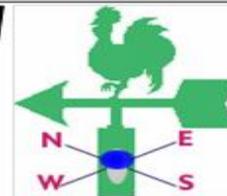




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 33

2005/06 Cropping Season

July 21 - 31, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 21 – 31st July, the Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere were weak while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge over the southern hemisphere were generally strong. The near equatorial trough was deep and active over the north-eastern sector towards the end of the dekad. A northerly wind flow across Lake Vitoria basin and westerly flow from the Congo forest converged over the basin. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S becoming southwesterly (SW) flow north of 5°S over the east African coast persisted throughout the dekad.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

The dekad continued to experience seasonal dry conditions over most parts of the country except for the some parts of the Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern and southern coast including Zanzibar and Pemba Islands where few occasions of light rains were reported. Rainfall amounts between 15 and 45 mm were reported over Bukoba (41.1 mm), Musoma (32.4 mm), Mtwara (28.2 mm), Zanzibar (26.8 mm), Loliondo (24.7 mm), Tanga (24.2 mm) and DIA (15 mm). Other areas reported rainfall between 1.0 mm and 14.5 mm, such as: Kilwa, Arusha, Pangani, Same, Kigoma, Mwanza, Moshi, Pemba, Handeni, Tanga, Zanzibar, Morogoro and Mahenge.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Harvesting of maize over higher altitude areas has started as reported from the districts of Mwanza (in

Kilimanjaro) and Mufindi, Makete and Ludewa (in Iringa) regions, whereas in the highlands of the district of Njombe (in Iringa), maize is in good state at full ripeness stage. Farmers over unimodal rainfall areas completed harvesting of maize, sorghum and paddy. Over bimodal rainfall areas, farmers were completing harvesting of maize, sorghum/millet and paddy except for a few areas in the districts of Loliondo, Babati and Mbulu (in Manyara), lowlands areas of Rombo (in Kilimanjaro) and Pangani in Tanga regions where harvesting was continuing. 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 and Newala districts where harvesting of the crop started.

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.

Hydrometeorological

Given the low humidity and prevailing winds, evaporation rates will remain high, 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 low, charcoal stoves should not be used to heat up homes to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING AUGUST 01 – 10, 2006

The Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere will continue to weaken while over the southern hemisphere the St. Helena, Mascarene anticyclone and the East African ridge are expected to remain intense although passage of the frontal systems over the tip of south Africa will continue weakening the intensity of the Mascarene Anticyclone and cause the near equatorial trough over the north-eastern sector over Tanzania to deepen and extend further inland over the coastal belt. 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 persist.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING AUGUST 01 – 10, 2006

The Lake Victoria basin, mainly over Kagera and Mara regions will experience partly cloudy conditions with showers and thundershowers and sunny periods. Western parts (Kigoma and Tabora) will feature partly cloudy conditions with occasions of thundershowers towards the mid of the dekad and sunny periods. Coastal areas and the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with occasions of morning rains over few areas and sunny periods. Southern regions, southwestern highlands and central areas will feature partly cloudy conditions with cold nights and mornings and sunny periods in the afternoons. Northeastern highlands will feature cold nights and morning light rains over few areas and sunny periods mainly over high ground.

Prepared by

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