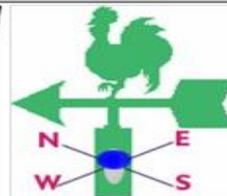




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 8

2006/07 Cropping Season

November 11-20, 2006

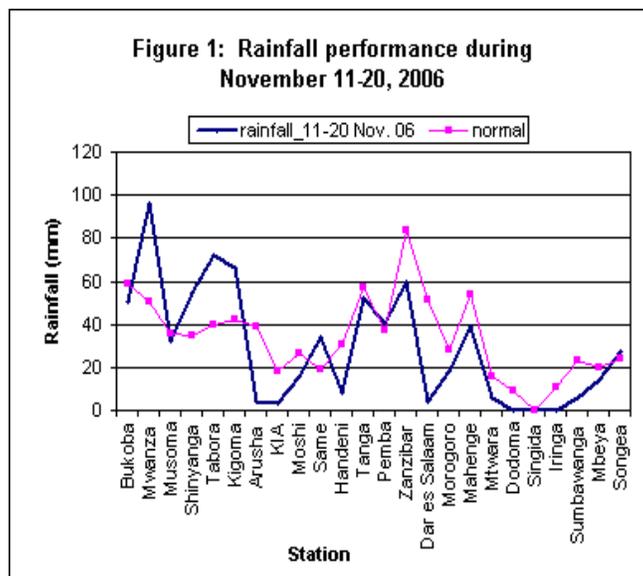
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 11 – 20th November, the near equatorial trough was still very active over the northern part of Tanzania and coastal areas of Kenya thus contributed into showers over most areas. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow becoming easterly component at upper levels on reaching the East African coast had maintained its direction especially contributing to rainfall activities over northern coast, northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin. The St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African overland ridge over the southern hemisphere relaxed. The Arabian ridge that emerge from the Siberian anticyclone and the Azores anticyclone intensified thus pushing the Meridional and Zonal components of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) southward thus making the active zone to be northern coast, north eastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin and the western areas.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period 11th–20th November, rainfall activities continued over a greater part of the country particularly in the bimodal pattern sector where the season had started in October. Rainfall activities were also reported over the unimodal rainfall regime areas giving good prospects of early onset of seasonal rains (*Mvua za Mwaka*) this year. Over much of the country, most of the stations observed below normal rainfall except for a few stations (Mwanza, Shinyanga, Tabora and Kigoma) as shown in Figure 1. The highest amount of rainfall was obtained at Mwanza 96.2 mm and followed by Tabora 72.2 mm, Kigoma 66.5 mm, Zanzibar 59.8 mm, Shinyanga 54.3 mm and Tanga 52.3 mm. dry conditions continued to be experienced for the period over Iringa region in the

southwestern highlands and central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions).



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Soil moisture status during the dekad continued to improve as observed over much of the country, particularly the bimodal rainfall pattern (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern and coastal belt). Several parts over unimodal rainfall pattern (western, southern, southwestern highlands, and southern coast) also experienced favorable soil moisture levels that encouraged farmers in these areas to start planting. In so doing the number of field activities being carried out for the period increased but were ranging from planting to weeding, dominating across the country. Good state of field crops was generally reported following improved soil moisture conditions. The rains are expected to boost water supplies and pasture for livestock/wildlife except in most parts.

Hydrometeorological

Vuli rains in the northern sector have boosted water levels in rivers, lakes and dams whereas minimal levels dominated over central and southwestern areas.

Environmental

Temperatures are warm and comfortable, with less windy conditions over some areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING NOVEMBER 21 – 30, 2006

The near equatorial trough will continue to be active over the northern coast sector. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow becoming easterly flow south of the Equator becoming easterly at upper levels and reaching the East African coast will persist allowing some moisture fetch from the Ocean which will be enhanced by the Zonal trough from the Ocean. The Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere are expected to continue intensifying thus pushing down the meridional and Zonal arms of the ITCZ southward.

The southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge are expected to relax due to the extra tropical frontal systems. Generally there is a squeeze of the ITCZ line of convergence from the north, southward thus leading to active weather in the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 21 – 30, 2006

Northern coast (Tanga, Dar es Salaam and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) will continue to feature cloudy conditions with showers over most areas and isolated thunderstorms and sunny intervals. Lake Victoria basin and western areas (Kigoma region) will continue to experience cloudy conditions with thundershowers over most areas and sunny intervals. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) will feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions at times with showers of rains mainly over high grounds and sunny periods. Southern, southwestern and central regions are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with occasional light thundershowers towards the end of the dekad and sunny periods.