TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

No. 22: 2021/22 cropping season ***Review for April 21-30, 2022 and Outlook for May 1-10, 2022***

HIGHLIGHTS

- Some areas particularly in Kyela and some parts of Ileje and Rungwe districts experienced periods of heavy rains that destroyed maize and banana plants.
- Due to inadequate rainfall, farmers in northeastern highlands and northern coast are not advised to plant crops that need rainfall duration of more than one month particularly maize.
- Farmers are advised to manage their farms against pests and diseases in consultation with extension officers.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2022

During this period, the intensification of the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarenes) with slightly relaxation of the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian) were observed. The strength and orientation of the high pressure systems influenced the migration of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) towards the northern part of the country. This scenario improved the presence of convective rains over those areas. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) were cooler than normal that favored the advection of moisture from Congo Basin towards the western part of the country.

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE DURING APRIL 21-30, 2022

During this dekad, most areas in the country experienced rainfall amount of above 26mm with an exceptional of many areas of Singida, Dodoma, Kagera, Lindi, Mtwara and Arusha which received less than 10 mm of rainfall. However, more than 150 mm were experienced few areas of Mara, Simiyu, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Kagera and Mbeya regions as indicated in Figure 1.

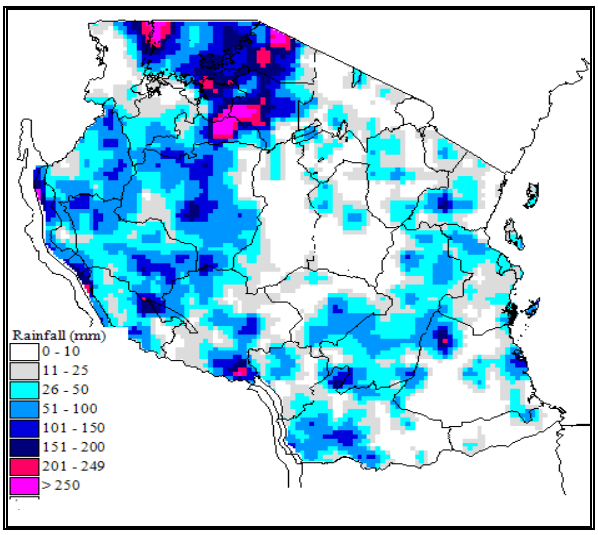

Figure 1: Total rainfall for the period of April 21-30, 2022.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2022

The observed rainfall in the unimodal rainfall regime areas continued replenishing soil moisture, which supported crop growth and pasture development. On the other hand, inadequate rains in some areas of bimodal rainfall regime have resulted into insufficient soil moisture. However, some areas experienced periods of heavy rains particularly in Kyela, some parts of Ileje and Rungwe districts that destroyed maize and banana plants.

In areas of unimodal rainfall regime, maize crops were between the wax and full ripeness stages and most farmers continued with maize farm management, including control of insect pests, and diseases.

Generally, maize and paddy crops were in good condition over many areas of unimodal rainfall patterns, with the exception of Tabora region where inadequate rainfall

affected paddy crop development. However, crops such as sunflower, sorghum, pigeon peas, cowpeas and green gram were reported to be in good condition.
In bimodal rainfall regime areas, particularly areas around Lake Victoria, maize crops were at flowering stages.
Water and pasture availability for livestock and wildlife continued to improve over most parts of the country.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2022

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges continue improving in most area of the country. In addition, the overflow of water levels in Lake Nyasa basin, and Ruvuma and Southern Coast basin has been reported.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 2022

The southern high pressure systems are expected to intensify while the northern high pressure systems are expected to slightly relax. This condition is likely to influence the position of ITCZ to be oscillating over northern part of the country. The southeast Atlantic Ocean (near Angola coast) is expected to experience slight cool SSTs that will continue to favor the advection of moist winds from Congo basin towards the western side of the country. This scenario will have much contribution to the rainfall making mechanisms over the West.
Generally, the synoptic systems mentioned above are expected to maintain rainfall activities over some areas of the Lake Victoria basin, west, northeastern highlands and northern coastal regions.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 2022

Areas around Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu and Mara regions) and northern coast (Tanga, northern part of Morogoro, Coast and Dar es Salaam regions together with Isles of Unguja and Pemba) are expected feature thundershowers over few areas.

Western regions (Kigoma, Katavi and Tabora) are expected to experience isolated thundershowers over few areas especially during the first half of the dekad.

Southern coast regions (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to feature rain showers with isolated cases of thunderstorms over some areas.
Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and are expected to experience light rain showers over few areas.

Some areas in southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa regions), southern regions (Ruvuma and southern part of Morogoro) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) are expected to experience rain showers over few areas especially during the first half of the dekad.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING MAY 1-10, 2022

The expected rains are likely to support crop and pasture growth over most parts of the country. However, expected rains particularly over unimodal areas may favour late-grown crops but heavy rains may affect maize crop development and harvesting activities. Thus, farmers are advised to practice good farm managements in consultation with extension officers from their localities.
Farmers in bimodal areas are advised to continue with pesticides application particularly crops affected by armyworms and other farm management practices in consultation with extension officers.

Due to inadequate rainfall, farmers in north eastern highlands and northern coast particularly in Tanga region are not advised to plant crops that need rainfall duration of more than one month such as maize.
Livestock keepers, farmers and fishers are advised to seek professional advice and utilize weather forecast updates as issued by Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA)

EXPECTED HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 2022

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to improve in most part of the country. Water users are advised to practice good water management including rainwater harvesting for future use.

Prepared by
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