GMet

GHANA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

CERTIFIED PROVIDER OF AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

ISO-9001: 2015

2026 SEASONAL FORECAST
SOUTHERN GHANA MAJOR RAINY SEASON (FEBRUARY-JULY)

The Director General

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Major Seasonal Forecast for Southern Ghana 2026

Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow
~WMO 2026 Theme

A publication of Ghana Meteorological Agency

Research and Applied Meteorology Department

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Cessation----------End of the rainfall season

Length of Season----------Duration of the rainfall season

Cumulative Rainfall----------Total amount of rainfall

MAM----------March, April and May

AMJ----------April, May and June

Long Term Mean (LTM)----------Average over 30 years period(1991-2020)

PREFACE

The changing and unpredictable nature of weather around the world has caused significant loss of lives and damage to properties. In Ghana, many communities have experienced repeated cases of severe droughts and floods because of uncertainties in weather and climate conditions. These events have led to the destruction of farmland, loss of valuable resources, and expensive reconstruction of infrastructure, placing great pressure on affected populations. This reality underscores the urgent need for reliable early warning systems and strong disaster risk reduction measures across important sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy, the environment, maritime, and local government.

The purpose of the seasonal forecast document is to provide advance information on expected weather and climate conditions over the coming season to support planning and decision-making. By predicting likely rainfall patterns and the possibility of extreme events such as droughts or floods, seasonal forecasts help individuals, communities, and institutions prepare ahead of time. This enables key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, energy, and disaster management to reduce risks, protect lives and properties, and use resources more efficiently, ultimately strengthening resilience and promoting sustainable development.

The seasonal forecast, as part of the mandate of the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) is a document that contains information of the seasonal weather parameters, out of careful observation and atmospheric analysis from leading world forecast centers and climate Prediction centers, through a consensus forum of the Continental climate centers, Regional Climate Centers (RCC) and expert analysis from GMet. The 2026 forecast for the major rainy season for Southern Ghana is detailed with information regarding the onset dates, cessation dates, dry spell days, length of season, and cumulative rainfall amount, as well as advisories to key sectors which are listed in this document for proper planning and decision making.

This forecast would not have the depth and accuracy it does without the leadership of Dr. Eric Asuman, Director General of GMet and the Deputy Director General Operations, Dr. Ignatius Kweku Williams. We also want to acknowledge the contributions of Mrs. Francisca Martey, Deputy Director of Research and Applied Meteorology, Mr. Jeremiah Zusika Lazia (Head, Climatology Unit), Nana Kofi Opoku (Head, Agrometeorology Unit), Mr. Samuel Owusu Ansah (Head, Hydrometeorology Unit), and the entire Research and Applied Meteorology Department. Their collective expertise shaped every part of this assessment.

We are also grateful to the various stakeholders who provided valuable feedback and support for the development of this document. The insights and perspectives shared by these individuals have enhanced the quality and relevance of this assessment. Finally, we acknowledge the support of GMet for providing the resources and infrastructure necessary to conduct this important work. Their commitment to advancing climate science and informing policy is essential for ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for Ghana.

FOREWORD

As Ghana navigates the increasingly complex realities of a changing climate, the necessity for precise and actionable weather intelligence has never been more vital. The Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) remains the nation's primary sentinel, providing the seasonal forecasts essential for guiding our adaptation efforts and safeguarding our socio-economic stability.

This 2026 seasonal forecast for the Major Season in Southern Ghana serves as a strategic roadmap. It translates complex atmospheric data into invaluable insights regarding rainfall onset and amount, dry spells, cessation and length of the season that directly dictate the success of our agriculture, the security of our water resources, and the resilience of our energy sector.

In alignment with this year's Meteorological Awareness Month theme, "Observing today, protecting tomorrow", this seasonal forecast emphasizes the need to be effective in monitoring and sharing of information on time. Resilience is built through the universal adherence to early warnings. Our objective is to ensure that every citizen and stakeholder is equipped to mitigate the risks posed by shifting weather patterns, thereby protecting both lives and properties.

The 2026 outlook is grounded in a careful analysis of both regional and global climate drivers. Key indicators include the West African Monsoon & Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), Global Teleconnections (El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and local climate trends where historical data is integrated with real-time analysis to predict dry spells, season length, and total cumulative rainfall.

Beyond the farm gate, this forecast is a critical instrument for water and energy management to optimize reservoir management for domestic use and hydropower generation, public health and disaster management to enable proactive responses to potential floods or drought-related health risks, as well as empowering government agencies and the private sector to implement mitigation strategies long before extreme events occur.

By integrating expertise from regional and global partners such as ACMAD, the AGRHYMET Regional Centre, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), GMet ensures that Ghana's forecasting capabilities remain world-class and scientifically robust.

As we look toward the 2026 major season, we are reminded that weather is dynamic and climate change is persistent. Whether we are preparing for a bountiful harvest or managing a period of

water scarcity, our success depends on our collective response to the information provided.

I urge all stakeholders to utilize this forecast not just as a document, but as a call to action. Through preparedness, collaboration, and innovation, we will strengthen Ghana's climate resilience and ensure a prosperous, sustainable future for every community.

Dr. Eric Asuman,
The Director General,
Ghana Meteorological Agency

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) prepares the Seasonal Forecast three times annually (major and minor rainy season for the south, rainy season for the north) as part of its mandate to provide weather and climate information and advisories on the rainy season. The forecast covers key parameters including rainfall onset, cumulative rainfall amounts, dry spell characteristics, cessation, and the length of the growing season. This information supports decision-making, policy development, and planning across climate-sensitive sectors, including agriculture, environment, disaster risk management, water resources, energy, and health.

The Seasonal Rainfall Forecast is developed using teleconnections associated with the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), observed atmospheric and oceanic conditions, Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomalies, Mean Sea Level Pressure (MSLP) anomalies, the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO), and the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). It also incorporates long-term climatological data (minimum 30-year records) from GMet observatories nationwide. The forecast reflects consensus outcomes from the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and the Regional Climate Centre (RCC) during the PRESAGG forum on Agro-Hydro-Climatic Characteristics and countries in the Gulf of Guinea, combined with expert analysis and downscaled model outputs from GMet. The key highlights of the 2026 March–April–May (MAM) and April–May–June (AMJ) forecasts include:

Rainfall Onset

The start of the major rainfall season for the southern half of Ghana is expected to be normal to early in most places, whereas in specific places such as Kintampo, Kumasi, and Accra and its immediate surroundings its likely to be early. Late to normal onset is predicted for places such as Ho, Dunkwa, Akim Oda, Kade, Asamankese, Tarkwa, and their surrounding areas.

Cumulative Rainfall Amount

Southern Ghana is expected to receive generally normal to above-normal rainfall in the March–April- May (MAM) season. However, Goaso, Sunyani, and parts of Cape Coast and Accra are expected to record below-normal to normal rainfall. The highest rainfall amount of about 500-600 mm is forecasted for Half Assini and Axim, while the lowest of about 200-300 mm is expected in Accra and Tema and their surrounding areas.

