

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hot and dry conditions over most areas...
- Land preparation, input acquisition in progress over most parts of the country...
- Sporadic rainfall activities anticipated during the last dekad of October 2025...

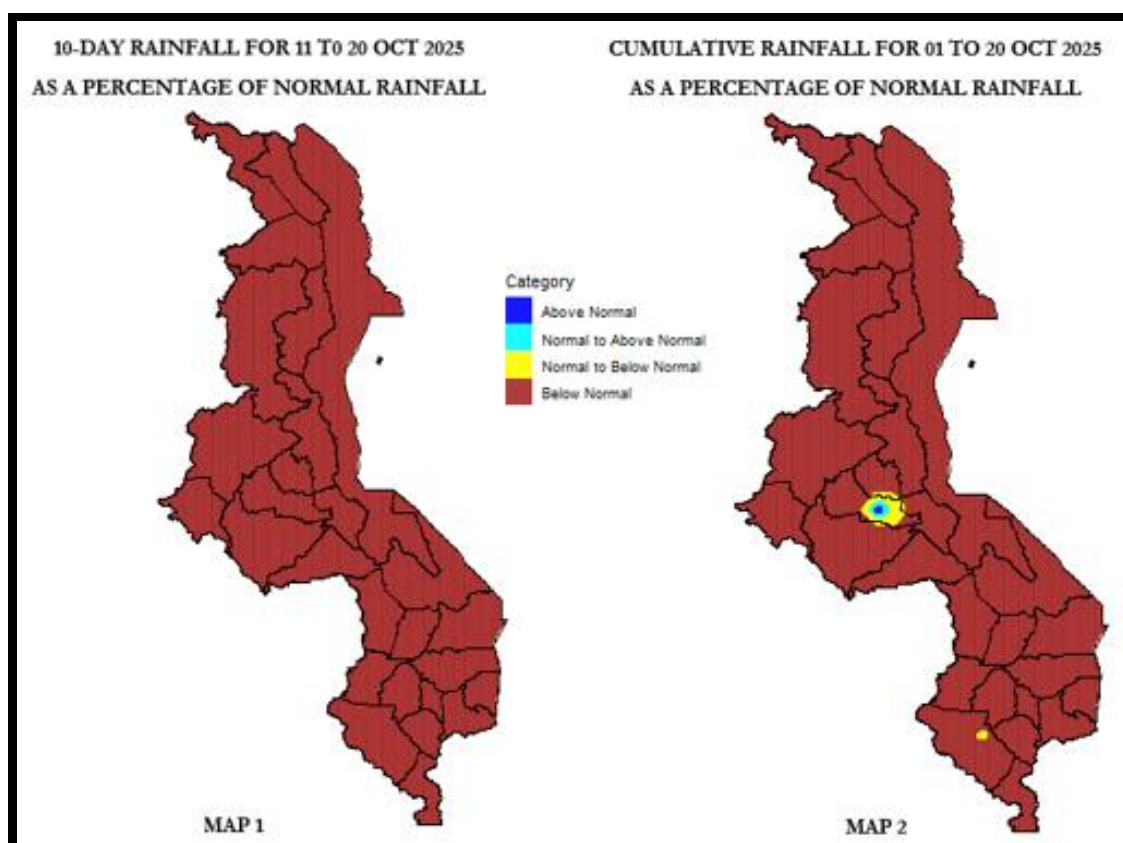


Figure 1: Observed dekadal and cumulative seasonal rainfall as percentage of normal for Malawi

1.0 WEATHER SUMMARY

Warm easterly airmass were dominant which resulted in generally hot and dry conditions over most areas. However, a weak influx of cool and moist southeasterlies led to isolated episodes of rainfall activities over southern Malawi.

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the second dekad of October 2025 most areas recorded no rainfall, only Chichiri Meteorological station in Blantyre recorded 3.6mm as shown in figure 2 below.

