



# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 7, 2008/09 Cropping Season

November 1-10, 2008

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

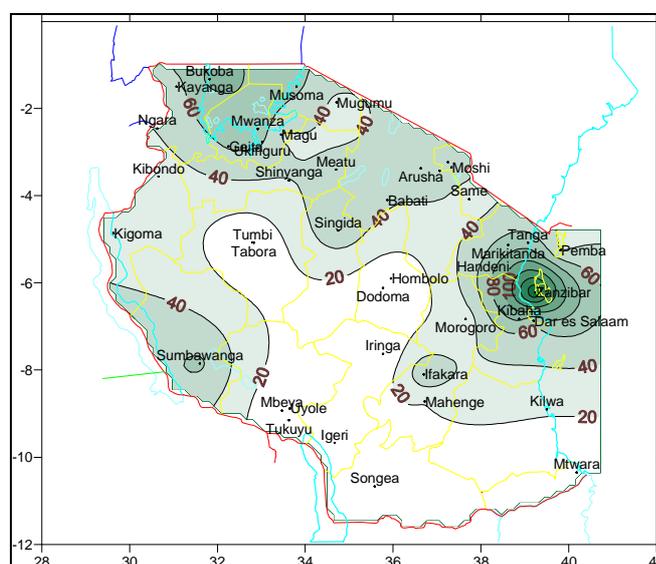
During November 1-10, 2008, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones relaxed. The above configuration contributed to southward shift of Meridional component of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) but diffused over the eastern sector of Tanzania. Sea Surface Temperatures over the Global Oceans were near neutral, however a slightly warming over the central Indian Ocean resulted into less convection over the West Indian Ocean. This situation has resulted into insufficient distribution of rainfall over the coastal areas and northeastern highlands since low level wind was deflected towards the Ocean.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, significant amounts of rainfall were reported over western parts of the Lake Victoria basin and northern coast including the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba as indicated in the Figure below. A 10-day rainfall exceeding 70 mm was reported over northern coast (Zanzibar 182.7 mm, Kibaha 83.3 mm, Tanga 72.4 mm, and Marikitanda 70 mm) and Lake Victoria basin (Bukoba 84.7 mm and Mwanza 73.5 mm). However, other parts of bimodal rainfall pattern (eastern Lake Victoria basin and northeastern highlands) experienced no or little rainfall not exceeding 40 mm for the whole dekad. This has been reported as false start in some areas and failure in the start of *Vuli* rains in those regions in bimodal regime that had not received any rainfall.

Unimodal rainfall pattern areas (central, southwestern highlands, and southern) remained seasonally dry except a few areas over southern coastal belt,

northern Singida, southern Morogoro and western (Sumbawanga) that reported off-seasonal rains as shown in the Figure.



Rainfall amounts during November 1-10, 2008

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the period most areas particularly those in the bimodal sector continued with land preparation, planting and weeding of crops mainly maize and beans following improved soil moisture conditions. Over Lake Victoria basin and northern coast maize and beans were between emergence and vegetative stages with some areas reporting maize at knee height and in good state.

However, in the northeastern highlands the planting activities did not spread much due to inadequate soil moisture that persisted until then.

Over unimodal rainfall pattern areas (central, western, southwestern highlands, southern and southern coast regions) land preparation was on going in readiness for the seasonal onset expected from the third dekad of November.

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

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife were declining over northeastern highlands and most parts of unimodal rainfall areas.

### Hydrometeorological Summary

Despite the ongoing rains over some areas of bimodal rainfall regime, water levels in lakes, and dams are falling, as well as river discharges. In view of that, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

### Environmental Summary

Temperatures are increasing and windy conditions are decreasing over much of the country.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2008

During the dekad, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to continue intensifying while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones are likely to continue weakening. The meridional component of the ITCZ is expected to be active over Rukwa region, western parts and Lake Victoria Basin supporting low level convergence over the areas. Near neutral Sea Surface Temperatures are expected to persist over the global oceans, however current warming over the central India Ocean is expected to persist. The zonal component of the ITCZ is expected to be diffused over the eastern sector of the country. The above configuration is very likely to decrease rainfall activities over the eastern sector and northeastern highlands.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin, Rukwa and Kigoma regions are expected to feature cloudy to partly cloudy conditions with thundershowers over few areas. Isolated showers are expected over the northeastern highlands, northern coast and its hinterlands, isles of Zanzibar and Pemba with a decrease trend. Central regions, southern region, southwestern highlands and southern coast areas are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods.

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