

No.2 Special Issue: November to April (NDJFMA), 2019 Rainy Season

Forecast issued on 10 October, 2019

Summary

- November to April (NDJFMA) rainfall season (Msimu rains) is significant for the Unimodal rainfall regime areas.
- Enhenced rainfall activities are expected during the first half of NDJFMA 2019/2020.
- Msimu rains are likely to be above normal to normal over most areas of the unimodal parts of the country.
- Sufficient pasture and water for livestock is expected.

CLIMATE SYSTEMS OUTLOOK DURING NDJFMA, 2019/2020

The western indian Ocean is expected to be warmer than the eastern Indian Ocean indicating a positive Indian Ocean Dipole. However, much progressive warmer temperature is predicted to be within the central part of the Ocean extending towards the Somali coast. The south west indian Ocean is also predicted to be warmer than average and this is a favorable condition to the occurrence of low pressure systems including Tropical Cyclones.

The occurrence of low pressure systems including tropical cyclones over southwestern indian Ocean is expected to trigger westerly wind pattern across the country, which in turn will enhance moisture influx from Congo basin, favoring enhanced rains over most parts of the country. Eastern Atlantic Ocean temperature condition (along Angola coast) is expected to be slightly warm indicating a weak influence in strengthening the rainfall making mechanism over the western areas of the country.

SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK DURING NDJFMA, 2019/2020

Msimu rains are specific for the western, central, southwestern highlands, southern regions, southern coast and southern parts of Morogoro region.

Based on the current and expected climate systems, there is an elevated chance of above normal to normal rains over most parts of unimodal areas of the country, with the exception of the extreme western side of the country where mainly normal to above normal rains are expected. However, enhanced rainfall activities are expected during the first half of the NDJFMA 2019/2020 season due to the low level westerly wind anomalies that are likely to enhance moisture influx from Congo basin. Details of the rainfall season are as follows:

Western areas: (Tabora, Katavi and Kigoma regions)

Above normal to normal rains are expected over Tabora region, where as normal to above normal rains are expected over Kigoma and Katavi regions. Rains are expected to commence during the fourth week of October, 2019 over Kigoma region spreading to other regions of Katavi and Tabora during the first week of November, 2019. Rains are expected to cease between the third and fourth week of April, 2020.

Central (Singida and Dodoma regions)

Rains over these regions are expected to start during the first to second week of November, 2019. These regions are expected to receive above normal to normal rains. Rains are expected to cease between the second and third week of April, 2020.

Southwestern highlands and Southern Region: (Rukwa, Songwe, Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe and Ruvuma regions; and southern sector of Morogoro region)

Rains are expected to start between the first and second week of November, 2019 and are expected to be above normal to normal over most areas. However, few areas of western Ruvuma region is expected to receive slightly less rains. Rains are expected to end between the fourth week of April, 2020 and first week of May 2020.

Southern Coast: (Mtwara and Lindi regions)

Above normal to normal rains are expected over Mtwara and Lindi regions. Rains are expected to start between the first and second weeks of November, 2019. Cessation is expected to be on the first week of May, 2020.

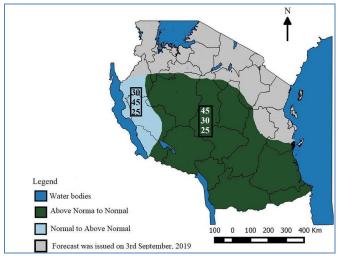


Figure 1: Rainfall outlook for coming rainfall season November to April, 2019/2020.



Agriculture, Fishing Industry, Livestock and Wildlife Production

During the "*Msimu*" rainfall season, soil moisture are expected to improve over most areas. However, excessive soil moisture may ruin crops (maize, beans and burley) that do not require much water. On the other hand, the expected above normal rains might cause animal diseases. Sufficient pasture and water for livestock and wildlife is expected. Livestock keepers are advised to practice good animal husbandry and harvest rainwater and pasture for future use. Users are advised to seek more information including advice from the extension officers.

Water

Sufficient water availability is likely, especially in areas expected to receive above normal to normal rains. Water levels over the dams and rivers are likely to significantly improve. Those engaged in small scale mining activities, safety precaution should be observed as excessive water in the soil may trigger landslides

and cave-ins.

Availability of enough water for irrigation is expected. However, efficient use of water is highly recommended. Farmers and livestock keepers are advised to harvest rainwater for future use.

Disaster Management

Over the areas where above normal-to-normal rains are expected, information from Disaster committees should be relayed to communities especially those residing over low laying areas. Disaster management authorities are advised to prepare contingency plan as well as resources necessary to cater for any negative impacts that might occur. Transport and construction agencies together with other stakeholders are advised to take necessary measures such as good practice of improving infrastructure and ensure preparedness, and mitigation plan to reduce any negative impacts that may result from the expected above normal rainfall.

Over the areas where mainly normal to above normal rains are expected, community and other stakeholders are advised to continue with normal social-economical practices.

NOTE: The current status of seasonal forecasting allows for prediction of spatial and temporal averages over larger areas and may not fully account for all physical and dynamical factors that influence short-term climate variability. Users of this outlook are therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten-day, monthly updates and warnings issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority.

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