In the April–May–June (AMJ) season, southern Ghana is predicted to experience generally normal to below-normal rainfall. Above-normal rainfall is particularly expected in parts of Accra, Saltpond, Tema, Koforidua, and Asamankese. The highest rainfall, of about 1000–1200 mm, is anticipated in Half Assini, while the lowest, of about 300–400 mm, is expected in Dormaa Ahenkro.

Early Dry Spells

Early dry spells are expected to be generally normal to short across the southern sector. Tarkwa and Accra are predicted to have about 10 and 15 days, respectively. Atebubu in the transition zone may experience shorter spells of about 6 days.

Late Dry Spell

Late dry spells are projected to be long to normal in the central to the southeastern parts of Ghana, whilst the southwestern parts will range from normal to short dry spell days. However, places like Cape Coast, Saltpond, Sefwi Bekwai, and Ejura will experience relatively longer spells of between 12 and 17 days. Shorter late dry spells ranging from 9 to 11 days are anticipated for Mim, Goaso, and its surrounding areas.

Rainfall Cessation

Cessation or end of the major rainfall season for the southern parts of Ghana is generally expected to be normal to early within the southern sector of the country. Some specific areas in the transition zone and West Coast areas, such as Axim, Kete Krachi, and Wenchi, are expected to have an early to normal cessation. Ho, Akatsi, Kade, and their environs in the forest areas are predicted to experience an early cessation, whereas Kumasi and Mim are anticipated to experience a late cessation.

Length of the growing season

The length of the growing season is generally projected to be normal; however, shorter seasons are anticipated in areas such as Saltpond, Akatsi, Cape Coast, and Kete Krachi. Longer growing seasons are expected in parts of Half Assini, Akuse, Sefwi Bekwai, and their surroundings.

Dr. Ignatius Kweku Williams
Ag. Deputy Director General
Ghana Meteorological Agency

1.0 VERIFICATION OF 2025 SEASONAL FORECAST

Verification of the 2025 major rainfall season in southern Ghana involves a comparative analysis between model outputs and observed meteorological data from the GMet station network. This systematic performance audit provides the empirical basis for iterative model tuning, ensuring increased forecast skill for the following seasonal cycle.

1.1 Onset Probability Forecast and Verification for 2025

(a) (b)

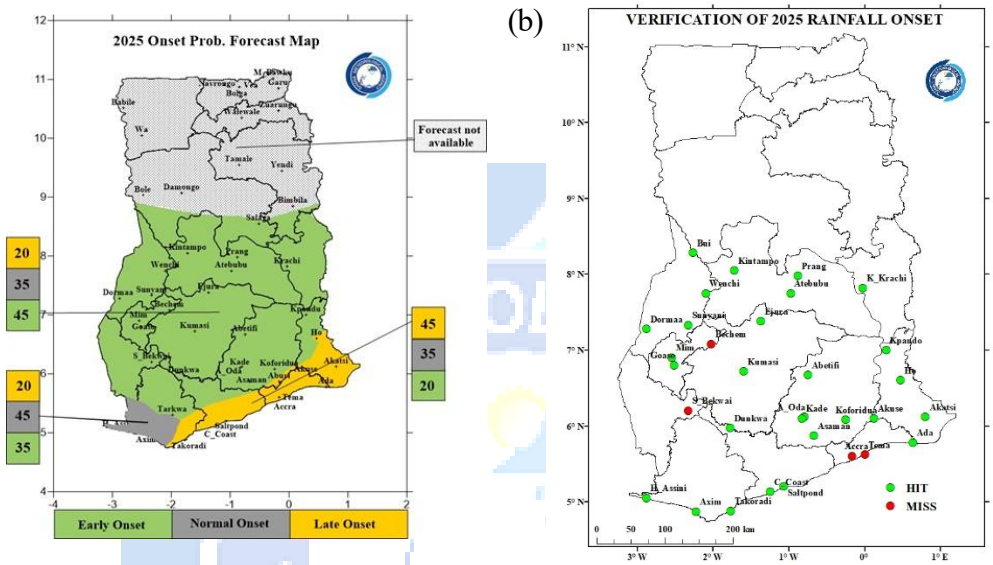


Figure 1(a): Onset Probability Forecast 2025 (b) Verification Map 2025

Total Number of Stations: 35

Percentage Hit: 89% (31)

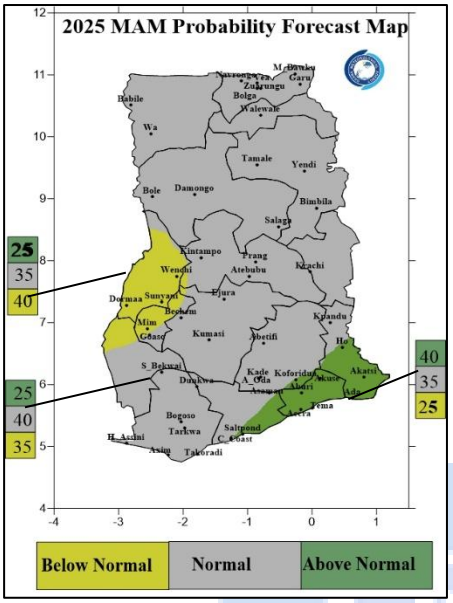
Percentage Miss: 11% (4)

Onset

The southern major seasonal forecast of 2025 achieved an 89% hit rate, with most regions aligning with predicted onset dates. However, an 11% miss was observed in specific areas: Accra, Tema, and their environs experienced an early onset rather than the predicted late-to-normal start. Conversely, Bechem and Sefwi Bekwai recorded a late onset, deviating from the forecasted early-to-normal onset.

1.2 MAM Cumulative Rainfall Forecast Verification for 2025

(a)



(b)

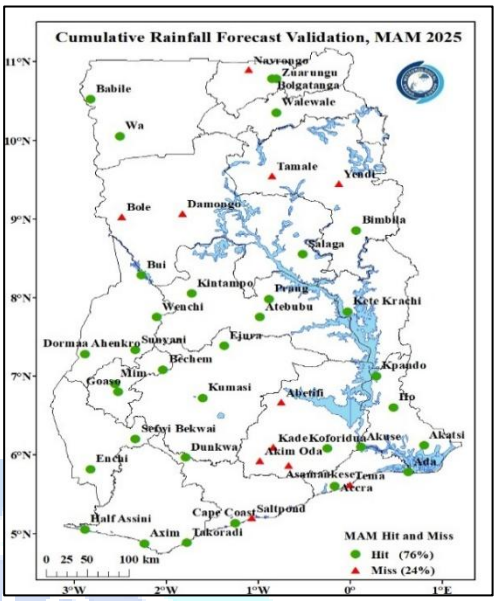


Figure 2(a): MAM Probability Forecast 2025 (b) Verification Map 2025

Total Number of Stations: 45

Percentage Hit: 76% (34)

Percentage Miss: 24% (11)

March-April-May (MAM) 2025 Rainfall

Rainfall across most parts of the country aligned with the seasonal forecast, generally remaining within the normal range. A few places in the forest and east coast however deviated from the forecast. These areas include Abetifi, which recorded **486.6mm** (**14.6%** above its average), Kade received **547mm (17.5%** above its average**)**, Akim Oda had **572.2mm (39.2%** above its average**)**, and Asamankese **541.1mm (29.5%** above its average**),** Tema recorded **229.8mm**, which was **18.4%** below its long-term mean, while Saltpond received **194.7mm**, representing a **48.5%** shortfall of its long-term mean.

