

NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



06th December 2021 to 07th January 2022

Issued on 08th December 2021



**Department of Meteorology
Department of Agriculture
World Food Programme
2021.12.08**



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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.

Rainfall Analysis (November)

According to the observed rainfall data, near or above normal rainfalls were reported over most parts of the country except some parts in Hambanthota, Monaragala and Badulla districts and some isolated pockets in Rathnapura, Matale and Nuwara Eliya districts, where below normal rainfalls were reported during the month of November 2021. Observed rainfall as a percentage of normal during the months of November 2021 is shown in the figure 1(a)

Observed cumulative rainfall as a percentage of normal from first January 2021 to 30 November 2021 is shown in the figure 1 (b) and it shows the near or above normal rainfalls over over most parts of the country.

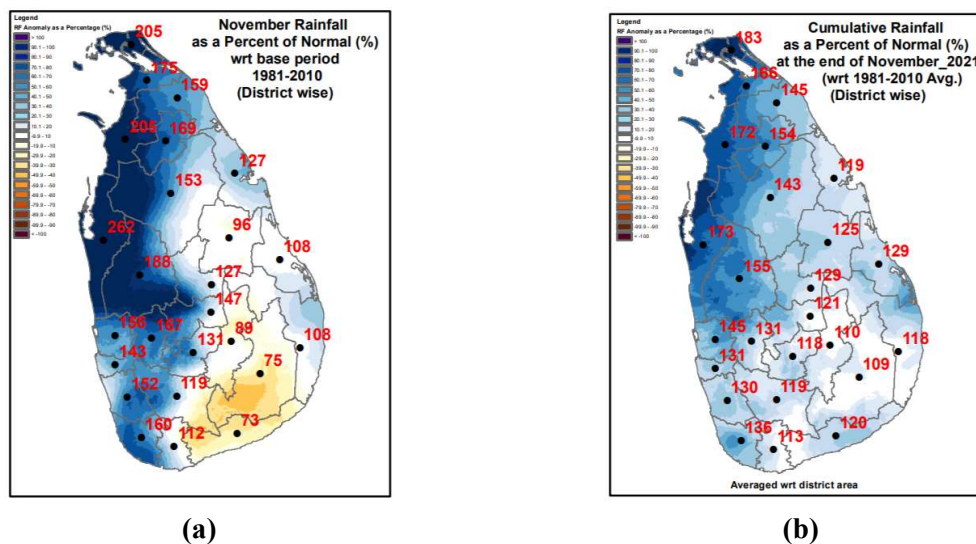


Figure 01 : Observed Monthly rainfall as percentage of long-term average (1981-2010) during November 2021(a) and cumulative rainfall from 01st January 2021 to 30th November 2021 as percentage of long term average (1981- 2010) (b)



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Temperature analysis (November)

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

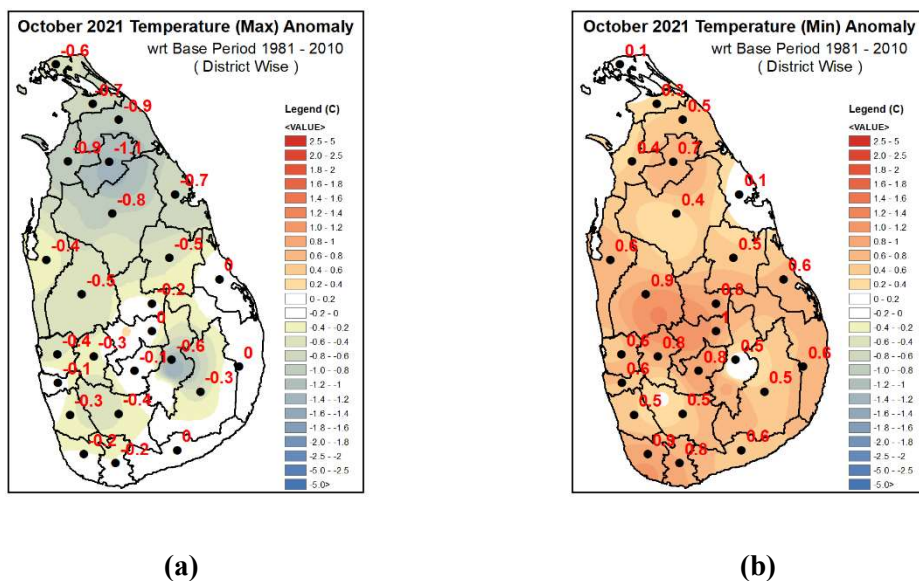


Figure 02 : Average Maximum (a) and Minimum (b) Temperature anomalies during the month of November 2021 compared with the long-term average (1981-2010)

