

Summary

The second dekad of the agrometeorological bulletin for March, 2018 is presented in this edition. Slight improvement in rainfall amount was observed though mostly over the South East Coast, with localized rain over parts of the south west all below 20mm. Below normal soil moisture conditions were observed over most places in the country except for a few places around the south east coast were normal to above normal conditions were observed. The mean maximum temperature increased slightly across the country and the highest maximum temperature was recorded at Gusau (40.3°C). The temperature departure from the 30-year average showed that most parts of the country experienced normal to warmer than-normal temperatures except places around Warri, Benin, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Uti Ekiti, and Eket were colder than normal temperature anomalies were recorded. The Inter Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) is expected to move northwards to attain a mean position of 10.5°N. Farmers are hereby advised to contact NiMet for more information and guidance on 2018 Seasonal Rainfall Prediction.

1.0 Rainfall Pattern

This section highlights the observed rainfall amount, rain-day, available soil moisture and their departures from 30-year average for the 2nd dekad of March, 2017.

1.1 Rainfall Amount

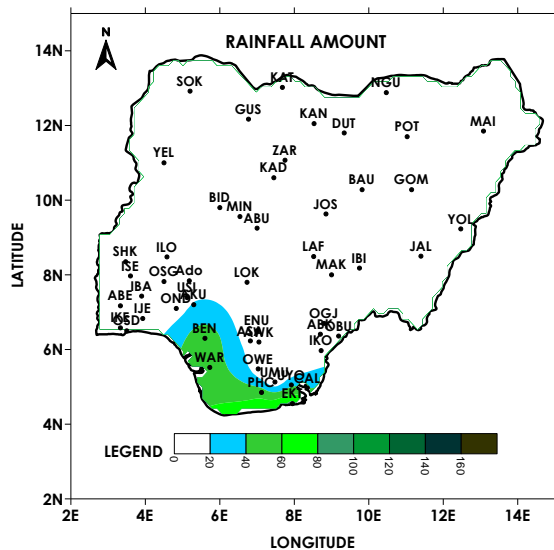


Figure 1: Rainfall Amount (mm)

Figure 1 shows the observed rainfall amount for the second dekad of March, 2018 over the country. The highest rainfall amounts were observed over the south east coast with about 87.6mm observed over Eket, 56.8mm over Benin, 52.7mm over Port Harcourt and 34.8mm over Uyo.

1.2 Rainfall Departure.

The rainfall departure for second dekad of March, 2018 is shown in figure 2. The Rainfall departure was normal to below normal over most parts of the country except places around the South East coast were above normal departure were observed.

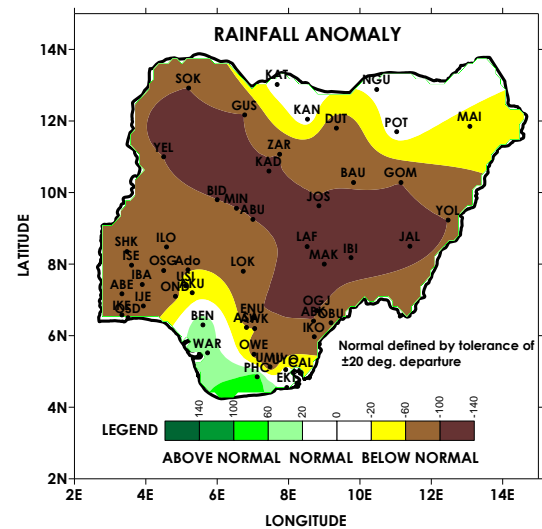


Figure 2: Rainfall Departure

1.3 Number of Rain Days

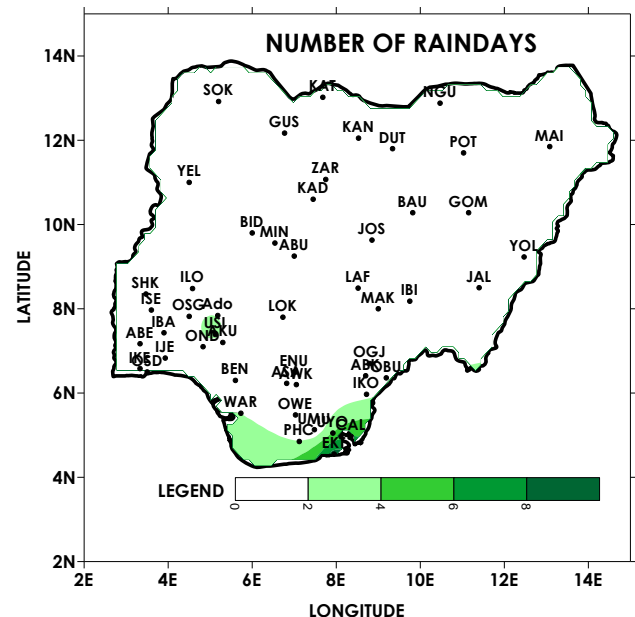


Figure 3: Rain- Day

The distribution of number of rain-days for second dekad of March shows an increase of rain-days (1-9

rain-days) over some parts of south-East Coast and the South West, while other places had zero rain days during the dekad.

