



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 23, 2008/09 Cropping Season

April 11-20, 2009

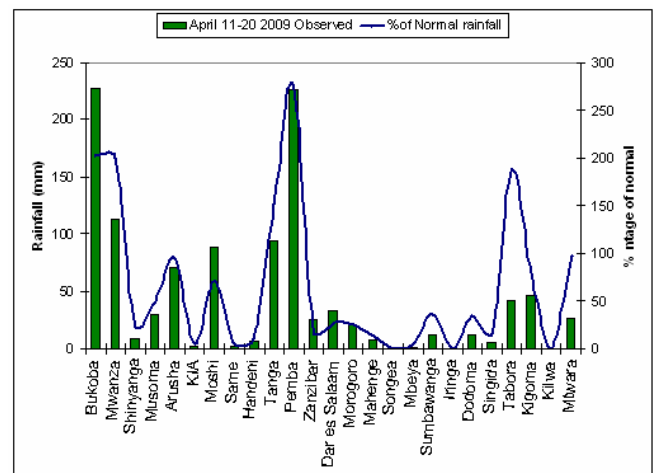
HIGHLIGHTS

- 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) continued to relax while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere intensified. Southerly to southeasterly winds associated with a near Equatorial Trough allowed influx of moisture over the coastal areas enhancing rainfall over the northern coast. Over Lake Victoria Basin northeasterly and easterly wind convergence continued to allow development of thundery showers mainly over the western and southern parts of the Lake Zone.

rainfall season approaches the end. The *Msimu* rains cease normally from the third dekad of April.



April 11-20, 2009 rainfall amounts against percentages of normal

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Areas over the Lake Victoria basin (Bukoba and Mwanza), western (Tabora), and northern coast (Tanga) and Island of Pemba recorded above normal (i.e. >125% normal) rainfall. Rainfall amounts exceeding 200 mm in a dekad under review were recorded at Bukoba (227.8 mm) and Pemba (226.6 mm). Much of bimodal areas; the Lake Victoria basin (Musoma and Shinyanga), northeastern highlands (Arusha, KIA, Moshi, and Same) and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, and northern coast (Tanga, Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, and Coast regions) received below normal rainfall amounts not exceeding 50 mm during the dekad as shown in the Figure. Much of unimodal areas have started recording little amounts of rainfall as *Msimu*

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the second dekad of April continued soil moisture stress parts of bimodal areas specifically northern coast and northeastern highlands adversely affected farming activities for the *Masika* season. Over unimodal areas crops in most of the fields were progressing well as many crops were at maturing stage. However, the available soil moisture was adequate for delayed and replanted crops at advanced vegetative stages over parts of southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara districts).

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 21-30, 2009

Currently there is slight cooling along the coast of Tanzania towards the Mozambique Channel and warm Sea Surface Temperatures over the eastern Madagascar. For the coming 10 days (21st – 30th April, 2009), the cooling conditions are likely to continue up to mid dekad and the warmer Sea Surface Temperatures over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to persist. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones are expected to relax while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones will continue to intensify resulting in a northward shift of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).

The extension of a high pressure system (ridge) is expected through the Mozambique Channel to southern parts of Tanzania. Lower level winds are expected to be southeasterly and occasionally becoming southerly leading to near normal to suppressed rainfall over most areas. A retreating meridional arm of the ITCZ is likely to reduce rainfall over the western areas of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 21-30, 2009

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