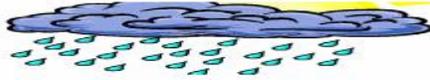




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 29, 2008/09 Cropping Season

June 11-20, 2009

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the bimodal regime further decrease of soil moisture has exacerbated a very poor crop performance over much of the region as a result of false start and poor rainfall distribution experienced over much of northeastern highlands and northern coastal areas during *Masika* 2008/2009 cropping season.

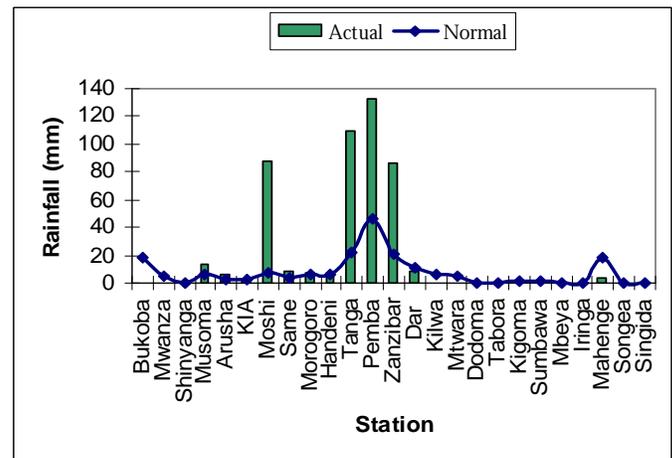
### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period under review (11-20 June, 2009), both southern hemisphere systems St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones continued to intensify significantly contributing to extension of a strong ridge whose axis is crossing northeastern sector of Tanzania towards Kenya. Due to intensification and orientation of the East African ridge, a southeasterly flow was observed almost over the entire coastal belt and becoming westerly towards western areas of the country. Occasionally this flow was associated with a supply of moisture from the Indian Ocean to the northern coast and northeastern highlands thus generating light rains over those areas particularly the extreme northern coast including islands of Unguja and Pemba. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere continued to relax significantly and the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continued to become stronger over the hemisphere.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the first dekad of June, most areas of the country did not receive rainfall as the dry season prevails except for a few areas over bimodal rainfall pattern (northern coast and northeastern highlands) which recorded significant amounts of rainfall. Above normal rainfall amounts were reported over Pemba Island (133.2 mm), Tanga (109.2 mm) and Zanzibar (85.9 mm) in the northern coast and over

Moshi (87.6 mm) in northeastern highlands as shown in the figure below. Many areas remained seasonally dry.



June 11-20, 2009: Observed rainfall amounts against normal.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Declined soil moisture levels was experienced over much of the country during the period, indicating a normal decreasing trend for this time of year as the dry season continues. However, over islands of Unguja and Pemba and a few pockets over northern coastal belt there was slight improvement in soil moisture conditions following occasional rains reported during the dekad under review. Over the bimodal regime further decrease of soil moisture has exacerbated a very poor crop performance over much of the region as a result of false start and poor

rainfall distribution experienced over much of northeastern highlands and northern coastal areas during *Masika* 2008/2009 cropping season. Maize crop is between earing and wax ripeness and in moderate to poor condition.

Over unimodal areas (southwestern highlands, western, southern, southern coast, and central) farmers were finalizing harvesting of maize, beans and paddy.

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 mainly over unimodal areas. However, over most parts of northeastern highlands and parts of northern coast (Handeni district) pastures and water conditions continued deteriorating.

### Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams, and discharges in rivers in their respective catchments were declining mainly over central and northeastern highlands. Water for industrial and domestic purposes should be used sparingly as the dry season continues.

### Environmental Summary

The country experienced generally cool temperatures and comfortable conditions. Night temperatures are falling over most parts of the country as we continue with the cool/cold season.

## EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS JUNE 21-30, 2009

During last dekad of June 2009, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to continue intensifying, whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax thus keeping both the meridional and zonal components of the ITCZ further north.

The warmer Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the Central Tropical Indian Ocean are expected to persist while SSTs to the south of Madagascar are expected to be cool. The SSTs over east-tropical Atlantic Ocean and western coast of South Africa are expected to be neutral to warm conditions. The East African ridge is expected to become stronger due to cooling over southern Madagascar and therefore allowing southerly to southeasterly winds to inject cold air over a greater part of the country mainly over high grounds resulting into chilly weather over the areas.

## EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 21-30, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara, and Mwanza regions) is expected to experience mainly partly cloudy conditions with isolated thundery showers and sunny periods. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, northern Morogoro, Tanga, and Coastal regions, and the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with few light rains especially over the extreme northern coast. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with light rains and cool temperatures during nights and early morning hours mainly over the highlands. Southwestern highlands and southern parts of Morogoro (Mahenge) are expected to feature generally dry conditions with pockets of light rains mainly over high grounds. Cool temperatures are expected to continue especially during nights and early morning hours. Western areas (Tabora, Kigoma and northern Rukwa regions), Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southern region are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and long sunny periods.

Prepared by

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