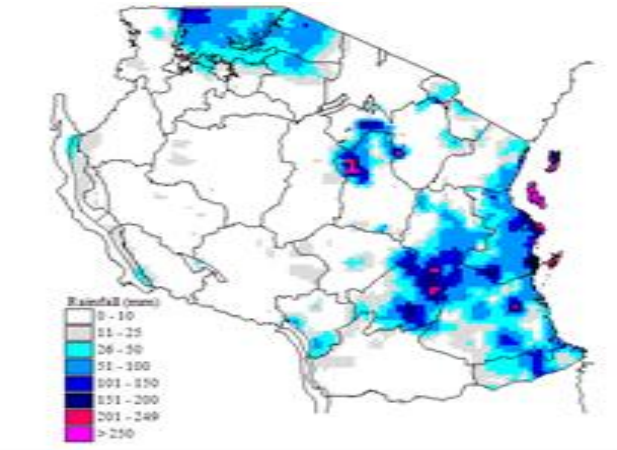

Figure: Total rainfall for the period of May 01 - 10, 2019.

AGROMETEROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING MAY 01 - 10, 2019

In most parts around unimodal regime specifically Mbeya and Ruvuma regions, farmers have started to harvest maize crop. Most parts specifically coastal belt, Pwani region and Lake Victoria basin, continued to experience normal to above normal (excessive) soil moisture conditions during the dekad. However, crops in low-lying ground were affected by excessive soil moisture and flooding conditions as observes over Dar es Salaam, Pwani and Zanzibar. In some areas of Tanga, Morogoro and Pwani, maize crop is at third leaf stage while in some parts of Shinyanga and Mwanza farmers are continuing with harvesting of Maize crop which were planted during the 2018 ''Vuli'' rains. In Mwanza and Kagera regions maize and beans crops were in good condition.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MAY 01-10, 2019

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have increased slightly due to ongoing seasonal rains.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 11-20, 2019

During this period, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to relax while the southern high pressure systems are expected to further intensify. This is expected to move the ITCZ northwards but within the country especial over the Lake Victoria basin. Warm SSTs over the southwest Indian Ocean (closer to Tanzania coast) are expected to persist hence influence development of south easterly wind over the coast. This condition is expected to cause precipitation to continue over the coastal areas. Over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast), the SSTs are expected to be slightly cool. This condition is expected to enhance precipitation over the Lake Victoria Basin.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING MAY 11 - 20, 2019

In view of the expected synoptic conditions Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara region) and Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora regions) are expected to feature thundershowers over some areas.

Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) are expected to feature Thundershowers over few areas especially first half of the dekad.

Northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Pwani and Dar es Salaam regions together with isles of Unguja and Pemba) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature thundery showers over most areas especially the second half of dekad.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature mainly a dry condition with a chance of light rain over few areas.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions) are expected to feature showers over few areas, especially the first half of dekad.

Southern region (Ruvuma and Southern part of Morogoro regions) are expected to feature showers over few areas.

EXPECTED AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 11 - 20, 2019

The expected rainfall over some areas in the northeastern highlands, southwestern highlands, northern coast, western regions, southern coast and southern regions will improve soil moisture conditions for crops development. However, excessive soil moisture and flooding conditions are likely to affect crops grown in low-lying areas of the northern coast. The forecasted dry condition over central zone (Dodoma and Singida) will lead to soil moisture reduction. The ongoing rainfall activities around the country are not expected to last longer particularly over unimodal areas, except the bimodal regime mainly coastal regions and hinterlands which are likely to remain active in May 2019. Farmers and livestock keepers in their respectively areas are advised to consult agriculture extension officers for proper utilization of the forecasted weather during this dekad.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 11 - 20, 2019

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to increase both for unimodal and bimodal areas as the Msimu and Masika rains continues over those regions. Water users are however advised to use available water carefully and wherever possible carry out water harvesting for future use.

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