

NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



06th November to 06th December 2021

Issued on 09th October 2021



**Department of Meteorology
Department of Agriculture
World Food Programme
2021.11.09**



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Farmers and all other farm managements are advised to follow the guidelines of Government of Sri Lanka to avoid infection and social transmission of CORONA virus (COVID-19). Precautions and safety measures should be taken up to prevent the Corona virus spread. Simple measures include social distancing, maintaining personal hygiene by washing hands with soap, wearing of face mask, drink hot water, stay at home and cleaning of implements and machinery. Farmers should not work in a group; consult with a doctor in case of any symptom. Please stay at home does not visit the field until it is very necessary.

Climate Outlook-Department of Meteorology

Rainfall Analysis (October)

According to the observed rainfall data, above normal rainfalls were reported over most parts of the North and North-central Provinces and in some parts of Puttalam, Trincomalee, Kandy, Nuwara-eliya and Hambantota districts. Normal normal rainfalls were reported at other districts except in some parts of Baticaloa, Ampara, and Monaragala districts where below normal rainfalls were reported during the month of October 2021.

Observed rainfall as a percentage of normal during the months of October 2021 is shown in the figure 1(a) and observed cumulative rainfall as a percentage of normal from first January 2021 to 31 October 2021 is shown in the figure 1 (b).

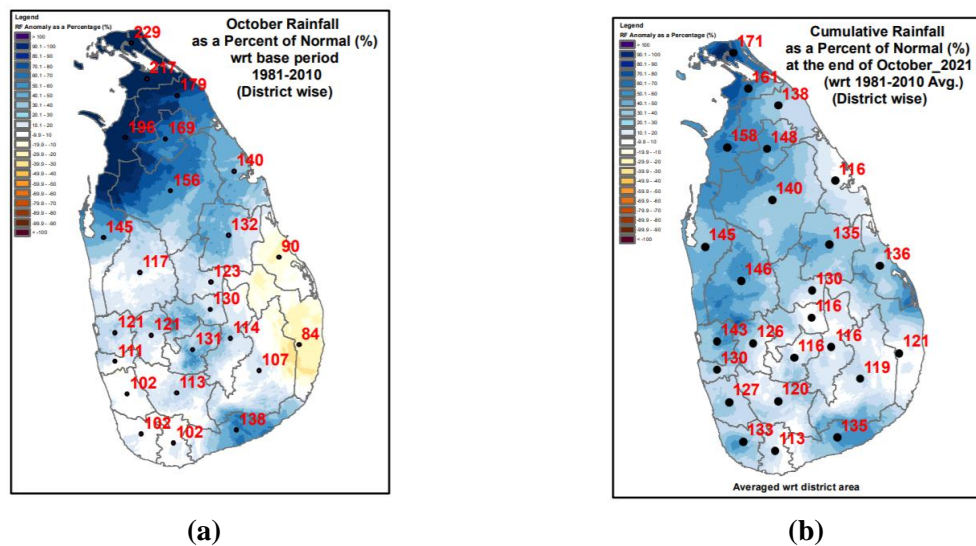


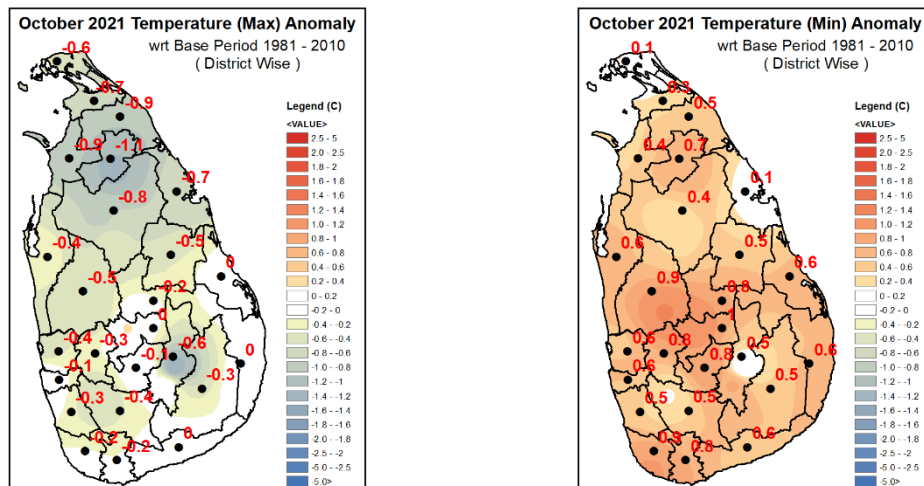
Figure 01 : Observed Monthly rainfall as percentage of long-term average (1981-2010) during October 2021(a) and cumulative rainfall from 01st January 2021 to 31 October 2021 as percentage of long term average (1981- 2010) (b)



