

NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



08th February 2022 to 08th March 2022

Issued on 08th February 2022



**Department of Meteorology
Department of Agriculture
World Food Programme
2022.02.08**



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

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.

Weather and Climate update

Department of Meteorology

Rainfall Analysis-January 2022

According to the observed rainfall data, above normal rainfalls were reported in Jaffna, Killinochchi, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa districts and near normal rainfalls were reported in Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullativu, Anuradhapura, Ampara and Rathnapura districts during the month of January 2022. Below normal rainfalls were reported over remaining districts of the country during the month of January 2022.

Observed rainfall as a percentage of normal during the months of January 2022 is shown in the figure 1(a) and observed cumulative rainfall as a percentage of normal from first January 2022 to 31 January 2022 is shown in the figure 1 (b).

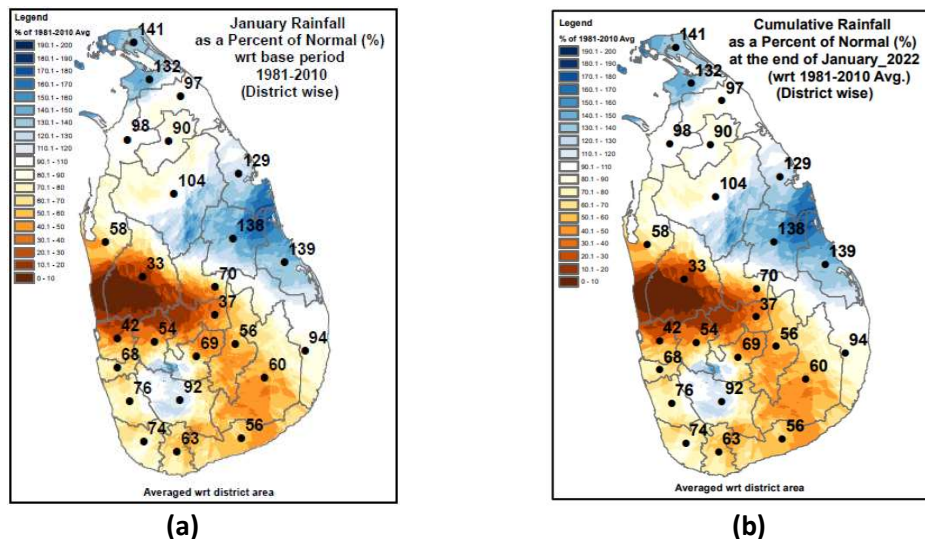


Figure 01 : Observed Monthly rainfall as percentage of long-term average (1981-2010) during January 2022 (a) and cumulative rainfall from 01st January 2022 to 31st January 2022 as percentage of long term average (1981- 2010) (b)



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

Temperature analysis (January)

Average maximum temperatures were a little above normal over Kegalle, Kurunegala, Kandy and Mathale districts and near normal over other parts of the country during the month of January 2022. Average minimum temperatures during the month of January 2022 were mostly near normal over the country except Vavuniya and Puttalam districts, where average minimum temperatures were little above normal during the period.

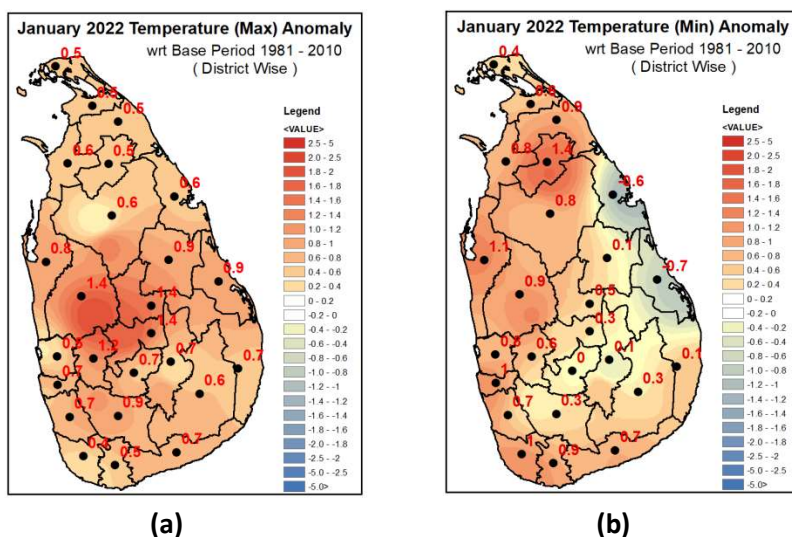


Figure 02 : Average Maximum (a) and Minimum (b) Temperature anomalies during the month of January 2022 compared with the long-term average (1981-2010)

