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இயற்கை வளங்கள் முகாமைத்துவ நிலையம்
விவசாயத் திணைக்களம்
Natural Resources Management Centre
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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දිනය / திகதி / Date: May 8, 2019

Director General of Agriculture

Through: - Director/NRMC

Weather update – South West Monsoon rains (May to July) 2019 Yala season

After a very thorough and in-depth analysis of the outcome of several Global Climatic Models, the Department of Meteorology (DoM), Sri Lanka has now predicted that the Wet zone and neighboring areas of the Intermediate zone of the island may likely to receive about **Near Normal** or **Normal** South West Monsoon (SWM) rains during the current Yala season.

However, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has a concern about its usual onset date (In Sri Lanka, May 25th ± 5 days), given the condition of weak El Nino type of circulation prevailing in the central-eastern Pacific Ocean. Thus, they expect a slight delay of the onset of SWM by about 7 days from its usual onset date of June 1st over the western coast of Kerala state where the SWM begins to hit India at first. Hence, a similar condition could be expected in Sri Lanka as well and thus, authorities must remain cautious about this possible situation.

Furthermore, even though the DoM has also predicted that **drier parts of the island** (Dry zone and neighboring regions of the Intermediate zone to it) where SWM rains are not generally effective, is likely to experience **above normal** rains during the SWM season of this year. Nevertheless, it is likely that such positive rainfall anomalies will not be adequate enough to meet the prevailing high evapotranspiration rates during coming months in those regions to facilitate a successful rainfed crop production and, it will be just merely a respite. Thus, it is highly advisable to plan all farming practices and agronomic interventions including irrigation scheduling in both Dry and Intermediate zones by taking general climatology of respective agro-ecological regions in to account in order to minimize any potential risk of water deficit that is very likely to arise during the season. The Expected amounts of cumulative monthly rainfall and Potential Evapo Transpiration (PET) values in each agro-ecological regions of the Dry and Intermediate zones during May to August are shown in Table 1 to 4 for easy reference in such planning actvities.

නො. 05, සරසවි මාවත, පේරාදෙණිය, ශ්‍රී ලංකා. / இல. 05, சரசவி மாவத்தை, பேராதனை, இலங்கை. / No. 05, Sarasavi Mawatha, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
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Table 1. Expected monthly cumulative rainfall and Potential Evapotranspiration (PET) in the Dry and Intermediate zone during South West Monsoon season – May

AER	Expected Monthly cumulative Rainfall (mm)	Expected Monthly cumulative PET (mm)
IU1	81.4	88.04
IU2	84.1	78.74
IU3a	94.2	75.02
IU3b	84.6	73.78
IU3c	78.0	77.81
IU3d	95.8	71.30
IU3e	70.6	72.54
IM1a	67.3	82.77
IM1b	42.0	98.27
IM1c	34.5	83.39
IM2a	121.4	87.73
IM2b	78.4	89.28
IM3a	82.9	85.25
IM3b	46.7	101.68
IM3c	55.0	79.36
IL1a	104.0	94.55
IL1b	88.5	104.16
IL1c	62.9	102.92
IL2	40.0	107.26
IL3	60.7	117.80
DL1a	44.5	95.17
DL1b	31.8	112.53
DL1c	27.1	128.65
DL1d	17.5	127.10
DL1e	24.3	123.69
DL1f	27.5	117.18
DL2a	29.5	116.56
DL2b	14.5	127.72
DL3	18.5	125.24
DL4	13.7	127.72
DL5	21.0	115.94

Table 2. Expected monthly cumulative rainfall and Potential Evapotranspiration (PET) in the Dry and Intermediate zone during South West Monsoon season – June

AER	Expected Monthly cumulative Rainfall (mm)	Expected Monthly cumulative PET (mm)
IU1	83.1	78.00
IU2	51.1	73.20
IU3a	16.5	82.20
IU3b	22.8	72.60
IU3c	11.7	77.70
IU3d	12.6	62.40
IU3e	17.3	73.50
IM1a	19.4	81.00
IM1b	27.7	93.30
IM1c	5.6	82.20
IM2a	77.8	84.30
IM2b	16.2	90.60
IM3a	92.9	69.00
IM3b	39.0	94.20
IM3c	50.1	72.90

IL1a	65.8	84.00
IL1b	52.4	97.50
IL1c	12.9	107.10
IL2	5.7	114.00
IL3	18.5	99.90
DL1a	4.9	99.00
DL1b	3.1	114.60
DL1c	1.1	135.60
DL1d	0.1	132.90
DL1e	0.0	129.00
DL1f	0.4	118.80
DL2a	3.5	130.80
DL2b	30.2	139.50
DL3	0.7	128.70
DL4	0.0	133.50
DL5	28.6	129.90

Table 3. Expected monthly cumulative rainfall and Potential Evapotranspiration (PET) in the Dry and Intermediate zone during South West Monsoon season - July

AER	Expected Monthly cumulative Rainfall (mm)	Expected Monthly cumulative PET (mm)
IU1	73.3	85.56
IU2	54.1	74.40
IU3a	26.0	84.01
IU3b	20.0	73.47
IU3c	30.0	79.36
IU3d	31.6	62.00
IU3e	22.0	74.40
IM1a	27.3	83.39
IM1b	19.4	100.75
IM1c	5.7	86.80
IM2a	55.3	89.28
IM2b	23.0	91.14
IM3a	87.8	77.19
IM3b	27.1	104.47
IM3c	42.7	75.64
IL1a	36.1	93.00
IL1b	32.3	108.81
IL1c	18.7	105.71
IL2	16.7	119.04
IL3	10.3	110.98
DL1a	6.4	101.37
DL1b	3.4	122.76
DL1c	5.8	144.15
DL1d	5.0	139.19
DL1e	6.7	133.61
DL1f	0.3	124.93
DL2a	15.4	128.96
DL2b	9.2	145.08
DL3	1.9	130.20
DL4	0.4	132.37
DL5	3.5	137.02

Table 4. Expected monthly cumulative rainfall and Potential Evapotranspiration (PET) in the Dry and Intermediate zone during South West Monsoon season - August

AER	Expected Monthly cumulative Rainfall (mm)	Expected Monthly cumulative PET (mm)
IU1	69.1	85.87
IU2	56.5	75.33
IU3a	32.3	84.94
IU3b	29.6	73.47
IU3c	41.2	79.67
IU3d	31.6	62.00
IU3e	32.5	74.71
IM1a	37.3	84.32
IM1b	21.6	103.85
IM1c	6.2	87.73
IM2a	59.4	88.35
IM2b	35.9	95.79
IM3a	68.5	76.57
IM3b	19.2	107.57
IM3c	37.2	76.26
IL1a	29.7	94.55
IL1b	30.7	109.43
IL1c	29.0	115.01
IL2	29.5	121.83
IL3	8.3	115.94
DL1a	7.5	106.64
DL1b	4.4	128.03
DL1c	17.0	149.42
DL1d	23.6	143.84
DL1e	16.2	136.09
DL1f	2.8	127.41
DL2a	25.6	134.23
DL2b	14.1	148.80
DL3	4.3	132.06
DL4	1.6	130.82
DL5	4.9	147.25

Furthermore, it is reiterated to adhere to the agronomic recommendations made available through the Agro-met Advisory issued by this centre on April 08, 2019 in order to achieve both land and water productivity of the current Yala season to the maximum possible level in respective agro-ecological regions

Please note that this weather communiqué will be updated regularly during the rest of the Yala season in consultation with the Colombo Met office and accessing information generated periodically by other international Met agencies.

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