10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

Period: 11 – 20 October 2005 Season: 2005/2006 Issue No.02

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hot and dry weather persisted over Malawi…**
- **Land preparation and farm input mobilization were major activities…**
- **Prospects favourable for isolated rainfall during 21 – 31 October 2005…**

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the second ten days of October Malawi remained mostly under the influence of warm north easterly air mass. Hence the country generally experienced dry weather during the period save for a few places over southern highlands where 14.2mm was reported at Thyolo Met, 12.5mm at Mulanje Boma and 4.3mm at Bvumbwe.

Rainfall is expected to continue being erratic until the main rain bearing systems are established over the country.

. MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Hot temperatures continued over the country except in lower Shire Valley where the temperatures were very hot (above 36°C) during the dekad under review. Ngabu reported a ten day mean (average) maximum temperature of 37°C. Mean minimum temperatures indicate that morning temperatures were cool to mild in most parts of the country.

. MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Wind speeds observed at a height of two meters across the country ranged between 1 and 4 metres per second or 3.6 – 14.4 Km/hr (see table). Ngabu and Chitipa continued to report highest wind speeds (4 m/s).

. MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Fairly dry atmosphere persisted over the country with daily average relative humidity values ranging from 40% at Bolero to 57% at Thyolo met. during the second ten days of October 2005.

. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The major agricultural activities in Malawi have been land preparation and procurement of some farm inputs and equipment in readiness for the main rains.

. PROSPECTS OF / SEASON

According to 2005/06 seasonal rainfall outlook issued by the Department on 14th September 2005, a greater part of Malawi is likely to experience normal total rainfall amounts this season. However, fewer areas are anticipated to receive either below normal or above normal rainfall amounts during the period.

. OUTLOOK FOR – OCTOBER

Meanwhile pressure systems indicate favourable conditions for isolated thunderstorms and rainshowers over Malawi during the period 21 – 31 October 2006.

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TABLE FOR AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR THE PERIOD 11 – 20 OCTOBER 2005

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BVUMBWE	28.8	15.7	30.2	14.0	2.1	54
BOLERO	31.8	20.2	33.2	16.1	2.8	40
CHICHIRI	29.4	17.4	32.0	15.5	1.2	51
CHILEKA	31.6	20.5	34.5	19.4	3.7	51
CHITEDZE	30.3	16.5	32.8	14.1	1.3	45
CHITIPA	31.0	16.2	33.6	15.6	4.1	45
KASUNGU	30.4	18.2	32.1	15.6	2.9	46
KARONGA	34.7	22.0	35.6	20.6	2.2	46
K I A	29.1	16.0	31.0	14.6	2.2	45
MANGOCHI	34.6	22.8	36.2	18.0	2.2	46
MIMOSA	33.9	17.2	37.0	15.0	2.0	52
MONKEY BAY	33.2	24.3	35.5	21.4	2.5	44
MZIMBA	29.0	17.5	32.0	15.1	1.9	45
MZUZU	28.2	12.1	29.6	10.3	2.2	50
NGABU	37.3	23.6	40.0	22.3	4.2	47
NKHATA BAY	33.7	16.1	35.0	14.1	N/A	48
SALIMA	32.6	23.3	34.7	21.0	2.6	46
THYOLO	31.3	16.4	33.2	12.3	1.7	57

Glossary of some terms on this table

- RH = Relative Humidity
- Mean Temperature of the day =(Max of the day + Min of the same day)/2
- ABS Max (Min) = Absolute Maximum (minimum) is the highest (lowest) of maximum (minimum) temperatures observed for a given number of days (calendar month) of a specified period of months (years).
- To convert Meters Per Second (mps) to Kilometers per hour (Km/hr) = mpsx3.6