



# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.16 2007/08 Cropping Season

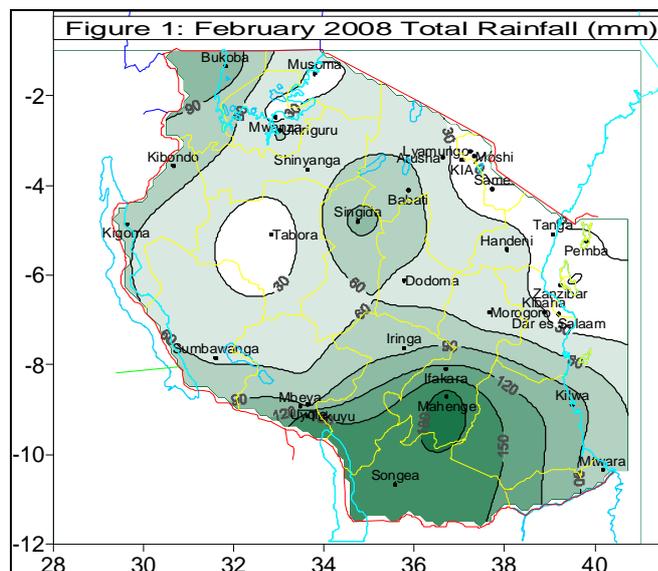
February 1-10, 2008

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad, February 1-10, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) were relaxed. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were intense and the Arabian ridge was dominant over northwestern Indian Ocean thus allowing zonal arm of the ITCZ to be more effective over southern areas and southwestern highlands.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During February 1-10, there were more rainfall activities over both rainfall pattern sectors (unimodal and bimodal) of the country except for a few areas of western parts ((Tabora region), northeastern and east of Lake Victoria where rainfall amounts for the period were below 30 mm. The rest of the country recorded higher amounts of rainfall, led by Mahenge station that recorded the highest value 190.2 mm, followed by Tukuyu 172.5 mm, Songea 170.9 mm, Ifakara 124.5 mm, Kilwa Masoko 105.0 mm, Singida 103.4 mm and Mbeya 100.0 mm. The remaining stations received rainfall amounts ranging between 80 and 30 mm as shown in Figure 1.



### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture supply during the dekad improved over most parts of the country mainly over the unimodal sector where the moisture status was conducive to young crops such as maize, beans and paddy whose status was generally good at between post emergences and knee height (for maize) as reported from southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and to advanced vegetative stage over the rest of this sector. In the bimodal regime a few areas in northeastern highlands (Longido, Monduli and Simanjiro) benefited from the persistent soil moisture

replenishment that favored young crops (maize) at emergence stage.

Soil moisture improvement was also experienced over central areas including Dodoma and Singida regions which ended a threatening dry spell where crops are in moderate state..

For the western parts of Lake Victoria basin including Biharamulo, Muleba, Karagwe and Ngara districts in Kagera region, maize crop was near ripeness and in good state while beans harvesting was coming to an end. As for northern coast (Pwani and Tanga regions) farmers were in land preparations for the long rainy (*Masika*) season which normally starts in mid March.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country continued fairly well.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife especially over central and northeastern highlands are improving.

**Hydrometeorological Summary**

Water levels in lakes and dams are rising as well as river discharges as a result of the ongoing seasonal rains over unimodal areas.

**Environmental Summary**

Temperatures were high over most parts of the country while humidity was particularly high over the coastal belt.

parts of the country. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax allowing the ITCZ to oscillate northwards.

**EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 11-20, 2008**

The Lake Victoria Basin and Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora region) are expected to receive showers and thunderstorms over few areas. Southwestern highlands, central (Dodoma and Singida), southern region (Ruvuma and Mahenge), Morogoro and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to feature isolated thunderstorms. Northern coast (mainly Dar-es-Salaam and Zanzibar) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundershowers over few areas. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, K.I.A, Moshi, Same, Lyamungo and Babati) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with rain showers over few areas.

**EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING FEBRUARY 11- 20, 2008**

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (the St.Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to relax. Over central Indian Ocean the development of tropical depression GULA propagating southwest and Ivan is advancing northwest enhancing rainfall activities over most

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