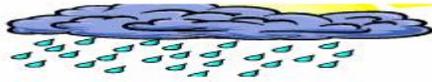




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 32, 2008/09 Cropping Season

July 11-20, 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 dekad a greater part of the country continued to experience dry conditions. However occasional light rains over few areas especially during morning hours continued over northern coast and high grounds of northeastern highlands. Lake Victoria basin featured generally dry conditions. Chilly and cold weather was observed mostly over the southwestern highlands, central areas some areas of northeastern highlands and occasionally spreading to other parts of the country.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the second dekad of July most of the areas were seasonally dry except Lyamungo which recorded the highest total rainfall amount of 20 mm. Other stations which received rainfall are Zanzibar 4.8 mm, Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) 2.2 mm, and Arusha 1.9 mm.

### 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). 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.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at a satisfactory level mainly over much of 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 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 21-31, 2009

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) 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 Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further north. The Sea Surface Temperatures (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 stronger East African ridge and therefore bringing more southerly to southeasterly wind flow associated with cold air from south.

### EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JULY 21-31, 2009

Enhanced southerly winds will result into chilly and cool weather conditions over greater part of the country. 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 and cool/cold temperature conditions during nights and early morning hours mainly over the highlands, occasional light rains are also expected. 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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