

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 2 2005/06 Cropping Season

September 11 – 20, 2005

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

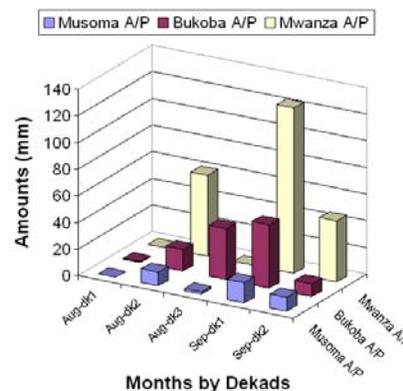
During the dekad 11-20th September, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Arabian highs) were weak. This led to the northward shift of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). In the southern hemisphere, the St. Helena Anticyclone remained weak, while Mascarene anticyclone and the East African ridge were intense. The near equatorial trough was less active over the northeastern coast and the cold and less moist southeasterly winds were evident.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, the only useful rainfall recorded was over the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB)

over Bukoba to 94.2 mm over Nansio (Ukerewe district) (Figure 1). Rainfall activity was generally concentrated over Mwanza region as was during the first dekad of September. Onset of the short rains (*vuli*) for 2005 was generally from the second dekad of August over the Lake Victoria Basin as seen in Graph 1. But since then performance of rainfall over the area during the period in question, indicates a decrease as compared with the previous dekad.

Graph: 10-Day rainfall (1st August - September 20th)



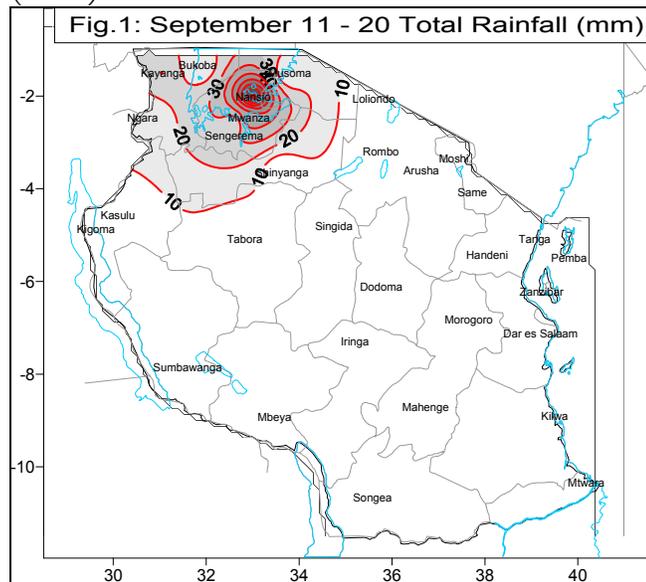
The rest of the country observed the seasonal dry conditions.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Showers experienced over the LVB generally improved soil moisture conditions for field crops such as bananas and coffee, and were also beneficial to the ongoing land preparations and planting of *vuli* crops in those areas, which experienced early *vuli* rains. During the second dekad of September

Fig.1: September 11 - 20 Total Rainfall (mm)



with rainfall amounts ranging between 10 mm

planting of beans and maize continued in Karagwe, Bukoba and Ukerewe districts while in Mara region and Ngara, Biharamulo, Sengerema, and Muleba districts farmers were still on land preparation. Over the unimodal rainfall regime (Central, southwestern highlands and southern regions) the persistent dry conditions continued, deterioration of quality and supply of pastures were eminent.

Hydrometeorological

Low water levels in rivers and lakes were experienced during the period.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING THIRD DEKAD (21 - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2005)

The Arabian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify. Over the southern hemisphere the St. Helena anticyclone is expected to intensify while the Mascarene anticyclone and the East African ridge are expected to relax.

This will lead to the southward shift of ITCZ and southeasterly to easterly flow of wind and enhancement of moisture influx from the Indian Ocean.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING THIRD DEKAD (21 – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2005)

The Coastal Belt is expected to feature cloudy conditions with rains over few areas and sunny intervals. The LVB and western areas particularly Kigoma region will experience partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over isolated areas and sunny periods. The northeastern highlands will feature partly cloudy conditions with light rains over some areas and sunny periods. The remaining parts of the country will continue to experience partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods.

Prepared by

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