Weather Forecast: Forecast for the month February 2022(Weekly)

(Updated on 3 February 2022)

Below normal rainfalls are likely during the week of 04-10 February 2022 over the country and there is a probability to experience slightly above normal rainfall over the country, during the week starting from 11 to 17 February 2022. During the week of 18-24 February 2022, slightly below normal rainfalls are likely over southern parts and slightly above normal rainfalls are likely over northern parts of the country and there is a possibility for above normal rainfalls from 25 February to 03 March 2022 over the county (figure 03).



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

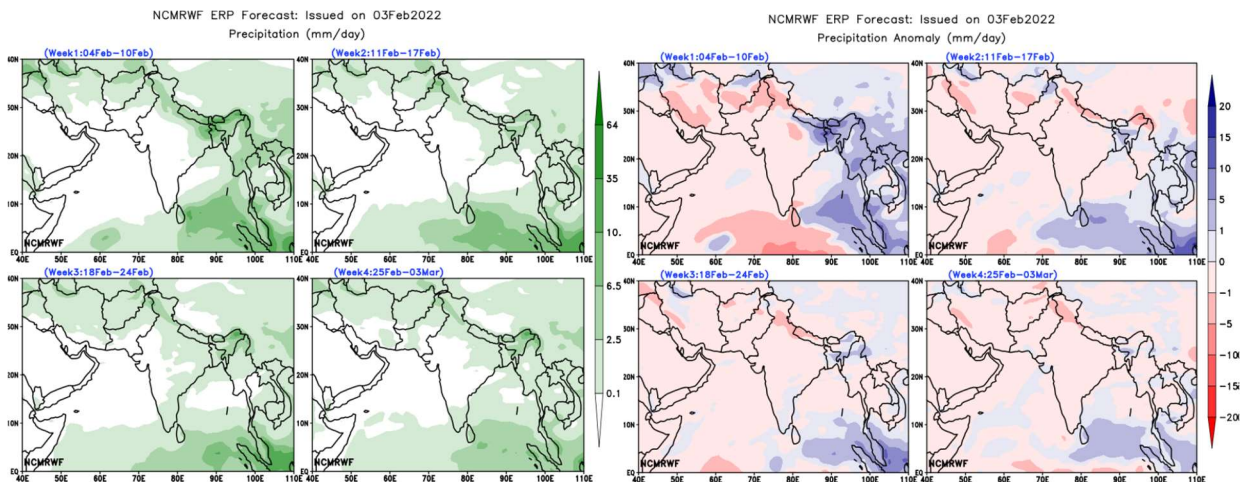


Figure 03 : Weekly rainfall Forecast and the Rainfall anomaly (mm/day)

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-2022

Weather forecast for the season of February-March-April (FMA) 2022




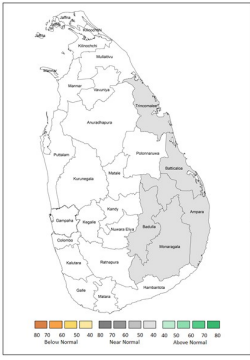

Figure 04 : Seasonal Rainfall Forecast for February- April 2022 (FMA 2022)

According to the Department of Meteorology, there is a probability for near normal rainfall over most parts of the country for the FMA season 2022 (Fig. 4).



