



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



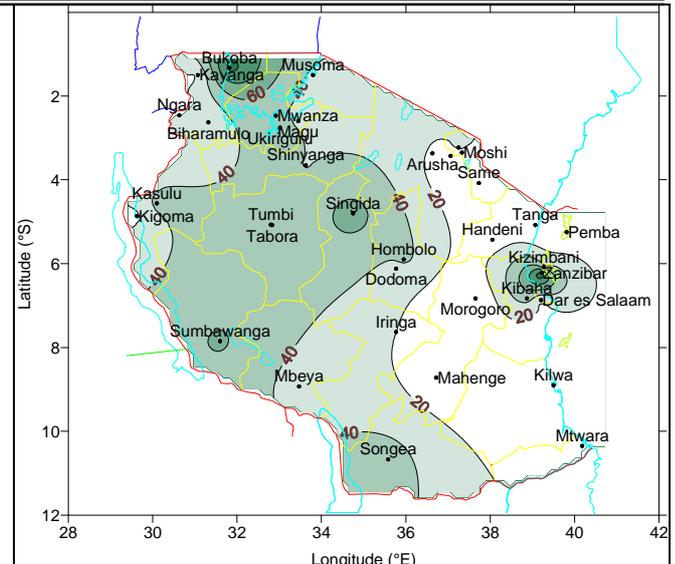
DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.8 2007/08 Cropping Season

December 1-10, 2007

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad under review, the southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge were relatively relaxed and north easterlies were dominant along the coast. The zonal arm of the Inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) was diffused, thus allowing a northeasterly flow to dominate. The meridional arm of the ITCZ was relatively active, hence increasing convective thundery showers over western parts of the country. A weak trough over the Lake Victoria basin influenced thundery showers over the basin. The Siberian and Azores anticyclones and Arabian ridge were relatively intense, pushing the ITCZ to move further south.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During December 1-10, rainfall activities increased across the western sector of country and Zanzibar Island where rainfall exceeded 40 mm as indicated in the Figure below. Zanzibar station recorded the highest rainfall amount of 122.9 mm followed by Bukoba in the Lake Victoria basin (108.6 mm), Singida in the central areas (68.4 mm), Sumbawanga and Songea in the southwestern highland (62.7 mm and 50 mm respectively). A few areas such as Tabora, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Musoma and Mbeya received rainfall between 20 mm and 50 mm. The remaining areas continued experiencing dry conditions with rainfall below 20 mm. The wet condition experienced in the unimodal areas was an indicator for a normal onset of the season over some areas in the regime.

Agrometeorological

The dekad experienced an improved supply of soil moisture across the country, which enhanced field activities carried out over both bimodal and unimodal sectors. The field activities included land preparation and weeding. Sample reports indicate that beans in Biharamulo, Muleba, Ngara, Kibondo and Kasulu districts in Kagera and Kigoma regions are between pod filling and ripeness stages and in good condition. In Monduli, Handeni, Loliondo and Simanjiro districts in northeastern highlands and northern coast farmers commenced land preparation that had been delayed due to insufficient soil moisture. In the unimodal areas land preparation and planting were the dominant field activities during the period.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country was good.

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Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife especially over central, northeastern highlands and southwestern areas are expected to start recovering from the effects of the dry season.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in lakes and dams are expected to rise and river discharges is expected to increase as a result of seasonal rainfall onset.

Environmental

Temperatures are high over most parts while humidity is particularly high over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING DECEMBER 11 – 20, 2007

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge) are expected to continue to relax. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify, hence allowing the ITCZ to move further south.

The development of tropical depressions over the central Indian Ocean may enhance rainfall activities over the country. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify, hence allowing the ITCZ to move further south.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING DECEMBER 11 – 20, 2007

The Lake Victoria basin and western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) will feature rainshowers and thunderstorms over few areas. Central, areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) will feature partly cloudy with rainshowers over some areas. Northern coast and northeastern highlands are expected to feature rainshowers with isolated thunderstorms over some areas. Southern coast, southern region and southwestern highlands will feature rainshowers with thunderstorms over few areas.

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