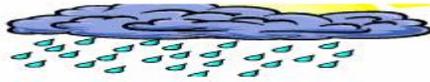




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 9, 2009/10 Cropping Season

November 21-30, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Land preparation in unimodal rainfall areas, planting and weeding of crops in bimodal rainfall areas.
- Pastures and water availability were improving though the tender soft grass caused problems for the weak, hungry livestock.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the third dekad of November 2009, southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed contributing to significant southward shifting of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the country. The Siberia and Azores high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere remained fairly strong. Northeasterly wind flow and occasional easterly flow continued to dominate a greater part of the country while westerly wind flowing over the western areas resulted into persistent wind convergence. The above configuration associated with abundant moisture over the lower levels contributed to enhanced rainfall activities. Occurrence of tropical Cyclone "Bongani" over north of Madagascar enhanced rainfall activities over some areas especially over Tanga region and the Islands of Unguja and Pemba.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During November 21-30, most areas of the country continued to receive rainfall whereby Kibondo was led with 139.8 mm followed by Zanzibar 138.6 mm, Moshi 97.9 mm, Lyamungo 94.7 mm, Tabora 85.9 mm, Pemba 69 mm, Bukoba 66.1 mm, Tanga 65.3 mm, Shinyanga 62.4 mm, Amani 57.7 mm, Kigoma 57.3 mm and Arusha 51.3 mm. Other stations recorded rainfall less than 50mm while central areas were dry as shown in Figure 1.

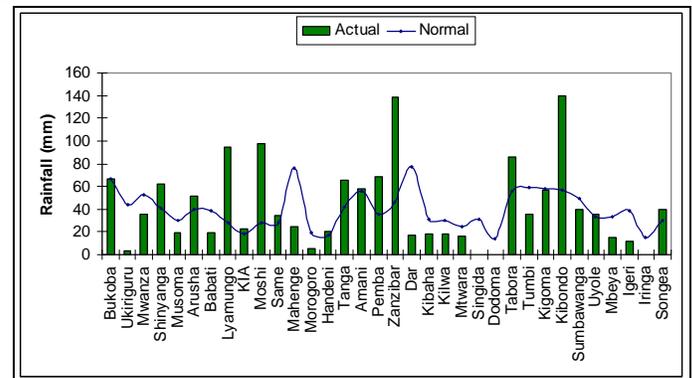


Figure 1: November 21-30, 2009 Rainfall Distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the period most areas especially in bimodal rainfall areas continued with land preparation, planting and weeding of crops mainly maize and beans due to improved soil moisture conditions. Also there were crops over these areas that have been affected by both late and false start of the season. 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 poor germination and wilting of early planted crops. Generally, crops were at vegetative stage ranging between poor to good state. In unimodal rainfall areas major field activities during the period were land preparation with a few farmers over west and southwestern highlands 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 soft grass caused problems for the weak, 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 DECEMBER, 1-10, 2009

During the dekad, southern hemisphere high pressure Systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to remain relaxed, whereas the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify thus allowing the ITCZ to move further southwards over the country. Weekly Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean are persistently warmer and are likely to influence weather over the coastal belt during the first week of December. Upper level wind convergence is likely to suppress rainfall over the interior.

EXPECTED WEATHER DECEMBER, 1-10, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions, and Kibondo district) are likely to have suppressed rainfall over some parts of the Lake basin with exception of Kagera and Mwanza regions and Kibondo area. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience mainly suppressed rainfall conditions. However, the Islands and coastal belt areas are likely to feature occasional showers. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to experience enhanced rainfall occasionally. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature isolated cases of showers. Mainly suppressed rainfall is expected over the region. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms. Few cases of enhanced rainfall activities are likely to occur mainly over high grounds. Suppressed rainfall is likely over Iringa region. Western areas (Tabora, Kigoma, and Rukwa regions) are expected to feature cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature mainly dry conditions with occasional showers. Southern region (Ruvuma region) is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions, showers and thunderstorms.

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