



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

CROP WEATHER BULLETIN FOR SOUTHERN PROVINCE

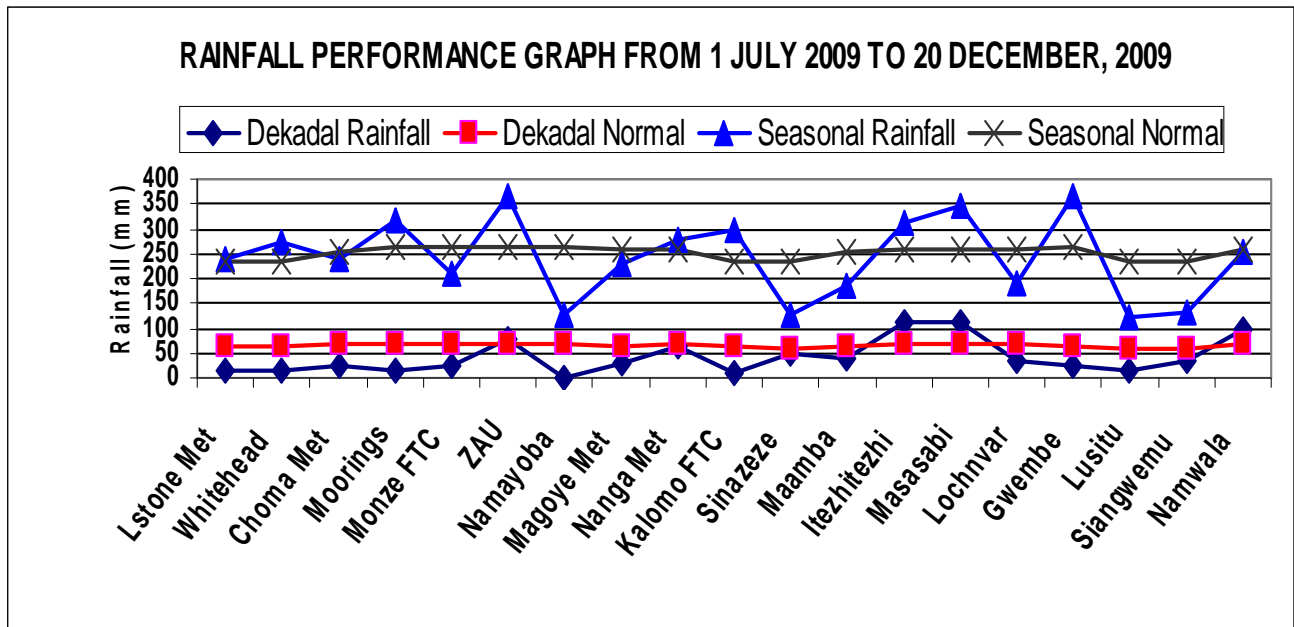
Period: 11 to 20 December, 2009

Issue No.5

Season: 2009/2010

Highlights

- *Light to moderate rainfall received during the dekad*
- *Normal seasonal rainfall received over Southern Province*
- *Dry spells induces crop stress in some districts*
- *Stalk borers affects some crops in Namwala and parts of Gwembe*
- *Increase in rainfall expected in the next dekad*



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Fig (i)

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Summary

The moist Congo air affected the western and northern half of southern province during the period from 11 to 14th December, 2009. Thereafter, dry North-easterlies persisted, and induced dry conditions. The rainfall distribution was erratic with 2 to 5 rain days during the period. Warm to hot temperatures were observed and were between 28° C. and 35 ° Celsius.

Heavy rainfall above 100mm was received in Itezhihezhi and Namwala districts where ZESCO recorded 114mm, Masasabi Resettlement 113mm and Namwala FTC 96mm each. Nanga Met and Sinazeze had 62mm and 51mm. The rest received rainfall ranging from 10mm to 39mm. Namayoba to the east of Monze on the other hand did not receive any rainfall. On contrast, widespread and heavier rainfall was recorded last season during the same period.

The dekadal rainfall performance is below normal in most areas except Itezhihezhi and Namwala districts which experienced above normal dekadal rainfall.

The rainfall performance from 1st July 2009 indicates that western parts of the province recorded above normal rainfall. Central parts had normal rainfall while the extreme eastern parts of Sinazongwe and Siavonga had below normal rainfall. The highest surplus was at Zambia Adventist University in Monze and Gwembe with 104 and 102 mm each. The lowest performance was reported at Namayoba and Lusitu with -51% and -49% deficit.

The highest cumulative rainfall figures above 300mm were observed at ZAU 366mm, Gwembe 364mm and

Itezhihezhi 346mm. The lowest cumulative figures were recorded in Sinazongwe and Siavonga with Lusitu and Sinazeze receiving 123mm and 128mm. Details are on pages 3 and 4 below.

TEN DAY FORECAST FROM 22 DECEMBER, 2009 TO 3RD JANUARY, 2010.

Main Feature

The Inter tropical converge zone (ITCZ) is expected to lie to the north of the province from 22-24th December, 2009 and progressively shift southwards to cover the whole province by 28th December, 2009.

DETAILED FORECAST

Partly cloudy to cloudy with afternoon thunder showers in few places up to 24th December, 2009. An increase in thunder showers extending into night rains is expected to from 25th December, 2009 to the end of the forecast period. Heavy falls are likely over eastern sector of the province.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Early planted crops are in the vegetative stages and performing well. Crops in some parts of Siavonga and Sinazongwe are experiencing moisture stress. With expected favourable rains most crops are likely to improve. Stalk borers and undisclosed insects are destroying plants in Namwala and Gwembe districts.