1.3 AMJ Cumulative Rainfall Forecast Verification for 2025

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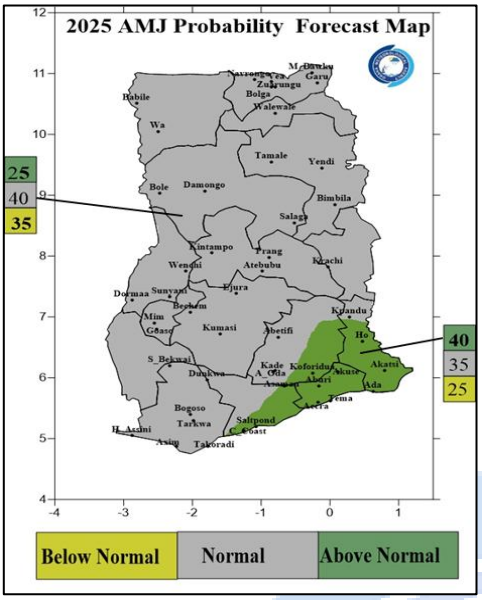
(a)



(b)

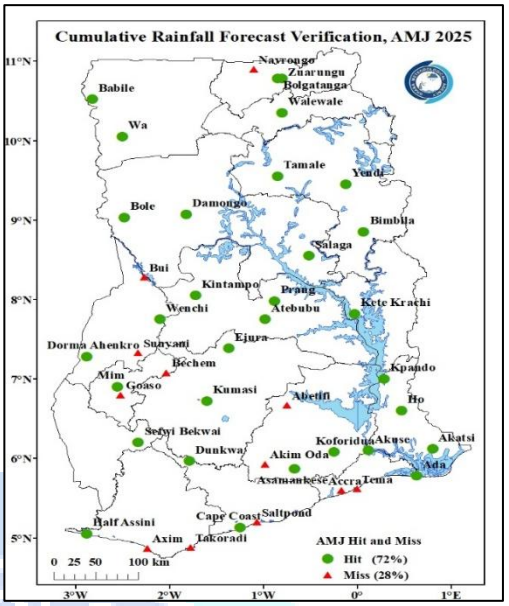


Figure 3(a): AMJ Probability Forecast 2025 (b) Verification Map 2025

Total Number of Stations: 43

Percentage Hit: 72% (31)

Percentage Miss: 28% (12)

April-May-June (AMJ) 2025 Rainfall

From April to June, rainfall across most parts of the country was generally consistent with forecast expectations, with most areas recording near-normal rainfall. Nonetheless, some places reported anomalies, with rainfall amounts either exceeding or below their long-term means. These places include Sunyani with a rainfall average of **555.8mm (12.8%** above its LTM**)**, Bechem recorded **626.7mm (26.6%** above its LTM**)**, Goaso received **648.1mm (19.3%** above its LTM**)**, Abetifi had **642.8mm (29.5%** above its LTM**)**, Akim Oda received **641.3mm (27.8%** above its LTM**)**, Takoradi had **657.9mm (9.4%** above its LTM**)**, and Axim recorded **1143.6mm (19.9%** above its LTM**)**. The others are; Saltpond which received **437.9mm**, representing a **17.8%** decline relative to its long-term mean. Accra recorded **321.5mm** (**25%** below average), and Tema with an amount of **320.4mm** (**22.7%** below average).

1.4 Early Dry Spell Probability Forecast and Verification for 2025

(a) (b)

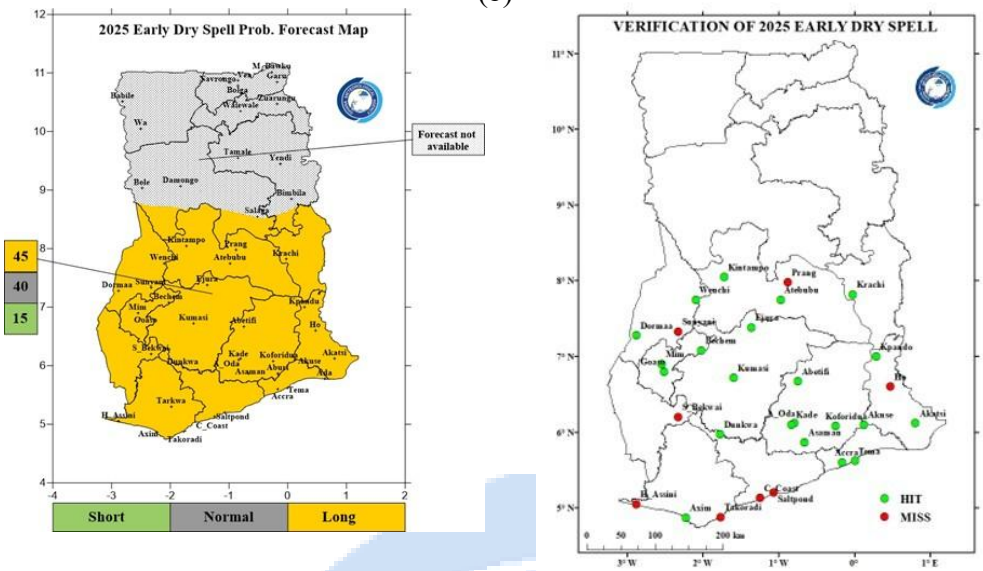


Figure 4(a): Early Dry Spell Probability 2025 (b)Verification Map 2025

Total Number of Stations: 33

Percentage Hit: 76% (25)

Percentage Miss: 24% (8)

Early dry spell

76% of the forecast proved accurate, 24% which are Prang, Sunyani, Sefwi Bekwai, Ho, Half Assini, Takoradi, Cape Coast and Saltpond experienced shorter dry spells than the long spells originally predicted.

