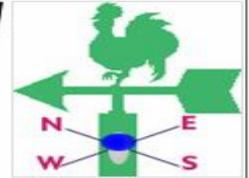




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 22, 2008/09 Cropping Season

April 1-10, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Areas over northeastern highlands particularly Monduli and Simanjiro were still experiencing severe soil moisture stress hampering seasonal farming activities.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad under review, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) remained relaxed while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere intensified. A tropical cyclone "JADE" developed over northeastern Madagascar and resulted into enhanced rainfall over some parts of the country. During this dekad southwesterly to northwesterly winds associated with a trough coupled with the tropical cyclone dominated and influenced the weather over the country. Over the Lake Victoria Basin wind convergence contributed to development of thundershowers mainly over the western and southern parts of Lake Zone.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Areas over the Lake Victoria basin (Ngara, Bukoba, and Mwanza), western (Kigoma and Tabora), central regions (Dodoma and Singida), and northern coast (Tanga) recorded above normal (i.e. >125% normal) rainfall. The highest rainfall amount of about 171.2 mm was recorded at Ngara in the western Lake Victoria basin (see Figure 1). Much of the northeastern highlands (Arusha, KIA, Moshi, and Same) and Islands of Unguja and Pemba, and some areas in the northern coast (Handeni and Morogoro) received below normal rainfall amounts (75 % of normal) not exceeding 50 mm during the dekad as shown in Figure 1.

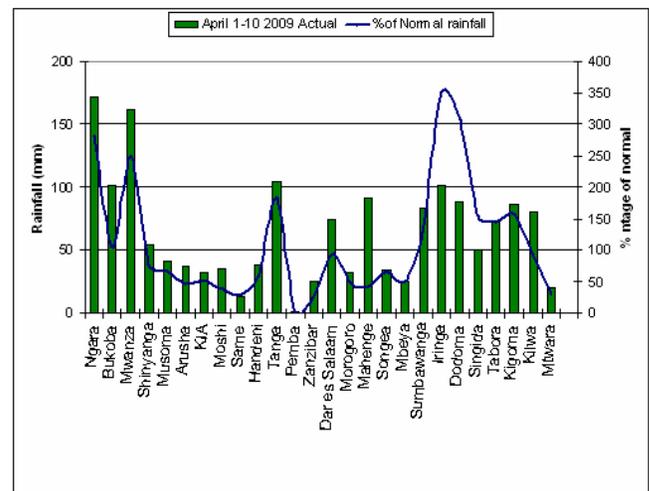


Figure 1: April 1-10, 2009 rainfall amounts against percentages of normal

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the first dekad of April there was slight improvement of soil moisture levels over several parts of bimodal areas of northern coast and north eastern highlands which have experienced inadequate soil moisture supply since the start of the season by mid March. The situation was beneficial to younger growing crops as well as final planting activities for *Masika* farming seasons although belated. Other areas of northeastern highlands particularly Monduli and Simanjiro were still experiencing severe soil moisture stress hampering seasonal farming activities. As for unimodal areas crops in the fields were progressing well mainly due

to adequate soil moisture supplied to crops (maize, beans and paddy) at stages ranging from flowering to full ripeness, although the delayed and replanted crops over parts of southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara districts) were at weeding stage.

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. Pastures and water conditions over northeast (Ngorongoro) are very bad.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Prevailing rains have slightly boosted water levels in lakes and dams, and discharges in rivers in their respective catchments.

Environmental Summary

Mild temperatures over much of the coastal belt reduced human discomfort although some periods of high temperatures were also experienced.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS APRIL 11-20, 2009

During the period 11 – 20th April, 2009, the current warmer Sea Surface Temperatures over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to persist. Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to relax while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) will continue to moderately intensify while the ITCZ is expected to migrate further northwards over the country.

Lower level winds are expected to be south-easterly to easterly resulting into surplus moisture conditions over the coastal areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 11-20, 2009

Enhanced rainfall is expected over coastal areas and the Lake Victoria basin together with the extreme western parts of the country. Southwestern highlands including southern areas are likely to experience diminishing rainfall activities.

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza and western Shinyanga regions) and western (Kigoma region) Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza and Mara) are expected to experience above normal rainfall. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Coastal regions, and Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected receive near normal with pockets of above normal rainfall. Western (Tabora and Rukwa regions), central (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Mbeya and Iringa regions), southern (Ruvuma region and Mahenge) are expected to receive normal to below normal rains. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience below normal with pockets of near normal rains.