



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 36

2005/06 Cropping Season

August 21 - 31, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

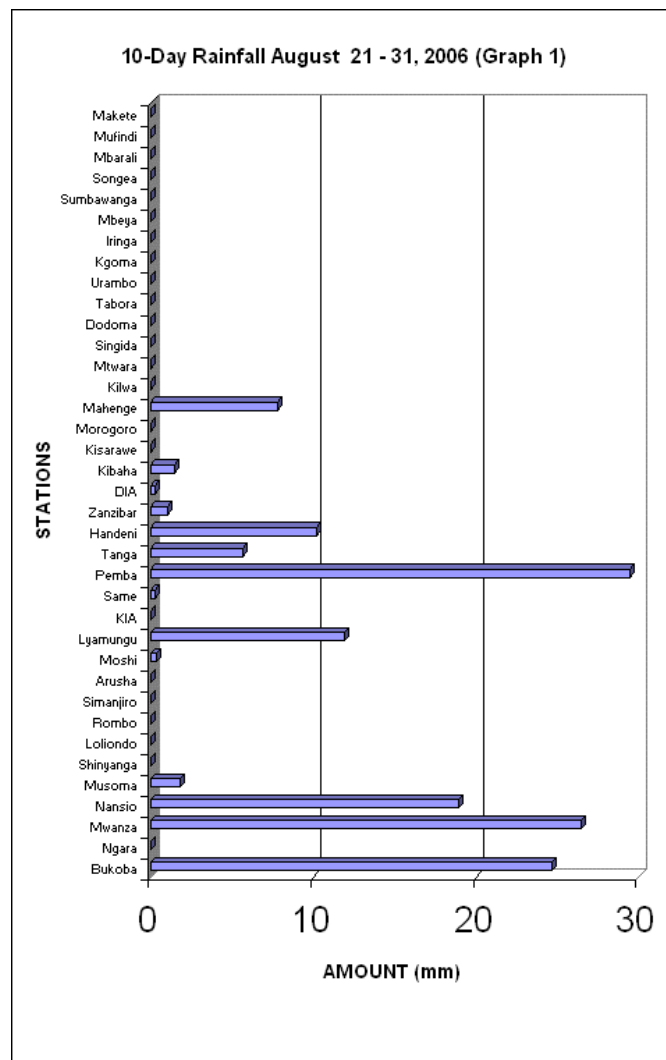
During the period 21 - 31 the Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere were generally weak while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge over the southern hemisphere were intense although regularly passage of the frontal systems over the tip of South 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 persisted over most parts of the country, thus maintaining a normal feature for this time of year. A few localized areas along the coastal belt, northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin recorded some occasions of light showers. The highest amount being 29.4 mm reported over Pemba (Wete Airport), followed by Mwanza 26.4 mm, Bukoba 24.6 mm, Lyamungu 11.9 mm and Handeni 10.2 mm. Other areas recorded rainfall less than 10 mm, such as: Tanga, Musoma, Mahenge and Zanzibar.

Remaining areas remained completely dry as shown in Graph 1.

10-Day Rainfall August 21 - 31, 2006 (Graph 1)



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

The period August 21-31, 2006 brings the end of monitoring of 2005/06 annual crop growing season. Over the bimodal rainfall areas and highland areas of the southwestern sector final harvesting activities of

the ripening crops remaining in the fields was the major task that occupied the farmers. These areas include Njombe district in Iringa region, Simanjiro, Loliondo, Babati and Mbulu districts in Arusha and Manyara regions respectively. Rombo (lower) Kilimanjaro region and Pangani in Tanga region where the delayed harvesting activities were really a result of late planted crops as observed over these areas.

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 SEPTEMBER 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 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 SEPTEMBER 01 - 10, 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.