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Temperature analysis (October)

Average maximum and minimum temperatures during the month of October 2021 were near normal over most parts of the country.



(a)(b)

Figure 02 : Average Maximum (a) and Minimum (b) Temperature anomalies during the month of October 2021 compared with the long-term average (1981-2010)

Weather Forecast: Forecast for the month November 2021(Weekly)

Above normal rainfalls are likely during the first and second weeks of November 2021 over most parts of the country except some parts of Ampara, Monaragala and Hambantoata districts where near normal rainfalls are likely. Below normal rainfalls are expected most parts of the Eastern parts and some parts of northern province of the country during the 3rd and 4th weeks of the November. Meanwhile, near normal rainfalls are expected over other parts of the country during the 3rd and 4th weeks of the November 2021. (figure 03).



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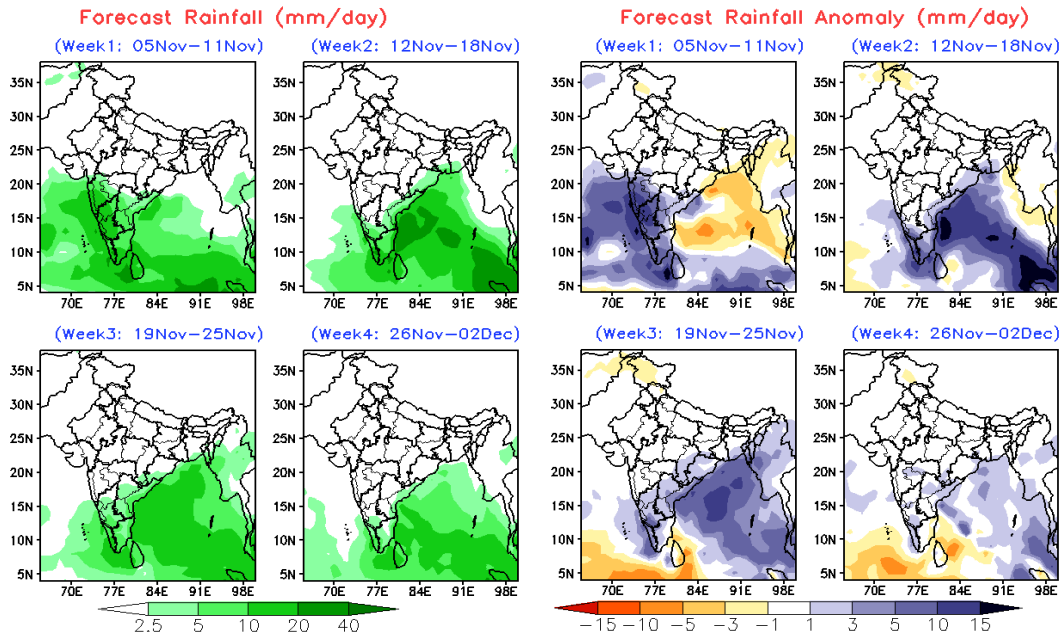


Figure 03 : Weekly rainfall Forecast and the Rainfall anomaly (mm/day)

Note: Department of Meteorology issues weekly Agro-met Bulletin to update climatological situation. It can be downloaded from the web page link- [Agro-met Bulletin \(meteo.gov.lk\)](http://www.meteo.gov.lk)

http://www.meteo.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=28&Itemid=301&lang=en#weekly-updates-2021

Weather forecast for the season of November-December-January (NDJ) 2021

According to the Department of Meteorology, slightly above normal rainfalls are likely over Northern and Northcentral provinces and in Trincomalee district and no signal for other areas, where there are equal probabilities of having below, near or above normal rainfalls during November-December 2021-January 2022 season. (Fig. 6)






