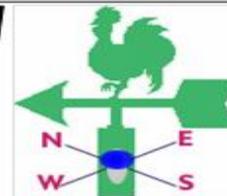




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 19

2005/06 Cropping Season

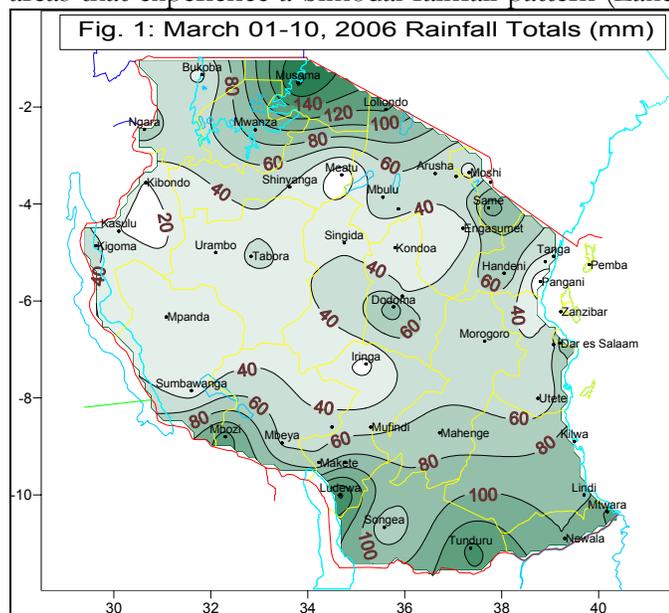
March 01 - 10, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 01–10th March, the Azores and Siberian anticyclones weakened slowly at the beginning of the dekad thus allowing the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to shift from 5°S to be near 0° (Equator). The Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones intensified during the period. Tropical cyclones over the south western Indian Ocean continued to fill up thus reducing the strength of the pull of the air mass from the Congo forest. The zonal and meridional components of the ITCZ were active over 0°C (Equator) hence changing the direction of wind flow pattern from northeasterly to easterly becoming easterly to southeasterly over the region.

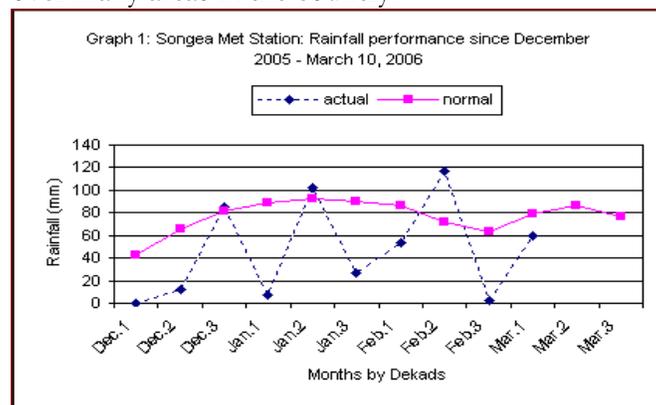
RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, rainfall activities improved over areas that experience a bimodal rainfall pattern (Lake



Victoria basin and northeastern highlands) where the

highest rainfall recorded for the dekad was 185 mm over Musoma town in Mara region. In the unimodal rainfall areas, activities decreased over most areas of the western, parts of central, Shinyanga and northern Iringa regions, where rainfall totals were less than 40 mm (Fig. 1). Rainfall distribution was generally poor over many areas in the country.



Graph 1 compares dekad rainfall for the current season to the long-term mean (normal) for the period from first dekad of December to-date at Songea Meteorological station, which has observed below normal rainfall since December 2005.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Notable soil moisture replenishment that was observed during the dekad improved crop field activities over most of bimodal rainfall areas and crop conditions for the unimodal rainfall areas. Crop condition as reported over western areas of the country (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora (west) regions) was generally good and at between earing and wax ripeness stages, while over the southwestern highlands, maize crop was between vegetative and earing stages in good state. Over the southern coast, Newala district in Mtwara and Lindi region maize was in moderate state. Land preparations and planting for

the second crop (*Masika*) were reported during the dekad over some areas of the bimodal rainfall sector. Pastures and water for livestock/wildlife indicated some improvement during the dekad.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams remain generally low during the period. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental

Warm/hot conditions and high evaporation rates were experienced in many parts of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH 11 – 20, 2006

The position of the ITCZ is expected to remain along the Equator for the entire period. The southern hemisphere systems, the Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones are expected to intensify thus squeezing the zonal and meridional components of the ITCZ northwards. Westerly wind flow from the Congo basin and easterlies from the western Indian Ocean will continue to dominate the low level moisture convergence over western, central, southern and parts of northern coast Tanzania and hence leading to rainfall activities over most areas.

The Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere are expected to continue relaxing and hence allowing the movement (shift) of the ITCZ from south to north. During the period, there will be a slight development of the easterly wave over the northern coastal areas and northeastern highlands.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 11 – 20, 2006

Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Coast and Tanga regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms at times and sunny intervals. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) and central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods. The Lake Victoria basin, (Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions) will experience partly to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods. Southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Rukwa and parts of southern Iringa and Ruvuma regions) will feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions at times with showers and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods.

Prepared by

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