



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 23 2006/07 Cropping Season

April 11-20, 2007

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 11 to 20th April, the northern hemisphere systems, the Azores and Arabian anticyclones were relaxed, allowing the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to shift northwards. The southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge were strong, pushing the zonal arm of ITCZ northwards.

and Ifakara 194.3 mm. Over most of bimodal rainfall pattern areas (the Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast) the long rains continued although the spatial distribution over most of northeastern highlands was generally poor. On the other hand a decrease in seasonal rains over unimodal rainfall regime of the southwestern, central and western areas marked the end of the season in those areas as indicated in Fig. 1.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

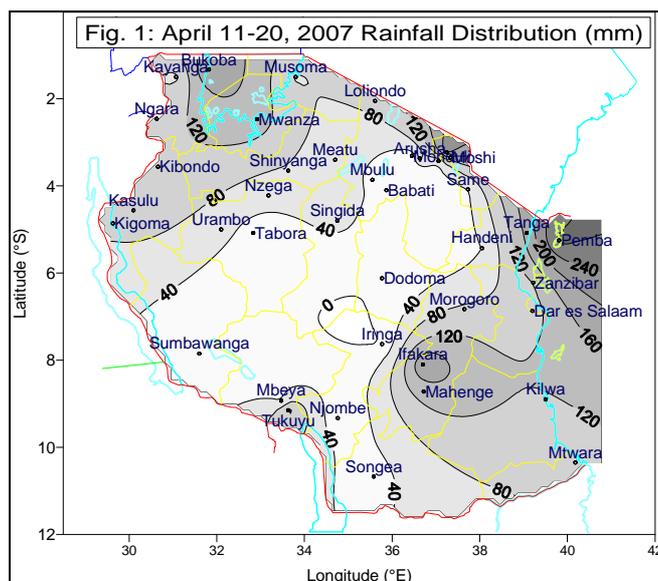
Figure 1 shows that during the second dekad of April 2007 rainfall activities increased over the coast region and Lake Victoria basin, and parts of northeastern highlands reported 10-day rainfall amounts that exceeded 120 mm.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Increased soil moisture levels were observed across the northern sector of the country during this dekad. Nevertheless, some pocket areas over southern lowlands of Morogoro region continued to register excess soil moisture conditions that impeded good growth/development of field crops such as maize and beans currently at the early vegetative stage. Planting and weeding of maize and paddy crops at early and mid vegetative stage continued over bimodal areas particularly in Pwani, Tanga and Mara regions with generally moderate state.

Over unimodal regime areas most field crops such as maize, sorghum and paddy were between ripeness and harvesting stages as reported from Nzega and Urambo (Tabora region), Njombe and Makete (Iringa), Sumbawanga (Rukwa region), Tunduru (Ruvuma region), Mbeya rural (Mbeya region) and Bahi area (Dodoma region) as well as Singida rural in Singida region, and all these crops were in moderate state. The second phase beans crop over several parts of the country like Kasulu, Kibondo, Mpanda, Ngara, Mbulu and Mufindi districts was in the vegetative stage and good condition. Generally, farm activities over unimodal areas have largely declined as most crops (maize, sorghum and paddy) were between physiological and harvesting maturity stages.



The highest rainfall recorded was 287 mm at Pemba followed by Lyamungo 232 mm, Bukoba 202 mm,

Cassava crop at various stages and in good state was reported across the country.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and the wildlife continued to be adequate across the country.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams are good over much of the country.

Environmental

The country experienced generally warm temperatures and comfortable conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 21 – 30, 2007

During this dekad the southern hemisphere will intensify, leading to southeasterly flow to dominate over the entire coast increasing rainfall activities over northern coast, northeastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin and western areas mainly Kigoma.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 21 – 30, 2007

Western areas and Lake Victoria basin will have partly cloudy conditions with thundershowers over few areas. Northern coast and northeastern highlands will have partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunder activities over few areas and sunny intervals.