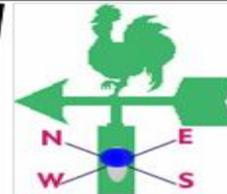




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 29

2005/06 Cropping Season

June 11 - 20, 2006

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 11 – 20<sup>th</sup> June, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge were comparatively weak while the Arabian ridge and the Azores anticyclones continued weakening. Warm Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomalies over the western Indian Ocean injected moist air into the atmosphere for the entire period. The southeasterly wind component was prominent and advected moisture from the Ocean towards the coast. The near equatorial trough was relatively active over the extreme northern coast while cold and dry southerly wind flow was predominant over most of the country.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, most of the country except the northern coast was dominated by normal seasonal dry weather conditions although some areas reported odd rains.

The northern coastal belt has remained wet for the past two dekads of June following warm SST anomalies over the Indian Ocean. Rainfall activities were concentrated mainly over the northern coastal belt and Lake Victoria basin (Fig.1). Over the northern coastal belt, substantial amounts of rainfall reported were 156.1 mm (Pemba), 154.3 (Zanzibar), 149.5 mm (Kisarawe) and 98.4 mm (Dar es Salaam), while over Lake Victoria basin, Bukoba reported the highest rainfall of 72.0 mm.

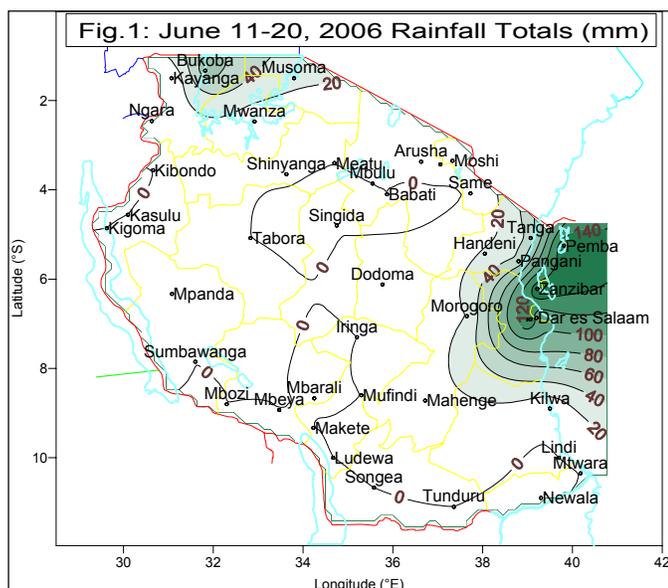
### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological

Soil moisture levels continued to decline over most parts of bimodal rainfall regime areas (northeastern highlands, northern coast and Lake Victoria basin) despite the light rains which were reported over some areas during the dekad. Areas over the northern coast observed soil moisture increase during the period.

Over bimodal areas maize crop was in good state between full ripeness and dry down stages. Harvesting of maize was reported over districts of Babati and Mbulu in Manyara region, Kisarawe in Coast region, Kibondo in Kigoma region and Meatu in Shinyanga region. Farmers over Loliondo in Arusha region, Karagwe and Ngara districts in Kagera region were finalizing harvesting of beans. The increase in soil moisture over the northern coastal belt created favourable conditions for perennials and growing sweet potatoes and cassava. On the other hand, drying and harvesting of maize and rice were hampered in the region following sustained wet conditions.

Over western, southwestern highlands and southern areas farmers were finalizing harvesting of cereals and pulses. Sampled report indicates that sorghum/millet was in moderate state at various growth stages, where harvesting of the crop was reported to have started over Mufindi and Tunduru areas in the southern



sector of the country. Although the 2005/2006 crop harvest over most areas in the unimodal rainfall regime is expected to be above the 2004/2005 harvest, moderate to poor harvests were reported over most of the central regions, and Tunduru (Ruvuma region), Mbozi and Mbarali districts (Mbeya region).

The paddy crop was in good state between wax ripeness and full ripeness stages whereby harvesting of the crop was reported over many areas across the country, although over the coastal regions extended rains hampered crop harvesting.

Cassava crop continued well and market supply was good.

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

Expected dry conditions in the country during third dekad of June will favour drying of matured crops, crop harvesting and storage. However, over the northern coastal belt occasional rains will negatively affect harvesting and storage processes of maize and rice while favouring perennials and other crops like sweet potatoes and cassava.

### 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 influenced by winds blowing from

wintery conditions in the southern hemisphere. In high altitude areas where temperatures are getting low, charcoal stoves should not be used to heat up homes to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

## EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JUNE 21 – 30, 2006

The Arabian and Azores anticyclones are expected to remain relatively weak while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and East African ridge are expected to intensify gradually towards the end of the period. The near equatorial trough will remain active over the northern coastal areas. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S becoming southwesterly monsoon (SW) flow north of 5°S over the eastern coast of East Africa will be dominant.

## EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JUNE 21 – 30, 2006

The Northern coast and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba will continue to experience partly cloudy conditions with occasions of light morning rains over a few areas followed by sunny periods during the afternoon hours. Lake Victoria basin will feature partly cloudy conditions with light thundershowers mainly over Bukoba and Musoma areas and sunny periods. Southern, southwestern and northeastern highlands, central, and western areas will experience partly cloudy conditions with cold nights and chilly morning followed by sunny periods in the afternoon.

Prepared by

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