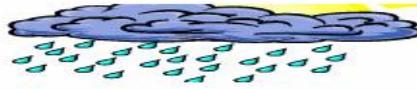




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 27 2006/07 Cropping Season

May 21-31, 2007

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

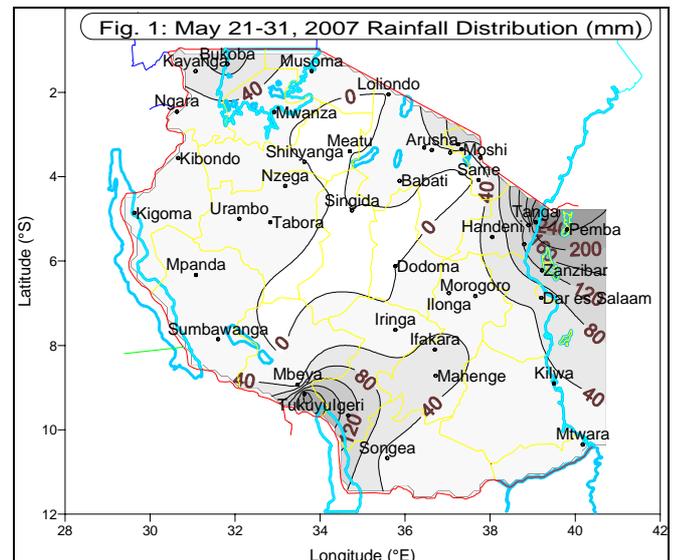
During the period 21st to 31st May, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and East African ridge intensified allowing south-easterlies to dominate over the coastal strip turning to easterlies over the inland. However, sub tropical depressions eroded anticyclone systems thus allowing the Near Equatorial Trough (NET) to be located over the northwest Indian Ocean, which enhanced rainfall activities over northern coast and northeastern highlands. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were relaxed. The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was located further north of the country. The strong southeasterly turning to easterly flow which penetrated inland was the main cause for rainfall activities over the Lake Victoria basin. The topographical effect over southwestern highlands influenced isolated light rains mainly over high grounds.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Figure 1, shows that during the third dekad of May 2007 much of the country was generally dry except for a few areas over the northern coast, northeastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin and southwestern highlands where the reported 10-day rainfall amounts exceeded 40 mm. Much of the rainfall activities were confined over few areas in the southwestern highlands mainly Tukuyu in Mbeya region, and in the northern coast including Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba where the reported ten-day rainfall exceeded 200 mm. Tanga reported the highest rainfall amount

of 326 mm followed by Tukuyu 266 mm and Pemba 246 mm.

Dry conditions persisted over unimodal rainfall regime areas; the central, western, southwestern highlands and southern regions following normal cessation of seasonal rains in those areas as indicated in Fig. 1.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

During the period soil moisture levels continued to decline over much of unimodal rainfall regime, a normal feature for this time of year when the season approaches its end. Over the bimodal regime, the soil moisture stress during the period resulted into very poor crop performance over some localized areas of Same, Simanjiro, Loliondo, and Monduli districts and lowlands of Rombo district. Soil moisture improved over some parts of the northern coast, northeastern

highlands and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, though the improvement did not help most field crops that had already been severely affected by the moisture stress caused by false start of long rains (*Masika*) coupled with poor distribution. However, the moisture was beneficial to many root crops mainly cassava and sweet potatoes at various growth stages in the northern coast.

Maize crop over bimodal areas generally ranged from tasselling to ripeness stage and in poor to moderate growth state. Over unimodal areas maize crop was at harvesting maturity with some farmers reported to have started harvesting.

Generally paddy crop was performing moderately across the country while cassava crop was observed at various growth stages and 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 cool temperatures and comfortable conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JUNE 1 – 10, 2007

During this dekad, the Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax.

The sub anticyclones and East African ridge over the southern hemisphere are expected to intensify allowing gradual intrusion of cold dry southerly winds over the country. The SSTs are also expected to cool over the western Indian Ocean, hence reducing rainfall activities over the northern coast, northeastern highlands and the Lake Victoria Basin.

However, the expected passage of frontal systems in the southern hemisphere will continue to occasionally erode the southern hemisphere anticyclones thus maintaining precipitation over some parts of northern coast, northeastern highlands during the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JUNE 1 – 10, 2007

Northern coast and northeastern highlands will feature partly cloudy conditions with rainshowers over few areas and sunny periods. Lake Victoria basin will feature partly cloudy conditions with thundershowers over few areas and sunny periods. The rest will feature partly cloudy with sunny period conditions. Further outlook will be general decrease of precipitation, low temperatures due to an intrusion of cold air from the south.