1.5 Late Dry Spell Probability Forecast and Verification for 2025

(a) (b)

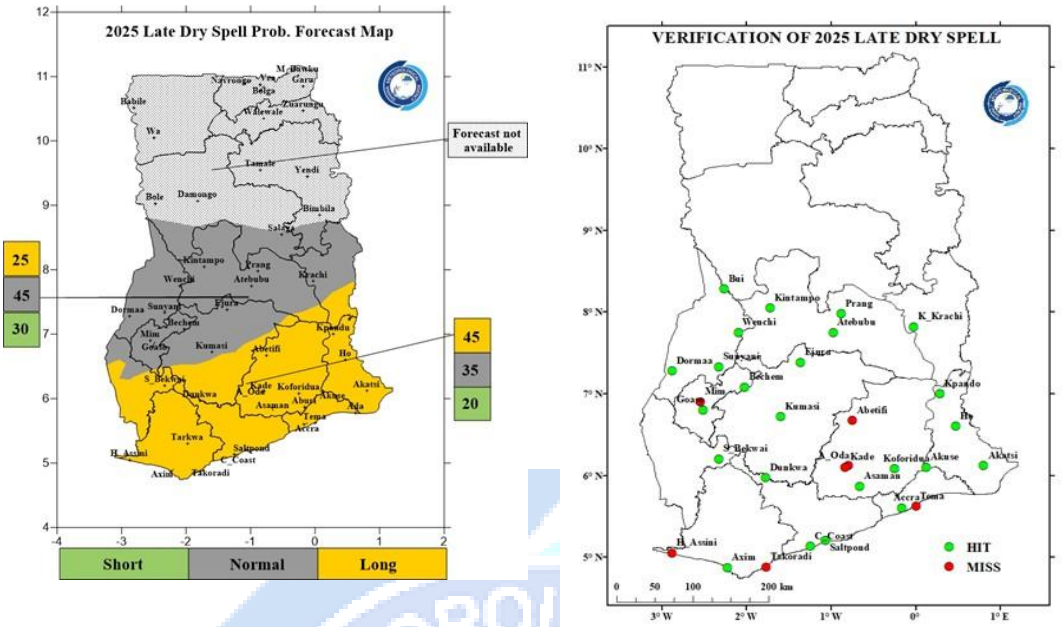


Figure 5(a): Late Dry Spell Probability Forecast 2025 (b) Verification Map 2025

Total Number of Stations: 34

Percentage Hit: 79% (27)

Percentage Miss: 21% (7)

Late dry spell

The forecast achieved a 79% accuracy rate across the southern part of the country. The remaining 21% variance occurred in Half Assini, Takoradi, Tema, Akim Oda, Kade, and Abetifi, where observed conditions deviated from the prediction.

1.6 Cessation Probability Forecast and Verification for 2025

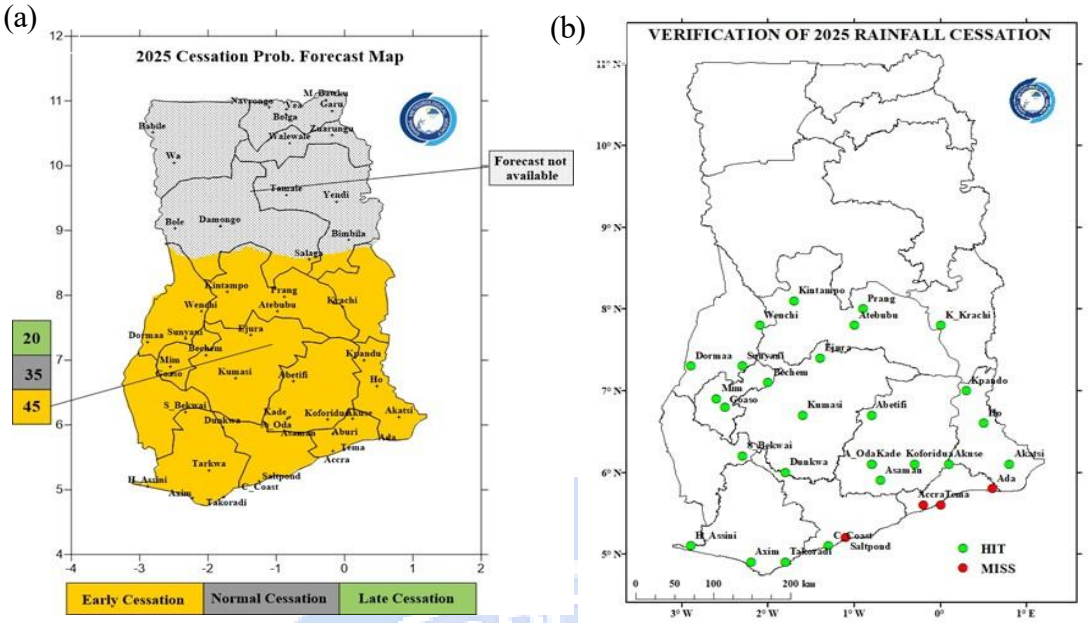


Figure 6(a): 2025 Cessation Probability Forecast 2025 and Verification Map 2025

Total Number of Stations: 34

Percentage Hit:85% (29)

Percentage Miss: 15% (5)

Cessation

The transition to the coast saw an early-to-normal cessation as predicted, achieving an 85% hit rate. However, the East Coast specifically Saltpond, Accra, Tema, and Ada accounted for a 15% miss rate.

2.0 MAJOR SEASONAL FORECAST FOR SOUTHERN GHANA FOR 2026

2.1 Forecast Maps of Onset Dates for the 2026 Major Season

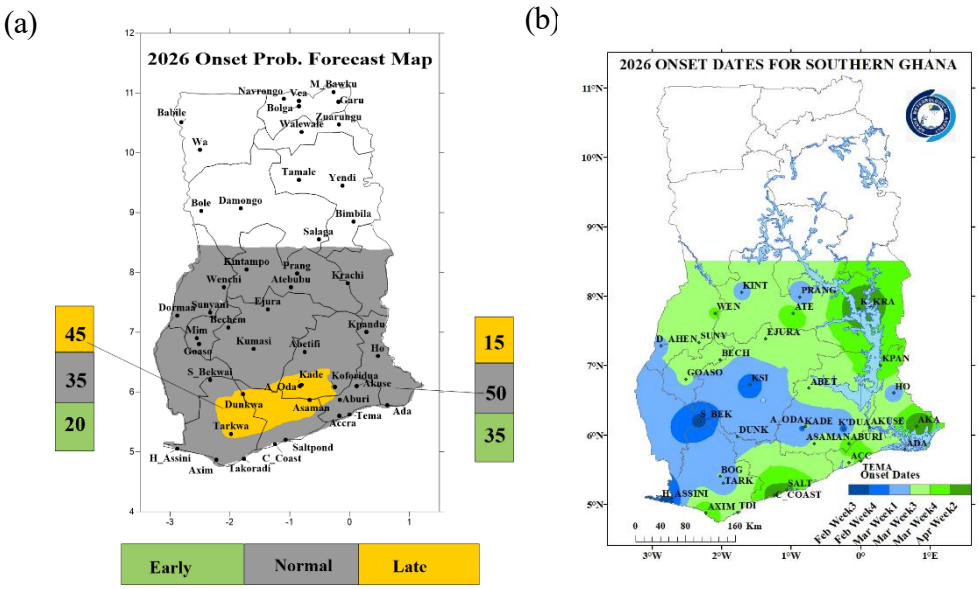


Figure 7(a): Onset Probability Forecast Map 2026 (b)Onset Dates Forecast Map 2026

