

No.18 2007/08 Cropping Season

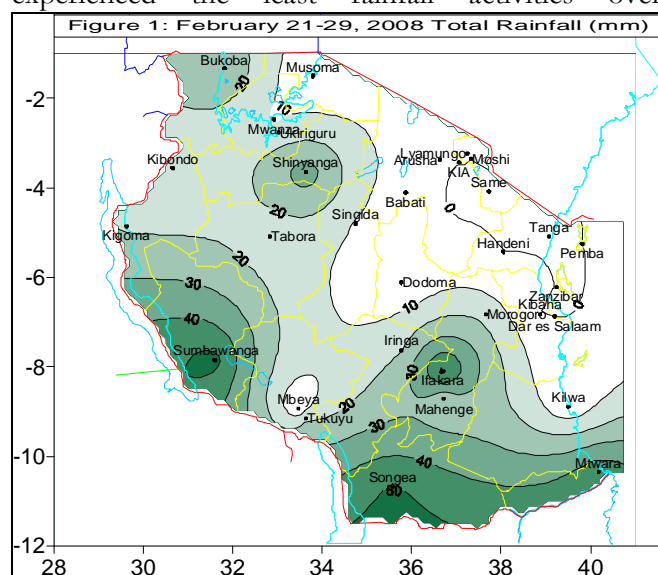
February 21-29, 2008

## SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During February 21-29, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to relax. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were intense and the Arabian ridge was the dominant feature over northwestern Indian Ocean thus allowing zonal arm of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to be more effective over southern areas and southwestern highlands.

## RAINFALL SUMMARY

February 21-29, was the driest dekad of the month experienced the least rainfall activities over



parts of bimodal sector, maintaining a normal trend of the season. The highest recorded amount for the period was obtained at Ifakara station 53.5 mm, followed by Sumbawanga 53.3 mm, Songea 51.1 mm,

Mtwara 47.3 mm, Shinyanga 36.0 mm, Bukoba 28.9 mm and Mahenge 23.3 mm. The rest of all sample stations recorded rainfall far below 20 mm as shown in Figure 1.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Most areas across the country observed a declining soil moisture supply during the dekad. The situation facilitated weeding and growth of crops at various stages ranging from early vegetative to pre-tasselling mainly for maize, sorghum and paddy as observed over several parts of the unimodal sector including southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and central (Dodoma and Singida regions).

Over some areas of bimodal sector mainly the northern coast and northeastern highlands (Pwani, Tanga, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions), early planted maize crops at early vegetative stages were negatively affected by low soil moisture stress, a situation that requires farmers to replant before onset of the long rains "Masika" season. Other field activities like land preparation in some areas of this sector continued, while some few pockets of Loliondo in Ngorongoro district and Orkesmet in Simanjiro district maize crop was between ninth leaf and earing stages in moderate state. Remaining areas of the country such as parts of Lake Victoria basin (Kagera region) and western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) crops particularly maize was at ripeness stage and in good state, while second planting of beans continued which usually lasts until 15<sup>th</sup> March in Kigoma north and Kagera region.

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

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good across the country but poor over the lowlands of the northeastern highlands.

### Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams are rising 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 particularly northeastern highlands and northern coast while humidity was relatively high over the coastal belt.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 1-10, 2008

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to continue relaxing. The development of tropical depression over southwest Indian Ocean is expected to enhance rainfall activities over some parts of the country.

The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify allowing the ITCZ to maintain its position in the south.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 1-10, 2008

The Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Shinyanga, and Mara 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 region (Ruvuma region and Mahenge), Morogoro and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature isolated thunderstorms. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, and Tanga regions, and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundery showers over few areas. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, K.I.A, Moshi, Same, Lyamungo and Babati) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with rain showers over few areas.

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