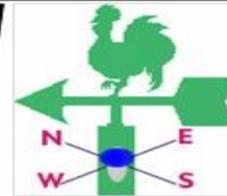




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 27

2005/06 Cropping Season

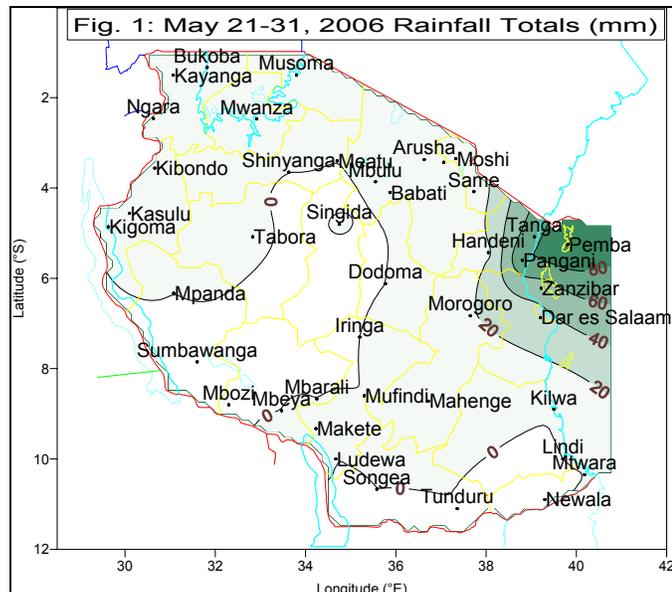
May 21 - 31, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 21 - 31st May, there was dominantly southeasterly flow of air mass from the Indian Ocean towards our coastal belt. Weak lake trough and Congo trough dominated over Lake Victoria basin. The overland ridge (East African) emanating from sub-tropical high pressure cell (Mascarine high) was intense over most parts of the country, resulting into low-level diffluent flow.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, further decreases in rainfall activities were observed across the country over most parts of the country reporting rainfall amounts less than 20 mm (Figure 1). The highest rainfall amount reported during the dekad was 101 mm over Pemba Island in the northern coast.



Observed dry conditions at this time of the year over bimodal rainfall regime marked the cessation of long rains (*Masika*) in those areas, and widespread dry

conditions over unimodal rainfall regime areas following cessation of seasonal rains (*Msimu*) during the second dekad of the month.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

During the dekad, soil moisture status across the country depicted a decreasing trend but the decrease was not adverse to field crops` performance due to available moisture reserve in the soil. Over bimodal rainfall regime areas soil moisture reserve and occasional rains continued to favor field crops particularly maize that was mainly between wax ripeness and full ripeness growth stages, as over Lake Victoria Basin, northern coast and northeastern highlands. Maize and beans crops over these areas were performing well during the period. Beans crop on the other hand was reported as being in good state at full ripeness stage and harvesting started over few areas of Ngara and Karagwe districts (Kagera region) and Mbulu district (Manyara region).

Over unimodal sector including western, central, southwestern highlands and southern parts of the country farmers have started harvesting cereals and legumes. For southwestern highlands and southern sector (Mbeya, Iringa, Rukwa and Ruvuma regions) maize crop was in good state at full ripeness stage and harvesting of the crop has started over few areas. Over these areas the second phase beans crop was between pod filling and full ripeness stages, in good state, while harvesting of the crop was reported over Mpanda district (Rukwa region) and parts of Ludewa district in Iringa region.

The paddy crop was progressing quite well in most areas of the country only that in some areas over Coast region the late planted paddy covering the largest part of all paddy fields revealed stunted growth at vegetative stages. Cassava was reported in

good state at various growth stages nearly countrywide.

Pasture and water for livestock/wildlife generally maintained a satisfactory level across the country.

Expected dry conditions in the country during first dekad of June will accelerate crops to maturity and favour drying of matured crops, crop harvesting and storage.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams have remained at average levels. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental

Nights and mornings are getting chilly due to low temperatures and windy conditions that have set in. In south western highlands, charcoal stoves should not be used to heat up homes to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JUNE 01 – 10, 2006

The Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones will remain intense over southern hemisphere. The Siberian and Azores anticyclones and Arabian ridge are expected to remain relatively weak, keeping the overland ridge (East African) intense.

The near equatorial trough will be active over the extreme northern coastal areas. The southeasterly to southerly winds will prevail during the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JUNE 01 – 10, 2006

Lake Victoria basin, (Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions) will experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with very few thunderstorms and occasional showers over few areas and long sunny periods. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Coast, and Tanga regions, and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) will feature partly cloudy conditions with light morning rains over few areas and sunny periods. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) will experience partly cloudy conditions with occasional light showers over few areas and sunny periods. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with occasional thunderstorms over few areas (especially Kigoma region) and sunny periods. Southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Rukwa and Iringa regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), and southern (Ruvuma region) will feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with long sunny periods. Most of the southern region, southwestern highlands and parts of central areas will observe low temperatures associated with chilly weather in early morning hours followed by long sunny periods in the afternoon.