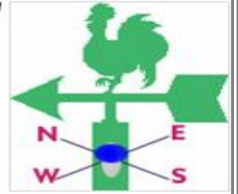
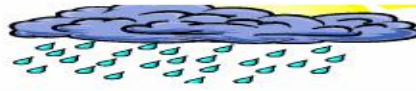




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.12 2007/08 Cropping Season

December 21-31, 2007

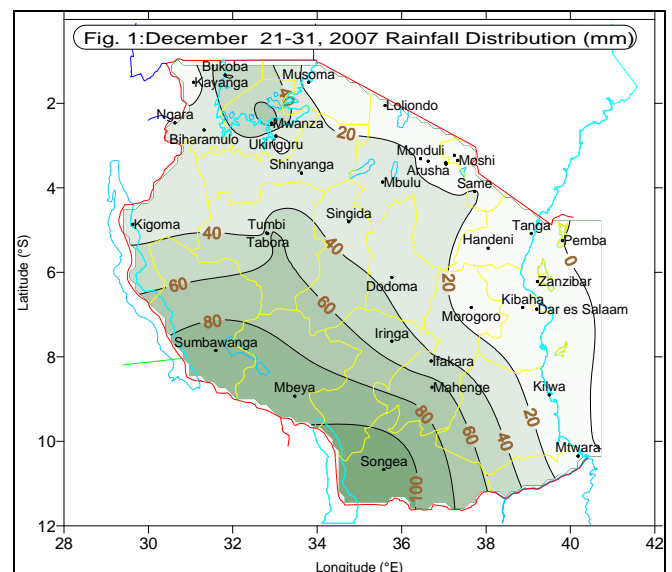
### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the third dekad of December, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge) were relaxed, hence allowing the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to remain further south. The Siberian and Azores highs and Arabian ridge were relatively intense allowing the ridge from the north to dominate in the northwestern of the Indian Ocean. The north easterly flow was backing to northwesterly over the southern coast. The Arabian ridge was dominant resulting in diffluent flow pattern over northeastern highlands hence influencing dry conditions over northeastern highlands and northern coast. The development of tropical depression (ELNUS) over the Mozambique Channel enhanced rainfall activities over southwestern highlands, southern region and southern coast. The pronounced weak trough that was dominant over western areas enhanced rainshowers along the meridional arm of the ITCZ.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During December 21-31, rainfall activities concentrated largely over the southwestern highlands and southern parts of the unimodal sector where most stations registered rainfall amounts that exceeded 50 mm as indicated in Fig. 1. Songea station reported the highest rainfall amount of 118.8 mm followed by Mbeya 90.6 mm, Sumbawanga 94.7 mm, and Mahenge 69.8 mm. The central and western parts received rainfall between 20 and 40 mm. Most of bimodal rainfall pattern areas (eastern Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, and northern coast) reported little (< 20 mm) or no rainfall except over a few areas in the Lake Victoria basin where rainfall

recorded was above 40 mm. The highest rainfall recorded over the basin was 71.2 mm at Mwanza followed by Bukoba 61.7 mm.



### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

December 21-31 experienced an adequate supply of soil moisture mainly over the unimodal sector where major field activities during the dekad were land preparation and planting of maize and beans, transplanting of paddy and tobacco, as reported from southwestern highlands, south, southern coast and central regions.

Following good performance of short rains (*vuli*) over some areas in the Lake Victoria basin and western parts (Biharamulo, Muleba, Karagwe and Ngara districts) in Kagera region *vuli* crop mainly beans was at ripeness and harvesting stages and in good state whereas in Kibondo and Kasulu districts of Kigoma region maize crop was at tasselling stage and in good state. Over other areas in the bimodal rainfall

pattern, Monduli, Handeni, Loliondo and Simanjiro districts in the northeastern highlands and northern coast farmers were involved in land preparation and planting with early planted crop reported at early vegetative stages.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country was good.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife especially over central, northeastern highlands and southwestern areas are improving.

### **Hydrometeorological Summary**

Water levels in lakes and dams are expected to rise as well as river discharges as a result of the ongoing seasonal rains over unimodal areas.

### **Environmental Summary**

Temperatures were high over most parts of the country while humidity was particularly high over the coastal belt.

The development of the tropical disturbance over the central Indian Ocean may enhance rainfall activities over western areas, southern region, southwest highlands and southern coast. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to continue to intensify, thus allowing the ITCZ to remain further south.

### **EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 1 –10, 2008**

The Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature isolated thundery showers. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions), southwestern highlands, southern region and southern coast will feature cloudy conditions with thundery showers over some areas while northern coast, northeastern highlands, and central (Dodoma and Singida regions) areas are expected to feature rainshowers over few areas.

### **EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JANUARY 1 – 10, 2008**

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