

Malawi 10-day Weather and Agrometeorological Bulletin

"In support of National Early Warning Systems and Food Security"



Be wise be weather-wise
Department of Climate Change and
Meteorological Services

Period: 21 – 30 April 2023

Season: 2022/2023

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry conditions over Malawi as rainy season ends....
- Harvesting in progress over central and northern areas...
- Normal to above normal cumulative rainfall amounts for the country...

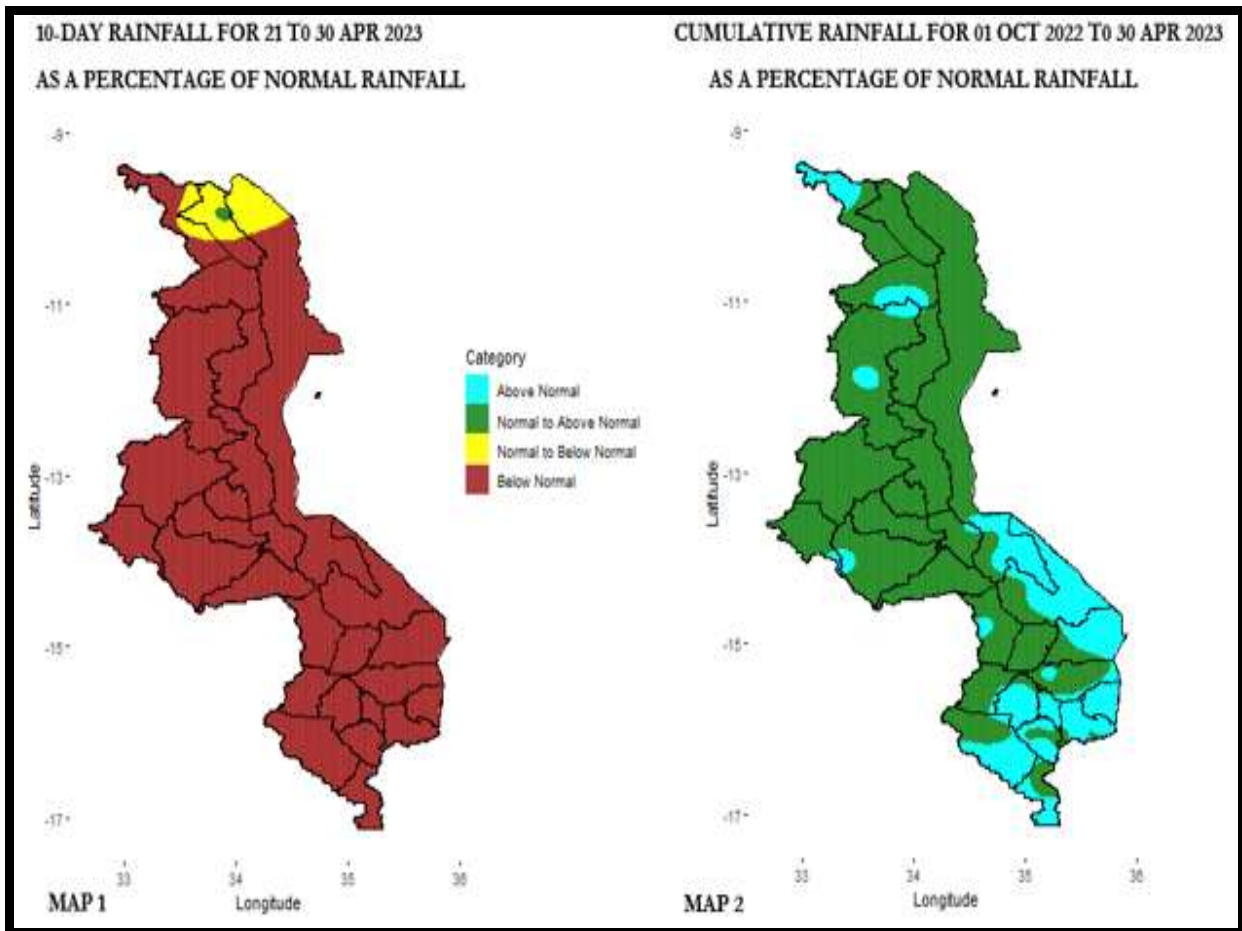


Figure 1: Observed dekadal and cumulative seasonal rainfall as percentage of normal for Malawi