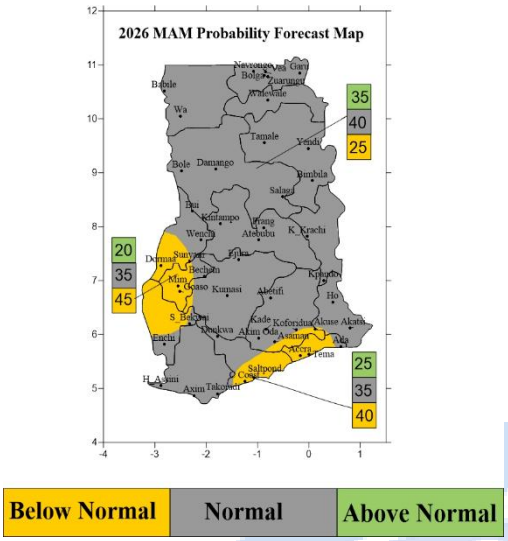
Table 1: Onset Dates for 2026 Season & Long-Term Mean (Normal) of the Onset Dates

ZONE	Normal Onset Dates (LTM)	Forecasted Onset Dates
Transition Zone	4th Week of March – 3rd Week of April	2nd Week of March – 2nd Week of April
Forest Zone	4th Week of February – 4th Week of March	3rd Week of February – 1st Week of April
West Coast	1st Week of March – 4th Week of March	3rd Week of March – 1st Week of April
East Coast	1st Week of March – 3rd Week of April	1st Week of March – 2nd Week of April

NB: Long-Term Mean (LTM) is the 30-year average condition of a given Zone from 1991-2020.

2.2 Cumulative Rainfall Forecast Maps for the MAM Season, 2026

(a)



(b)

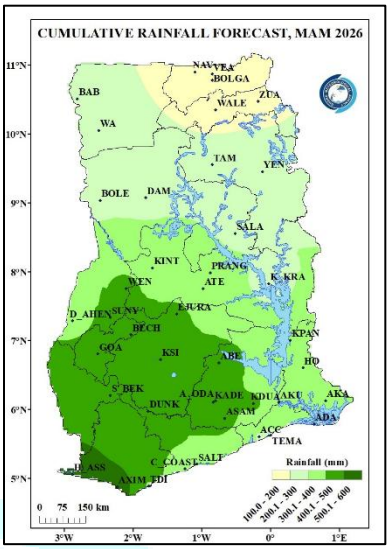


Figure 8(a): MAM Rainfall Probability Forecast Map 2026 (b) MAM Rainfall Forecast Map 2026

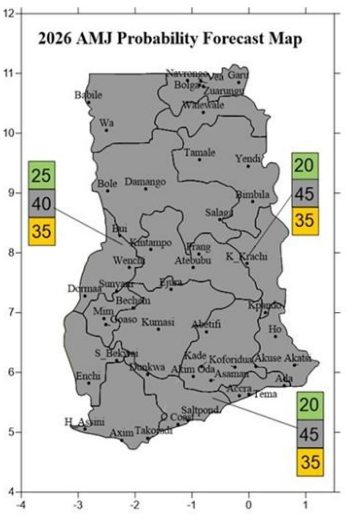
Table 2 Forecast of Total Rainfall Amount for the MAM Season, 2026

ZONE	Normal Total Rainfall LTM (mm)	Forecasted Total Rainfall 2026 (mm)
North	130 - 320	176 - 350
Transition Zone	194 - 443	230 – 460
Forest Zone	273 - 576	265 – 580
West Coast	348 - 606	360 – 610
East Coast	217 - 420	210 – 390

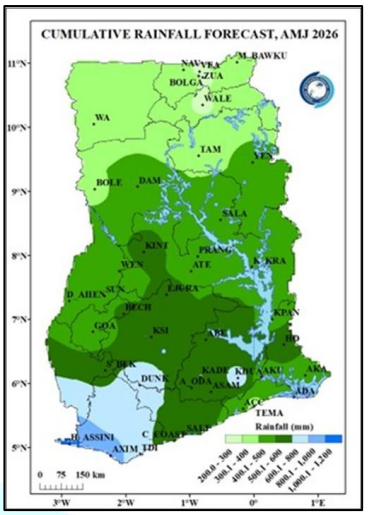
NB: Long-Term Mean (LTM) is the 30-year average condition of the given Zone from 1991-2020.

2.3 Cumulative Rainfall Forecast Maps for the AMJ Season, 2026

(a)



(b)



Below Normal	Normal	Above Normal

Figure 9(a): AMJ Rainfall Probability Forecast Map 2026 (b)AMJ Rainfall Forecast Map 2026

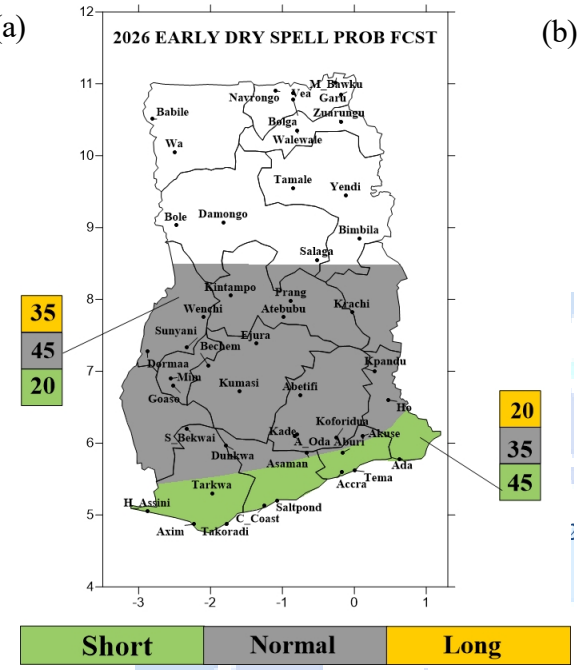
Table 3. Forecast of Total Rainfall Amount for the AMJ Season, 2026

ZONE	Normal Total Rainfall LTM (mm)	Forecasted Total Rainfall 2026 (mm)
North	241 - 449	287- 470
Transition Zone	369 - 573	380 - 585
Forest Zone	365 - 784	425 - 750
West Coast	512 - 1053	700 – 1060
East Coast	305 - 578	414 – 620

NB: Long-Term Mean (LTM) is the 30-year average condition of the given Zone from 1991-2020.