1.4 Soil Moisture Index.

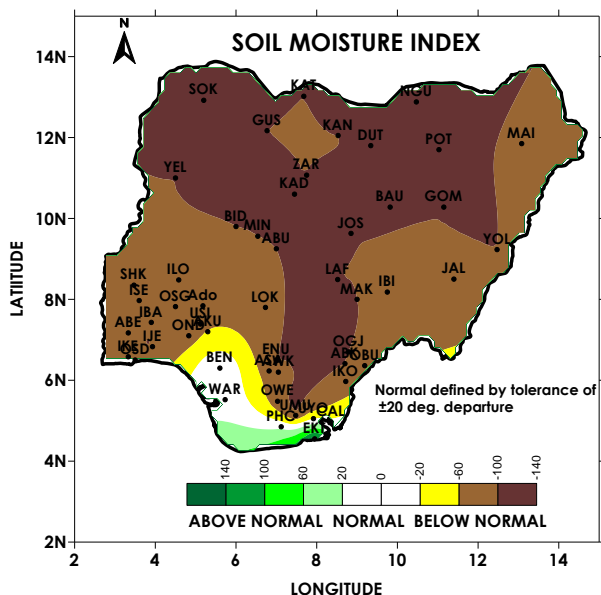


Figure 4: Soil Moisture Index (SMI).

The distribution of available soil moisture across the country is shown in figure 4. The country experienced below normal soil moisture conditions except around Benin, Eket, and Port Harcourt where normal to above normal soil moisture conditions were observed.

2.0 Temperature Trend

The maximum temperature trends across the country and their departures from 30-year average during the dekad are highlighted in this section.

2.1 Maximum Temperature Trend

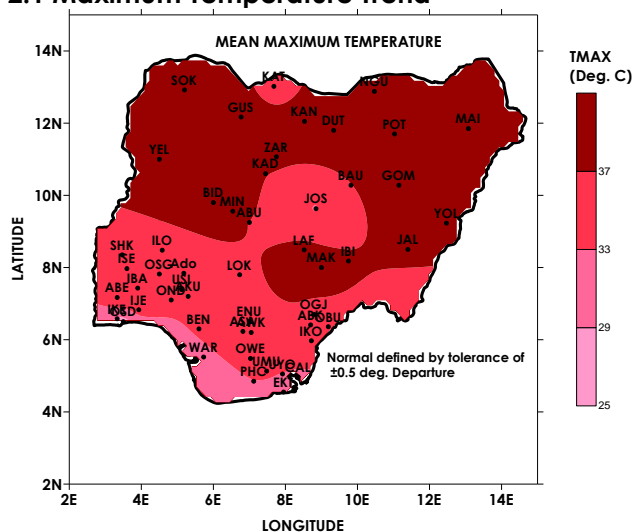


Figure 5: Mean Maximum Temperature

The day-time temperature for the 2nd dekad of March, 2018 is shown in figure 5. The mean maximum temperature ranged between 27.0°C (over Oshodi) to 40.3°C (over Gusau).

2.2 Maximum Temperature Departure

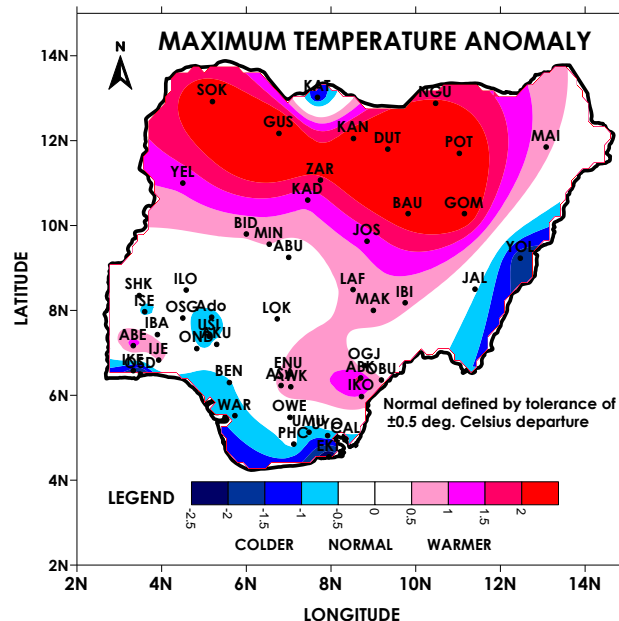


Figure 6: Maximum Temperature Anomaly.

