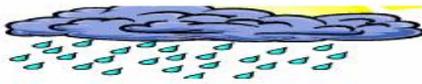




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 21, 2009/10 Cropping Season

March 21-31, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers in areas receiving long rains (*Masika*) season are busy planting and weeding over most areas.
- Most field crops over unimodal rainfall sector were approaching full ripeness and the state was generally good.
- Floods swept over Ibwera and Karonge locations in Bukoba Rural (Kagera region) causing destruction of homes and loss of property.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the third dekad of March 2010, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify while the Siberian anticyclone in the northern hemisphere relaxed thus causing the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move northwards over the southern sector of the country. Both zonal and meridional components of the ITCZ were moderately active over the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Floods were again reported during this dekad, sweeping over Ibwera and Karonge locations in Bukoba Rural (Kagera region) although the leading rainfall amounts for the period were not obtained in the region. Kibondo was leading by recording 196.7 mm, followed by Pemba and Unguja whereby each reported 192.2 mm of rain. Others were Newala 172.5 mm, Lyamungu 165.6 mm, Musoma 165.1 mm, Same 148.3 mm, Babati 146.0 mm, Ukiriguru 142.5 mm, Tabora 139.9 mm, Uyole 121.6 mm, Mtwara 120.1 mm, Kigoma 115.4 mm, Kilimanjaro 114.5 mm and Songea 102.3 mm. Remaining stations recorded rainfall amounts below 100 mm as depicted by the map in Figure 1.

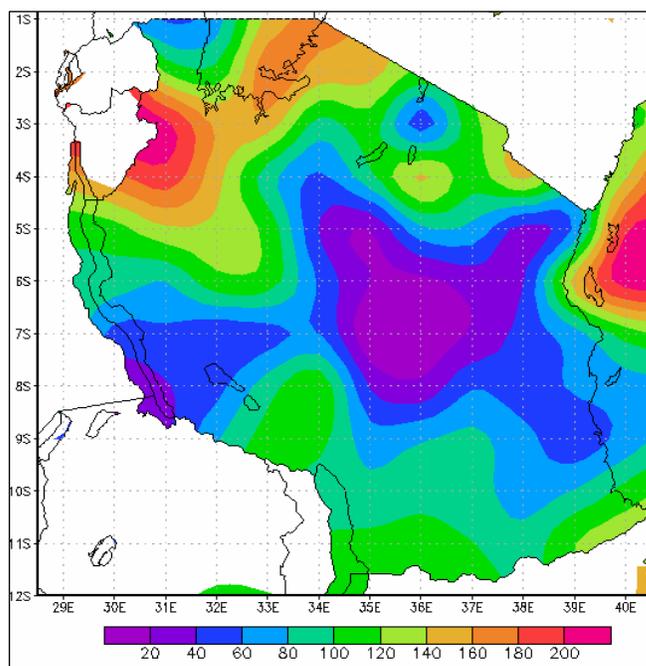


Figure 1: March 21-31, 2010 Rainfall distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and crop summary

Planting activity was progressing well mainly over lowland areas of northeastern highlands (Hai and Same districts) and northern coast (Tanga and Coast regions) where soil moisture supply from long rains season *Masika* favored the field work over these parts of bimodal, while other areas were occupied mainly by weeding of crops. Over unimodal areas most crops particularly maize, beans, paddy,

sunflower and sorghum were generally between moderate and good state at vegetative to full ripeness stages. The early planted beans mainly over higher altitudes have already been harvested and second planting phase was in progress. Paddy crop in moderate state was at between transplanting and tasseling stages, while planting of wheat mainly over parts of Mbeya region continued well. A few areas like Ismani in Iringa (north) experienced soil moisture deficits causing poor crops performance during the period. Some floods were again reported over Ibwera and Karonge locations in Bukoba rural (Kagera region) causing destruction of crops. Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well. Pasture and water availability are good and livestock conditions are normal.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

The ongoing rains over most parts of the country have maintained water levels in lakes, dams and rivers, though a few cases of river floods were observed. Water availability for human, industrial and energy generation purposes has improved.

Environmental Summary

During the dekad temperatures were generally mild with local variations of high temperatures at the beginning of the dekad causing a slight discomfort over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2010

For the coming dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to intensify significantly whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are likely to relax allowing the zonal component of the ITCZ to continue moving northwards. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to persist during the coming ten days. This configuration will allow southeasterly to easterly wind flow pattern over the eastern parts of the

country. The flow is therefore expected to enhance moisture over the eastern part of the country. This coupled with the active phase of the zonal component of ITCZ is expected to enhance rainfall activities over the area.

EXPECTED WEATHER SITUATION DURING APRIL 1-10, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions, and Kibondo district) is likely to experience normal rainfall with outbreaks of above normal at times. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience normal to above normal rainfall. Heavy rains are likely to occur at times especially over the coastal belt areas. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Most areas are expected to experience normal rainfall. Northeastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience normal to above normal rains. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall. Southern region (Ruvuma region) and part of Mahenge are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall with outbreaks of above normal at times. Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature mainly normal rainfall. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall. During the coming 10 days there is a likelihood of above normal rainfall activities over the eastern and southern parts of the country. Over northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Coast, Tanga and Islands of Unguja and Pemba), Southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) including Morogoro and Ruvuma regions there is a likelihood of enhanced rainfall. Occasionally the *Masika* rains are expected to be enhanced over northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions). The remaining areas are likely to feature normal rains with a decreasing trend.