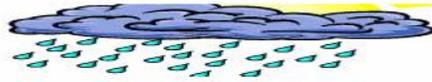




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 20, 2009/10 Cropping Season

March 11-20, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- Field crops over unimodal sector were generally between early vegetative to maturity and in good to moderate state while final land preparations and sowing were main activities in bimodal areas.
- Floods observed in Newala (Ruvuma region), Arumeru (Arusha region) and Uyui (Tabora region) have washed away crops.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of March 2010, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to relax while the Siberian in the northern hemisphere relaxed thus causing the rain making mechanism Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move northwards into the southern sector of the country. The meridional component of the ITCZ was moderately active over the western part of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad March 11-20, most parts of the country received mainly normal rainfall whereby western parts of the country, southwestern highlands and southern areas received more than 60 mm of rainfall as shown in Figure 1. Igeri was leading with 118.5 mm followed by Tunduru 114.5 mm, Newala 114 mm, Kibondo 82.7 mm and Iringa 65.3 mm. Other stations in our sample stations recorded rainfall below 60 mm as shown in Figure 1.

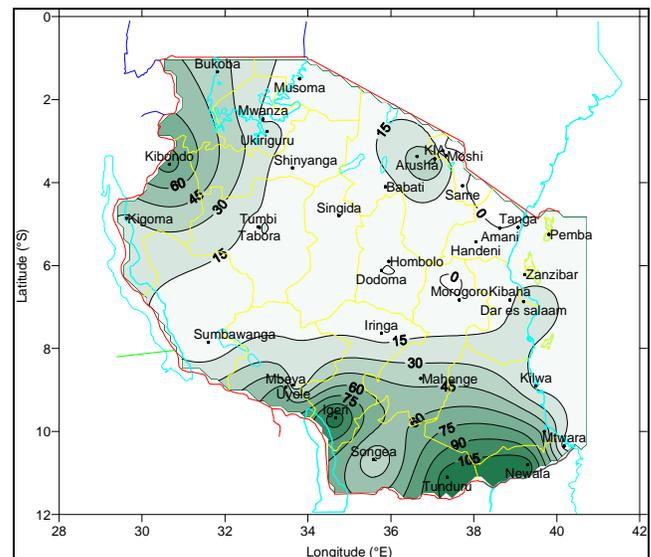


Figure 1: March 11-20, 2010 Rainfall distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and crop summary

Finalizing land preparations and planting were the main field activities over bimodal areas in anticipation of the long rains season *Masika*. However, several areas particularly over the northern coast comprising of Tanga and Coast regions were still too dry to undertake any planting activity.

In Newala (Mtwara region), Arumeru district (Arusha region) and Uyui district (Tabora region) rains have washed away field crops.

In unimodal rainfall areas, generally most crops were between moderate and good state from vegetative to ripeness stage. The early planted beans mainly over higher altitudes have already been harvested and second planting phase was in progress. Paddy crop was in moderate state at between transplanting and tasseling stages, while wheat was being planted over parts of Mbeya region.

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 over most parts of the country have maintained water levels in lakes, dams and rivers, though extreme cases of river floods were observed in Newala (Mtwara region), Arumeru district (Arusha region) and Uyui district (Tabora region). Rains have caused some destruction of infrastructure and property (roads and field crops). Water availability for human, industrial and energy generation purposes has improved.

Environmental Summary

During the dekad temperatures were generally mild with local variations of high temperatures causing discomfort over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH, 11-20, 2010

For the coming dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene) are expected to intensify significantly whereas the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are likely to relax allowing the zonal component of the ITCZ to continue moving northwards. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to become more pronounced in the coming ten days. This configuration coupled with enhanced easterly wind flow pattern over the eastern parts of the country is likely to enhance moisture over most areas. It is expected that the meridional component of ITCZ will become more active.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH, 11-20, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions) and Kibondo district are likely to experience above normal rainfall. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coast region together with the Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to experience normal to above normal rainfall. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) areas are most expected to experience above normal rainfall. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience normal to above normal rains as *Masika* rains become widespread. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall. Southern region (Ruvuma) and Mahenge are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall. Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature above normal rainfall especially over Kigoma region. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall.

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