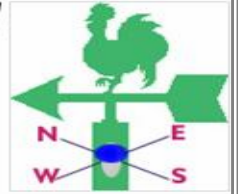




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 2 2007/08 Cropping Season

September 11-20, 2007

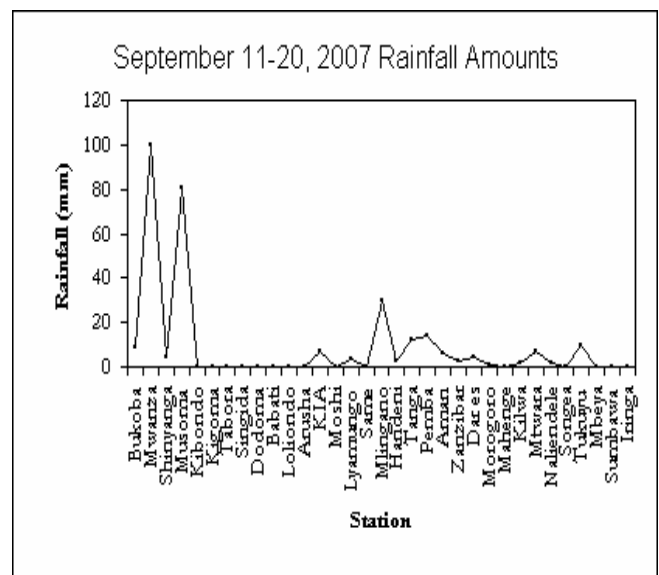
### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During September 11-20, 2007 the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena, Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge) slightly relaxed, influencing southeasterly to easterly flow to the country in the low levels. The medium levels were mainly dominated by northerly to northeasterly flow. The Near Equatorial Trough (NET) observed over northwest Indian Ocean was still a dominant feature, together with warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over northwest Indian Ocean, thus influencing rainshowers over northern coast. The persistence of the weak trough observed over the Lake Victoria basin was a dominant feature influenced thunderstorms and showers over the area. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones were slightly strong, however more intensification was observed on Azores anticyclone, although the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was still over the northern hemisphere.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

Generally, dry conditions were experienced across the country during the period, in spite of a few occasions of light rains reported over different areas as indicated in the figure. Much of the rainfall activities were observed over bimodal areas mainly around Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast and the Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba. The highest amount of rainfall during the 10-day period was measured at Mwanza station 99.7 mm, followed by Musoma 80.5 mm, Mlingano 15.7 mm, Pemba 14.3 mm, Tanga 11.9 mm, Tukuyu 9.2 mm, Bukoba 8.8 mm, KIA 6.8 mm and Mtwara 6.6 mm. Some other few stations reported rainfall below 5 mm.

Dry conditions dominated over unimodal sector whereby Tukuyu and Mtwara were the only stations that received some rains.



### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During this dekad, there were some pockets that experienced a slight supply of soil moisture mostly over areas with a bimodal rainfall pattern (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, and northern coast). Farmers over these areas were involved in land preparations for the new short rains (*vuli*) crop as reported in parts of Kagera and Mara regions.

The Improved soil moisture conditions from these early rains experienced over those areas is anticipated to improve regeneration of pastures and set good conditions for land preparation activities.

Root crops (cassava and sweet potatoes) were generally progressing well over most parts of the country at various growth stages, while market supply for both crops was good.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife are decreasing in supply over the northern, northeastern highlands, western, southern and central areas as the dry season progresses.

### Hydrometeorological Summary

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

### Environmental Summary

Temperatures are increasing while windy conditions are declining. Fire hazards (bush and wildfires in particular) are still rampant in the dry areas of the country.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING SEPTEMBER 21 – 30, 2007

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge) are expected to relax further.

The southeasterly is expected to be a dominant flow over the entire country, mainly over low levels. The NET will dominate over the northwest Indian Ocean, particularly at mid-level, pointing towards extreme northern coast. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify, hence pushing the ITCZ slightly southwards.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 21 – 30, 2007

The Lake Victoria Basin is expected to receive showers and thunderstorms over few areas. The western areas (Kigoma region) are expected to feature occasional thunderstorms over few areas. The northern coast is expected to feature light rains over few areas, whereas northeastern highlands and southern coast will be mainly dry. The central, southwestern highlands, southern region, western (Tabora region) are expected to feature dry conditions with long sunny periods.

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