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

Below normal rainfalls are likely during the first week of December 2021 over the country. Above normal rainfalls are expected over Eastern, Northern, South-western, Central and Southern parts of the country and near normal rainfalls are expected over other parts of the country during the 2nd week of the December. During the 3rd and 4th weeks of the December 2021, there is a probability for below normal rainfall over the country. (figure 03).



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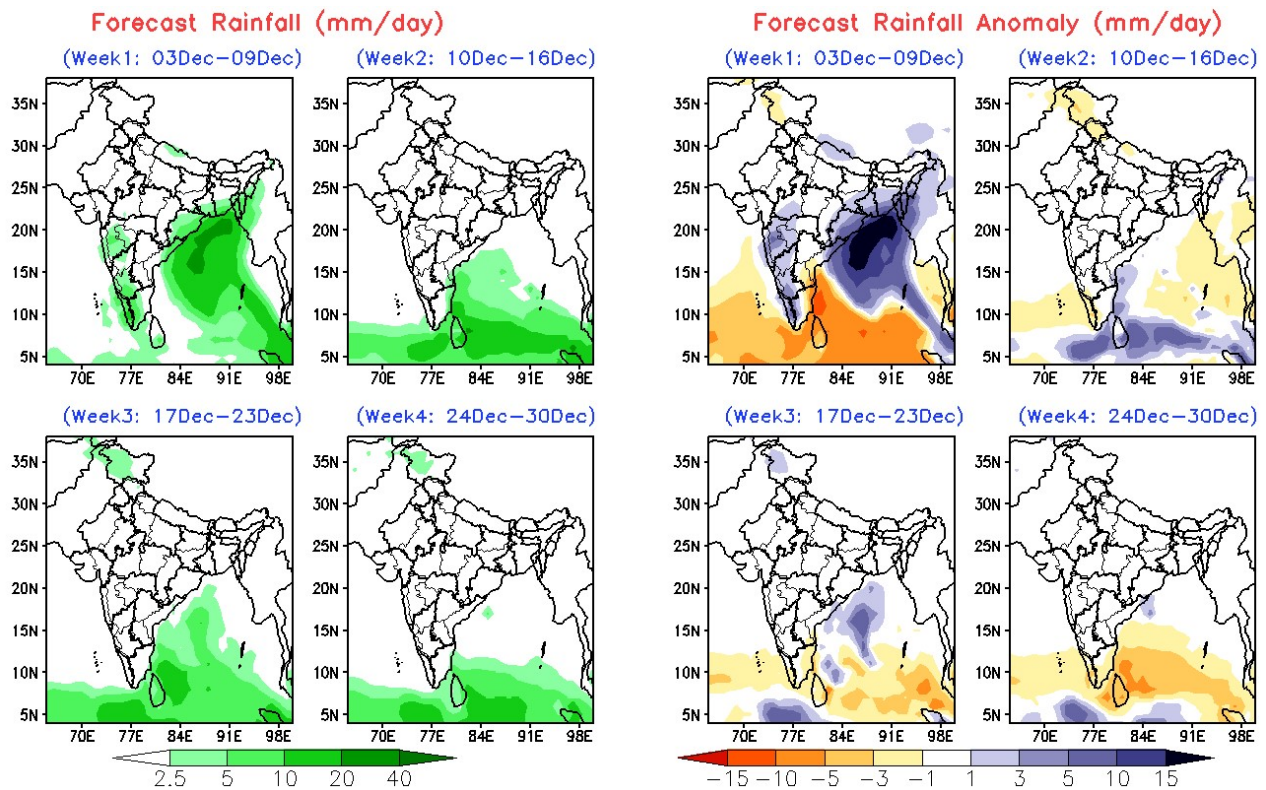


Figure 03 : Weekly rainfall Forecast and the Rainfall anomaly (mm/day)

Note: Department of Meteorology issues weekly Agromet Bulletin to update climatological situation. It can be downloaded from the web page link- [Agromet 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 December-January-February (NDJ) 2021/22