Prepared by Agrometeorological Section

Dekadal Rainfall and Rain days Summary								
Period: 11-20 December, 2009				Issue No: 5 Season: 2009/10				
Station	Observed		Normal	Totals Since 1 July 2009				
	Rain Fall	Rain Days	Rain Fall	Rain Fall	Rain Days	Normal Rain Fall	Rainfall Departure	
	mm		mm	mm		mm	mm	%
Livingstone Met	14	2	61	237	18	234	3	1
Whitehead	14	2	61	271	21	234	37	16
Choma Met	24	4	70	241	15	252	-11	-4
Moorings (Monze)	13	3	66	317	19	262	55	21
Monze FTC	22	4	66	209	18	262	-53	-20
ZAU (Monze)	79	4	66	366	22	262	104	40
Namayoba	0	0	66	128	8	262	-134	-51
Magoye Met	30	3	64	227	20	258	-31	-12
Nanga Met	62	2	66	278	21	258	20	8
Kalomo FTC	10	2	63	299	20	234	65	28
Sinazeze	51	2	60	128	9	234	-106	-45
Maamba	39	3	64	187	11	252	-65	-26
Lusitu	16	1	60	123	9	234	-111	-47
Siangwemu	36	4	60	130	11	234	-104	-44
Itezhitezhi	114	5	68	314	19	258	56	22
Masasabi	113	4	68	346	18	258	88	34
Lochnvar	33	2	66	191	11	258	-67	-26
Gwembe	25	2	63	364	17	262	102	39
Namwala	96	4	66	255	18	258	-3	-1

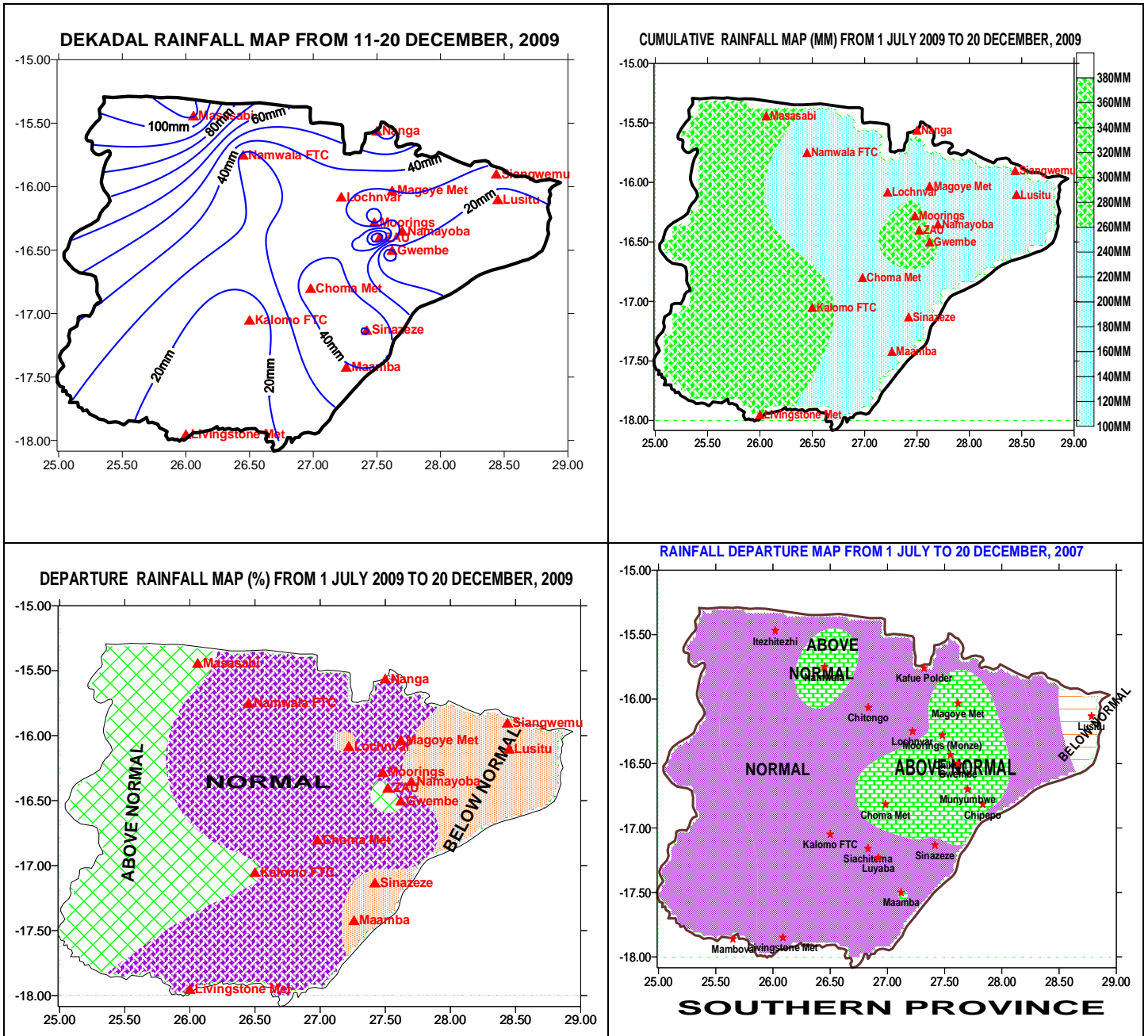


Fig iii