10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rainfall activities were experienced mainly over southern parts of Malawi…**
- **Land preparation continues in most areas…**
- **Isolated rainfall activities are expected during the second half of 1-10 Nov 2006..**

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the third dekad of October 2006, some place mainly over the southern parts of Malawi registered an increase in rainfall activities. Significant rainfall amounts were received in places like Mangochi (62 mm), Luchenza in Thyolo (42 mm), Mimosa in Mulanje (36 mm), Nsanje Boma (29 mm), Chileka in Blantyre (16.4), Toleza in Balaka (15.6 mm) and Ntaja in Machinga (11.5 mm). In contrast, just a few places in the Central region received significant amounts. These are places like Nkhande in Ntcheu (40.5 mm) and Bunda College in Lilongwe (7.5 mm). The Northern region was mainly dry with only Mzuzu Met reporting a ten day rainfall total of 4.2 mm.

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

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

There was a slight pick in day time temperatures during the dekad under review compared to the previous one. Ngabu in Chikwawa reported a mean maximum temperature of 38.8 ºC from 35.8 ºC. The lowest mean maximum temperature was reported at Dedza (26.9 ºC). However, cool to warm mean minimum temperatures continued across the country. Mzuzu and Monkey Bay reported mean minimun temperatures of 15.1 ºC and 24.7 ºC, respectively.

1.3 MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

At a height of two meters above the ground, mean wind speeds observed across the country ranged between about 1 and 6 m/s (3.6 and 21.6 Km/hr) - see table on the next page. Chitipa again reported the highest wind speed, 6.4 m/s during this dekad.

1.4 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Mean relative humidity was generally lower than the previous dekad. The values ranged between 39% and 56% at Bolero and Mimosa, respectively. This is in contrast with the range of 44% to 62% for the previous dekad.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Land preparation continued to be main agricultural activity in Malawi during the period under review. This is in readiness for the main rains.

3. PROSPECTS OF 2006/07 SEASON

Most climate models indicate that a greater part of Malawi is expected to experience normal total rainfall amounts during 2006/07 rainfall season. However, localized dry spells and flush floods are also expected to occur during the season.

4. OUTLOOK FOR 1 – 10 NOVEMBER 2006

Dry weather is expected during the first half of the dekad across the country. But some rainfall activities are expected, especially in the southern parts of the country towards the end of the dekad. High temperatures will continue to be experienced.

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TABLE FOR AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR THE PERIOD 21 – 31 OCTOBER 2006

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BOLERO	32.9	22.4	33.9	20.5	2.6	39
CHICHIRI	31.0	18.5	32.6	16.0	0.9	51
CHILEKA	33.5	21.3	35.0	19.1	3.7	50
CHITEDZE	32.1	17.7	33.4	14.8	1.9	41
CHITIPA	31.6	20.2	32.4	18.6	6.4	42
DEDZA	26.9	17.0	29.3	15.0	1.9	N/A
KASUNGU	32.2	20.1	33.3	19.0	3.4	43
KARONGA	34.1	23.2	35.5	22.0	2.0	48
K I A	30.3	17.7	31.8	15.7	2.4	48
MAKOKA	31.4	19.0	32.9	17.0	1.7	53
MANGOCHI	35.2	22.9	37.5	21.0	1.9	51
MIMOSA	34.5	17.7	36.2	15.9	1.5	56
MONKEY BAY	35.0	24.7	36.2	22.5	2.4	43
MZIMBA	31.2	19.5	33.0	17.8	1.6	45
MZUZU	29.0	15.1	30.5	12.4	2.2	52
NGABU	38.8	24.0	40.7	22.2	3.8	50
NKHATA BAY	34.5	18.8	35.7	17.1	0.9	52
NTAJA	34.0	21.8	35.3	19.0	2.9	52
SALIMA	34.4	24.0	36.1	22.2	2.5	47

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