

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 35

2005/06 Cropping Season

August 11 - 20, 2006

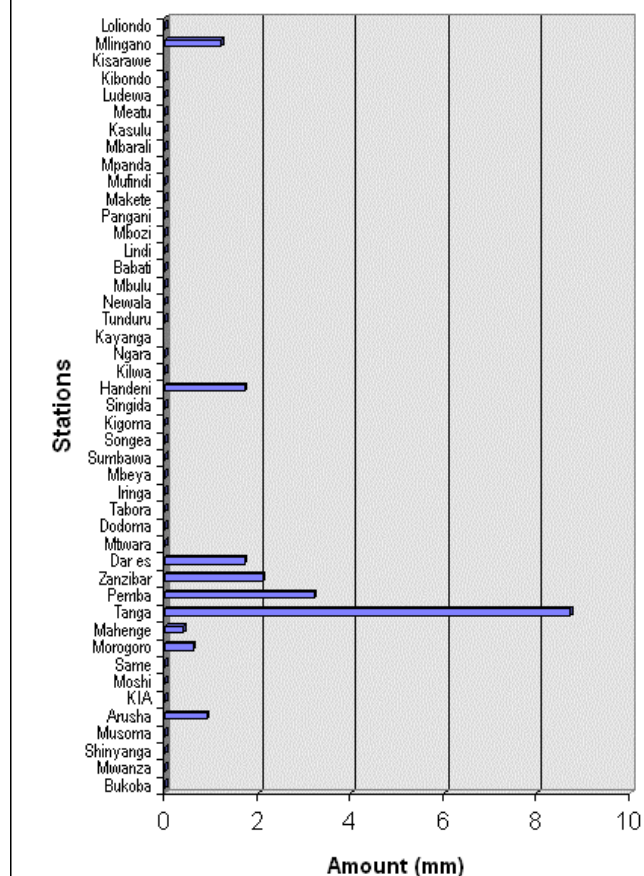
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 11 - 20 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 although regularly passage of the frontal systems over the tip of South Africa continued to weaken the Mascarene high pressure cell over the west. The near equatorial trough was deep and active over northeastern towards the end of the dekad. A northerly wind flow across Lake Victoria basin and southeast flow from the Indian Ocean converged over the Lake Victoria Basin. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S becoming southwesterly (SW) flow north of 5°S over the East Africa and Somalia coast persisted throughout the dekad.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad, dry conditions continued to persist over most parts of the country, maintaining a normal feature for this time of year. Very few localized areas along the northern coastal belt including Zanzibar and Pemba Islands recorded occasions of light showers. The highest amount being 8.7mm reported over Tanga Airport as shown in Graph 1, followed by Pemba 3.2mm, Zanzibar 2.0mm, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere International Airport (DIA) and Handeni 1.7mm each. 1mm rainfall was reported from Arusha, Morogoro and Mahenge.

10-Day Rainfall August 11- 20, 2006: Graph 1



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Harvesting of maize continued well over higher altitude areas of unimodal rainfall regime (Mufindi, Makete and Ludewa) districts in Iringa region, except over Njombe district, a much higher in altitude,

harvesting of maize was yet to start although the crop was generally in good state and at full ripeness stage. Over bimodal rainfall areas, farmers were finalizing harvesting of maize, sorghum/millet and paddy except for a few areas in the districts of Loliondo, Babati and Mbulu (in Manyara). Some of the delayed harvesting activities were mainly a result of late planted crops as observed over Rombo district (in Kilimanjaro-lower zone), Pangani district in Tanga region and parts of Arusha region.

Cassava in good state across the country was progressing well at various growth stages.

Relatively higher prospects for the 2006 *Masika* crop are expected over bimodal rainfall regime, than the previous same season.

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 be used cautiously to heat up homes to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING AUGUST 21 – 31, 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 and strong although passage of the frontal systems over the tip of south Africa will weaken the strength of the St. Helen and Mascarene Anticyclone over the southern hemisphere continue and cause the near equatorial trough over the north-eastern sector of Tanzania to deepen and extends further inland over the coastal areas. The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow south of 5°S becoming southwesterly monsoon (SW) flow north of 5°S on reaching the East African coast and Somalia will persist.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING AUGUST 21 – 31, 2006

The Lake Victoria basin will experience partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods. Western (Kigoma and Tabora) and including central parts of the country will feature partly cloudy conditions 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.