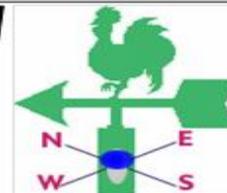




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 32

2005/06 Cropping Season

July 11 - 20, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 11 – 20th July, the Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere were generally weak while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge over the southern hemisphere were intense. The near equatorial trough was active over the northeastern sector of the country. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S becoming southwesterly (SW) flow north of 5°S over the northeastern coast of East Africa was the dominant feature during the dekad.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, the country was dominated by normal seasonal dry weather conditions although a few occasions of light rains were reported over some parts of the northeastern highlands, coastal belt and Islands of Pemba and Zanzibar. Rainfall amounts between 10 and 40 mm were reported over Pangani (37.5 mm), Mlingano (21.7 mm), Pemba (18.9 mm), Loliondo (16.3 mm), and Mtwara (13.3 mm). Other areas reported rainfall between 1.0 mm and 8.0 mm, such as: Arusha, KIA, Moshi, Same, Handeni, Tanga, Zanzibar, Morogoro and Mahenge.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

During the period, soil moisture has continued to decline across the country. Most farmers over unimodal rainfall areas completed harvesting of maize, sorghum and paddy, although in higher altitude areas maize was reported at full ripeness stage in good state. Farmers were completing harvesting of sorghum/ millet over central areas and parts of Shinyanga region as reported over Meatu district.

Over bimodal rainfall areas, most crops were reported to be in good state at maturity stage, while harvesting of matured crops (maize, sorghum and paddy) continued over most parts of the northeastern highlands, northern coast and Lake Victoria basin.

Cassava in good state across the country was progressing well at various growth stages except over Ngara district where the crop was reported at moderate state as a result of cassava mosaic disease (*Batobato kali*) that affected the crop.

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 third dekad of July will continue to favour drying of matured crops, crop harvesting and storage.

Hydrometeorological

Given the low humidity and prevailing winds during third dekad of July, there will be higher evaporation rates leading to further reduction in water levels in rivers, lakes and dams. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental

Nights and mornings are chilly due to prevailing low temperatures and windy conditions. 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 21 – 31, 2006

The Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere will continue to weaken while over the southern hemisphere the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridges are expected to remain intense. 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 East African coast will continue to persist.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JULY 21 – 31, 2006

The Northern coast (Tanga and few parts of Dar es Salaam) and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba will feature cold nights and mornings with occasion of morning light rains over few areas and sunny periods. Lake Victoria basin will experience partly cloudy conditions with occasions of few thundershowers mainly over the western parts of the lake and sunny periods. Southern and western areas will experience partly cloudy conditions with cold nights and sunny periods. Southwestern and northeastern highlands as well as central parts of the country will feature cold nights and mornings and sunny periods in the afternoon.

Prepared by

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