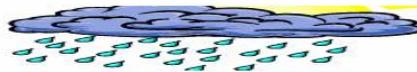




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 24 2007/08 Cropping Season

April 21-30, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During April 21 – 30, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify extending a ridge towards the southern and central parts of Tanzania. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere relaxed and allowed both the zonal and meridional arms of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move northwards over the country. Convergent easterly to southeasterly wind flow supported adequate supply of moisture from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas of the country extending to the interior at various intervals. Sustained rainfall activities that occurred over the northern coastal areas extended to the interior and northeastern highlands.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During April 21-30 rainfall was reported over few areas mainly over eastern sector of the country (coastal belt and northeastern highlands) where some stations reported 10-day rainfall amounts exceeding 80 mm as shown in Figure 1. During the period the amount of rainfall reported over much of the country indicate a declining trend when compared with what was observed in April 11-20, and April 1-10. The dry conditions that were reported over the central, western and southwestern highlands is an indication of normal cessation of the 2007/08 seasonal rains in those areas. The highest rainfall amount for the dekad was recorded at Arusha station 145.4 mm, followed by Zanzibar 126.4 mm, KIA 108.9 mm, Pemba 99.2 mm, Mahenge 91.0 mm, Handeni 87.4 mm, Moshi 85.1 mm, and Shinyanga 83.8 mm. Some stations reported rainfall between 40 mm and 80 mm as indicated in Figure 1.

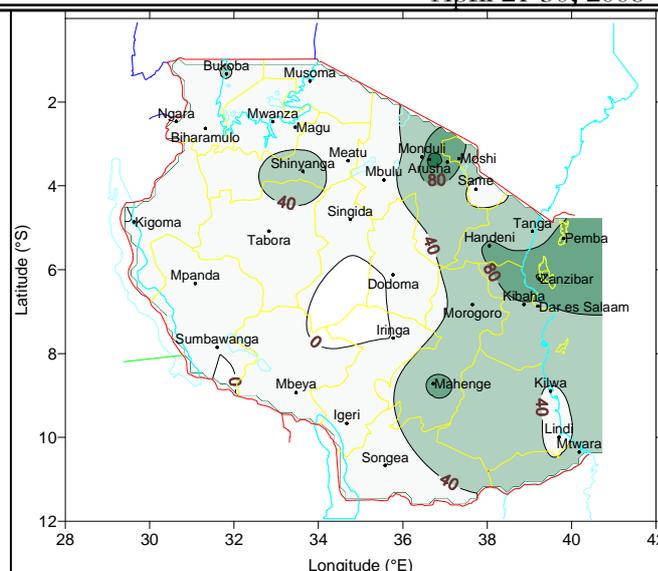


Fig. 1: April 21-30, 2008 Rainfall Distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture condition during the dekad was conducive for the growth and development of field crops particularly over bimodal rainfall areas. Observed crops were mainly at late vegetative stage, except for a few pockets such as parts of Lake Victoria basin (Magu and Kwimba districts) in Mwanza region that experienced soil moisture stress for quite long resulting in poor crop performance. Over the unimodal rainfall areas the declining soil moisture was conducive for crop maturity and harvesting as observed over a larger part of the sector. In these areas crops mostly maize, sorghum and paddy with stages ranging between wax ripeness and harvesting were rated to be in moderate to good state. Over bimodal rainfall areas these crops were between late vegetative stage as a result of late planting caused by late onset of long rains (*Masika*) experienced in several parts of northern coast (Pwani, Dar es Salaam, and Tanga regions, the Isles of

Zanzibar and Pemba), northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin. For example over Monduli district (Arusha region), Loliondo district (Manyara region) and Magu district (Mwanza region) the crops were at various stages ranging between late vegetative and tasselling, in good state except for Magu where the crops condition was simply moderate. The second phase planted beans crop was observed at between vegetative and flowering stage mainly over several parts in southwestern highlands, western, Lake Victoria basin and northeastern highlands with its state ranging between fair and good, whereby the observed lowest crop status was a result of adverse effect of excessive soil moisture experienced over parts of Morogoro region.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country continued fairly well, while pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good across the country.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams were rising as well as river discharges as a result of the ongoing seasonal and *Masika* rains over the eastern sector.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures were moderate over most parts of the country due to increased cloud cover and wet conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 1-10, 2008

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

are expected to remain intense, whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax thus allowing both the meridional and zonal components of the ITCZ to slightly move northwards over the country. Convergent easterly to southeasterly wind flow is expected to support adequate supply of moisture from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas especially over the islands occasionally extending to the interior. With the above configuration rains are likely to continue over those areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 1-10, 2008

Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga and islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers over some areas. Morogoro is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated showers. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with thundery showers over few areas. The Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Mara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated thunderstorms over few areas. Southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa regions), southern region (Ruvuma and Mahenge) and central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated showers mainly over high grounds. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions.

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