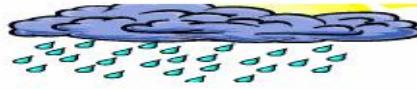




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 1 2007/08 Cropping Season

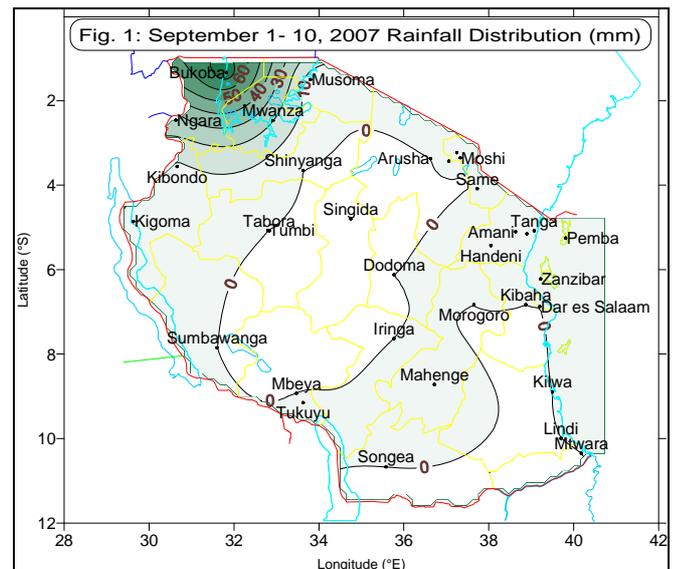
September 1-10, 2007

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 1st to 10th September, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge) were relaxed, thus influencing a southeasterly to easterly flow to the country. The medium level was mainly dominated by easterly flow. The Near Equatorial Trough (NET) observed over northwest Indian Ocean together with warm SSTs over northwest Indian Ocean influenced rainshowers over northern coast and northeastern highlands. The persistence of a weak trough over the western side of the Lake Victoria basin influenced thundery showers over the region. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones were strong enough to maintain the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the northern hemisphere.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, the country was generally dry in spite of a few occasions of light rains that were experienced over different places as indicated in Figure 1. Much of rainfall activities were reported over areas in the Lake Victoria basin. Figure 1 indicates that during the 10-day period sample stations over the western part of Lake Victoria Basin reported rainfall amounts which exceeded 20 mm, where Bukoba recorded the highest amount of 76.9 mm, followed by Ngara 26.0 mm. Other places in the basin reported rainfall of about 10 mm.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the first dekad of the month, soil moisture conditions improved slightly compared to that of the third dekad of August. Over areas with a bimodal rainfall pattern (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, and northern coast), reports indicate that farmers over western Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera region) had started land preparations for a new short rains 'vuli' crop. Improved soil moisture conditions from early rains experienced over the Lake Victoria basin and northern coast generally improved regeneration of pastures and set good conditions for land preparations for the short rains season.

The root crops (cassava and sweet potatoes) were progressing well at various growth stages, while market supply for both crops was good.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife are decreasing in supply over the northern, northeastern highlands, western, southern and central areas as the dry season progresses.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Low humidity and prevailing winds during first dekad of September will result into higher evaporation rates leading to a persistent reduction in water levels in rivers, lakes and dams. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures are improving and windy conditions. Fire hazards (wildfires in particular) are still rampant though declining due to widespread dry and windy conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING SEPTEMBER 11 – 20, 2007

During the period, the southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge are expected to relax. The southeasterly flow is expected to dominate over the entire coast. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify, hence pushing the ITCZ slightly southwards.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 11 – 20, 2007

Thundery showers are expected over the Lake Victoria basin, while the northern coast and northeastern highlands are expected to feature isolated rainshowers. Over southwestern highlands, southern, central and western areas are expected to experience dry conditions and long sunny periods.

Prepared by

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