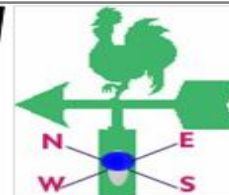




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 7

2005/06 Cropping Season

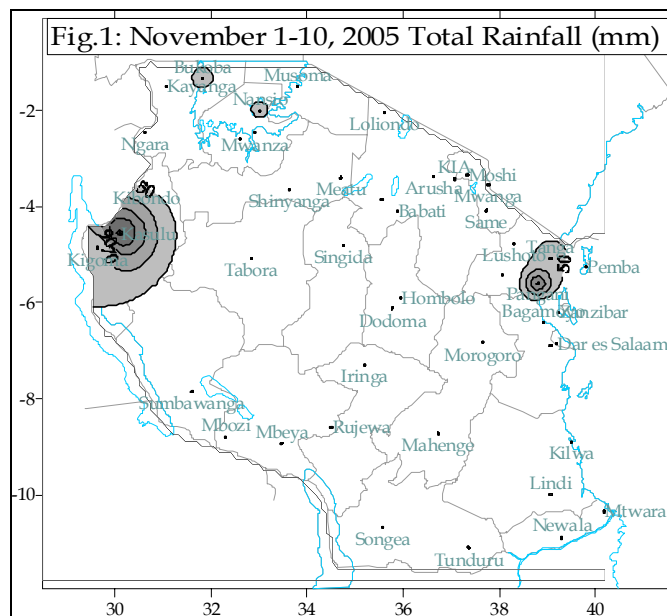
November 01 - 10, 2005

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

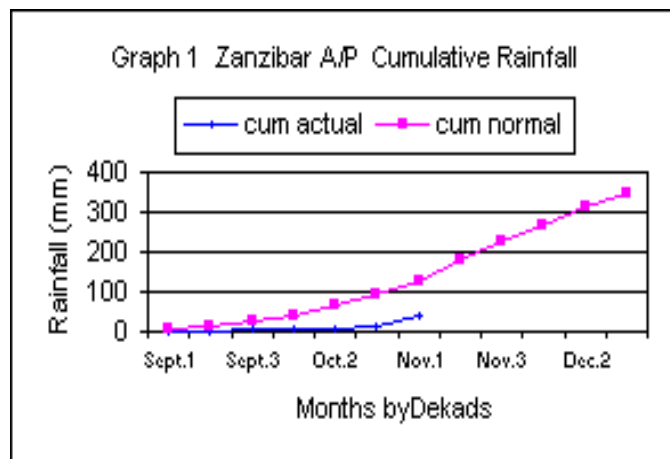
Azores and Arabian anticyclones were relatively strong during the beginning of the first dekad (1<sup>st</sup> –10<sup>th</sup> November) then weakened slightly towards the end of the dekad. On the other hand, St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones together with the East African ridge were strong although the passage of frontal systems over the southern tip of Africa contributed to a slight weakening of the Mascarene anticyclone and East African ridge during the beginning of the dekad. The convergence of weak westerly wind flow from the Congo basin and northerlies flow across the lake Victoria over western part of the country contributed to enhanced rainfall observed over Bukoba, Mwanza, Musoma, Kigoma and Tabora. Weak southeasterly wind flows and strong cold southerlies from the mid-latitudes veering to the Indian Ocean on reaching the southern coast were evident during the dekad, hence low-level diffluent pattern became apparent over the northern coast.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, short rains (*vuli*) continued over parts of Lake Victoria Basin (LVB), northeastern highlands, northern coastal belt and Kigoma. However only a few areas of Kigoma and Tanga regions experienced rainfall of more than 50 mm/dekad (Fig. 1). The highest amount of rainfall reported during the dekad was 132.3 mm over Kasulu district in Kigoma region. *Vuli* rainfall performance indicated false start over bimodal areas mainly over northeastern highlands, parts of northern coastal belt and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba where these rains are beneficial to *vuli* crops but so far has been characterized by poor spatial distribution. Graph1 compares the current cumulative rainfall to the long



term mean for the period September 1 to-date at Zanzibar A/P. Below normal rainfall has been recorded at this station as is over some areas in the



bimodal regime. Reports indicate poor short rains performance covering mainly areas over the Coast region and parts of northeastern highlands. The Zanzibar A/P rainfall, graph indicates a shortfall of about 60 mm during the past 10-days. Seasonal rains during the period started as forecasted over parts of southwestern highlands, where Mbeya

A/P reported 45 mm in 4 days and Sumbawanga Met. 3.1 mm in one day. Other areas remained seasonally dry.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Agrometeorological

Fair soil moisture replenishment levels occurred over LVB where Kagera and Mwanza regions reported maize and beans crops to have reached the late vegetative stage and in moderate state, while weeding was the major field activity. Over the highlands of Tarime in Mara region, maize in good state reached tasseling stage during the period. Muheza and Lushoto districts in Tanga region, maize and beans were at early vegetative stages and in good state, while planting of maize was reported from Pangani district. Cassava at various stages continued well.

*A profile of prolonged soil moisture deficits during the period covered the whole Coast region (Kibaha, Rufiji, Mafia, Bagamoyo and Kisarawe districts), parts of Tanga region (Korogwe district) and northeastern highlands (Monduli, Loliondo, Karatu and lowlands of Arumeru in Arusha region, and lowlands of Hai, Same and Mwanza districts in Kilimanjaro region) led to stagnation of agricultural field activities and thus shortening of the length of the growing season for vuli crops.* Due to the short growing season, farmers in the affected areas could efficiently utilize the remaining rains by growing sweet potatoes and cassava. Over the unimodal rainfall regime (Central, Western, Southwestern highlands and Southern regions) land preparation was a major activity occupying the farmers so they are strongly advised to plant immediately when it rains.

### Hydrometeorological

Low water levels in rivers and lakes were generally experienced during the period. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

### Environmental

Windy and dry conditions across the country that prevailed during the period abetted prospects for diseases such as colds, coughs, pneumonia and asthma.

## EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING NOVEMBER 11 – 20, 2005

The Arabian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify while over the southern hemisphere the Mascarene anticyclone is expected to weaken southeastward. St. Helena anticyclone is expected to remain intense while the East African ridge is expected to weaken. The position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is expected to shift gradually southward over Tanzania while to the west, the westerly wind flow from the southeast Atlantic and Congo basin are expected to strengthen. The North East monsoon flows from the Arabian Peninsula are expected to strengthen while over the southeast Madagascar the southeasterly flow is expected to weaken. The easterly wind flow over western Indian Ocean is expected to prevail.

## EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 11 – 20, 2005

Lake Victoria basin, western parts of the country and southwestern highlands are expected to feature cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over some areas and sunny intervals. Northeastern highlands, northern coast and the hinterlands, Zanzibar and Pemba islands are expected to experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas become heavy at times and sunny periods. Central parts (Dodoma and Singida) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods. The remaining parts of the country mainly over southern regions will continue to experience partly cloudy conditions with passage of light showers at times and sunny periods.

Prepared by

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