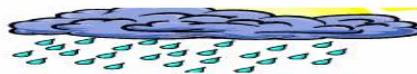




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 26 2007/08 Cropping Season

May 11-20, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During May 11 – 20, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify extending a ridge towards the northeastern parts of the country. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere relaxed and allowed both the zonal and meridional arm of the ITCZ to move further northwards over the country. Easterly to southeasterly wind flow continued to supply moisture from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas especially over the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, occasionally penetrating into the interior.

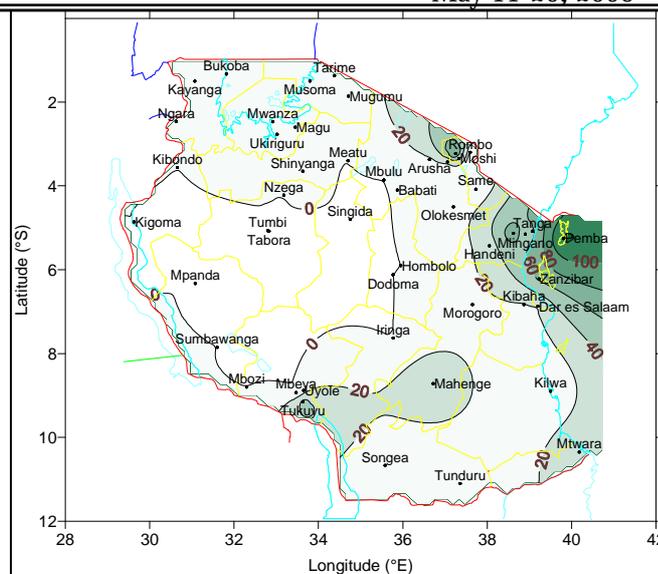


Fig. 1: May 11-20, 2008 Rainfall Distribution (mm)

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During May 11-20 rainfall was reported over few areas mainly over northern coastal belt where some stations reported 10-day rainfall amounts exceeding 60 mm as shown in Figure 1. The amount of rainfall reported over much of the country indicated a declining trend when compared with what was observed during first dekad of May. The dry conditions that were reported over the central, western and southwestern highlands are an indication of normal onset of dry season in those areas. The highest rainfall amount for the dekad was recorded at Pemba station 124.6 mm, followed by Lyamungo 93.3 mm, Marikitanda (Tanga) 75.9 mm, and Zanzibar 63.4 mm. Much of the country was generally dry (10 day rainfall not exceeding 20 mm) as indicated in Figure 1.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad soil moisture levels continued declining over most parts of the country rendering a conducive environment for further drying up of the crops (maize, paddy, and millet/sorghum) at harvesting maturity mainly over unimodal rainfall pattern (southwestern highlands, southern, western, and central regions). Crop yield in these areas is anticipated to be good. Over bimodal rainfall regime early planted crops are being harvested while the late planted maize, rice and beans were adversely affected by low soil moisture conditions as reported over Mbulu, Loliondo, and Rombo (northeastern highlands), and Ngara, Karagwe, Magu, Kwimba, and Tarime (Lake Victoria basin). In these areas crop condition was between moderate to poor, as some rain was still desirable for proper maturity to be accomplished. Poor harvests are anticipated over Magu and Kwimba districts in Mwanza region.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country continued fairly well, while pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good across the country.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams were high as well as river discharges as a result of the seasonal and long rains received over unimodal and bimodal rainfall areas respectively.

Environmental Summary

Night temperatures are falling over most parts of the country as we enter the cool/cold season.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 21-31, 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 move further northwards. Southeasterly to southerly wind flow is expected to occasionally support supply of moisture from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas especially over the islands extending to the interior at times.

However, cold air-mass from south of the continent is expected to gradually set in and bring cool to cold conditions.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 21-31, 2008

Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga and hinterlands and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with rainshowers over few areas. The Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Mara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods. However, the northern parts of Kigoma region are expected to feature isolated thunderstorms. Southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa regions) are expected to feature cold conditions, and light rains mainly over high grounds. Southern region (Ruvuma and Mahenge) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated light rains. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and long sunny periods.

Prepared by

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