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

Monthly Rainfall Forecasts for January-February-March 2022

Month	Rainfall forecast
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">February 2022</div>	<p>Near or slightly above normal rainfalls are likely over most parts of the country during the month of February 2022.</p>
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">March 2022</div>	<p>There is a possibility for near normal rainfalls over Eastern and Uva provinces and no signals for other areas where there are equal chances for having below/near or above normal rainfalls during the month of March 2022.</p>
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">April 2022</div>	<p>There is no clear signal to issue a forecast for the month of April 2022. As such there are equal probabilities of having above, near or below normal rainfalls, during April 2022.</p>



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

Agro-met Advisory: February 2022

(For the months of February, March and April)

Department of Meteorology (DoM) forecasts a **near normal rainfall** for **February to April (FMA)**, over most parts of the country. For **February**, **near or slightly above normal** rainfall forecast has been issued over most parts of the country. The seasonal weather outlook of DoM further stated that, **near normal rainfalls over Eastern and Uva provinces during March** and a forecast has not been issued for the other areas. No weather prediction has been issued for April too. With the available weather information, it is advisable to consider general climatological rainfall values for agriculture planning. Agro-ecological region-wise expected average rainfall values are attached in Table 1 - 3.

According to the Irrigation Department (ID), the average effective storage of major reservoirs is about 66%. Recently updated summary of daily water levels & storage of major reservoirs are attached in Table 4. ID further assured that the available water in major and medium reservoirs is sufficient to continue the rest of 2021/22 *Maha* Season and for the inter-season cultivation, for potential areas.

Considering the weather forecast of DoM and irrigation water availability information of ID, the following agronomic interventions are recommended to ensure optimum productivity under existing situation,

- Since the weather forecast of DoM predicted a near normal rainfall for February to April, lesser amount rainfall can be expected to the entire island. Therefore, when irrigation scheduling, more attention should be paid for rice to ensure water supply during reproductive stage.
- It is advisable to plan harvesting of paddy under prevailing dry period, considering short-term weather forecasts issued by DoM to avoid any sudden short-interval rains.



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

- Paddy farmers who are planning cultivation activities for the coming 2022 *Yala* season, advisable to start the cultivation on time with the onset of First Inter-monsoon (FIM) rains. The dates of the onset of FIM will be informed in near future by DoM.
- For paddy fields with the potential for 4th season cultivation (ie. after completion of the *Maha* season and before the cultivation activities of *Yala* season), short age legume crops such as Mung bean can be cultivated. Farmers in potential areas (Hambantota, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Puttalam and Moneragala), can start Mung Bean cultivation for 4th season in mid-February. Seed and Plant Material Development Center (SPMDC) assured availability of seeds to fulfill the farmer requirements.
- Farmers who are willing to cultivate short age legumes such as Mung bean, cowpea, soy bean etc. instead of paddy for 2022 *Yala* season, advisable to start cultivation in mid-April.
- Vegetable and Potato farmers in the up-country areas (altitude is above 1,500 m) are advised to pay attention to the daily weather forecast of DoM for possible occurrence unfavorable conditions with ground-frost during February with a significant drop of temperature (below 6 °C), under the predicted dry weather condition.
- Please consider that this advisory was prepared based the on national level forecasted information and therefore, it is advisable to consider localized detailed information, as a supplementary to this advisory.

An updated Agro-met Advisory will be issued in early March for the rest of 2021/22 *Maha* season and 2022 *Yala* season in consultation with the Department of Meteorology and other relevant resource persons and stakeholders.



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

Table 1: Agro-ecological region wise expected rainfall values for **February**

Dry Zone (mm)			Intermediate Zone (mm)			Wet Zone (mm)	
AER	Feb		AER	Feb		AER	Feb
DL1a	26.9		IL1a	6.1		WL1a	57.5
DL1b	12.6		IL1b	20.5		WL1b	34.5
DL1c	47.0		IL1c	54.1		WL2a	53.8
DL1d	11.1		IL2	71.1		WL2b	10.4
DL1e	10.9		IL3	5.3		WL3	9.4
DL1f	2.0		IM1a	66.2		WM1a	66.9
DL2a	58.1		IM1b	81.0		WM1b	70.4
DL2b	46.8		IM1c	58.9		WM2a	23.5
DL3	1.1		IM2a	64.3		WM 2b	12.9
DL4	0.5		IM2b	50.6		WM3a	13.7
DL5	11.4		IM3a	24.4		WM3b	35.5
			IM3b	31.4		WU1	47.7
			IM3c	41.0		WU2a	25.9
			IU1	76.4		WU2b	37.5
			IU2	61.8		WU3	29.2
			IU3a	47.3			
			IU3b	48.1			
			IU3c	46.6			
			IU3d	33.6			
			IU3e	25.9			

