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REPORTING PERIOD: 21 – 31 DECEMBER 2024



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2024/25

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HIGHLIGHTS Not much rainfall observed... Fair vegetation condition... No reported land preparation activities... Improvement in rainfall is anticipated... Cool to warm temperatures forecasted.... Improvement in soil moisture expected...

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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

About average rainfall was received in the 3rd dekad of December 2024 (Figure 1), mostly in the South-Eastern parts (Map 1).



Figure 1: Rainfall distribution 3rd dekad December 2024



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution 3rd dekad December 2024

Map 2: Rainfall Longterm distribution 3rd dekad December

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Significant rainfall was observed in all the Agro-ecological zones, with the highest observed in the Lubombo Plateau in the reporting period (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) 3rd Dekad December 2024

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2023/24	68	67	56	121
Average	51	49	34	31
2024/25	41	57	41	93
Anomaly	-10	8	8	62

MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Some farmers have commenced land preparation.

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Maize has not been planted as yet.

OTHER CROPS

No other crops have been reported to have been planted.

TEMPERATURES

Warm to hot temperatures were observed during the reporting period (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2: Maximum and Minimum temperatures 3rd dekad of December 2024



Image 1: Agriculture Stress Index 3rd dekad December 2024 *Source: FAO-GIEWS*

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LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock is in fair condition and rangelands are reported to be in fair condition.

WATER SITUATION

An improvement in dam levels and river flows was reported in the reporting period.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Increase in rainfall is expected in the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Cool to warm temperatures are anticipated in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

An improvement in soil moisture is expected in the outlook period.

WIND SPEED

Wind will generally be light to moderate in the outlook period

NB: Outlook period is ten days from date of issue

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Image 2: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) Anomaly (3rd Dekad December 2024) Source: FAO-GIEWS



Image 3: Vegetation Health Index (VHI) (3rd Dekad December 2024) Source: FAO-GIEWS

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