

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 13

2005/06 Cropping Season

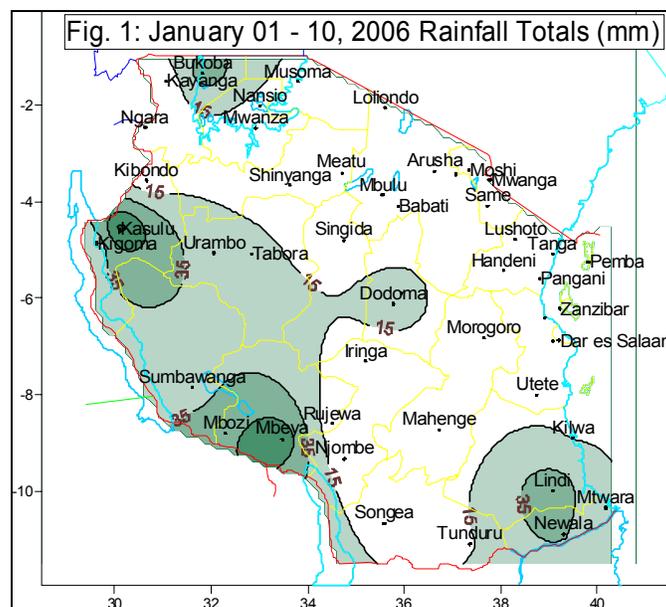
January 01 - 10, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

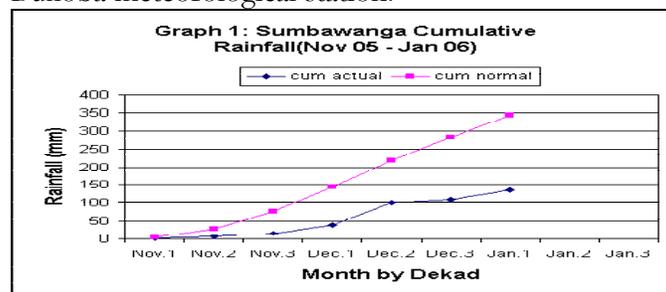
During the period 01–10th January, the St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones were relatively weak. The northeasterly wind flow becoming northwesterly to the southern coast (divergence) maintained its flow although there were some northerly flows over northern coast, which did not favour weather activities over the area. These winds were more continental than oceanic thus carrying less moisture content. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones were intense thus pushing the zonal and meridional components of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further south. The convergence of northwesterly to westerly wind flow from the Congo basin and northeasterly wind flow from the western part of India was evident and maintained its line of convergence over the western and central parts of the country towards the end of the dekad.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, areal coverage of rainfall activities decreased over areas with a unimodal rainfall pattern (western, central, southwestern highlands, southern and southern coastal regions) (Fig.1). The highest total rainfall recorded for the dekad was 82.4 mm over Kasulu in Kigoma region as compared to 100.5 mm reported for the third dekad of December at Mahenge in the south of Morogoro region. Other areas of the southwestern highlands, central and southern coast where the rains were more desirable, received little rainfall amounts between 0 -15 mm for the dekad as shown in Figure 1. Over some areas, seasonal rains (*Mvua za Mwaka*) have been below normal since November 05. Graph 1 compares the current cumulative rainfall to the long-term mean for the period from November 1st dekad to-date at Sumbawanga Airport.



Elsewhere seasonal dry conditions continued except over Kagera region in the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) where about 45 mm of rainfall was recorded at Bukoba meteorological station.



Seasonal rainfall over the area indicates a shortfall of about 35 mm during the past 10-days and about 206 mm since November 05.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Soil moisture supply was still inadequate during the dekad mainly over the bimodal sector (LVB, northeastern highlands and northern coast) where

most parts during the period were left with unplanted tilled-land, while a few areas with field crops have observed crops in poor state, conditions which were mainly caused by prolonged soil moisture stress. Over the unimodal sector of the country (central, southwestern highlands, southern and southern coast) planting was a dominant activity for the period with a few areas particularly in Ruvuma region that were yet to plant due to the prevailing low level of soil moisture conditions.

Pasture conditions are getting worse over many areas.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams remained low during the period. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental

Warm/hot conditions and high evaporation rates are being experienced in many parts of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JANUARY 11 – 20, 2006

The Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones are expected to continue weakening. The position of the ITCZ is expected to maintain its position during the period. The Arabian and Azores anticyclones are expected to remain intense, thus pushing the ITCZ further south.

Northwesterly to westerly wind flow from the Congo basin is expected to persist over the western, central and southwestern highlands areas. Hence, rainfall activities over Western, southwestern highlands and southern regions are expected to increase gradually.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 11 – 20, 2006

The LVB mainly over Kagera region and the surrounding areas are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms at times over few areas and sunny periods. Western, southwestern highlands and southern regions are expected to feature cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over most areas and sunny intervals. Northern coast is expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with early morning light rains over few areas and sunny periods. Southern coast and central areas will feature partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods. Northeastern highlands will feature partly cloudy conditions with light rains mainly over high grounds with predominant sunny periods.