



GHANA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

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RAINFALL SEASONAL FORECAST FOR 2017

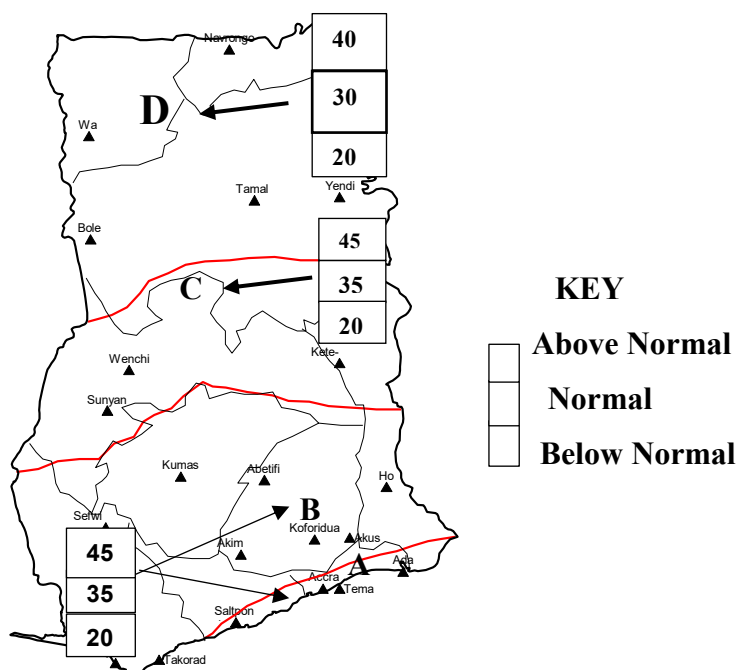
HIGHLIGHTS

OUTLOOK FOR NORTHERN REGION

Enhanced rainfall activity is expected over the Northern, Upper East and Upper West region of Ghana during the June, July, August and July, August, September rainfall season for 2017.

Early onset dates expected over the Northern and the Upper regions of the country. Normal to late cessation for the Upper West/ Upper East region of Ghana and Normal to Above normal cumulative rainfall is expected.

Early onset dates expected over the Northern and the Upper regions of the country.



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

Sector	Normal Annual Rainfall(mm)	Expected Annual Rainfall(mm)	Normal Seasonal Rainfall(mm)	Expected Seasonal Rainfall(mm)
East Coast	620-1030	640-1100	350-590	390-490
West Coast	1160-1940	900-1950	610-1010	1000-1250
Forest Zone	990-1650	750-1700	375-625	470-600
Transitional Zone	960-1600	970-1650	340-560	550-690

SECTORS	NORMAL RAINFALL	SEASONAL	EXPECTED RAINFALL(MM)	SEASONAL
NORTHERN REGION	740-1230		750-1245	
UPPEREAST/WEST REGION	710-1180		750-1210	

SECTORS	SEASONAL(APRIL-OCTOBER)
NORTHERN REGION	NORMAL RAINFALL
UPPER(EAST AND WEST)REGION	ABOVE NORMAL TO NORMAL RAINFALL

ONSET AND CESSATION DATES OF 2017 RAINY SEASON OVER THE COUNTRY

SECTORS	ONSET DATES	CESSATION DATES
NORTHERN REGION	1 st week of May	1 st Week of Nov.
UPPER EAST	1 st Week -2 nd Week of May	3 rd Week of October
UPPER WEST	1 st Week – 2 nd Week of May	3 rd Week of October

SUMMURY OF 2017 MAJOR RAINY SEASON

THE NORTHERN BELT

Normal rainfall for the northern region. Early onset dates expected over the Northern and the Upper regions of the country. Normal to late cessation for the northern belt

THE UPERWEST/UPPEREAST

Normal to Above normal cumulative rainfall is expected. Early to normal end of season is also expected. Late to normal end of season are more likely. It is also expected that longer to normal dry spells will be observed during the cropping installation phase.

Longer than average dry spells during the second half of the rainy season is expected. Upper parts of the Volta Basin will have above average flows which will feed into the Lower basin. Expected average to below average flows in the lower Volta Basin could lead to the decrease of availability for local users however normal to above normal rainfall in the Upper Volta Basin will compensate for the reduced discharge flows.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Flood risks

Upper parts of the Volta Basin will have above average flows which will feed into the Lower basin. Expected average to below average flows in the lower Volta Basin could lead to the decrease of availability for local users however normal to above normal rainfall in the Upper Volta Basin will compensate for the reduced discharge flows.

Considering the above average cumulative rainfall expected in the Northern and Upper regions, associated with high probabilities of occurrence of intense rainfall events and above rainfall flows for the Upper Volta basin, high level of flood risk is to be considered.

West Coast of the Country is also expected to have above rainfall cumulative amount and same applies to the Western Region of the country.

Close monitoring of alert thresholds is recommended to enhance anticipatory flood management in identified high risk areas.

Since the risk of flooding is associated with both overflowing streams and intense rains, it is strongly recommended to :

- Ensure People move to higher grounds,
- Ensure that animals do not risk drowning,
- Take measures to protect animals against germs that prefer good wet conditions,
- Ensure strong collaboration between hydrological and meteorological services for the development of integrated flood risk early warning and monitoring systems;
- Continue and strengthen exchanges between agencies in charge of flood monitoring, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance.

Health risks

- In areas where a wetter season is expected, there are high levels of risk of cholera and malaria,
- It is strongly recommended to inform and strengthen the capacities of national health systems through civil protection or national platforms on disaster risk reduction,
- It is also recommended, especially in areas that are potentially isolated during the rainy season, that stocks of mosquito nets, anti malarials, chlorine and other water treatment products be established to control malaria outbreak and to monitor water quality , sanitation, and drainage of gutters.

NB:This outlook should be used with 24 hour forecasts and updates issued by the Ghana Meteorological Agency

There will be updates as the season goes by.