



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 15, 2009/10 Cropping Season

January 21-31, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- Decreasing supply of soil moisture during the dekad hampered crop growth and development as observed over most areas of the country. Armyworm outbreaks in some unimodal areas were put under control.
- Good pastures and water availability have improved livestock conditions.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the third dekad of January 2010, the Southern Hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to relax while the Siberian anticyclone in the Northern Hemisphere continued to extend a ridge towards the eastern sector of the country thus pushing the rain making mechanism Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) towards northern parts of Mozambique while the Azores anticyclone maintained moderate strength. The Meridional component of the ITCZ maintained weak to moderate strength over the western part of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Decreased rainfall amounts during the dekad were observed mainly over the eastern sector of the country, except over west of Lake Victoria basin, central, southwestern highlands and southern region that observed fair rainfall amounts. Naliendele station obtained the highest value for the period, 115.8mm, followed by Igeri 114.2mm, Mahenge 92.1mm, Mtwara 86.3mm, Songea 80.6mm, Bukoba 63.7mm, Mbozi 60.0mm, Mbeya 50.4mm, Uyole 41.8mm, Sumbawanga 40.6mm, Nzega 39.8mm, Ukiriguru 38.6mm, Iringa 27.8mm, Tabora 26.9mm, Tukuyu 25.9mm and Dodoma 20.3mm. Some stations in our sample stations recorded rainfall

below 20 mm while other stations did not receive any rainfall as depicted in Figure 1 below.

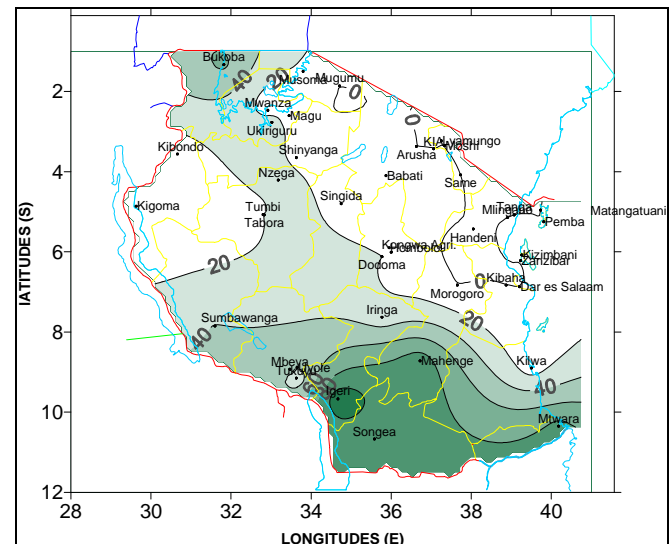


Figure 1: January 21-31, 2010 Rainfall distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and crop summary

Soil moisture supply continued to decline and reached extreme levels over several areas across the country, hampering crop (maize, sorghum) growth and development at various stages ranging from emergence to tasseling. Magu district in Mwanza region and Lyamungo in Kilimanjaro region observed wilting to temporary wilting of field crops, whereas Kasulu, Nzega, Kongwa, Kibaha and Meatu districts experienced long dry spells. Planting activities were still going on particularly in Ifakara and Ilonga (Morogoro region) but gave poor

germination due to soil moisture deficit, while over Simanjiro, Monduli and Loliondo districts (in northeastern highlands) the progress was going on fairly.

Generally, field crops over both unimodal and bimodal rainfall areas ranged from emergence to ripeness stage where the early planted maize crop was between weeding and wax ripeness stage in good state. However, in some areas of Sumbawanga (south western highlands) beans in vegetative stage exhibited leaching, while over northeastern areas, crops (maize and beans) during the period were from advanced vegetative stage to wax ripeness and in good state, except for beans in Rombo that was so poor following excessive soil moisture obtained during early vegetative stage.

Armyworm outbreaks have been reported mainly in unimodal areas but were immediately brought under control.

Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.

Pasture and water availability are good and livestock conditions are normalizing.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

The ongoing rains have boosted water levels in lakes and dams and flooded some rivers. Water availability for human, industrial and energy generation purposes has improved.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures over most parts of the county were high along with humidity levels making it rather uncomfortable particularly over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2010

During the next dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to remain relaxed whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are likely to remain intense, with occasional relaxation of the Siberian anticyclone allowing the zonal component of the ITCZ to move northwards over the southern parts of the country.

Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in February 2010 are projected to remain warm over western tropical Indian Ocean but still maintaining slightly warmer conditions over a greater part of tropical Central Indian Ocean. The weekly Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are showing a similar trend. This configuration is likely to sustain a low level wind divergence along the northeastern sector of the country and at times to include the southern parts.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions, and Kibondo district) are likely to experience a few showers and thunderstorms. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coast regions together with the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to experience mainly partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): most areas are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience a few showers mainly over high grounds. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are likely to have enhanced rainfall activities over most areas. Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall over some areas. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall activities with few areas likely to experience enhanced rainfall. Southern region (Ruvuma region and Mahenge) is expected to feature enhanced rainfall over most areas. Generally, during the coming 10 day period there is a likelihood of near normal to above normal rainfall activities over some parts of unimodal areas; i.e. southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa), central and southern parts of the country (Ruvuma, Mahenge) occasionally including Lindi and Mtwara regions.

Prepared by

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