



No SF-2024-03-R

Seasonal, Monthly and weekly Rainfall Forecasts for March-May 2024

Issued on 7th March 2024 by Seasonal forecasting Division of the Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka.

This consensus Climate Outlook for March to May 2024 season over Sri Lanka has been developed through an expert assessment of the prevailing global climate conditions influencing the South Asian climate and seasonal forecasts from different climate models around the world. A transition from El Niño to ENSO-neutral is likely by April-June 2024 (79% chance), with increasing odds of La Niña developing in June-August 2024 (55% chance). The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral, with the IOD index being -0.05 °C for the week ending 18 February 2024. Most of the International climate models suggest IOD values will remain neutral until at least April. Careful consideration is also given to other regional and global factors as well as the intraseasonal variability of the region that can affect the rainfall and temperature patterns over the country.

Seasonal Rainfall Forecast for March–May 2024(MAM)

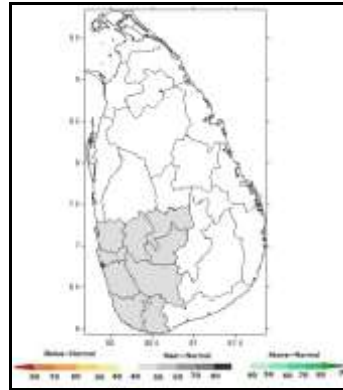


Fig 1.Consensus Probabilistic Monthly rainfall forecast for MAM 2024

Near normal rainfalls are likely over Southwestern parts and no clear signal indicated for other areas of the country during the March- May 2024 season. Equal probabilities are exist for having below or near or above normal rainfalls over the no signal indicated areas (Fig.01).

Monthly Rainfall Forecasts for March, April and May 2024

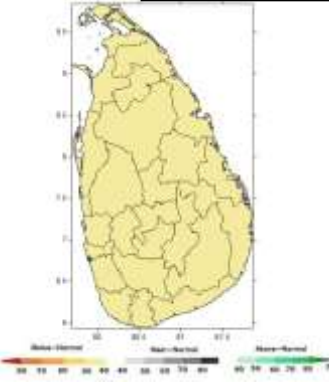
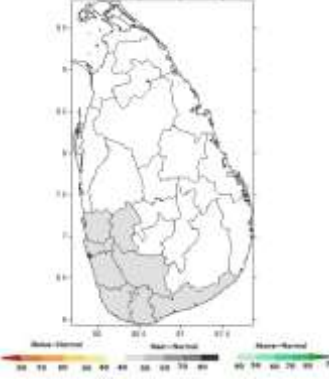
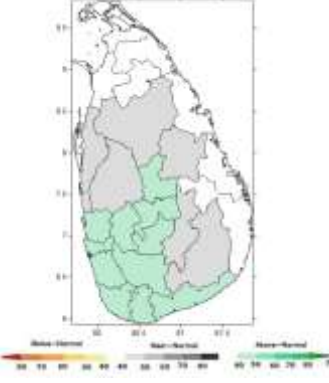
Month	Rainfall forecast
<div> <p>March 2024</p> </div> 	<p>There is a higher chance of having below normal rainfall over most parts of the country during the month of March 2024.</p>
<div> <p>April 2024</p> </div> 	<p>There is a chance of having Near normal rainfall over Western, Southern and Sabaragamuwa provinces and no clear signal indicated for remaining areas of the country during the month of April 2024.</p>
<div> <p>May 2024</p> </div> 	<p>There is a possibility of having above normal rainfalls over Western, Southern, Sabaragamuwa and Central provinces with a chance of near normal rainfalls over Uva, Northcentral and Northwestern provinces. There is no clear signal indicated for Northern and Eastern provinces where having equal probability for below or near or above during the month of May 2024.</p> <p>In addition to that, there is a possibility for developing atmospheric disturbances, low pressure areas or depressions over and vicinity of Sri Lanka during the latter half of the month.</p>

Fig 2.Monthly rainfall forecasts for March, April and May 2024

District wise normal (mean) rainfall values are indicated in annex -1)

The predictability is also limited due to strong day-to-day atmospheric variability caused by the passage of the synoptic scale systems such as lows and depressions as well as intraseasonal Oscillations such as Madden Julian Oscillations (MJO).

Weekly Rainfall forecasts for the month of March 2024

Weekly Rainfall anomaly Source – NCMRWF Updated on 29 th February 2024		
01-07 March 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below normal rainfalls are likely over most parts of the country. 	
08-14 March 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below normal rainfalls are possible over some areas in Western, Southern, Sabaragamuwa, Central and Uva provinces and near normal rainfalls are likely elsewhere. 	
15-21 March 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near normal rainfalls are likely over southwestern parts and some areas in Monaragala, Badulla, Ampara and Batticaloa districts and below normal rainfalls are likely elsewhere. 	
22-28 March 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near normal rainfalls are likely over the country. 	

Fig 3.Weekly rainfall forecast for March 2024

Attention is requested for following areas

- More attention for the instructions and advisories issued by authorized agencies particularly related to extreme weather and water management.
- Generally there is a possibility for developing atmospheric disturbances, low pressure areas or depressions over and vicinity of Sri Lanka during the latter half of the month of May
- Floods and Landslides are also possible during the month of May.

Annex-1

District wise mean (30 years (1981-2010) of average) rainfalls during the months of

March, April and May

District	Average rainfall- March (mm)	Average rainfall- April (mm)	Average rainfall- May(mm)
Colombo	135.2	273.8	348.9
Kalutara	178.7	333.4	477.9
Galle	166.6	291.3	408.0
Matara	146.0	231.8	274.0
Hambantota	73.5	109.3	73.6
Ampara	72.6	85.9	50.2
Batticaloa	64.2	64.8	43.9
Trincomalee	53.3	65.4	54.0
Mullaithivu	39.2	69.2	53.4
Jaffna	23.3	46.0	42.2
Killinochchi	30.0	64.2	43.2
Mannar	47.3	110.1	51.2
Puttalam	64.7	150.6	106.2
Gampaha	118.4	234.7	284.9
Kegalle	171.7	334.0	363.3
Ratnapura	203.1	323.3	321.1
Monaragala	101.0	149.4	83.3
Badulla	122.8	193.4	107.0
Pollonnaruwa	69.5	101.4	59.7
Vavuniya	44.5	96.8	59.2
Anuradapura	61.4	126.3	67.0
Kurunegala	90.3	197.1	121.4
Matale	97.4	167.2	91.4
Kandy	107.0	193.1	147.8
Nuwaraeliya	121.4	221.6	246.2

Table 01: 30 year Average (1981-2010) district wise rainfalls during the month of March, April and May

Table 01 shows the mean (30 year Average (1981-2010)) rainfalls during the month of March, April and May in each district.