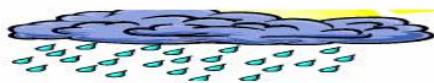




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 19, 2008/09 Cropping Season

March 1-10, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Favorable soil moisture supply continued to enhance crop growth and development over unimodal areas.
- Replanting short term crop varieties over parts of unimodal sector particularly southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions).
- Finalizing land preparation and planting for *Masika* rainfall season were the major field activities over bimodal areas that mostly experienced dry condition.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the past 10 days (1-10 March, 2009), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) relaxed slightly while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere intensified. Occasional south easterly flow over the country resulted to some rainfall activities over most parts of the country especially along the coastal belt. A weak trough over the lake zone contributed to development of thundery showers mainly over the western and southern parts of Lake Victoria basin.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Most of the unimodal areas continued to be active and recorded adequate amounts of rainfall except over Dodoma (central) and Iringa north (southwestern highlands) where recorded rainfall was far below normal. Below normal (<75%) rainfall was also recorded over bimodal areas, Lake Victoria basin (Mwanza), northeastern highlands (Arusha, KIA, and Same), and northern coast (Handeni and Pemba Island). Above normal (>125% of normal) rainfall was recorded at Singida (260%), Tabora (175%), Shinyanga (153.1 and), Kigoma (152.4%). Most of the stations across the country reported normal (125% to 75%) to below normal (<75%) rainfall as depicted in Figure 1.

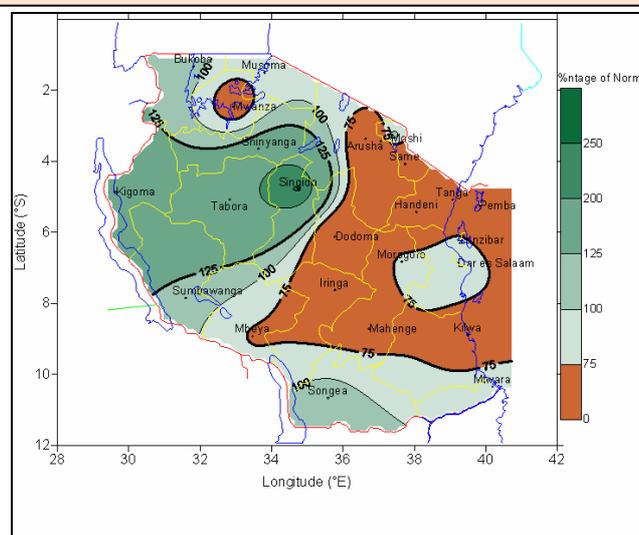


Fig. 1: Dekadal Rainfall as Percentage of Normal: March 1-10, 2009

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the first dekad of March soil moisture levels over much of the country were inadequate particularly over parts of northern coast (Morogoro and Coast regions), northeastern highlands, east of Lake Victoria, and central (Dodoma region). Inadequate soil moisture conditions deprived crops of much needed moisture over Dodoma in central areas. Dry seeding of paddy crop was reported over Kibaha and Bagamoyo districts in Coast region.

Over the southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) the affected crops generally maize, beans and paddy mostly ranging from vegetative to wax ripeness stages started regaining, while replanting of short term maize crop and drought tolerant crop varieties such as millet, peas, and root crops like sweet potatoes, peas and cassava continued. Likewise, several parts in bimodal areas (northeastern highlands, northern coast, east of Lake Victoria basin experienced soil moisture deficits, although this situation favored final land preparation being carried out during the period ready for long-rains (*Masika*) season.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at a satisfactory level.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Seasonal rains over unimodal areas and onset of *Masika* rains are anticipated to boost water levels in lakes and dams, and river flows in their respective catchments. However due to poor performance of *Vuli* rainfall over much of bimodal areas, levels in lakes, dams and river flows have declined; water for domestic and industrial purposes in those areas should therefore be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Higher temperature conditions over much of the coastal belt continued to cause human discomfort.

Southwest Indian Ocean are likely to persist together with the onset of south easterly wind flow which is likely to enhance rainfall over the coastal areas and hinterlands.

Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to relax slightly while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) are likely to intensify slightly. The ITCZ is expected to oscillate mostly over the southern sector of the country. Enhanced moisture is expected over the southern sector of the country Western and southwestern highlands including coastal areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 11-20, 2009

Southwestern highlands, southern region, southern coast, and southern parts of Morogoro (Mahenge) and Dar es Salaam area are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundery showers. Western (Kigoma, and Tabora regions) Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera and Mwanza) is expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeastern highlands are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with a few showers. Northern coast and its hinterlands, isles of Unguja and Pemba are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with a few outbreaks of showers and isolated thunderstorms.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS MARCH 11-20, 2009

For the coming 10 days (11 - 20th March, 2009), the current warmer Sea Surface Temperatures over the