

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During July 11-20, East African ridge continued to be strong resulting into much of the country falling under a low-level diffluent flow pattern. This situation continued to influence dry weather over most areas of the country. Occasionally, southeasterly flow supplied moist air-mass from the Indian Ocean to the extreme northern coast and northeastern highlands. The Near Equatorial Trough (NET) was generally weak over the central Indian Ocean reducing activities over the coastal belt. The zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained further north away from Tanzania. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones over the northern hemisphere continued to relax resulting into retraction of the meridional component of the ITCZ.

southwestern highlands, as shown in Figure 1. The highest 10- days rainfall amount was reported at Pemba 45.9 mm, followed by Marikitanda (Tanga region) 32.6 mm, Lyamungu 28.1 mm (Kilimanjaro region), Mlingano 25.1 mm (Tanga region), and Tanga 19.7 mm, and Tukuyu 20.1 mm. Generally, much of the country remained seasonally dry.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture levels continued to fall much lower as a result of seasonal dry conditions that prevailed across the country during the dekad. Over unimodal rainfall pattern areas farmers mainly over the uplands (Njombe district) were finalizing harvesting of maize while wheat was at tasselling growth stage. Yields are estimated to be normal over southern, southwestern highlands and western areas. However, poor harvests have been reported over central areas. Likewise, over bimodal rainfall regime areas farmers continued harvesting maize, beans, paddy and coffee. Crop harvest is anticipated to be good over some areas, while poor harvests have been reported over other areas such as Same (Mkumbara and Mkomazi), Mbulu, Loliondo, and Rombo in the northeastern highlands, Ngara, Karagwe, Magu, Kwimba, and Tarime in the Lake Victoria basin. Poor seasonal rainfall distribution and early cessation are the factors behind poor crop harvests in those regions.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During July 11-20 rainfall was reported over a few pockets northern coastal belt, northeastern and

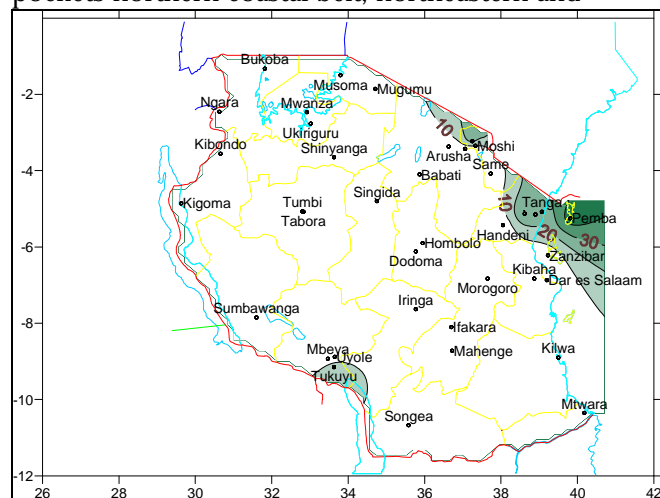


Fig. 1: July 11-20, Rainfall Distribution (mm)

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

Hydrometeorological Summary

Low humidity and prevailing winds during the third dekad of July will result into higher evaporation rates leading to a reduction in water levels in lakes and dams, and river discharges.

Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Night temperatures continued falling over most parts of the country as cool/cold season carried on. In high altitude areas where temperatures occasionally drop too low, the heating up of homes by use of either charcoal or firewood should be done with great care to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JULY 21-31, 2008

During the period, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain relaxed while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones over southern hemisphere are expected to remain intense.

This situation will continue to sustain the East African ridge and cause most areas of the country to continue falling under diffluent flow pattern. South-easterly winds are expected to occasionally continue fetching moist air-mass from the Indian Ocean to the Northern Coast areas especially during the first-half of this dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JULY 21- 31, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature mainly dry weather with long sunny periods and isolated thundery activities caused by the Lake trough. Occasional advection of moist air from the Indian Ocean is expected to continue causing a few isolated showers over northern coast together with isles of Zanzibar and Pemba. Central, southwestern highlands, western and southern areas are expected to feature mostly dry weather with long sunny periods. Cold morning associated with light drizzle is expected to persist mainly over high grounds particularly in the northeastern and southwestern highlands. The remaining areas are expected to feature cool /cold temperatures generally at night and in the morning.

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