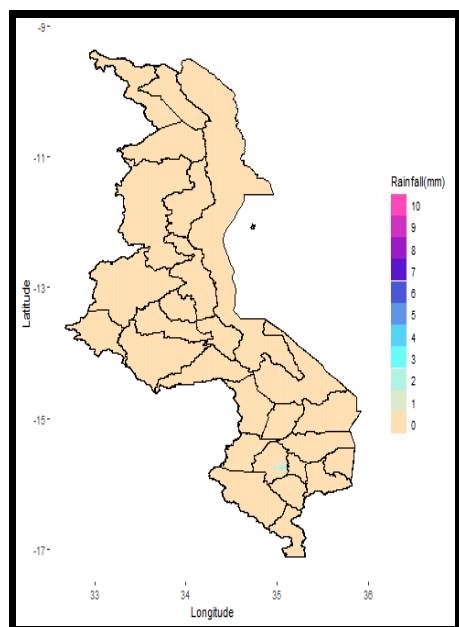


Figure 2: Observed dekad rainfall for Malawi, 11-20 October 2025

Only one rainy day was recorded at Chichiri Meteorological station during the period under review as captured in figure 3 below.

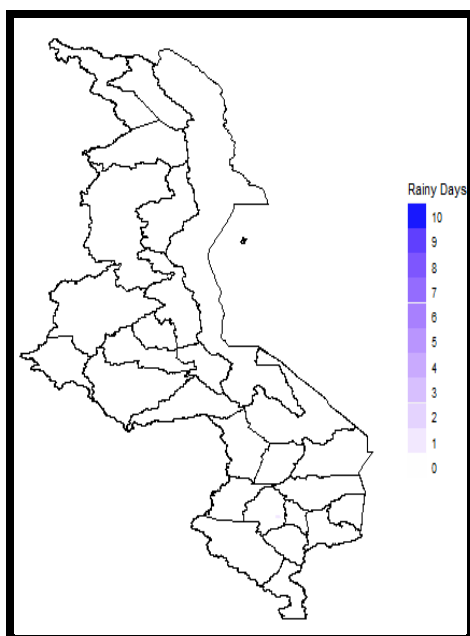


Figure 3: dekad rainy days for Malawi, 11-20 October 2025

1.2 OTHER WEATHER PARAMETERS

It was generally hot to locally very hot over the country during the period under review, with the average maximum temperature ranging from 28.0°C at Dedza Meteorological station to 37.4°C at Ngabu Meteorological Station in Chikwawa. The observed average minimum temperatures ranged from 15.0°C at Dedza Meteorological Station to 24.2°C at Ngabu Meteorological Station.

Air over Malawi was dry. Daily average Relative Humidity values recorded from various weather stations had ranged from 34% at Chileka International Airport Meteorological Station to 56% at Mimosa Meteorological station in Mulanje.

Daily average wind speeds measured at a height of two metres above the ground level across the country had ranged from 2.6 km per hour at Makoka, in Zomba and Nkhotakota Meteorological stations to 11.2 km per hour at Chileka International Airport Meteorological station.

Generally medium to long hours of bright sunshine were observed over Malawi. Daily average values had ranged from 8.8 hours at Bvumbwe in Thyolo to 10.2 hours at Ngabu Meteorological station and consequently the amount of Solar Radiation had ranged from 8.3 to 11.5 cal/cm²/day.

1.3 DROUGHT INDICATORS

The country experienced predominantly hot and dry conditions from 1 to 20 October 2025, indicating that the 2025/2026 rainfall season is yet to commence. Figure 4 below illustrates the observed distribution of consecutive dry days across the country since 1st October 2025. Most areas, particularly in the central and northern regions, recorded up to 20 consecutive days without rainfall, as shown by the dark brown shading. This pattern reflects widespread dryness across much of the country. In contrast, a few localized areas in the southern and parts of the eastern regions experienced shorter dry spells, ranging from about 6 to 10 consecutive days, represented by the lighter yellow and orange shades.

