



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 17, 2009/10 Cropping Season

February 11- 20, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture replenishment observed across the country mainly towards the end of the dekad, allowing hampered crops to regain and field activities to resume smoothly. .
- Armyworm outbreaks that spoilt young maize and paddy crops in some unimodal areas including the Island of Zanzibar were brought under control.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of February 2010, the Southern Hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to relax while the Siberian anticyclone in the Northern Hemisphere relaxed slightly, thus, causing the rain making mechanism, Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to remain in the southern sector of the country. The Meridional component of the ITCZ maintained a moderate strength over the western part of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During February 11-20, 2010 most parts of the country both in bimodal and unimodal areas received significant amounts of rainfall ranging between around 170 mm and 30mm. The highest dekadal total rainfall was recorded at Songea station 174.0mm, followed by Mahenge 169.9mm, Newala 160.3mm, Babati 159.8mm, Igeri 155.6mm, Handeni 143.1mm, Ifakara 131.7mm, Tanga 120.6mm, Kilwa 119.4mm, Ilonga 113.1mm, Tabora 111.2mm and Kibondo 104.1mm. Remaining stations recorded rainfall between 30 and 100mm, with a few areas that obtained below 30mm as depicted in the map.

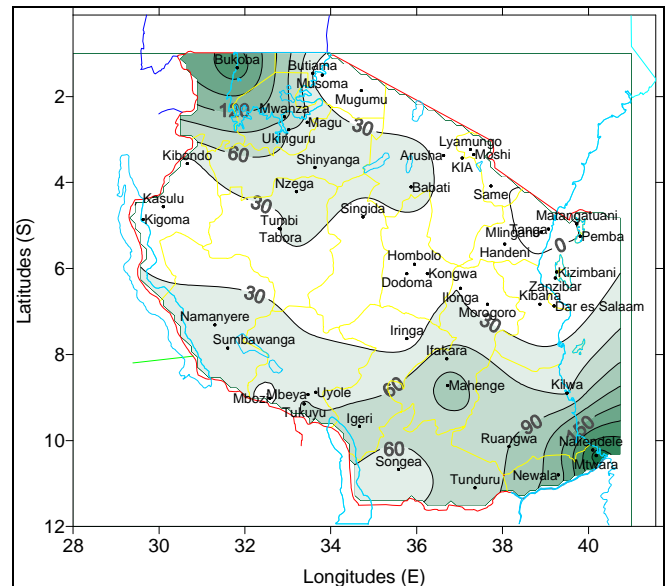


Figure 1: February 11-20, 2010 Rainfall distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and crop summary

Soil moisture replenishment was observed across the country mainly towards the end of the dekad, allowing hampered crops mainly maize and paddy over both bimodal and unimodal areas including Northern coast, Northeastern highlands, Western, Central, Coast, and parts of Lake Victoria basin (Magu, Shinyanga, Hai, Kasulu, Nzega, Kongwa, Babati, Kibaha, Ruangwa and Meatu districts) to regain. For field activities mainly land preparation, planting and weeding that were slowed down due to

dry spells experienced over Simanjiro, Monduli, Loliondo and Rombo (lower)) districts resumed smoothly. Generally, field crops over most parts of the country are ranging from emergence to ripeness stages whereby the early planted maize and beans crops have reached ripeness to harvesting stage in moderate state, while paddy is between replanting and vegetative stages also in moderate state.

Armyworm outbreaks that spoil young crops in some unimodal areas including the Island of Zanzibar were brought under control.

Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.

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

Hydro-meteorological Summary

The ongoing rains have maintained 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 21-29, 2010

During this dekad, the Southern Hemisphere Systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to slightly intensify whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the Northern Hemisphere are likely to slightly relax allowing the zonal component of the ITCZ to slightly move northwards over the southern sector of the country. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in last ten days of February 2010 are projected to be warm over south-western towards southern Indian. This configuration is likely to sustain a low level wind convergence over unimodal and parts bimodal areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions, and Kibondo district) are likely to experience a normal to above normal rainfall. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal regions together with the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions, showers with isolated cases of thunderstorms and sunny periods. Over Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions); most areas are expected to experience partly cloud conditions, showers with occasional thunderstorms. Northeastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience generally dry conditions with occasional showers over high grounds. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions), Southern region (Ruvuma region) and Mahenge are expected to experience enhanced rainfall activities over most areas.

Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall over some areas. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature generally normal rainfall activities and likely to experience enhanced rainfall over few areas.

During the coming 10 days mainly towards the end there is a likelihood of near normal rainfall activities over some parts of unimodal areas Southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa), Central and southern parts of the country (Ruvuma, Mahenge) occasionally including, Lindi and Mtwara regions.