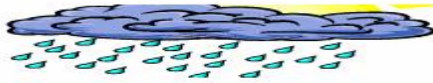




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 8, 2009/10 Cropping Season

November 11-20, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Farmers over bimodal sector were engaged in land preparation over northeastern highlands and weeding of maize and beans over much of Lake Victoria basin and parts of northern coast.
- Pasture and water availability improved over northeastern highlands though the tender grass causes problems for the hungry livestock.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of November 2009, southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) relaxed contributing to significant shifting of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the northern parts of the Country. The Siberian and Azores anticyclones in the northern hemisphere remained strong, allowing the Arabian ridge to push the ITCZ southwards. A north-easterly wind flow and occasional easterlies continued to dominate northern parts of the country. Westerly winds dominated over the western towards central areas. Convergence prevailed over Lake Victoria Basin, western and central areas accompanied with abundant moisture over the lower levels.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During November 11-20, some parts of the country received adequate amounts of rainfall ranging from 30 to 200 mm. These areas include; Bukoba which obtained 205.8 mm, followed by Simanjiro 192.5 mm, Shinyanga 120.5 mm, Kilindoni-Mafia 116.0 mm, Rombo 104.5 mm, Tabora 88.8 mm, Kibondo 66.3 mm, Ukiriguru 64.8 mm and Biharamulo 62.4 mm. Other stations recorded rainfall between 50 and 10 mm while a few were dry mainly over parts of coastal and southern regions as shown in Figure 1.

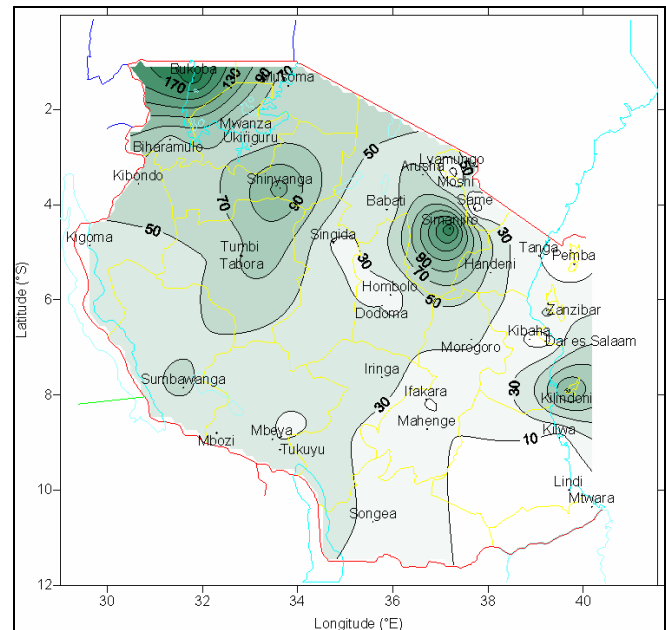


Figure 1: November 11-20, 2009 Rainfall Distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture supply over some areas in the northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin during the dekad enhanced field activities ranging from land preparation, planting to weeding of crops as reported from those areas. Some crops over these areas have been affected by both late and false starts. However, much of the northern coast (Pangani district) and lowlands of Rombo and Same districts in the northeastern highlands, farmers were actively involved in planting, gap filling and replanting which resulted from germination failure and wilting early planted crops. Generally, crops were at vegetative stage ranging between poor to good state.

Over the unimodal areas major field activities were land preparation with a few farmers over west and southwestern highlands reported to have started planting. Other areas including central and southern regions (Dodoma, Singida, Mtwara, Lindi, and Ruvuma) were still in land preparation.

Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.

Pastures and water availability were improving though the tender grass causes problems for the hungry livestock in several areas of northeastern highlands.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

There was a slight improvement in water levels in rivers, lakes and dams and their respective catchments over most areas of the country. Water for industrial and domestic purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

A rising trend of temperatures was observed over most parts of the country, becoming uncomfortable mainly along the coastal belt where humidity was also high.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS NOVEMBER, 21-30, 2009

During the coming dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to continue relaxing, whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify thus allowing the ITCZ to move further southwards over the country. Wind convergence over Lake Victoria Basin is likely to occur mostly over the western side of the basin and occasionally over southwestern part. The above configuration accompanied by the meridional component of ITCZ is expected to allow moisture influx over the areas. Northeasterly to easterly wind flow is expected to influence the weather over coastal areas and hinterlands. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are persistently warmer over area the central and western Indian Ocean.

The situation is likely to contribute to a reduction of rainfall activities over the coastal belt and northeastern highlands areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER NOVEMBER, 21-30, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions, and Kibondo district): is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms. There is a likelihood of suppressed rainfall over the eastern side of the Lake (Mara region). Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, and Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience enhanced episodes of rainfall especially over Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Coastal and Morogoro regions. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to experience occasional enhanced rainfall. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated cases of showers. Pockets of suppressed rainfall are expected over the western parts of the region. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms. Few cases of enhanced rainfall activities are likely to occur mainly over Mbeya and Rukwa. Western areas (Tabora, Southern Kigoma, and Rukwa regions) are expected to feature cloudy condition with showers and thunderstorms. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions, showers and thunderstorms. Southern region (Ruvuma region) is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and showers. A few outbreaks of heavy rainfall are likely to occur. In general, during the coming 10 days there is a likelihood of enhanced rainfall over the coastal areas and Hinterlands of northern coast spreading to the southern parts. Suppressed rainfall is likely over the eastern sector of the lake, parts of central and Iringa region. Mainly normal rainfall is expected elsewhere.

Prepared by

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