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No SF-2024-02-R

## Seasonal, Monthly and weekly Rainfall Forecasts for February-April 2024

Issued on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 by Seasonal forecasting Division of the Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka.

This consensus Climate Outlook for February to April 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. Prevailing El Niño is expected to continue for the next several months, with ENSO-neutral favoured during April-June 2024 (73% chance). Model forecasts and observations suggest the positive IOD is near its end, with the majority indicating the IOD index will fall below +0.4 °C in the coming weeks. 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 February–April 2024(FMA)

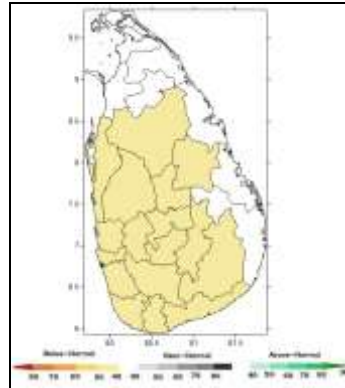


Fig 1.Consensus Probabilistic Monthly rainfall forecast for FMA 2024

Below normal rainfalls are likely over most parts of the country except Northern and Eastern provinces, where there is equal probability for below or near or above normal rainfalls (climatological probability) during the season of February to April 2024 as a whole (Fig.01).

## Monthly Rainfall Forecasts for February, March and April 2024

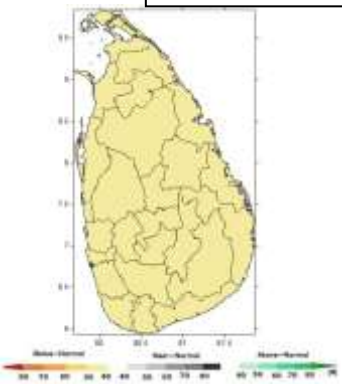

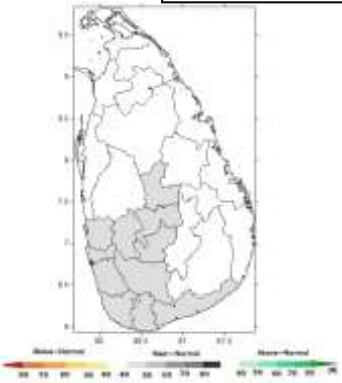
Month	Rainfall forecast
<b>February 2024</b> 	<p>There is a higher chance of having below normal rainfall over most parts of the country during the month of February 2024.</p> <p>However, there is some possibility for developing wave type disturbances over and vicinity of Sri Lanka which could be enhanced the rainfall over Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Further, ground frost during early morning hours in Nuwara Eliya district are also likely during the month of February.</p>
<b>March 2024</b> 	<p>Below normal rainfall are likely over most parts of the country during the month of March 2024.</p>
<b>April 2024</b> 	<p>There is a possibility of having near normal rainfall over western, Southern, Central and Sabaragamuwa provinces and there no signal for remaining areas of the country where having equal probability for below or near or above or during the month of April 2024.</p>

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


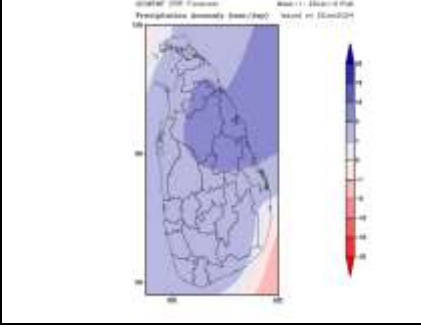
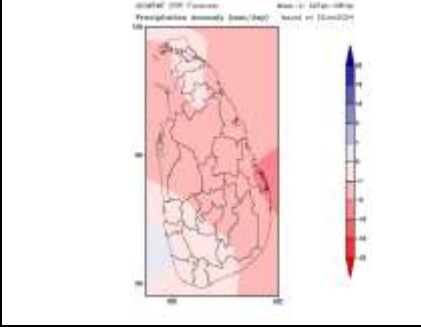
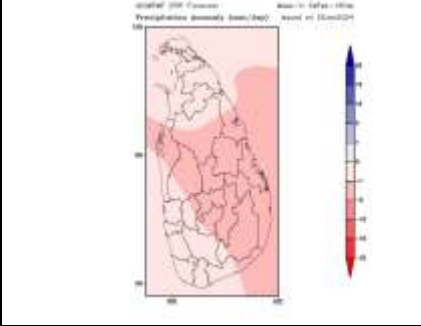
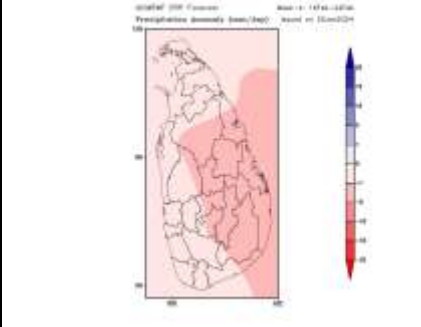
Weekly Rainfall anomaly Source – NCMRWF Updated on 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024		
26 Jan-01 Feb 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Above normal rainfalls are likely over most of the parts of the country during the week.</li> </ul>
02-08 Feb 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below normal rainfalls are likely over the country.</li> </ul>
09-15 Feb 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below normal rainfalls are likely over most parts of the country.</li> </ul>
16-22 Feb 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Below normal rainfalls are likely over most parts of the country.</li> </ul>

Fig 3.Weekly rainfall forecast for February 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, wavy type disturbances are possible over vicinity of Sri Lanka during the month of February.
- Floods and Landslides are also possible.

## Annex-1

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

#### February, March and April

<b>District</b>	<b>Average rainfall- February (mm)</b>	<b>Average rainfall- March (mm)</b>	<b>Average rainfall- April(mm)</b>
Colombo	86.4	135.2	273.8
Kalutara	114.5	178.7	333.4
Galle	109.2	166.6	291.3
Matara	109.4	146.0	231.8
Hambantota	54.8	73.5	109.3
Ampara	113.3	72.6	85.9
Batticaloa	115.0	64.2	64.8
Trincomalee	72.7	53.3	65.4
Mullaithivu	60.8	39.2	69.2
Jaffna	35.7	23.3	46.0
Killinochchi	51.0	30.0	64.2
Mannar	51.1	47.3	110.1
Puttalam	42.0	64.7	150.6
Gampaha	67.7	118.4	234.7
Kegalle	87.0	171.7	334.0
Ratnapura	121.9	203.1	323.3
Monaragala	83.9	101.0	149.4
Badulla	116.4	122.8	193.4
Pollonnaruwa	97.1	69.5	101.4
Vavuniya	54.3	44.5	96.8
Anuradapura	58.0	61.4	126.3
Kurunegala	50.0	90.3	197.1
Matale	115.7	97.4	167.2
Kandy	93.6	107.0	193.1
Nuwaraeliya	87.5	121.4	221.6

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

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