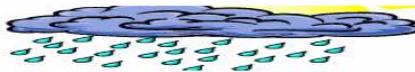




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 21 2007/08 Cropping Season

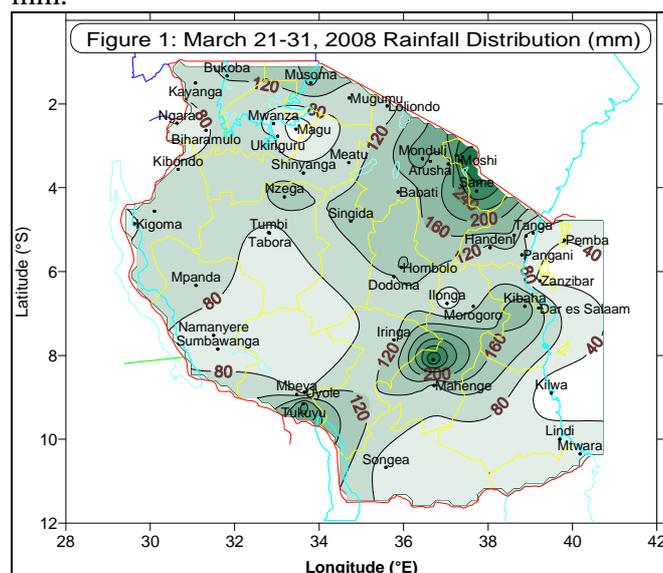
March 21-31, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During March 21 - 31, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify and extend a ridge towards the southern parts of Tanzania. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere continued to relax thus allowing the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to lie over the country. The tropical cyclone 'Lola' enhanced rainfall over bimodal rainfall areas.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During March 21-31, rainfall activities spread across the country with 10-day rainfall amounts recorded over much of the stations exceeding 80 mm.



However a little rainfall (less than 40 mm) was recorded over few areas in the coastal belt (Kilwa

district), Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, and Lake Victoria basin (Magu district) as shown in Figure 1. The highest recorded rainfall amount for the period was obtained at Ifakara station 369.6 mm, followed by Moshi 358.7 mm, Same 315.2 mm, Lyamungo 282.5 mm, Tukuyu 260.5 mm, and Monduli 244.9 mm. More than 80% of the reporting stations had more than 60 mm of rainfall.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

The dekad experienced adequate soil moisture supply; this improvement was observed over most parts of bimodal rainfall pattern with normal field activities such as planting and weeding being carried out as reported from several parts of northern coast (Coast and Tanga regions), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), and parts of Lake Victoria basin particularly Kagera region. Over Monduli, Loliondo and Magu districts in Arusha, Manyara and Mwanza regions respectively, maize, sorghum and paddy crops were between emergence and tasselling growth stages in good state except over Magu where crop condition was moderate following insufficient soil moisture. Remaining areas particularly over the unimodal patterns, cereals were between tasselling and ripeness with moderate to good state. The second planted beans crop was at early vegetative growth stage over several parts in southwestern highlands, western and Lake Victoria basin.

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

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good across the country and likely to improve over the lowlands of the northeastern highlands following the start of *Masika* rains.

Hydrometeorological Summary

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

Environmental Summary

Temperatures were moderate over most parts of the country due to increased cloud cover and wet conditions.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 1-10, 2008

Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, and Tanga regions, and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundery showers over most areas. The Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Mara regions) are expected to feature thundery showers over few areas. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions), southern region (Ruvuma region and Mahenge) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to feature isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms over few areas. Southwestern highlands, central (Dodoma and Singida regions) together with Morogoro are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundery showers over some areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2008

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to continue intensifying, whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax thus allowing both the meridional and zonal components of the ITCZ to gradually retreat northwards.

Enhanced moisture influx from the Indian Ocean is expected to continue increasing rainfall over the northern coast and northeastern highlands.

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