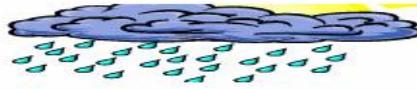




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

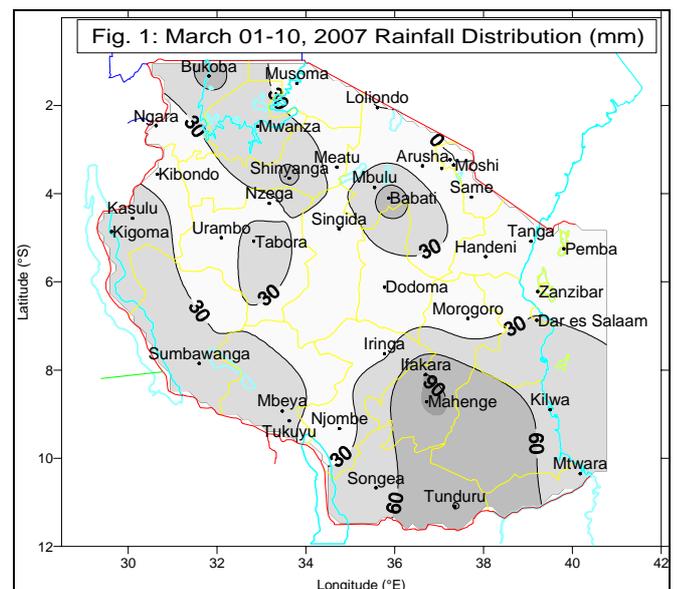
No. 19 2006/07 Cropping Season

March 01-10, 2007

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 1st to 10th March, the northern hemisphere systems, the Azores and Arabian anticyclones were strong, maintaining the position of the ITCZ to the south. The southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge were relaxed and allowed the position of the zonal arm of ITCZ to be located within latitude 10^o and 15^o south. The northeasterly and southeasterly wind flows in the low levels dominated over northern coast, and northeastern highlands. The northwesterly and southeasterly flows in the low levels were dominant over southern areas. The anti-cyclonic flow seated over the northwestern Indian Ocean relaxed, hence allowed southeasterly wind flow to penetrate up to the northeastern highlands.

indicating transition period before the start of long rains 'Masika' which starts normally during March.



RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, little rainfall activities were reported over much of the country except for some pockets over southern and Lake Victoria basin where reported rainfall amounts were greater than 60 mm, as shown in Figure 1. Mahenge, Ifakara and Tunduru in the southern sector of the country recorded the highest 10-day rainfall amounts of about 90 mm. Except for a few pockets over unimodal rainfall regime of the southwestern, central and western areas where seasonal rains continued, the observed rainfall indicated early onset of long rains season (*Masika*) over areas with a bimodal rainfall pattern, mainly the Lake Victoria basin. While dry spell conditions dominated over central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and parts of western areas, the observed little amounts (10 - day rainfall \leq 30 mm) was quite normal over bimodal areas for this time of year

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Several parts of the country still observed moderate supply of soil moisture levels during the dekad. The situation favored crops mainly over the unimodal areas where crops especially maize was between advanced vegetative and blister growth stages while second planted beans crop was at early vegetative growth stage as reported in Kasulu district. Over bimodal rainfall areas there were only pockets of adequate soil moisture supply in Lake Victoria basin (parts of Kagera, Mwanza and Shinyanga regions) and Manyara region (Babati and Mbulu districts) while over the remaining parts of these areas decreasing soil moisture status was suitable for the continued field activities mainly land preparations. Paddy and cassava were at various growth stages, and in good state.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock were very good across the country.

Hydrometeorological

Rains have boosted water levels in rivers, lakes and dams over the south of the country and eased off the acute load shedding experienced in the country during the second half of 2006.

Environmental

Coastal areas were hot and humid. The rest of the country experienced warm temperatures and comfortable conditions with less windy conditions over some areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH 11 – 20, 2007

During this dekad a series of tropical storms may develop, which will influence rainfall activities over the country. The anti-cyclonic flow over the northwestern Indian Ocean will relax, allowing zonal arm of the ITCZ to shift northwards.

The northwesterly and southeasterly winds will dominate over the entire country, leading to increase of rainfall over most areas. The Siberian and Azores anticyclones together with Arabian ridge over the northern hemisphere will weaken, allowing northward shift of the position of zonal arm of the ITCZ. The St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge over the southern hemisphere will intensify. The country is expected to experience rainfall increase.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 11 – 20, 2007

Southern region and southern coast, and southwestern and northeastern highlands will feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundershowers over few areas and sunny periods. Western, central, Lake Victoria basin, and northern coast including Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to experience cloudy conditions with thundershowers over some areas and sunny intervals.

Prepared by
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