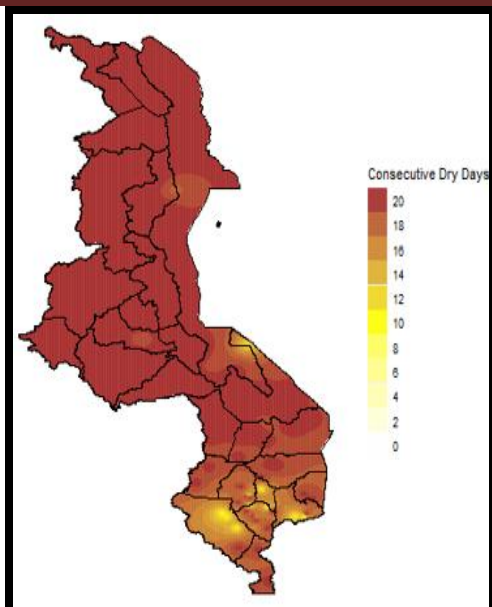


Figure 4: longest consecutive dry days , 01-20 October 2025

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, the main on-farm activity over Malawi has been land preparation in readiness for effective planting rains (refer to figure 5 below). Majority of tobacco growing farmers are busy with works on their tobacco seed nursery beds in readiness for effective planting rains

On the other hand, farmers are busy accessing agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.



Figure 5: land preparation in progress, Chivamba Extension Planning Area, Lilongwe East

The Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WSRI), which is a measure of **how much water crops have received compared to how much they actually need** during a growing season, for rainfed crops remains 0 since the season has not yet commenced.

3. SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK

The 2025-2026 rainfall season is expected to be influenced predominantly by ENSO neutral conditions.

The rainfall forecast for the 2025/2026 season is that:

“During October to December 2025, total rainfall amounts are anticipated to be generally normal to above-normal in most areas of the country, with normal to below-normal rainfall likely over some parts of the northern areas.

During January to March 2026, total rainfall amounts are anticipated to be generally normal to above-normal. Despite this trend, localized pockets, particularly in parts of Mchinji, Dowa, Kasungu and Lilongwe are projected to receive normal to below-normal precipitation.”

Illustration of the forecast is given in figure 6 below with map (a) and map (b) showing sub-seasons October November December (OND) and January February March (JFM), respectively.

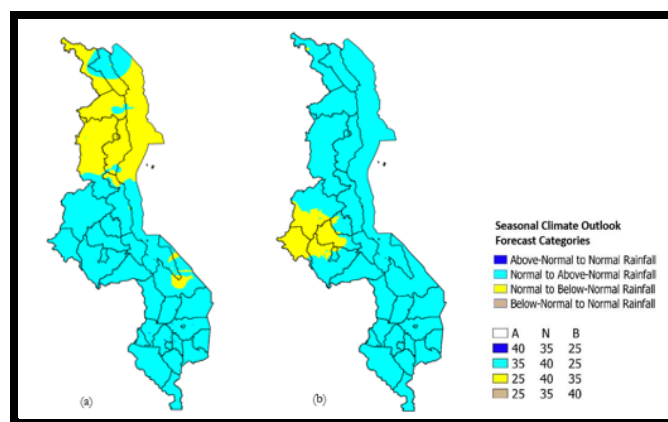


Figure 6 Forecast categories for OND and JFM

At national level, there are higher chances of normal to above normal cumulative seasonal rainfall amounts over most parts of the country.

For the month of October 2025, normal to above normal rainfall amounts are anticipated over majority of southern half with above normal scenario anticipated over northern half of the country. Refer figure 7 below map (a). The actual anticipated rainfall amounts are generally less than 50mm as shown in figure 7 map (b) below.

