



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 31 2006/07 Cropping Season

July 1-10, 2007

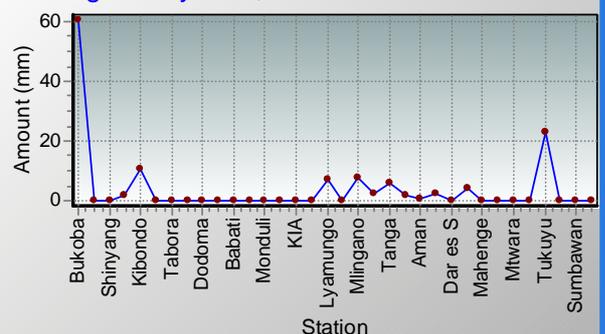
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 1st to 10th July, at various intervals the propagation of frontal systems over southern hemisphere has eroded the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge), hence allowing southeasterly flow to dominate over the coastal strip. The Near Equatorial Trough (NET) was more pronounced with signified diffluent flow pattern over northern coast, hence influenced isolated rainshowers over northern coast and northeastern highlands. Cold dry conditions prevailed over entire country, mostly over southwestern, northeastern highlands, and central areas. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were relaxed; however the position of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continued to be over northern hemisphere. The persistence of the weak trough over Lake Victoria continued to influence light thundery showers over the Lake Victoria Basin.

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 Lake Victoria basin, western, northern coast, and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba as well as the high grounds of northeastern highlands. Bukoba town in the Lake Victoria basin recorded the highest rainfall amount of about 60.4 mm, followed by Tukuyu in the each southwestern highlands 22.7 mm, Kibondo (western areas) 10.5 mm, Mlingano and Lyamungo in the northeastern highlands 7 mm each, while Tanga in the northern coast reported 5.7 mm. Some other few areas reported rainfall less than 2 mm.

Fig. 1: July 1-10, 2007 Rainfall amounts



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture levels continued to maintain a downward trend across the country, indicating a normal feature during this time of year when dry season sets in. Most parts across the country engaged in harvesting activities mainly of maize and paddy except over a few pockets areas in the upper lands of southwestern highlands (Njombe district) and northeastern highlands (Tarime and Loliondo districts) where maize crop was reported as being at ripeness stage.

Overall, the 2007 *Masika* crop harvest over most of bimodal rainfall areas is anticipated to be below that of 2006 cropping season. The 2006/07 preliminary food crop production forecast based on field crop status as of 25/5/2007 indicates that poor harvests are anticipated over some localized areas in the regions of Arusha (Monduli district), Kilimanjaro (Mwanga and Same districts), Manyara (Mbulu and Simanjiro districts), Pwani (Rufiji), Singida, Tabora (Uyui district), Shinyanga (Bariadi, Kishapu, and Meatu districts), and Lindi (Liwale district) as

reported by Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Co-operatives, AGSTATS for food security 2007).

Cassava and sweet potatoes progressed well at various growth stages, while pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife continued to be adequate across the country.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Low humidity and prevailing winds during second dekad of July will result into higher evaporation rates leading to a reduction in water levels in rivers, lakes and dams. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Nights and mornings are chilly due to prevailing low temperatures and windy conditions. In high altitude areas where temperatures get low, heat up of homes by using charcoal stoves, firewood, etc, should be done with great care to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JULY 11 – 20, 2007

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge are expected to remain relatively intense, with dominance of southerlies turning to south easterlies over the northern coast. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax, enhancing southerly flow.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JULY 11 – 20, 2007

The country is expected to feature fine cold weather conditions with isolated light rains over extreme northern coast, northeastern highlands and southwestern highlands, while Lake Victoria Basin will feature thundery showers over few areas. Intensification of cold weather conditions over southwestern and northeastern highlands is expected to continue.

Prepared by

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