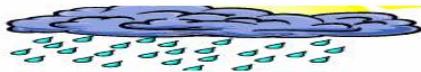




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 20 2007/08 Cropping Season

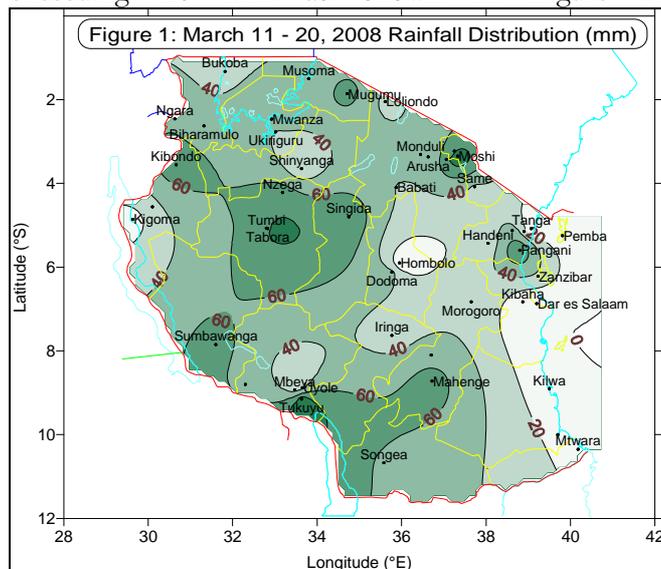
March 11-20, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During March 11 - 20, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were relaxed thus allowing zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to be located over the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During March 11-20, much of the country recorded rainfall amounts that exceed 40 mm. The entire southern coastal belt and part of the northern coast including Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba were generally dry with 10 day rainfall amounts not exceeding 20 mm as shown in Figure 1.



The highest recorded rainfall amount was obtained at Moshi station 100.1 mm for the period, followed by Tukuyu 95.0 mm, Pangani 81.9 mm, Kibondo 74.9

mm, KIA 74.8 mm, Nzega 72.8 mm, and Lyamungo 71.0 mm. The amount of rainfall recorded during the dekad was generally less than that of the first dekad of the month but spatial distribution increased over bimodal rainfall regime areas (Lake Victoria basin, northern coast and northeastern highlands) suggesting onset of long (*Masika*) rain season.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Replenishment of soil moisture during the dekad continued as observed over most parts of the country. The observed soil moisture over both sectors (unimodal and bimodal) was adequate and facilitated replanting as well as weeding of crops at various growth stages ranging from early vegetative to earing mainly for maize, and pre-flowering for sorghum and paddy. Over some areas in bimodal sector along northern coast and northeastern highlands (Pwani, Tanga, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions), the early planted maize crop at early vegetative stages benefited from the moisture levels obtained during the period, a situation that motivated most farmers to work hard so as to make use of long rains "*Masika*" which have just started. Other field activities like land preparation in other 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.

Over Lake Victoria basin (Kagera region), western (Tabora and Kigoma regions), central and the southern sector of the country crops particularly maize was between pre-tasselling to ripeness stage

while second planted beans crop was at emergence stage, both in good state.

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 and likely to improve over the lowlands of the northeastern highlands following start of *masika* rains.

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 SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH 21–31, 2008

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to intensify, where as the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax thus allowing the ITCZ to retreat northwards.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 21–31, 2008

Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, and Tanga regions, and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with isolated cases of thunderstorms over few areas. The Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Mara regions) are expected to receive thundery showers over some areas. The rest of the country including Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to experience thundery showers over few areas.

Prepared by

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