



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 36 Cropping Seasons 2010/11

August 21-31, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry conditions continued during the period signifying normal situation for this time of the year, with marked decline of pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife.
- On the other hand the dry conditions were favorable for marketing activities of the harvested crops carried out over both sectors, unimodal and bimodal.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the third dekad of August 2011, the Northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores and, Siberian High and its associated Arabian ridge were relaxed while the Southern Hemisphere High pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarine anticyclones remained intense. Southerly to occasional Southeasterly low level wind prevailed over eastern parts of the country during the period. The configuration resulted into advection of cold air to the country. Convergences of the winds were observed over the Lake Victoria basin resulting to occasional thundershowers during the dekad. Also light rains were observed over the Northern Coast and high grounds of Northeastern highlands.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Light rains were observed during the third dekad of August 2011, (21-31) mainly over Lake basin region, southwestern highlands, northern coast and high grounds of northeastern highlands. The highest total amount of rainfall was recorded at Tukuyu 51.5mm, followed by Bukoba 45.2mm, Handeni 10.4mm, Lyamungo 5.3, Zanzibar 2.4mm, Mwanza and Pemba each recorded 1.7, Tanga 1.4mm. and Moshi 1.0mm. Other stations recorded less than 1.0mm with the rest receiving zero rainfall as shown in Figure 1 below.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Dry conditions continued during the period signifying normal situation for this time of the year, with marked decline of pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife. On the other hand, the prevailing dry conditions as currently evident over almost the whole country favored marketing activities of the seasonal harvests carried out over most parts of the country. Farmers also use this break to think of possible strategies for the coming cropping season.

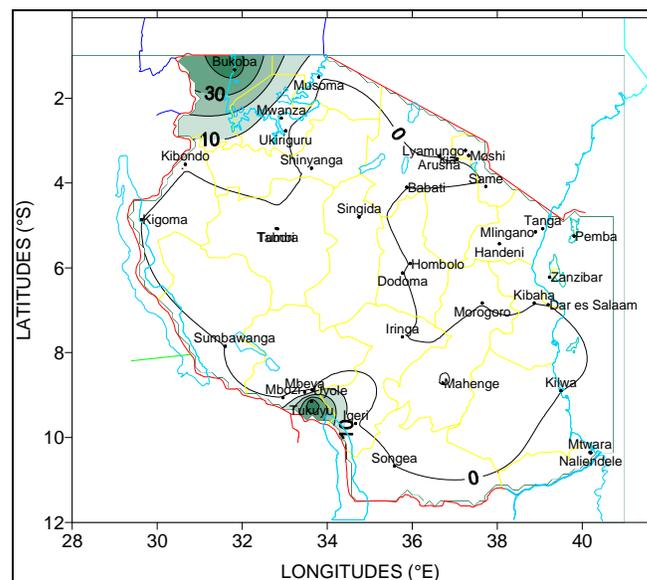


Figure 1: August 21-31, 2011 Rainfall distribution (mm)

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flows have declined. Water for domestic use, industrial use and hydro-power generation should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures over most areas in the country depicted cool to cold conditions. Dry and windy conditions coupled with low relative humidity facilitated the drying of farm produce.

North-eastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions): Mainly dry conditions and sunny periods are expected. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions): Mainly dry conditions and low temperatures during night and early morning hours are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mainly dry conditions and long sunny periods. Central Region (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions and low temperatures during night and early morning hours.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2011

The Southern Hemisphere Systems, St Helena and the Mascarene high pressure cells are expected to remain intense, with occasional relaxation during this dekad. The Northern Hemisphere systems, Azores and Siberian High are expected to continue relaxing. Slightly warm SSTs are expected to persist over Southwestern Indian Ocean and over western Indian Ocean. This configuration is likely to contribute to gradual advection of cold air from the south to the Sothern and coastal part of Tanzania.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2011

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions): Occasional showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected over, Kagera, Mwanza and Mara regions. While Shinyanga region is expected to experience mainly dry conditions with few cases of thunderstorms. Western region (Tabora and Kigoma regions): Mainly dry conditions are expected. Northern Coast and its hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions, Isles of Unguja and Pemba Islands): Partly cloudy conditions, light rains and sunny periods are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Partly cloudy conditions, light rains and sunny periods over few areas are expected.