

Malawi 10-day Weather and Agrometeorological Bulletin

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



Period: 21 – 30 April 2025

Season: 2024/2025 Release date: 08 May 2025 Issue No.21

HIGHLIGHTS

- Relatively wet conditions over the north during the last dekad...
- Maize harvesting in progress over northern half...
- Normal to above normal seasonal amounts for southern half, normal to below over northern half...



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 2025, easterly air mass influenced weather over the country resulting in significant reduction in rainfall activities over southern half with relatively wet conditions over northern half of the country.

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

Areas over northern half of the country received rains within the normal to below normal range of historical dekadal amounts with below normal amounts experienced over southern half as captured in Map 1 in figure 1 above. As of 30th April 2025, the cumulative rainfall amounts since the onset of rainfall monitoring season indicate a normal to above normal season for majority of southern areas of the country with generally normal to below normal conditions over central and northern areas. (Map 2 from Figure 1).

Below are stations which recorded at least 40.0mm of rains; Chikangawa Forest in Mzimba recorded 71.2mm in 10 rainy days, Dwangwa Sugar Company in Nkhotakota recorded 60mm in 5 rainy days, Baka Research Station in Karonga recorded 57.1mm in 3 rainy days, Mzuzu Meteorological Station recorded 43.7mm in 5 rainy days.



Figure 2: Observed dekadal rainfall for Malawi, 21-30 April 2025

The highest number of 10 rainy days was recorded at Chikangawa Forest followed by Dwangwa Sugar Company and Mzuzu Meteorological Station with 5 rainy days. More details as illustrated in Figure 3 below.



1.2 AIR TEMPERATURE

Warm to hot conditions were experienced during the period under review, with the average maximum temperature ranging from 23.6°C at Mzuzu Meteorological station to 32.3°C at Ngabu Meteorological Station in Chikwawa. The observed average minimum temperatures ranged from 14.9°C at Chitedze Meteorological Station in Lilongwe to 23.3°C at Salima Meteorological Station.

1.3 RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Air over Malawi was relatively moist, the daily average Relative Humidity values recorded from various weather stations across the country ranged from 63% at Bolero Meteorological Station in Rumphi to 81% at Mzuzu and Makoka Meteorological Stations in Mzimba and Zomba respectively.

1.4 WIND SPEEDS

Daily average wind speed measured at a height of two metres above the ground ranged from 0.7km per hour at Makoka Meteorological Station in to 9 km per hour at Salima Meteorological Station.

1.5 SUNSHINE HOURS

Generally medium hours of bright sunshine were observed over Malawi during the period 21 to 30 April 2025. The average daily values of sunshine hours had ranged from 6.5 hours per day at Mzuzu Meteorological Station to 8.0 hours per day at Ngabu Meteorological Station and consequently, the amount of Solar Radiation had ranged from 8.6 to 13.5 cal/cm²/day.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, there was reduced rainfall activities over areas in southern half of the country with relatively wet conditions over northern half.

The rains observed mainly over northern lakeshore areas provided much-needed moisture for proper maturity of crops like rice in rice-growing districts like NkhataBay, Nkhotakota and Karonga.

Maize harvesting is still in progress over most areas over northern half, while farmers mainly 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 2024/2025 agricultural marketing season is in progress. The Ministry of Agriculture has announced minimum farm gate prices for various agricultural commodities for the 2024/2025 season and subsequently various marketing points such as Auction floors for Tobacco farmers have opened.

Overall, there are concerns of reduced crop production against five-year average for subsistence and cash crops at both local and national scales due to the erratic start of the 2024/2025 rainfall season as well as due to the impacts of the prolonged dry conditions experienced over parts of central and northern areas of the country.

3. PROSPECTS FOR WINTER SEASON

A normal winter season is anticipated over the country. The season is expected to be characterized by generally normal temperatures with occasional drizzle or rain, locally known as *Chiperoni*.

For the month of May, generally normal temperatures are anticipated with isolated cases of cooler than normal conditions over parts of Chitipa, Karonga, Mangochi and Machinga while warmer than normal conditions over parts of Kasungu, Rumphi and Nkhata Bay as captured in figure 4 (a) below. The anticipated actual Minimum temperatures are from 11.9°C to 18.7°C, as captured in figure 4(b) below.



Figure 4: May 2025 minimum temperature forecast (a) categories and (b) actual temperatures