2.4 First/Early Dry Spell Days Forecast Maps for the 2026 Major Season

(a)



(b)

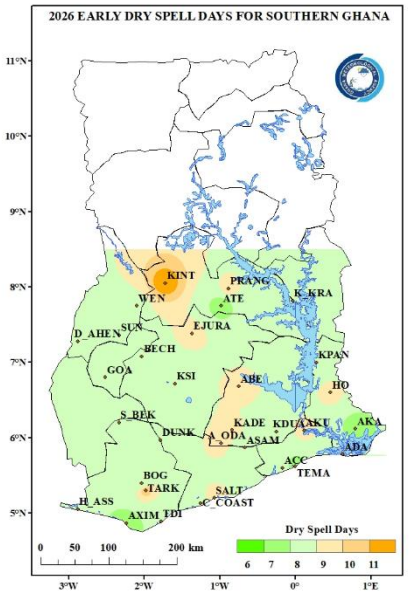


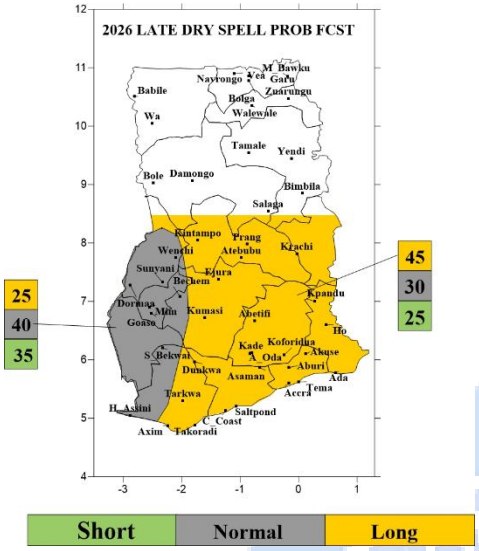
Table 4. LTM of First Dry Spell Days and its Forecast of First Dry Spell Days For 2026 Season

ZONE	LTM of First Dry Spell (Days)	Forecast of First Dry Spell (days)
Transition Zone	8	6 - 11
Forest Zone	7	7 - 10
West Coast	7	6 - 8
East Coast	9	6 – 9

NB: First (Early) Dry Spell is defined as the longest successive dry days during the first 50 days after the start of the season.

2.5 Second (Late) Dry Spell Days Forecast Maps for the 2026 Major Season

(a)



(b)

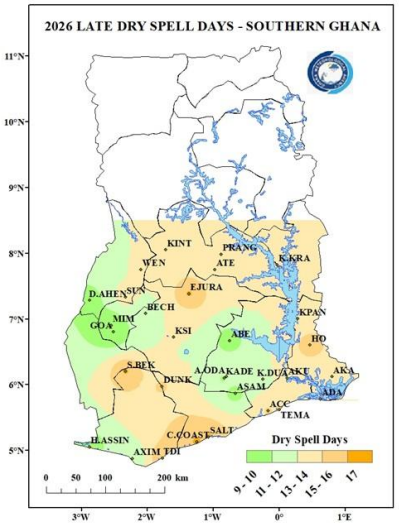


Figure 11 (a): Late Dry Spell Probability Map 2026 (b) Late Dry Spell Forecast Map 2026

Table 5. LTM for Second Dry Spell Days and its Forecast of Late Dry Spell- Days

ZONE	Normal of Late Spell(days)	Forecast of Late Spell(days)
Transition Zone	13	13-14
Forest Zone	11	9-17
West Coast	12	10-16
East Coast	13	13-17

NB: Second Dry Spell is defined as the longest successive dry day from the 51st day after the season's start to the end.

2.6 Forecast Maps for Cessation Dates for the 2026 Major Season

(a) (b)

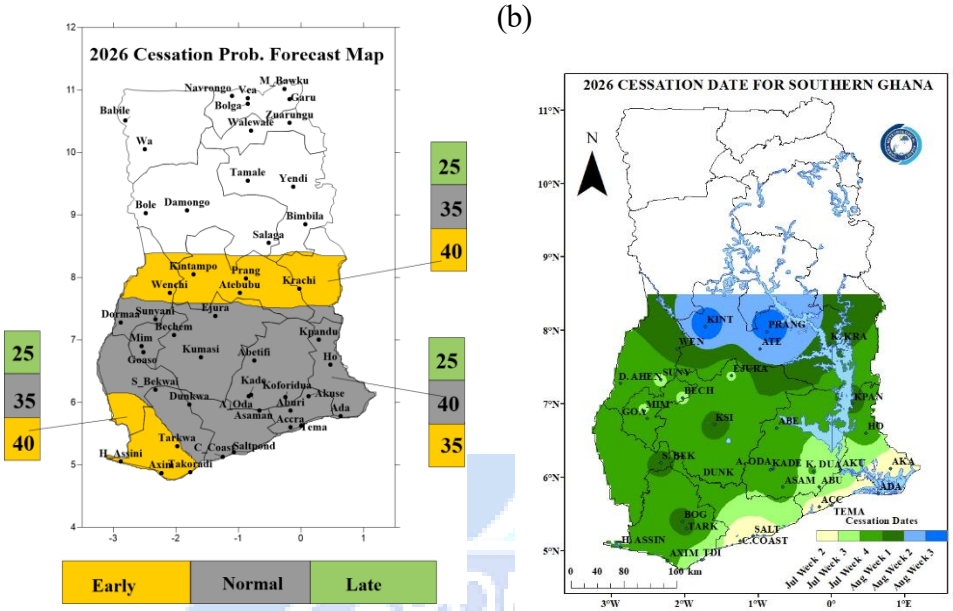


Figure 12 (a): Cessation Probability Forecast Map 2026 (b) Cessation Dates Forecast Map 2026

Table 6. Cessation Dates for 2026 Season & Long-Term Mean of the Cessation Dates

ZONE	Normal Cessation Dates	Forecasted Cessation dates
Transition Zone	4th Week of July – 4th Week of October	1st Week of August – 3rd Week of August
Forest Zone	2nd Week of July – 1st Week of August	3rd Week of July – 1st Week of August
West Coast	2nd Week of July – 1st Week of August	3rd Week of July – 4th Week of July
East Coast	1st Week of July – 3rd Week of July	2nd Week of July – 3rd Week of July

NB: Long-Term Mean (LTM) is the 30-year average condition of the given Zone from 1991-2020.

