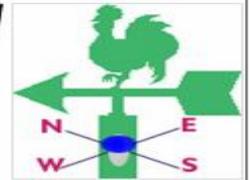
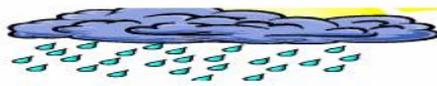




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 20, 2008/09 Cropping Season

March 11-20, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Favorable soil moisture supply continued to enhance crop growth and development over unimodal areas.
- Anticipated *Masika* season has delayed, forcing some farmers to go for dry seeding while early planted crops at emergency stage in Musoma, Kibaha and Bagamoyo districts encountered temporary wilting.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad under review, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) relaxed slightly while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere intensified. Generally, the wind flow pattern continued to be northeasterly and divergent occasionally becoming easterly resulting in less rainfall in the country especially along the coastal belt. A trough over the Lake Victoria basin contributed to development of thundery showers mainly over the western and southern parts of lake.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Many areas over the western sector of the country including southwestern highlands, western, and west of Lake Victoria basin recorded above normal (i.e. >125% of normal) rainfall. The stations over southern coast (Mtwara and Kilwa), central (Dodoma region), northern coast and hinterlands (Tanga, Handeni, Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, Pemba and Zanzibar), northeastern highlands (Arusha, KIA, Moshi, and Same), and Lake Victoria basin (Mwanza, Shinyanga, and Musoma) recorded below normal (<75% of normal) rainfall as depicted in both Fig. 1 and 2. Over these stations, the total amounts of rainfall recorded during the period were not exceeding 50 mm as shown in Figure 2.

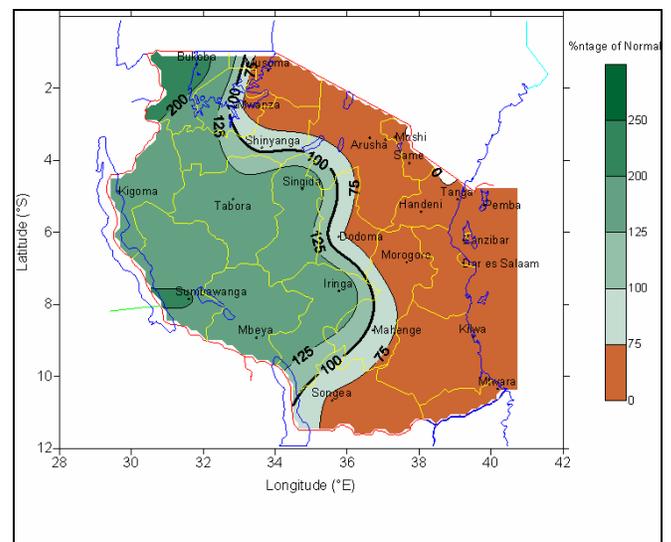


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall as Percentage of Normal: March 11-20, 2009

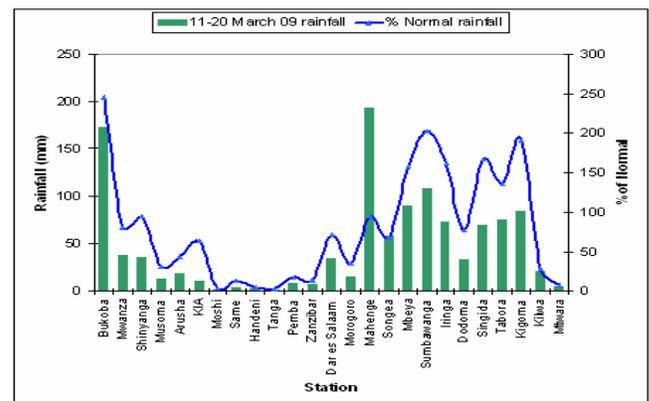


Figure 2: March 11-20, 2009 rainfall amounts against their respective percentages of normal

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the second dekad of March soil moisture levels were adequate particularly over much of the unimodal areas where maize crops ranged between tasselling to ripeness stages although late planted crops were still at weeding stage as observed over parts of southern coast Lindi and Mtwara) except in central areas (Dodoma region) which has experienced a persistent dry spell. Inadequate soil moisture conditions deprived crops of much needed moisture over in central areas. On the other hand, soil moisture deficit has been reported over much of bimodal areas including northeastern highlands, and northern coast where anticipated *Masika* season has delayed, forcing some farmers to go for dry seeding while early planted crops at emergency stage in other areas (Musoma, Kibaha and Bagamoyo districts) encountered temporary wilting.

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 in unimodal areas but situation is precarious in bimodal areas.

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.

Environmental Summary

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

persist together with some onshore south easterly wind flow which is likely bring some rainfall activities over the southern sector of the country towards the end of this dekad.

Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to relax slightly while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) will continue to Intensify. The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is expected to move northwards over the southern sector of the country. Enhanced moisture is expected over the southern sector of the country including western, south western highlands and coastal areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 21-31, 2009

Southwestern highlands, southern regions and southern parts of Morogoro (Mahenge) areas are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with thundery showers. Western (Kigoma, and Tabora regions), Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera and Mwanza) are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal region and the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) together with northeastern highlands are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with a few showers. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and central (Dodoma and Singida regions) areas are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with a few outbreaks of showers and isolated thunderstorms.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS MARCH 21-31, 2009

The current warmer Sea Surface Temperatures over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to

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