The maximum temperature anomaly across the country is shown above. Most parts of the country experienced normal to warmer than-normal except areas around Warri, Benin, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Usi Ekiti, and Eket where below normal temperatures were recorded.

3.0 Weather/Agricultural Outlook for third dekad (21-31) of March, 2018.

3.1 Weather Outlook

The Inter-Tropical Discontinuity (ITD) is expected to move northwards to attain a mean position of 10.5°N. Sunny and cloudy conditions are anticipated over the central state with localised thunderstorms. Cloudy to Partly cloudy skies are anticipated across the southern states with prospects of thunderstorms and or localised rains during the day.

3.2 Advisories

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) has released its Seasonal Rainfall Prediction (i.e. Forecast for planting date, cessation, length of growing season and total rainfall amount) for 2018. The prediction revealed normal onset and cessation of growing season in many parts of country. Farmers are hereby

advised to contact NiMet stations close to them for more information and guidance.

Following the expected rains in selected cities, temperatures should begin to deep lower reducing the current heat stress conditions on animals and plants alike. These conditions should favour animal husbandry.

3.3 Agricultural Activity

Rain fed agriculture is underway across the southern parts of the country. Farmers across the country more

especially the sudano-sahelian zone (Borno, Yobe, Jigawa, Katsina, Zamfara, Kebbi and Sokoto) are advised to continue planting ecologically friendly trees for soil fertility, conservation and carbon sequestration. Harvesting of yam, bean seed, vegetables, root and tuber crops are ongoing across the country. Land preparation in the central states is in top gear in anticipation of the raining season.

TABLE OF AGROMETEOROLOGICAL DATA FOR THE DEKAD

STATION	RAINFALL	RAIN DAY	PET	TMAX	TMIN	DD	RADIATION
ABEOKUTA	5.3	1	56.2	36.9	25.5	232.0	21.9
ABAKILIKI	0	0	57.4	36.9	25.0	229.4	22.5
AKURE	20.9	0	50.9	33.9	23.6	207.4	20.7
AWKA	12	2	52.8	35.4	25.0	222.1	20.9
BIDA	0	0	59.3	38.8	26.5	246.4	22.6
CALABAR	38	6	43.7	32.1	24.5	203.0	17.9
DUTSE	0	0	76.0	39.8	15.9	198.4	31.4
ENUGU	0.3	0	53.7	35.8	25.2	225.3	21.2
GOMBE	0	0	67.0	39.5	23.2	233.5	26.1
GUSAU	0	0	71.9	40.3	20.6	224.6	28.4
IJEBU -ODE	0	0	53.6	35.0	24.0	214.9	21.5
UMUJAHIA	0	0	52.3	34.4	23.9	211.8	21.1
ONDO	9.2	1	51.1	33.7	23.3	205.2	20.9
KATSINA	0	0	70.4	34.8	19.3	212.5	28.4
ISEYIN	0	0	51.3	34.0	23.7	208.5	20.8
JOS	0	0	57.4	32.6	17.7	171.7	24.9
KANO	0	0	70.3	39.1	19.5	212.8	28.3
LAFIA	0	0	56.4	38.1	27.0	245.4	21.5
OGOJA	0	0	55.6	36.2	24.8	224.8	21.9
MAKURDI	0	0	59.9	38.3	25.6	239.5	23.1
MINNA	0	0	62.7	38.6	24.3	234.5	24.3
POTISKUM	0	0	71.5	40.0	20.2	220.7	28.5
OSHODI	0	0	24.6	27.0	23.9	174.9	10.5
SHAKI	3.4	1	56.5	34.6	21.8	202.1	23.2
SOKOTO	0	0	71.0	41.1	22.6	238.2	27.4
UYO	34.8	4	47.5	33.0	24.1	205.2	19.4
YELWA	0	0	61.8	40.0	27.0	255.1	23.2
YOLA	0	0	24.6	37.9	27.0	174.9	10.5
ZARIA	0.7	0	66.9	37.9	20.2	210.5	27.1

Note:
 Rainfall (mm)
 PET= Potential Evapotranspiration (mm/decade)
 TMAX = Maximum Temperature (°C)
 TMIN = Minimum Temperature (°C)
 GDD= Growing Degree Day (day)
 RAD = Radiation (MJ/m²/day)

Kindly send feedback to:
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