2.7 Length of Major Rainfall Season Forecast Maps, 2026

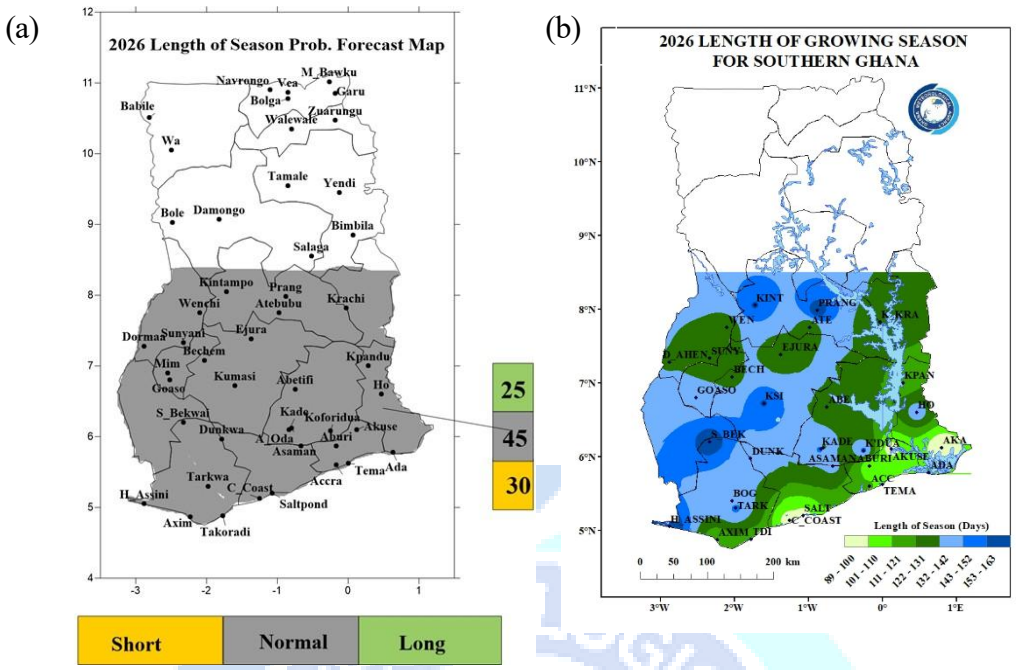


Figure 13(a): Length of Season Prob Forecast Map 2026 (b) Length of Season Forecast Map, 2026

Table 7. Forecast of Length of Rainfall Days and LTM for 2026 Major Season

ZONE	LTM (days)	2026 Length of Season (days)
Transition Zone	130 - 211	122- 159
Forest Zone	102 - 157	89 – 160
West Coast	112 - 138	111-163
East Coast	91 - 112	89 - 111

3.0 SUMMARY OF EXPECTED SEASONAL FORECAST FOR 2026 MAM & AMJ

3.1 Onset

Rainfall onset for the Transition Zone is projected to be normal to early. Within the Forest Zone, western areas will likely experience a normal to early onset, while central and eastern sections are expected to experience late to normal onsets in some places. The late to normal onsets are expected in **Sunyani, Tarkwa, Dunkwa, Asamankese, Akim Oda** and their environs. Most areas in the Coastal zone will see a normal to early start, with the notable exceptions of **Axim, Saltpond** and their environ, where a late onset is predicted. *(See Table 1 for LTM & 2026 Onset Dates).*

3.2 Cumulative Rainfall Distribution

a) March-April-May (MAM)

Cumulative rainfall for the MAM season is projected to be below normal over **Dormaa**, **Sunyani**, **Mim** and **Goaso** along the southwestern portion, as well as parts of the eastern coastal belt, including **Cape Coast**, **Saltpond**, **Accra**, and **Tema**. The remaining portions of the country are likely to experience normal to above normal rainfall during the period. *(see Table 2 for 2026 MAM & it's LTM).*

b) April-May-June (AMJ)

Cumulative rainfall for the AMJ season is projected to be normal to above normal along the East coast and inland areas, including **Accra, Tema, Cape Coast, Saltpond, Asamankese, Koforidua,** and **Kade**. The Forest, Transition, and Northern zones are expected to record rainfall totals within the normal to below-normal range. *(see Table 3 for 2026 AMJ & it's LTM*).

(** The MAM & AMJ is not the peak of the season for the northern part of Ghana, their season is yet to start).

3.3 Dry Spells

a) Early/1st Dry Spell

At the beginning of the season, the Southern part of the country is expected to record dry spells ranging from 6 to 11 days. The Transition zone is likely to experience dry spells of 6 to 11 days. In the Forest zone, dry spell days are expected to range from 7 to 10. Areas along the Coast are expected to record dry spells of 6 to 9 days, with **Akatsi** and **Cape Coast** likely to record dry spells of 6 – 8 days.

b) Late/2nd Dry Spell

Generally, the southern sector is expected to experience relatively longer dry spells, lasting between 12 and 17 days, with the longest durations likely around **Cape Coast, Saltpond, Takoradi, Sefwi Bekwai, Ejura** and their surrounding areas. However, **Dormaa Ahenkro, Mim, Goaso, Asamankese, Half Assini,** and nearby communities are expected to record Normal to shorter dry spells of about 9 to 11 days.

3.4 Cessation

Cessation is projected to be generally normal to early, occurring from July Week 2 and August Week 3. The West Coast (**Half Assini, Takoradi**, and **Axim**) and the Transition Zone (**Kintampo** and **Atebubu**) are expected to experience early to normal cessation. **Ho, Kade**, and **Akatsi** are forecasted to be early, while late cessation is anticipated around Mim and Kumasi.

3.5 Length of Season

The length of season for Southern Ghana is likely to expect normal length of rainfall season, generally. Some areas along the east coast such as **Saltpond, Cape coast** and **Akatsi** are likely to experience a short seasonal length. **Half Assini** on the west coast is likely to expect a long season. In Forest zone, **Akuse** is expected to experience short season while **Sefwi Bekwai** is expected to experience a long season. **Kete-Krachi** in the transition zone is likely to experience a short season

4.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (ADVISORIES)

March-April-May-June constitutes the major rainfall period for the southern sector of the country (8°N and below). During the peak of the MAM/AMJ season, there is a strong likelihood of intense rainfall events accompanied by gusty winds and lightning, conditions that may result in flooding and cause damage to infrastructure. Additionally, the onset and cessation phases of the season are characterized by a high probability of experiencing dry spells ranging from near-normal to relatively prolonged durations.

Communities situated along the eastern coastline as well as some places in the Forest and Transition zones, including Accra, Tema, Saltpond, Koforidua, Dormaa, Sunyani, Mim, and Goaso, together with their surrounding areas are expected to record below average rainfall amounts, though not significantly deviating from established climatology for the MAM season. Localities in the East Coast and their adjoining inland areas such as Cape Coast, Saltpond, Accra, Tema, Asamankese, Akim Oda, Kade, Koforidua, and Akuse are projected to experience above average rainfall during the AMJ season.

In view of these anticipated conditions, it is therefore recommended that the following appropriate precautionary and adaptive measures be implemented to mitigate potential risks to lives, livestock, agricultural production, property, and critical infrastructure, and to minimize the overall adverse impacts.

4.1 Disaster Management Sector

The following measures are advised for flood-prone areas along the Eastern Coastline and adjoining inland areas, particularly during the months of May and June:

a. Establish and operationalize integrated monitoring and early warning systems for flood risk.

b. Collaboration between the agencies in charge of flood monitoring, disaster risk reduction, and humanitarian aid should be improved.

c. Sensitization of the populace in the exposed areas about the impending danger.

d. Maintain drainage systems, that is, regularly clear gutters, culverts, and waterways to prevent blockages.

e. Train local disaster management teams for rapid deployment.

f. Stockpile essential relief materials (food, water, medical supplies, mattresses etc).

g. Conduct regular public education campaigns on evacuation routes and safe practices.

h. Ensure evacuation routes and safe shelters are accessible and well-maintained.

i. Designate alternative routes for emergency vehicles and evacuation.

