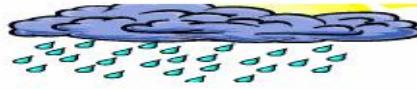




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 25 2006/07 Cropping Season

May 1-10, 2007

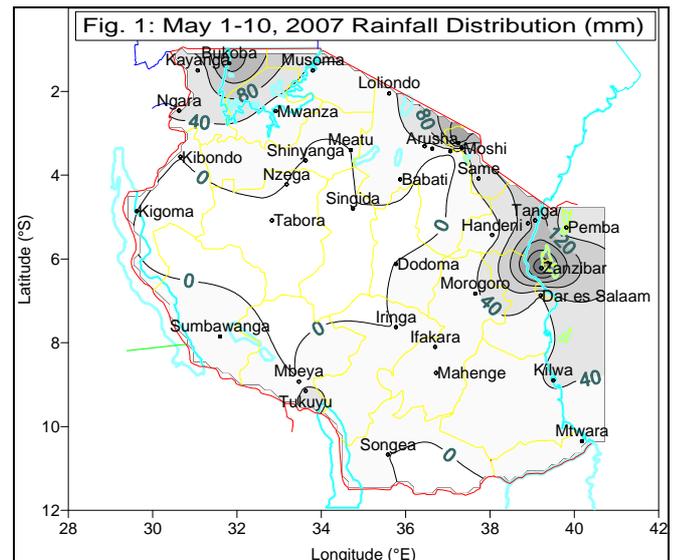
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 1st to 10th May, the Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were relaxed. In the southern hemisphere, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones as well as the East African ridge intensified. The relaxation of the anticyclones in the northern hemisphere and the intensification of the anticyclones in the southern hemisphere allowed the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move further north. A confluent flow of two air masses, the maritime sub-tropical and maritime tropical along the coast (mainly northern coast) was observed at the very beginning of the dekad. Sea surface temperatures over west of Indian Ocean, along Tanzanian coast were relatively cool. A southeasterly flow dominated throughout the dekad with southerlies at times.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Figure 1 shows that during the first dekad of May 2007 rainfall activities decreased over most parts of the country, except for a few areas with bimodal rainfall pattern; the northern coast, northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin where the reported 10-day rainfall amounts exceeded 40 mm. Ten-day rainfall exceeding 200 mm was recorded at Zanzibar (296 mm) and Lyamungo (218 mm).

Rainfall decreased markedly over most of unimodal rainfall pattern (the central, western, southwestern highlands and southern) areas following normal cessation of seasonal rains in those areas as indicated in Fig. 1. Much of the central, western and parts of southern sectors were generally dry with little or no rainfall at all.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

During the period, declined soil moisture levels continued to be recorded over unimodal rainfall areas while over bimodal areas there were pockets of deficiencies.

The low soil moistures supplies over unimodal areas were conducive to field drying of mature crops in the areas.

Over the bimodal areas favorable soil moisture levels were recorded over Lake Victoria Basin and a few parts of northeastern highlands and northern coast. Maize crop over those areas ranged from the late vegetative to tasselling stages and in moderate growth condition.

Reports from localized areas especially in Same and Muheza districts, stunted maize crop has been observed mainly because of late onset of long rains (*Masika*) and at times occurrence of dry spell conditions.

Overall, maize crop was in moderate state while paddy generally grown over low lying fields was progressing well.

As for cassava crop reported across the country at various growth stages was in good state.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife continued to be adequate across the country.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams are good over much of the country.

Environmental

The country experienced generally warm temperatures and comfortable conditions.

However, at various intervals these anticyclones are expected to weaken and allowing extra tropical depressions to dominate, thus affecting mostly northern coast and northeastern highlands adjacent to Tanzania coast. This coupled with increase of moisture which is expected over the northeastern highlands. A weak Lake trough in conjunction with advection of moisture due to southeasterly to easterly flow is also expected to trigger activities over the Lake zone. The position of zonal arm of ITCZ is expected to be pushed further north while the meridional component of the ITCZ is expected to be located further to the west of the country

**EXPECTED WEATHER DURING
MAY 11 – 20, 2007**

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS
DURING MAY 11 – 20, 2007**

The anticyclones in the southern hemisphere are expected to intensify and their orientations suggest dominant southeasterly to easterly flow from the Indian Ocean over the coastal areas becoming southeasterly as they approach the mainland.

Relatively warm sea surface temperatures are also expected to persist along western Indian Ocean especially the northern coast.

Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature thundershowers over few areas and sunny periods. Northern coast and northeastern highlands are expected to have isolated to widespread showers and sunny periods. Southwestern highlands are expected to feature few cases of isolated showers mainly over high ground and sunny periods. Further reduction of rainfall activities is expected over southern coast, southern region, central and western areas including Shinyanga region.

Prepared by
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