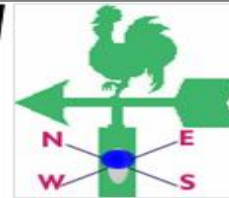




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 30

2005/06 Cropping Season

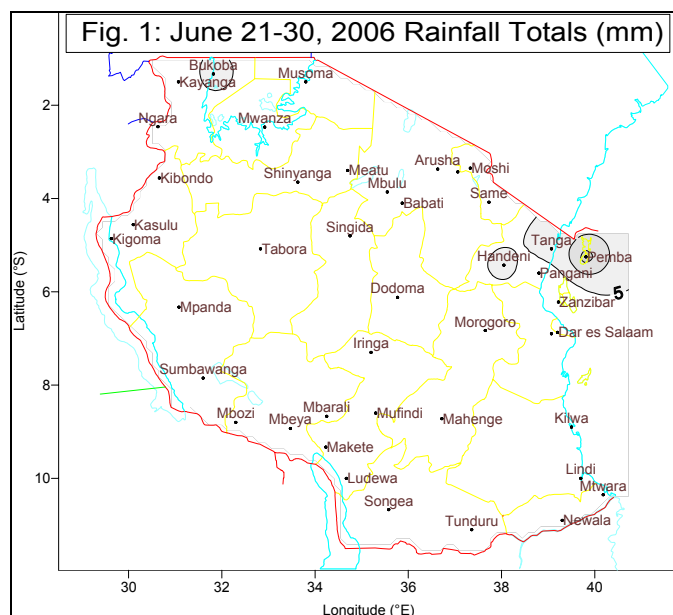
June 21 - 30, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 21st – 30th June, the Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere were relatively weak, while over the southern hemisphere the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge were strong. The near equatorial trough remained active over the northeastern sector of the country. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S turning to southwesterly (SW) flow north of 5°S over the northeastern coast of East Africa were evident.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, the country was dominated by normal seasonal dry weather conditions with a few occasions of light rains reported mainly over the northern coast in the bimodal rainfall regime (Fig.1).



Pemba Island recorded the highest rainfall amount of about 16.2 mm.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

During the dekad, the continued decline of soil moisture over the country was beneficial to mature crops (maize, sorghum/millet, beans and paddy) in the fields. Over most parts of southwestern highlands and southern regions harvesting of mature crops continued except for the higher altitude areas of southern Iringa region (Makete, Ludewa, Njombe and Mufindi districts) where maize has just reached full ripeness stage and in good state.

Over the bimodal sector maize was in good state at full ripeness stage. Harvesting activities have picked up, as reported from the districts of Mbulu and Babati districts in Manyara region; Bagamoyo, Kibaha and Kisarawe districts in Coast region and some parts of Lake Victoria Basin.

Sorghum in good to moderate state has reached full ripeness stage over central areas and parts of Shinyanga region where harvesting was reported.

Harvesting of paddy crop continued over several parts of the northern coast, northeastern highlands, southwestern highlands and Lake Victoria basin. Cassava in good state across the country was progressing well at various growth stages and ripened sweet potatoes were being harvested for town markets.

Overall, the 2006 *Masika* crop harvest over most of bimodal rainfall regime is anticipated to be above that of 2005 cropping season. On the other hand, localized poor harvests have been reported over parts of Dodoma region, Singida region, Meatu district in Shinyanga region, Kilolo and Iringa rural districts in Iringa region.

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

Expected dry conditions in the country during the first dekad of July will 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 influenced by winds blowing from wintry 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 JULY 01 – 10, 2006

The Siberian and Azores anticyclones are expected to remain weak over the northern hemisphere, while over the southern hemisphere the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge are expected to remain strong. The near equatorial trough will continue to be active over the northeastern sector of the country. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S becoming southwesterly monsoon (SW) flow north of 5°S on reaching the northeastern coast of Tanzania will continue to persist.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JULY 01 – 10, 2006

The Northern coast and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba will continue to feature partly cloudy conditions with occasions of morning light rains over few areas and sunny periods. Lake Victoria basin will experience partly cloudy conditions with light thundershowers mainly over Bukoba and sunny periods. Southern, central and western areas will experience partly cloudy conditions with cold nights and mornings, and sunny periods during the afternoon hours. Southwestern and northeastern highlands will experience strong cold nights and chilly morning weather conditions breaking into sunny periods later in the afternoon.