



# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 31, 2008/09 Cropping Season

July 1-10, 2009

### HIGHLIGHTS

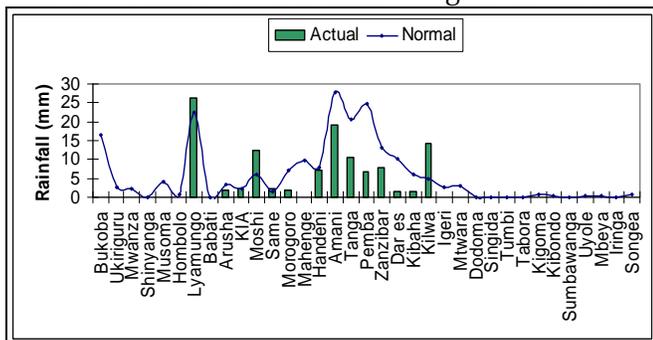
- Over most parts of northeastern highlands (including Simanjiro district) and parts of northern coast pastures and water conditions continued deteriorating as the dry season continues.
- As night temperatures get low, caution should be taken against use of charcoal stoves for heating homes to avoid asphyxiation

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the first dekad of July 2009, both southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) were intense contributing to a strong East African Ridge towards our region. The intensification of the high pressure cells over South African tip and developments of cold front systems contributed to a very strong southerly wind flow associated with much cold air advection towards the country. The Azores and Siberian high pressure cells in the northern hemisphere continued to relax significantly keeping the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) still over the northern hemisphere.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the first dekad of July northern coast, southern coast and northeastern highlands received



July 1-10, 2009 Observed rainfall amounts against normal.

light rains over few areas while the rest of the country was seasonally dry. Lyamungo recorded the

highest rainfall amount of 26.2 mm which is above normal followed by Amani 19.2 mm and Kilwa 14.2 mm which were also above normal as shown on the graph.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture levels continued declining over much of the country due to the prevailing dry conditions. Further decrease of soil moisture has favoured drying up of field crops that were at harvesting maturity over bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast). However, crop yields are anticipated to be poor as a result of false start and poor rainfall distribution over much of northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara regions) and northern coastal areas (Tanga, Morogoro, and Coast regions) during *Masika* 2009 cropping season.

Over unimodal rainfall regime (southwestern highlands, western, southern, southern coast, and central) many farmers have finished harvesting of maize, beans and paddy. Crop yields in this regime are variable, where some areas of Central (Dodoma region and northern Iringa), and southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) have had below average harvests.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined. Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at a satisfactory level mainly over unimodal areas.

However, over most parts of northeastern highlands (including Simanjiro district) and parts of northern coast pastures and water conditions continued deteriorating as the dry season continues.

### Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams, and discharges in rivers in their respective catchments were declining over most areas and are expected to persist as the dry season continues. Water for industrial and domestic purposes should be used sparingly.

### Environmental Summary

Night temperatures are low over most parts of the country as cool/cold season continues. As night temperatures get low, caution should be taken against use of charcoal stoves for heating homes to avoid asphyxiation. Dry windy conditions that prevailed over northeastern highlands, coast, central and western areas increased prospects for diseases such as coughs, colds, pneumonia, and asthma.

## EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS JULY 11-20, 2009

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems are expected to remain intense, whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to continue relaxing thus keeping both the meridional and zonal components of the ITCZ further north. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) south of Madagascar are expected to remain cool.

The SSTs over Eastern tropical Atlantic Ocean and western coast of South Africa are expected to be mainly neutral. The above configuration is expected to allow a strong East African ridge and therefore bringing more southerly to southeasterly wind flow associated with cold air from the south.

## EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JULY 11-20, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara, and Mwanza regions) is expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with isolated thunderstorms and sunny periods. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, northern Morogoro, Tanga, coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to experience mainly partly cloudy conditions with few light rains. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with light rains and cool temperature conditions during nights and early morning hours. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa and southern parts of Morogoro region) are expected to feature generally dry conditions with chilly weather ranging from cool to cold temperatures especially during nights and early morning hours. Western areas (Tabora, Kigoma and northern Rukwa 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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