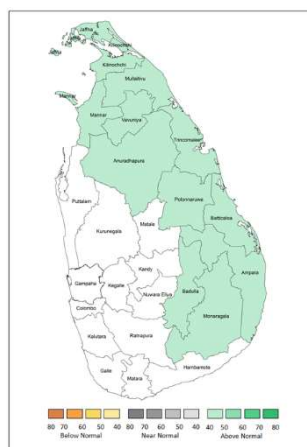


Figure 04 : Seasonal Rainfall Forecast for December 2021 – February 2022 (DJF 2021-22)

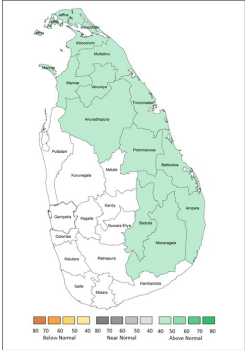
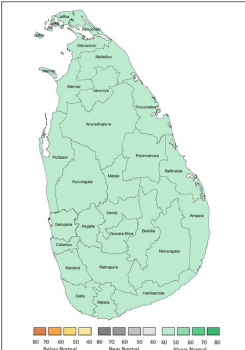



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According to the Department of Meteorology, slightly above normal rainfalls are likely over Northern, North-central, Uva and Eastern provinces and no signal for other areas where there are equal probabilities of having above, near or below normal rainfalls, during DJF 2021/2022 season.

(Fig. 4)

Monthly Rainfall Forecasts for December-January-February 2021/22

Month	Rainfall forecast
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">December 2021</div>	<p>Near or slightly above normal rainfalls are likely over Northern, North-central, Uva and Eastern provinces and no signal for other areas where there are equal probabilities of having above, near or below normal rainfall, during the month of December 2021.</p> <p>In addition to that, there is a possibility to develop low pressure systems, depressions and cyclones in the vicinity of Sri Lanka, which could have enhanced the rainfall over the country, during the month of December.</p>
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">January 2022</div>	<p>There is a possibility for near or slightly above normal rainfalls over most parts during the month of January 2022.</p> <p>In addition to that, there is a possibility to develop wavy type disturbances over and vicinity of Sri Lanka, which could have enhanced the rainfall over the country during the month of January.</p>
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">February 2022</div>	<p>Near normal rainfalls are likely over most parts of the country during the month of February 2022.</p>



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Agro-met Advisory: December to February (DJF) during 2021/22 Maha Season

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, having a good coordination with the officials by adjusting the water issuing schedules. This will ensure good carry-over storage for the forthcoming 2022 *Yala* season.
- Paddy farmers, who have already established the crop, are requested to pay more attention on the Brown Planthopper (BPH) attack and other pest and diseases as it has been observed that the staggered cultivation is rather common in this season.
- Paddy farmers, who are planning to start the cultivation activities, are advised to start the land preparation activities as soon as possible and select short aged rice varieties preferably 2½ months rice varieties.
- It will be important to pay attention to the BPH damage especially for late cultivated paddy fields in mid-January. Because dry spell after a rainy period with high Relative Humidity (RH) may lead to increase the BPH attack.
- Farmers who practice late cultivation, are advised to use seed treatments, as Thrips attack could be observed in certain areas.
- Farmer who are planning to cultivate Maize during December, are requested to pay more attention on pest attacks, especially Fall Army Worm (FAW) infestation. Population of FAW may increase during dry spells occurring after a rainy period. Therefore, more care should be taken to manage FAW at early stage of the crop, following DoA recommendations.
- It is important to pay attention on the bacterial and fungal diseases with the prevailing rainy situation. It is recommended to identify such events as early as possible and take necessary actions to improve drainage conditions especially for other field crops.
- It is recommended to complete establishment of short-aged legume varieties, such as Mung bean and Cowpea during the first week of December. Otherwise, during the latter



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stage of the crop, especially during the flowering or seed filling stage, the crop might expose to the water stress conditions.

- If the drainage conditions are conducive, vegetables can also be grown under excessive care as intense rains always lead to increase infectious diseases such as bacterial and fungal diseases and also leads to post-harvest losses.
- The effectiveness of the liquid fertilizers highly depends on the rain fall. Therefore, such applications need to be planed based on the precise weather forecasting to enhance its efficiency.
- Since this document contains national level recommendations, localized or region specific information have to be added considering the field level information.

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