1.0 WEATHER SUMMARY

During the period 21 to 30 April 2023, a series of inland high-pressure areas were active over Malawi hence enhancing drier conditions. Warm temperature conditions were experienced across the country.

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the period under review, drier conditions signalling the end to the 2022/2023 rainy season were experienced over Malawi.

Stations that recorded at least some rains include Baka Research station, Karonga Meteorological station, Nkhata Bay Meteorological station, Mbawa Research station, Dedza Meteorological station, Bvumbwe Meteorological station, Chileka International Airport and Mzuzu Meteorological station.

Spatial distribution of the actual recorded rainfall amounts is shown in figure 2 below.

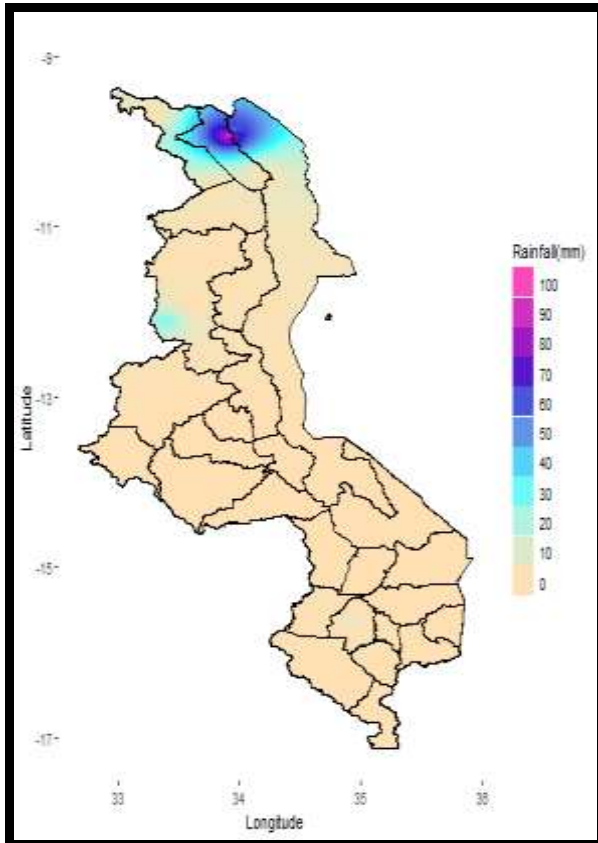


Figure 2: Observed dekadal rainfall for Malawi, 21-30 April 2023

The overall rainy days distribution from 21 to 30 April 2023 is shown in figure 3 below. Majority of the country did not record any rainy day with Karonga and part of Kasungu registering some rainy days. Baka Research station and Karonga Meteorological station recorded 4 rainy days each.

