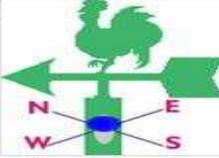




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 4, 2008/09 Cropping Season

October 1-10, 2008

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During October 1-10, 2008, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify slightly while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones relaxed. The above configuration contributed to the gradual southward shift of the zonal component of the rain-making mechanism ITCZ over the northern parts of East Africa. Sea Surface Temperature conditions over the Global Oceans were near neutral conditions. Easterly flow pattern occasionally created sufficient moisture for rainfall activities over the northern coast and northeastern highlands. The Congo air mass converged over the Lake Victoria basin resulting into development of thundershowers.

Rainfall exceeding 20 mm was reported over Lake Victoria basin (Musoma 78.6 mm and Bukoba 69.6 mm), northern coast (Zanzibar 28.7 mm and Pangani 23.1 mm), and Kigoma 43.9 mm. The observed rainfall activities indicate an early start of the short rains (*Vuli*) over Lake Victoria basin and northeastern highlands where the start was expected during the second week of October.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

The major agricultural activity during the dekad was Land preparation particularly in the bimodal sector where the short-rains season is near. Planting activities started in a few areas mainly over the west of Lake Victoria basin (Kagera region) and parts of northern coast (Kibaha district in Pwani region). Harvesting of coffee was progressing well over northeastern highlands, southwestern highlands and the Lake Victoria basin while cotton in Shinyanga region was ferried to the buying centers for marketing.

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

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, dry conditions prevailed over most parts of the country except over some areas of bimodal rainfall pattern that reported rainfall activities. Reported rainfall was mostly below 20 mm as shown in Figure 1.

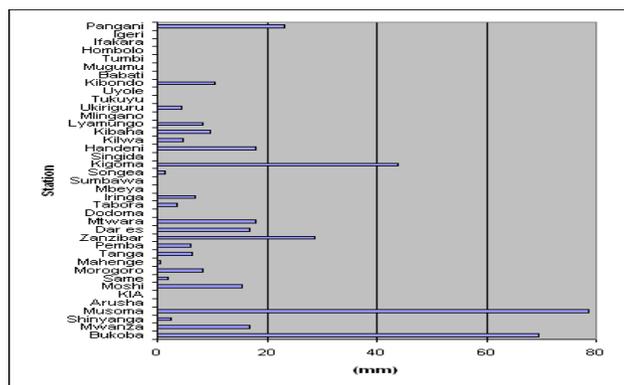


Figure 1: Rainfall amounts during October 1-10, 2008

#### Hydrometeorological Summary

In spite of the start of seasonal rains over some areas of bimodal rainfall regime, low humidity and prevailing winds during the second dekad of October will lead to higher evaporation rates and therefore further reduction in water levels in lakes, and dams, and river discharges. In view of that, water for

domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

### Environmental Summary

The ongoing dry conditions, low humidity and windy conditions make it very ideal for wildfires; every precaution should therefore be taken to avoid setting off wildfires.

The zonal component of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) will shift slightly southwards with easterly flow pattern allowing significant amount of moisture over the northern coast spreading to some areas of northeastern highlands. However, toward the end of this dekad a likelihood of depressed convection over the West Indian Ocean is expected to suppress rainfall activities over bimodal areas.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2008

During the dekad, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to continue intensifying while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones are likely to continue weakening. The intensification of the Azores and Siberian anticyclones is thus going to support low level convergence of moist air mass from Congo forest over the Lake Victoria basin and extreme western parts of the country. Near neutral Sea Surface Temperature condition is expected to persist over the global oceans.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING OCTOBER 11-20, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin and northern Kigoma are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated showers and thunderstorms. During this dekad a few showers are expected over the northern coast and hinterlands, isles of Zanzibar and Pemba together with northeastern highlands. Central regions, southwestern highlands, southern coast and southern areas are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods. Higher daily temperatures together with relatively increased moisture content in the atmosphere is likely to bring hot and discomfort conditions over the coastal belt and western parts of the country.

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