



Malawi 10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin



Department of Meteorological Services

Period: 21 – 31 October 2008

Season: 2008/2009

Issue No.3

Release date: 6 November 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

- **A slight pick of thunderstorms experienced over Malawi...**
- **Farmers across the country continued with land preparation...**
- **A further increase in rainfall activities expected...**

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

A slight pick in cases of thunderstorms was experienced over Malawi during the last 10 days of October 2008. Places that received some rainfall during the second dekad of October 2008 included: KIA (28.4 mm), Nathenje (20.0 mm), Mkanda (10.5 mm), Salima (10.2 mm) Chichiri (9.5 mm), Lujeri (7.0 mm), Mzuzu (5.8 mm), Nkhanda in Ntcheu (5.2 mm), Chancellor College (3.9 mm) and Satemwa (3.0 mm). Small amounts were also received at Mulanje Boma, Bvumbwe, Naminjiwa, Makoka, Bolero, Nkhata Bay and Chileka.

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Mean maximum air temperatures were generally hot. Only Ngabu in the lower Shire Valley reported very hot average maximum temperature of 38°C. The lowest mean maximum temperature of 27°C was reported at Dedza. Average minimum temperatures ranged between 15°C at Mzuzu to 24°C at Salima and Ngabu. See more details in Table 1 on the next page.

1.4 MEAN WIND SPEEDS

Mean wind speeds at a height of two metres above the ground level ranged from 1.2 m/s (4.3 Km/h) at Nkhata Bay to 4.7 m/s (16.9 Km/h) at Ngabu (see Table 1).

1.5 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

During the period 21-31 October 2008, air over Malawi continued to be fairly dry. Daily average relative humidity values ranged from 42% at Chitipa in the north to 57% at Makoka in the south. Details are in the Table 1 on page 2.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, farmers in most areas of the country continued with land preparation in readiness for the main rains.

3. PROSPECTS OF 2008/09 RAINFALL SEASON

The climate models indicate that during the period October to December 2008, the northern half of Malawi has 40% chance of rainfall total being normal, 35% chance of being below normal and 25% chance of being above normal while the Southern half has 40% chance of rainfall total being normal, 35% chance of being above normal and 25% chance of being below normal. During the period January to March 2009 Malawi as a whole has 40% chance of rainfall total being normal, 35% chance of being above normal and 25% chance of being below normal.

In summary, the models suggest that during 2008/2009 rainfall season, a greater part of Malawi will experience normal total rainfall amounts. However, just like in any ENSO-neutral season, extreme weather events like floods and prolonged dry spells may occur in some places.

4. OUTLOOK 1 – 10 NOVEMBER 2008

A further increase in rainfall activities is expected from early November as the major rain bearing systems begin to get established over the country.

TABLE 1: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR 21 – 31 OCTOBER 2008

STATION	MAX	MIN	ABS	ABS	WIND	RH
	TEMP	TEMP	MAX	MIN	SPEED	
	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	m/s	%
BVUMBWE	29.0	16.4	32.0	14.0	3.0	56
BOLERO	33.1	20.2	35.1	18.1	N/A	42
CHICHIRI	28.1	19.0	32.5	15.0	1.3	52
CHILEKA	32.2	20.4	34.4	18.1	3.7	52
NTAJA	33.1	21.2	36.0	19.7	3.3	49
CHITEDZE	31.6	17.6	33.3	16.1	1.3	45
CHITIPA	31.7	19.3	33.0	18.4	3.9	42
DEDZA	26.9	16.9	29.7	13.1	1.6	49
KASUNGU	33.7	20.4	34.5	11.0	3.0	46
KARONGA	33.8	23.6	35.5	22.5	1.9	51
K I A	30.2	17.1	32.1	15.4	2.2	49
MAKOKA	30.7	17.9	33.2	15.9	2.0	57
MANGOCHI	35.1	23.0	37.8	21.5	2.4	51
MIMOSA	33.4	17.3	36.5	15.2	1.7	45
MONKEY BAY	34.4	24.6	36.4	22.5	2.9	44
MZUZU	28.6	14.8	30.7	11.0	2.1	56
NGABU	37.5	23.5	39.9	21.5	4.7	54
NKHATA BAY	34.3	19.1	36.6	15.3	1.2	53
SALIMA	34.1	23.7	35.6	22.4	3.4	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