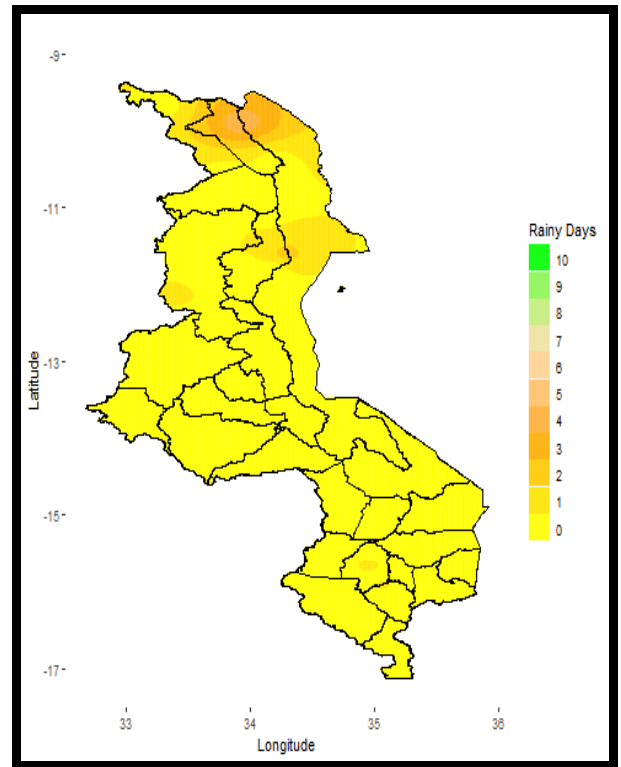


Figure 3: dekadal rainy days for Malawi, 11-20 April 2023

Since the start of October 2022 to 30 April 2023, normal to above normal cumulative rainfall amounts have been experienced over majority of areas of the country with outright above normal rainfall amounts over southern, northern Malawi as well as central and northern lakeshore areas as shown on Map 2 in Figure 1 above.

1.2 AIR TEMPERATURE

Malawi experienced warm to hot conditions during the period 21 to 30 April 2023. Mean daily maximum temperatures ranged from 24.7°C at Bvumbwe Meteorological station to 32.8°C at Ngabu Meteorological station in Chikwawa while mean daily minimum temperatures had ranged from 13.2°C at Dedza and Kamuzu International Airport Meteorological stations to 21.0°C at Monkey Bay, Ngabu and Salima Meteorological stations.

1.3 RELATIVE HUMIDITY

During the period 21 to 30 April 2023, air over Malawi was generally moist. Mean daily Relative Humidity values recorded from various weather stations had ranged from 63% at Kasungu Meteorological station to 79% at Mzuzu Meteorological station.

1.4 WIND SPEEDS

During the period under review, most parts of Malawi experienced light to moderate wind speeds. Daily average wind speeds measured at a height of two metres above the ground level across the country had ranged from 0.8 km per hour at Bolero Meteorological station in Rumphi district to 13.3 km per hour at Chitipa Meteorological station.

1.5 SUNSHINE HOURS

Generally medium to long hours of bright sunshine were observed over Malawi during the last dekad of April 2023. Mean daily values had ranged from 6.8 hours per day at Mzuzu Meteorological station to 9.2 hours per day at Ngabu

Meteorological station and consequently the amount of Solar Radiation had ranged from 8.6 to 12.7 cal/cm²/day.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, there was reduced rainfall activities over the country with exception of Karonga and part of Kasungu.

The rainfall experienced during the dekad under review particularly over Karonga supported growth and development of rice and other tuber crops. Furthermore, the rains ensured continued availability of water for livestock as well as growth and development of pastures.

Maize harvesting is in progress over central and northern areas as farmers took advantage of the drier conditions, while farmers over southern areas are now focusing on winter cropping with some planting maize, regular beans and tuber crops like potato and sweet potatoes.

Furthermore, marketing of various agricultural products in the 2022/2023 agricultural marketing season is in progress. The Ministry of Agriculture has announced minimum farm

gate prices for various agricultural commodities for the 2022/2023 season and has subsequently opened various market points such as Auction floors for Tobacco farmers.

However, the country has had negative episodes during the season, among others; flooding over majority of the southern districts with reported cases of crop wash-aways, destruction of property and loss of human lives as well as livestock. On the other extreme, prolonged dry spells were experienced in the months of January and February over some parts of Karonga district. These disasters have potential of negatively affecting the good crop stand thereby affecting production at national scale.

3. PROSPECTS FOR WINTER SEASON

A normal winter season is anticipated over the country. The season is expected to be characterized by generally warm conditions during the day with cold to very cold episodes accompanied by drizzle or rain and fog locally known as *Chiperoni weather* conditions. Mwera winds will be experienced over our Lakes.