(Source: Punyawardena *et al.* 2003, Agro-ecological Region Map)



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

Table 2: Agro-ecological region wise expected rainfall values for **March**

Dry Zone (mm)		Intermediate Zone (mm)		Wet Zone (mm)	
AER	Mar	AER	Mar	AER	Mar
DL1a	77.7	IL1a	29.4	WL1a	110.8
DL1b	26.0	IL1b	34.2	WL1b	65.6
DL1c	21.3	IL1c	77.0	WL2a	86.2
DL1d	3.4	IL2	47.9	WL2b	58.0
DL1e	4.6	IL3	19.3	WL3	47.3
DL1f	12.3	IM1a	58.9	WM1a	119.2
DL2a	26.6	IM1b	55.4	WM1b	141.9
DL2b	30.2	IM1c	46.6	WM2a	46.3
DL3	10.3	IM2a	95.0	WM 2b	57.2
DL4	8.5	IM2b	83.0	WM3a	53.4
DL5	28.6	IM3a	36.9	WM3b	33.3
		IM3b	30.0	WU1	88.7
		IM3c	43.8	WU2a	54.6
		IU1	64.9	WU2b	76.2
		IU2	56.6	WU3	54.5
		IU3a	123.0		
		IU3b	100.3		
		IU3c	66.1		
		IU3d	44.6		
		IU3e	55.0		

(Source: Punyawardena *et al.* 2003, Agro-ecological Region Map)



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

Table 3: Agro-ecological region wise expected rainfall values for **April**

Dry Zone (mm)		Intermediate Zone (mm)		Wet Zone (mm)	
AER	Apr	AER	Apr	AER	Apr
DL1a	150.9	IL1a	123.4	WL1a	250.2
DL1b	87.7	IL1b	98.1	WL1b	184.5
DL1c	57.0	IL1c	113.2	WL2a	161.3
DL1d	15.6	IL2	84.0	WL2b	195.4
DL1e	38.0	IL3	113.5	WL3	146.9
DL1f	72.3	IM1a	119.8	WM1a	236.4
DL2a	45.6	IM1b	108.1	WM1b	229.7
DL2b	26.1	IM1c	91.1	WM2a	179.7
DL3	43.3	IM2a	175.4	WM 2b	167.3
DL4	41.8	IM2b	158.7	WM3a	162.6
DL5	51.7	IM3a	98.4	WM3b	118.8
		IM3b	106.5	WU1	189.8
		IM3c	92.9	WU2a	161.3
		IU1	125.6	WU2b	184.5
		IU2	123.4	WU3	123.0
		IU3a	250.4		
		IU3b	197.5		
		IU3c	144.4		
		IU3d	100.3		
		IU3e	99.9		

(Source: Punyawardena *et al.* 2003, Agro-ecological Region Map)



NATIONAL AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY BULLETIN

Table 4: Summary of daily water levels & storage of major reservoirs (06.02.2022)

NO	RANGE	NO OF TANKS	STORAGE (Acft)				
			GROSS	DEAD	PRESENT	EFFECTIVE	
						Acft.	%
1	Ampara	9	1,052,277	16,259	491,208	474,949	46%
2	Anuradapura	10	555,567	27,583	489,875	462,292	88%
3	Badulla	7	78,368	4,138	60,266	56,128	76%
4	Batticaloa	4	140,120	1,085	131,347	130,262	94%
5	Hambantota	10	378,069	34,172	227,239	193,067	56%
6	Galle	2	3,160	-	2,817	2,817	89%
7	Kandy	3	28,450	386	24,094	23,708	84%
8	Kurunegala	10	142,381	5,670	91,557	85,887	63%
9	Monaragala	3	44,900	2,640	34,584	31,944	76%
10	Polonnaruwa	4	351,802	24,300	291,713	267,413	82%
11	Puttalam	2	74,233	8,400	51,633	43,233	66%
12	Trincomalee	5	189,571	2,555	144,787	142,232	76%
13	Mannar	4	67,924	675	51,421	50,746	75%
	Total	73	3,106,822	127,863	2,092,539	1,964,676	66%

(Source: Water Management)