Those at risk of prolonged dryness, which looks likely to occur in some places in the southern parts of Ghana during the MAM and AMJ 2026 seasons, are to adhere to the following:

a. Step up education and sensitization of the people on the likelihood of bush fires.

b. Liaise with national meteorological, agricultural, and hydrological experts for information and advice to provide relief to affected areas.

c. Offer technical assistance in the affected areas to pursue alternate livelihoods. (poultry, bee keeping, small scale irrigation farming, small-scale cottage industries like basket, mat weaving, pot making, etc.)

d. Prudent use of available water and storage of water whenever it rains.

4.2 Transport and Public Safety

i. Flash Floods are likely to occur especially in cosmopolitan areas and city centers during the April to June period. Some of the most vulnerable places likely to be affected include Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi. This may lead to some roads becoming impassable when it rains. Road users should be mindful when plying those roads. Drivers are advised to refrain from driving through floodwater.

ii. Light aircraft are advised to take utmost care and avoid flying through deep convective clouds that are associated with severe turbulence and lightning, especially in the afternoon hours.

iii. Motorists should be mindful of fallen trees and objects on roads during or after a storm.

iv. Motorists should not drive through flood waters.

v. Reduce speed on wet surfaces to prevent skidding.

vi. Keep headlights on for visibility and maintain safe distance from other vehicles.

4.3 National/Local Authorities

Local authorities in areas where heavy rainfall is expected especially during the April-May-June rainfall period are advised to:

i. Provide emergency/temporal safe shelters for the victims.

ii. Close unsafe roads promptly and set up detours with clear signage.

iii. Sensitize the populace on sustaining community clean-up exercises and activities.

iv. Encourage the cultivation of hydrophilic plants (Plants that absorb high amounts of water)

through the departments of Agric.

v. Train local officials in disaster preparedness and climate adaptation.

vi. Desilt the drains before the rains set in to avoid flash flooding due to surface runoff.

vii. Build the capacity of national health systems and national platforms for disaster risk management.

viii. Provision of mosquito nets, antimalarial drugs in affected areas.

ix. Collaborate with the Ghana Meteorological Agency, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) and Health Services to disseminate warnings and create awareness on climate-related diseases.

x. Conduct public education campaigns on flood risks and safe practices.

xi. Strengthening the dissemination and communication of hydro-climatic information (including seasonal forecasts) and raising community awareness through radio, television, mobile phones, and information platforms for disaster risk reduction management.

xii. Train local volunteers in first aid and evacuation support.

4.4 General Public

i. Taking advantage of average to above average runoff situations to develop fish farming and optimize fishing yields in river basins.

ii. Continuously desilting drains, especially in front of our homes and shops, before and during the season.

iii. Monitor water quality and report any suspicions to the environmental offices of the assemblies or to the standard authority.

iv. People should move to higher ground in case they stay in flood-prone areas.

v. Citizens should move to safer places in case there is an approaching storm and strong winds.

vi. Identify safe shelters and practice how to get there quickly.

vii. Move valuables and electrical appliances to higher ground

vii. Avoid open burning of waste and bush

4.5 Health Sector – Facing the risk of diseases.

In places where the rainy season is wetter, there are high levels of risk of Cholera, malaria, dengue fever, bilharzia, and diarrhoea. To mitigate the development of germs and reduce the risk of water and airborne diseases, it is strongly recommended that:

i. Public Education should be intensified through national platforms on disaster risk reduction such as the radio, tv, information vans, churches, mosques etc.

ii. Dissemination of bulletins on climate-sensitive diseases.

iii. Intensify collaboration with stakeholders such as the meteorological, hydrological, and disaster organizations.

iv. Prevent diseases by vaccinating people and animals.

v. Set up stocks of mosquito-proofed nets and provision of antimalarial drugs in affected areas.

4.6 Agriculture, Food Security and Livestock Sectors

a. ***For areas where it is more likely to observe normal to surplus rainfall, early season start dates, longer dry spells and excess flows, it is recommended that farmers, breeders, authorities, projects and NGOs*:**

i. Invest more in improved seed varieties and the development of yield enhancement techniques for both food crops and cash crops.

ii. Provide fertilizers (organic and mineral fertilizers).

iii. Increase vigilance against crop pests (e.g., armyworm and other pests).

iv. In pastoral areas, put in place appropriate technology for pasture for abundant water resources for livestock.

v. Monitor and follow the updates of these seasonal forecasts and the short- and medium-term forecasts produced and disseminated by the national meteorological and hydrological services.

vi. Taking advantage of average to above average runoff situations to develop fish farming and optimize fishing yields in river basins.

b. ***For areas likely to experience water deficits, which arise because of below normal rainfall to longer dry Spells expected at the beginning and towards the end of the season, which could affect the planting and growth of crops and promote the development of crop pests.***

i. Focus on drought-tolerant crops and early maturing varieties.

ii. Diversify agricultural practices, through the promotion of irrigation, market gardening and the association of crops (mixed cropping).

iii. Choose short-cycle crop species and varieties that are most tolerant to the water deficit.

iv. Promote and encourage the transfer of risks related to rainfall to protect producers against the effects of crop losses, through the subscription to index-based agricultural insurance.

v. Promote the establishment of food stocks/ buffer stocks.

vi. Strengthen monitoring of food and nutrition security in at-risk areas.

vii. Implement early warning systems to mitigate the impact of the long dry spells anticipated.

viii. Promote climate-smart agricultural practices such as minimum tillage, mulching, selective pruning, and agroforestry to offset the production deficit that could affect areas exposed to dry spells.

ix. Collaborate with the National Meteorological, Agricultural extension and Hydrological agencies for specific information and agro-hydro-meteorological advice on the actions to be taken.

x. Promote irrigation and ensure rational management of water resources for crops and other uses.

4.7 Water Resources Management Sector

Due to the anticipated season, below normal flows are expected for parts of the southwestern and east coast areas whilst other basins having normal to above conditions, hence, water resources sectors are expected to be impacted negatively over places in mostly the southwestern parts of the country. The following recommendations are recommended:

i. Monitor the use of treated water for commercial purposes.

ii. Ensure the regulations of buffer zones along the water bodies are enforced.

iii. Industries and large users of water should be encouraged to implement recycling and reuse systems at places with reduced/prolonged dry spell.

4.8 Power

i. Where necessary and would cause danger in case of heavy rains accompanied by strong winds and lightning which could lead to localized floods, the power companies should switch off power to avoid electrocutions.

ii. Operators of dams should closely monitor daily inflow trends.

iii. Continuous monitoring of forecasts by the Meteorological Agency to ensure efficient management of the dam.

NB: This outlook should be used with the Daily, Weekly, Sub seasonal, Monthly and regular updates issued by the Agency.

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