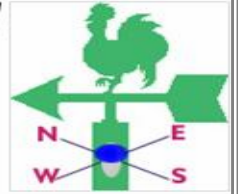




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 6 2007/08 Cropping Season

October 21-31, 2007

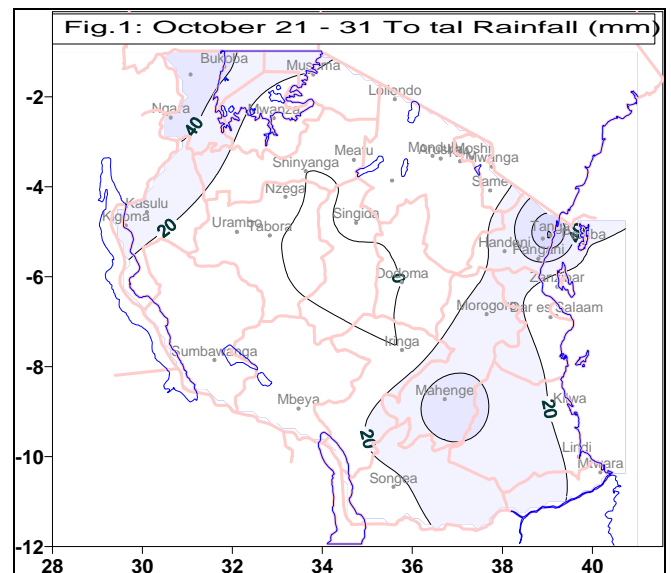
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During October 21-31, the Southern Hemisphere systems (the St. Helena, the Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge) continued to relax, allowing low level easterly air to flow over the country. The Near Equatorial Trough (NET) over the northwest Indian Ocean was weak, allowing neutral conditions of the Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) to dominate that hindered rainfall activities over northern coast and northeastern highlands. Persistence of the weak trough over the Lake Victoria basin resulted to oscillation of the meridional component of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), hence influencing rainfall over the Lake Victoria basin and western areas. The Siberian high and Arabian ridge were intense, resulting to the ITCZ to be located over the Southern Hemisphere

Generally, these rains were still far below average and poor in distribution. No significant rainfall has been recorded so far over areas which should be having their short `vuli` rain season.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Rainfall amounts received during October 21-31 were (mainly over the bimodal rainfall regime vis northern coastal belt, northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin) significantly lower for the time of the season. Tanga Meteorological station was the leading with 86.8 mm, followed by Tukuyu 80.2 mm, Amani 74.5 mm, Mahenge 57.0 mm. Bukoba 42.2 mm, Babati 29.6 mm, Handeni 25.4 mm, Kigoma 25.3 mm, Pemba 24.0 mm and Naliendele 21.6 mm of rainfall. Most of the remaining sample stations over both rainfall regimes (bimodal and unimodal) received rainfall below 20 mm as shown in Figure 1.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Soil moisture levels over the short rains areas [northern coastal belt, northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin] were still low. This situation slowed down field activities such as planting for the `vuli` season. On the other hand, the early planted crops over some areas in Mara and Kagera regions experienced mild soil moisture stress during the dekad although planting activities still continued over these areas.

Cassava was progressing well at all levels and was fairly available at markets over the country.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife were in short supply especially over central and southwestern areas.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in lakes and dams are falling as well as river discharges, and have not yet been boosted by the rains.

Environmental

Temperatures are increased while wind speeds are declined over most parts of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 1 – 10, 2007

The northern coast and northeastern highlands will feature light rain showers over few areas. Southern coast, southern region and southwestern highlands are expected to feature rain showers over few areas. Lake Victoria basin and Western areas (Kigoma and western Tabora) will feature rain showers and isolated thunderstorms over few areas. Central and eastern Tabora areas will be partly cloudy with sunny periods.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING NOVEMBER 1 – 10, 2007

During this dekad, the Southern Hemisphere systems (the St. Helena, the Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge) will continue to relax, allowing the low level easterly air to flow over southern Tanzania.

The SSTs, which are spreading southward are expected to be dominant over the southwest Indian ocean. This may favor the onset of the rainy season over southern Tanzania. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the Northern Hemisphere are expected to intensify, allowing the ITCZ to move further south.

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