Figure 04 : Seasonal Rainfall Forecast for November 2021 – January 2022 (NDJ 2021-22)



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Monthly Rainfall Forecasts for November, December and January 2021/22

Month	Rainfall forecast
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>November 2021</p> </div> </div>	<p>There is a possibility for near normal rainfalls in Northern province and no clear signal for other areas, where there are equal probabilities for below, near and above normal rainfall during the month of November 2021.</p> <p>Further, there is a possibility to develop low pressure systems and depressions over and vicinity of Sri Lanka, which could have enhanced the rainfall over the country during the month of November.</p>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>December 2021</p> </div> </div>	<p>There is a possibility for near or slightly above normal rainfalls over Northern, Eastern, Northcentral and Uva provinces and no clear signal for other areas, where there are equal chances for receiving below, near or above normal rainfalls, during the month of December 2021.</p> <p>Further, there is a possibility to develop low pressure systems and depressions over and vicinity of Sri Lanka, which could have enhanced the rainfall over the country during the month of November.</p>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>January 2022</p> </div> </div>	<p>Above normal rainfalls are likely over most parts of the country during the month of January 2022.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the month of January, there is a possibility to develop wave type disturbances in the Bay of Bengal, which could have enhanced the rainfall over the country.</p>



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Agro-met Advisory Update

November to January (NDJ) during

2021/22 Maha Season

(NRMC, Department of Agriculture)

Since the forecast shows an equal chance for below, near and above normal rainfall during November, the following facts are also important to consider on agricultural decision making.

- According to the DoM, during the month of October above normal rainfall has experienced to the certain areas of the country, including major paddy growing districts such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Hambantota.
- Weekly (44) Agro-meteorological Bulletin of DoM denotes that the Soil moisture conditions in all three major climatic zones (Wet, Intermediate and Dry - at the depth up to 28 cm) are at the average of 30%-40%
- According to the summary of reservoir storage data of Department of Irrigation, the carry-over storage of almost all major irrigation tanks and reservoirs including Mahaweli System are more than 30% of their respective full capacity level
- Carry-over storage of almost all minor irrigation tanks are also at satisfactory levels

Hence, the following agronomic interventions are recommended to ensure a high productivity under existing weather situation,

- Farmers should have to get the maximum benefit of rain water
- Considering the prevailing rainfall in each week, water issuing schedules should have to adjust so as to ensure good carry-over storage for the forthcoming 2022 *Yala* season.
- Paddy farmers, who have already established the crop, should have to consider about the weed control by gradually increasing a standing water level at the depth of 2-3 cm in all Liyaddas from 5-7 day of crop establishment to 14 days of crop establishment. It is better to maintain water level at the depth of 5 cm from 14 days of crop establishment.
- Paddy farmers, who are planning to start the land preparation activities at the beginning of this month, should have to complete their first and second ploughing before 15th of November.



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- The farmers who have not started their cultivation activities yet, are highly advisable to do the field establishment of the paddy crop, before 25th of November
- Pay attention on Thrips attacks at seedling to tillering stage of the crop
- Farmers who receive water from minor irrigation tanks are recommended to opt for 3 month rice varieties, while farmers who receive water under large-irrigation tanks are advised to select 3½ month rice varieties, considering the water level in their feed reservoirs.
- Use only 3-month varieties for the rainfed rice systems
- From the seasonal agro-met advisory issued on 4th of September, it was clearly mentioned to complete planting of Maize before 15th of October. Therefore, farmer who are planning to cultivate Maize during this month, should have to strictly consider about the pest attacks specially Fall Army Worm (FAW) infestation
- If the drainage conditions are conducive, vegetables can be grown under excessive care as intense rains always lead to infectious disease such as bacterial and fungal diseases and also leads to post-harvest losses.
- The effectiveness of the novel fertilization techniques such as foliar applications is highly depending on the rain fall. Therefore, such applications needs to be plan based on the precise weather forecasting to enhance its economic efficiency.
- Since this national level recommendations should have to amend region-wise, strictly adhere to the information shared in the *Kanna* meetings, too.

An updated Agro-met Advisory will be issued in early December for the rest of 2021/22 *Maha* season.

