



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.15 2007/08 Cropping Season

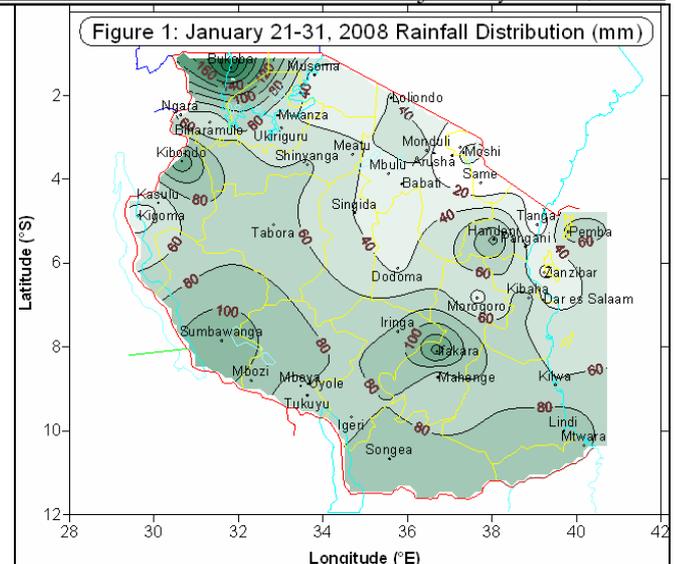
January 21-31, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the third dekad of January, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) were relaxed. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were intense resulted to domination of the low pressure cells over the entire country. The development of the cyclonic cell over northern Madagascar that turned to Tropical Cyclone *FAME* sited over Mozambique Channel influenced thundershowers over some parts of the country. The winds were northeasterly over northern coast and north westerly over southern coast. The meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) advanced eastwards influencing thundery showers over the western part of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During January 21-31, there were more rainfall activities as compared to the second dekad. A larger part of the country received rainfall amounts exceeding 40 mm as shown in Figure 1. However, the central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) had continued reporting little rainfall besides false start of the seasonal rains experienced in those areas. Most of bimodal rainfall pattern areas remained seasonably dry except over some areas in the Lake Victoria basin where substantial amounts of rainfall was reported particularly in Bukoba (Kagera region). The highest 10-day rainfall recorded was 219.1 mm at Bukoba station, followed by Ifakara 154.1 mm, Kibondo 141.4 mm, Sumbawanga 121.0 mm, Handeni 109.7 mm, and Lindi 101.4.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Improved soil moisture supply was observed over Kagera region and most areas of the unimodal rainfall pattern with maize crop status being generally good at between post emergences to knee height stages. Soil moisture improved slightly over central areas (southern parts of Dodoma and Singida regions) and over transitional areas in Shinyanga and Morogoro regions. Soil moisture improvement experienced in these areas has a quite positive effect on growth of young crops.

In the western parts of Lake Victoria basin including Biharamulo, Muleba, Karagwe and Ngara districts in Kagera region maize crop was near ripeness and in good state while beans harvesting was coming to an end. Over several parts of bimodal rainfall pattern areas farmers were involved in land preparations for the long rainy (*Masika*) season after total failure of the short rain (*Vuli*) season. A few areas in the

northeastern highlands (Monduli, Handeni, Loliondo and Simanjiro districts) crops were between emergence and early vegetative stages, and in moderate state.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country continued fairly well.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife especially over central and northeastern highlands were moderate due to effect of prolonged dry conditions experienced in the regions.

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.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING FEBRUARY 1 – 10, 2008

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

Over central Indian Ocean the development of tropical depression *GULA* that propagate to the southwest may influence rainfall activities over some parts of the country. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to remain intense, allowing the ITCZ to remain further south.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 1 –10, 2008

The Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, and Shinyanga regions) and western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) are expected to receive showers and thunderstorms over few areas. Southwestern highlands, central (Dodoma and Singida regions), southern areas (Ruvuma region and Mahenge), northern Morogoro and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi) are expected to feature isolated thunderstorms. Northern coast (mainly Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar Island) and northeastern highlands are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and rainshowers over few areas. Extremely northern coast are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and long sunny periods.

Prepared by
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