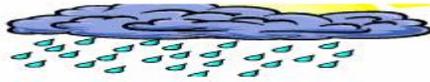




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 18, 2008/09 Cropping Season

February 21-28, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture supply enhanced growth and development of field crops over unimodal sector.
- Replanting of short term crop varieties over several parts of unimodal sector particularly (southern coast (Lindi region), eastern (Coast region) and central (Dodoma region) was carried out.
- Dry condition favored land preparation over bimodal areas

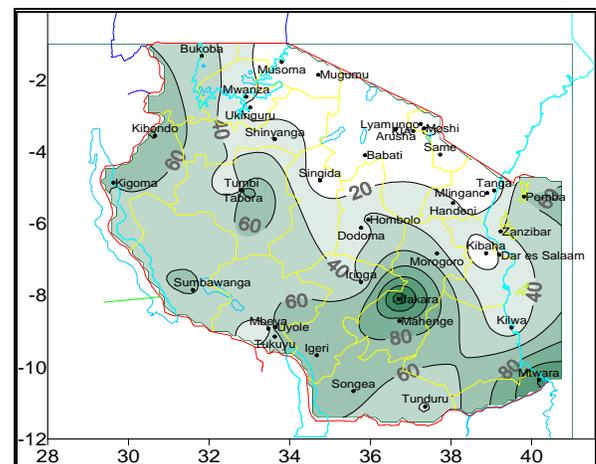
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the last dekad of February (21-28) 2009, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) remained intense while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere were relaxed. Occasional southeasterly flow over the country resulted to some rainfall activities over most parts of the country. A weak trough over the lake zone contributed to development of thundershowers mainly over the western and southwestern parts of the lake

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Most of the unimodal areas continued to be active and recorded fairly good amount of rainfall while bimodal areas and central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) had a few occasions of rainfall. The highest rainfall was recorded at Ifakara 158.0mm followed by Mtwara 122.9mm, Tabora 93.7mm, Mahenge 91.5mm, Kibondo 81.4mm, Igeri 74.6mm, Uyole 73.5mm, Songea 66.7mm, Pemba 61.4mm, Sumbawanga 61.1mm, Kigoma 61.1mm, Tukuyu 51.6mm and Bukoba 50.2mm. The rest of the stations

reported rainfall below 50 mm with some areas over the central and northeastern parts of the country receiving rainfall less than 20 mm in the dekad.



Rainfall amounts during February 21-28, 2009

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the third dekad of February soil moisture supply was adequate over much of the unimodal areas that favored crop growth and development. Crops generally maize, beans and paddy ranging from vegetative to earring stages (cereals) were in a poor to moderate states of growth as observed over some parts of central (Dodoma region) and southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions). The wilted and stunted crops in these areas

were to be replaced by short term and drought tolerant crop varieties such as millet, peas, and root crops like sweet potatoes and cassava. Over most parts of bimodal areas the observed poor soil moisture supply favored land preparation ready for long rain season to start sometime in next month.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at satisfactory level.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Seasonal rains over unimodal areas are anticipated to boost water levels in lakes and dams, and river flows in their respective catchments. However due to poor performance of *Vuli* rainfall over much of bimodal areas, levels in lakes, dams and river flows have declined; water for domestic and industrial purposes should therefore be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Higher temperature conditions over much of the coastal belt continued to cause human discomfort.

rainfall performance over the country. Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to relax slightly while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) are likely to remain weak. The ITCZ is expected to oscillate over the southern borders of the country and occasionally the low level easterly to south-easterly wind flow is likely to allow moisture influx from the Indian Ocean. Enhanced moisture is likely over the southern areas of the country spreading to the south-western highlands

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 1-10, 2009

Southwestern highlands, Southern region, Southern Coast and southern parts of Morogoro (Mahenge) are expected to experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundershowers. Western (Kigoma, western Tabora) and Lake Victoria Basin (mostly Kagera and Mwanza) are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with a few showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeastern Highlands are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy with a few occasions of light rains. Northern coast and its hinterlands, isles of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with a few outbreaks of showers.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SITUATION DURING MARCH 1-10, 2009

For the coming 10 days (01st – 10th March, 2009), the current warmer Sea Surface Temperatures over the southwest Indian

Ocean are likely to continue which could continued to support development of tropical disturbances that would influence