

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 34

2005/06 Cropping Season

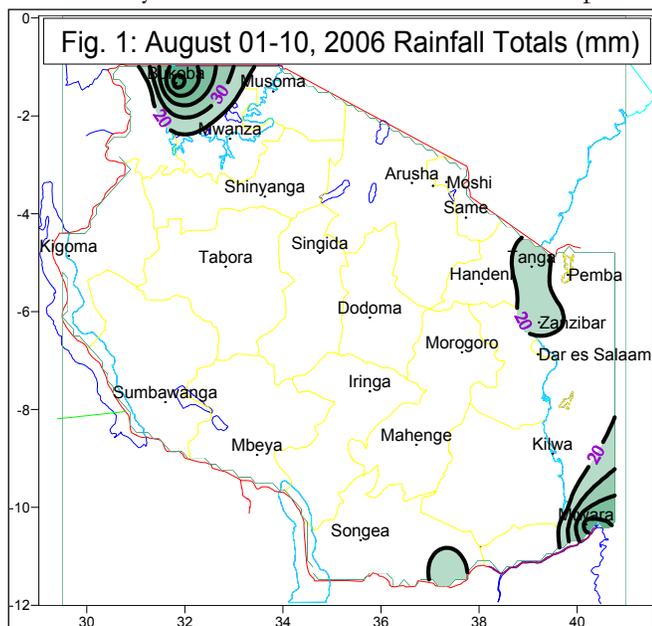
August 01 - 10, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 01 - 10 the Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere were generally weak while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge over the southern hemisphere were intense although regularly passage of the frontal systems over the tip of South Africa continued to weaken the Mascarene high pressure cell over the west. The near equatorial trough was deep and active over north-eastern towards the end of the dekad. A northerly wind flow across Lake Victoria basin and westerly flow from the Congo basin converged over the Lake Victoria Basin. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S becoming southwesterly (SW) flow north of 5°S over the East Africa and Somalia coast persisted throughout the dekad.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Seasonal dry weather conditions continued to persist



over most parts of the country during the dekad. A few localized areas over parts of the Lake Victoria basin, northern and southern coast including Zanzibar and Pemba Islands recorded some occasions of light showers. The highest rainfall amount was reported over Bukoba airport (66.3) mm followed by Mtwara airport (54.6) as indicated in Figure 1.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

During the dekad, harvesting of maize over higher altitude areas of unimodal rainfall regime continued as reported from the districts of Mufindi, Makete and Ludewa (in Iringa) region. On the other hand, over Njombe district in the same region, but at a much higher altitude, maize has reached the full ripeness stage and was reported to be in good state.

Over bimodal rainfall areas, farmers were finalizing harvesting of maize, sorghum/millet and paddy except for a few areas in the districts of Loliondo, Babati and Mbulu (in Manyara). Harvesting activities of late planted crops continued over Rombo district (in Kilimanjaro - low zone area), Pangani district (Tanga region) and parts of Arusha region.

Cassava in good state across the country was progressing well at various growth stages.

Relatively higher prospects for the 2006 *Masika* crop are expected over bimodal rainfall regime, than the previous same season.

Pasture and water for livestock/wildlife generally maintained a satisfactory level across the country.

Hydrometeorological

Given the low humidity and prevailing winds, evaporation rates will remain high, leading to further reduction in water levels in rivers, lakes and dams. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental

Nights and mornings are chilly due to prevailing low temperatures and windy conditions. In high altitude areas where temperatures are low, charcoal stoves should be used cautiously to heat up homes to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING AUGUST 11 – 20, 2006

The Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere will continue to weaken while over the southern hemisphere the St. Helena, Mascarene anticyclone and the East African ridge are expected to remain intense and strong although passage of the frontal systems over the tip of south Africa will weaken the strength of the St. Helen and Mascarene Anticyclone over the southern hemisphere continue and cause the near equatorial trough over the north-eastern sector of Tanzania to deepen and extends further inland over the coastal areas. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S becoming southwesterly monsoon (SW) flow north of 5°S on reaching the East African coast and Somalia will persist.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING AUGUST 11 – 20, 2006

The Lake Victoria basin, mainly over Kagera and Mara regions will experience partly cloudy conditions with showers and thundershowers and sunny periods. Western (Kigoma and Tabora) and including central parts of the country will feature partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods. Coastal areas and the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with occasions of morning rains over few areas and sunny periods. Southern regions, southwestern highlands and central areas will feature partly cloudy conditions with cold nights and mornings and sunny periods in the afternoons. Northeastern highlands will feature cold nights and morning light rains over few areas and sunny periods mainly over high ground.

Prepared by

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