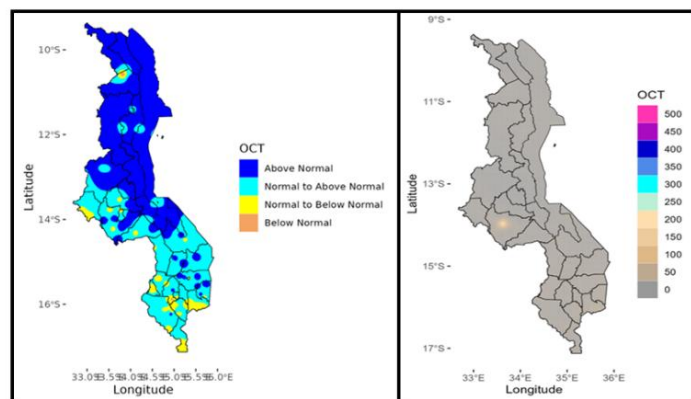


Figure 67 October 2024 rainfall forecast (a) categories and (b) values

In terms of dekadal rainfall amounts for the period 21 – 31 October 2025, normal to below normal category of the historical dekadal amounts are anticipated for majority of central and northern areas of the country with isolated normal to above normal particularly over central lakeshore areas and Karonga district. Below normal scenarios are anticipated over southern areas of the country with hot to locally very hot temperatures. This is represented by the map in Figure 8.

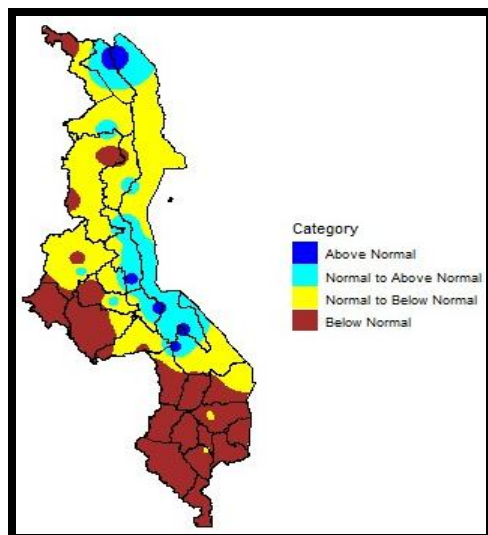


Figure 8: dekadal rainfall outlook for Malawi for 11-20 October 2024

For temperatures, warmer than normal conditions are anticipated during this month of October over southern and northern lakeshore areas of the country with generally normal temperatures elsewhere as shown in map (a) in figure 9 below. This generally entails temperatures of more than 34 Degree Celsius for lakeshore

and lower Shire River Valley areas while temperatures of over 30 Degree Celsius elsewhere as captured in map (b) in figure 9 below.

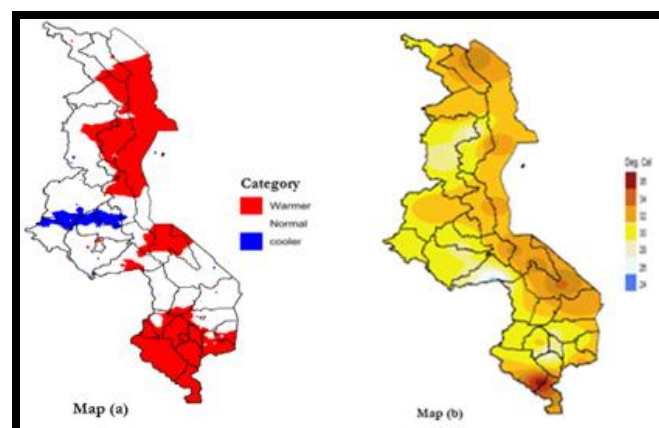


Figure 9: October 2025 temperature forecast

5. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

With the forecast pointing to generally dry and hot conditions across most parts of the country during 21–31 October 2025, farmers are advised to **delay planting until the onset of consistent and effective rains to avoid poor germination and seed loss**. During this period, they should focus on land preparation, acquisition of certified seeds and fertilizer, and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure to sustain ongoing irrigation activities.

Livestock farmers are advised to ensure their stock has adequate shade and access to clean water to reduce heat stress.