

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 24

2005/06 Cropping Season

April 21 - 30, 2006

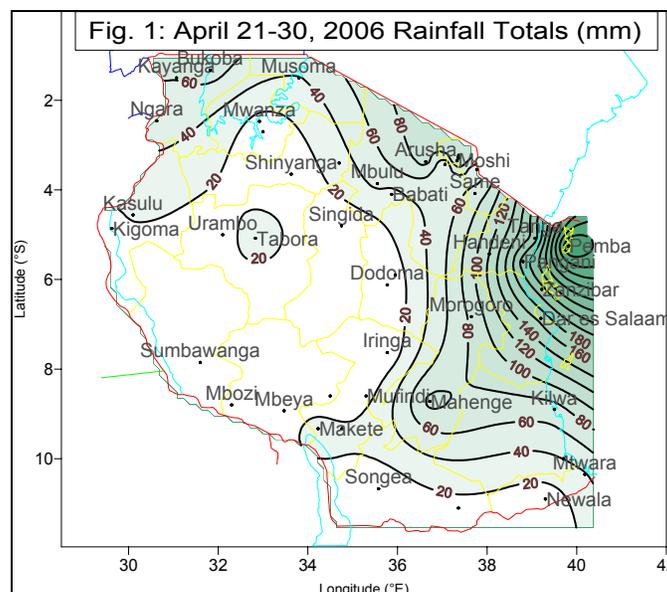
### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 21 – 30<sup>th</sup> April, the Azores and Siberian anticyclones relaxed at the end of the period, which contributed to relaxation of the meridional and zonal components of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and hence allowed East African ridge to extend further north. The southern hemisphere systems, the Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones intensified, thereby enhancing the East African ridge, whose axis extended towards Lake Victoria basin. The near equatorial trough together with the southeasterly to easterly wind patterns over the east African coast continued to be weak, thus giving room to southerly flow patterns which were enhanced by intensification of St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure cells. The dominant southerly flow reduced weather activities over southern, southern western highlands and the surrounding areas.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

Rainfall decrease has continued over most parts of the unimodal rainfall pattern (western, central, southwestern and southern regions), and parts of the southern Lake Victoria basin, where rainfall total for the third dekad of April was less than 20 mm (Figure 1). During the period, rainfall activities which resulted into rainfall amounts of more than 200 mm dominated over northern coast (Pangani district in Tanga region) and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, with the highest rainfall of 360 mm reported at Pemba Airport.

On the other hand, during this period of the year the observed decreasing trend in rainfall activities over the unimodal rainfall regime marks the end of the rainfall season especially over central regions.



### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological

Over most parts of the unimodal rainfall regime (southwestern highlands, southern, central and western), soil moisture has started declining, a normal trend as the end of the season draws nearer in these areas. The growing season over central areas has been shorted due to late onset of seasonal rains coupled with prolonged dry spells, thus crop yield is anticipated to be below average. Maize crop was between tasseling and earing stages, and sorghum at flowering stage depicted poor state. However, over most parts of the bimodal rainfall regime soil moisture replenishment was maintained. Maize over southwestern highlands and southern regions was in good state between tasseling to full ripeness. Over western areas of the country, particularly Kasulu district in Kigoma region, harvesting of maize has started.

Generally, the second phase beans crop was at various growth stages ranging from vegetative to pod

filling over most areas except over Kasulu in Kigoma region where the crop has entered into full ripeness and in good state.

In Kagera region (districts of Ngara and Karagwe) and Mbulu in Manyara region beans crop was reported to be in good state at between flowering and full ripeness stages. Elsewhere the crop was in moderate state at vegetative growth stage. Cassava crop was performing well at various stages across the country.

Pasture and water for livestock/wildlife generally improved to a satisfactory level over bimodal areas.

The expected rainfall and cloudy conditions during the first dekad of May will further improve crop conditions mainly over bimodal areas.

### Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams have improved significantly during the period. However, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

### Environmental

Temperatures are getting lower as we get into a cold season and winds are weakening while evaporation rates are also coming down in many parts of the country.

## EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 01 – 10, 2006

The Arabian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere will continue to relax and hence giving way to the northward shift of the ITCZ belt.

During the dekad the near equatorial trough together with the southeasterly to easterly wind flow patterns (easterly wave) will persist thus giving way to an advection of moist air from the Indian Ocean towards the coastal belt. The southern hemisphere systems, the Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones are expected to continue intensifying thus maintaining the East African ridge over southern parts of our country extending towards central areas. This will enhance the southerly component over northern coast areas and the neighboring areas towards northeastern highlands.

## EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 01 – 10, 2006

Lake Victoria basin, (Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions) will continue experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions at times with showers over most areas and thunderstorms over few areas. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Coast and Tanga regions) and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba will feature partly cloudy conditions with light showers over few areas and thunderstorms at times over few areas and sunny periods. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) areas will experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions at times with showers over most areas and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods. Western areas (Kigoma region) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods. Southwestern highlands (Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southern areas (Ruvuma region) will feature partly cloudy with light rains at times over few areas and long sunny periods. Most of the southern, southwestern highlands and parts of central areas will be dominated by sunny periods over most areas and chilly temperatures at night and early morning.

Prepared by

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