

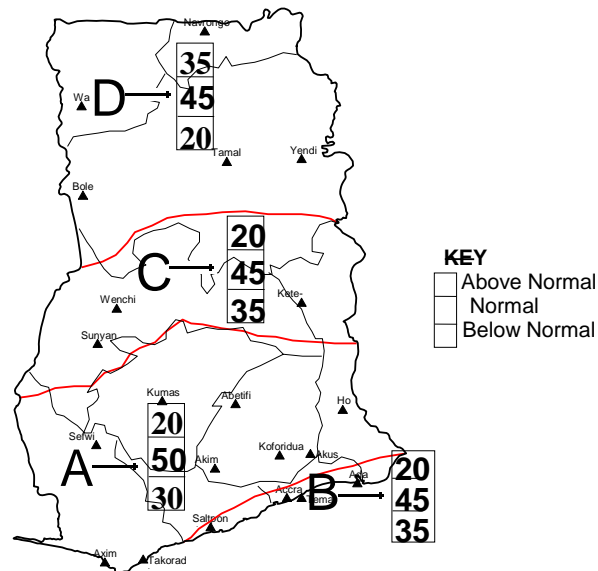


# GHANA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

## RAINFALL SEASONAL FORECAST FOR 2016

### SEASONAL FORECAST

Observed atmospheric conditions over land and oceans and outputs from major World forecast Centres like International Research Institute for climate and Society (IRI), America, Climate Prediction Centre (CPC), America and European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF) Reading, together with output of the Agency's model, do suggest that the rainy season over the country is expected to be as below;



### LONG TERM MEAN AND EXPECTED RAINFALL AMOUNTS IN 2016 OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY

Sectors	Normal Annual Rainfall (mm)	Expected Annual Rainfall (mm)	Normal Seasonal Rainfall (mm)	Expected Seasonal Rainfall (mm)
East Coast	620 - 1030	310-620	350-590	140-190
West Coast	1160 - 1940	640-1260	610-1010	240-450
Forest Zone	990 - 1650	740-1485	375-625	280-560
Transitional zone	960 - 1600	670-1280	340-560	230-450

<b>Sectors</b>	<b>Normal Seasonal Rainfall (mm)</b>	<b>Expected Seasonal Rainfall (mm)</b>
Northern Region	740 - 1230	760 - 1110
Upper(East & West) Region	710 – 1180	740 - 930

**EXPECTED PERCENTAGE REDUCTION IN RAINFALL AMOUNTS OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY**

<b>Sectors</b>	<b>Annual rainfall</b>	<b>Seasonal (April-June)</b>
East Coast	40-50 below normal	20-40 below normal
West Coast	35-45 below normal	30-55 below normal
Forest Zone	10-25 below normal	Normal to below normal
Transitional zone	20-30 below normal	Normal to below normal

<b>Sectors</b>	<b>Seasonal (April-October)</b>
Northern Region	normal
Upper(East & West) Region	normal

**ONSET AND CESSATION DATES OF 2016 RAINY SEASON OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY**

<b>Sectors</b>	<b>Onset Dates</b>	<b>Cessation Dates</b>
West Coastal	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of March	By mid-July
East Coastal	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of March	By ending of June
Forest	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of March	By mid-July
Transition	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of April	By mid-July
Northern Region	4 <sup>th</sup> Week of April – 1 <sup>st</sup> Week of May	By 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of October
Upper East	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of May	By 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of October
Upper West	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of May	By 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week October

**Note:** The range is for the entire rainy season (April - October)

The rainy season will be characterised by thunderstorms which will be accompanied by strong winds.

## **SUMMARY OF 2016 MAJOR RAINY SEASON**

### **Coastal/Forest Belt**

- Late onset and Long Dry Spells expected over the areas mentioned above.
- Short rainfall season.
- Erratic rainfall pattern leading to poor rainfall distribution.
- Farmers should liaise with MOFA for crop advisory.

### **Northern Ghana/Transitional Belt**

- Normal onset expected (compared with last year dates)
- Some stations will experience dry spells.
- Cessation also expected to be normal.
- Seasonal rainfall for 2016 is expected to be better than 2015.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Conservation of water should be practiced.
- Farmers are encourage to go in for short to medium term life span crops.
- Farmers are expected to consult agriculture extension officers for advice/guidance.