



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 25, 2009/10 Cropping Season

May 1-10, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over bimodal areas, crops were ranging from early vegetative to advanced vegetative growth stages and in good state.
- Over unimodal rainfall sector most field crops were approaching full ripeness and the state was generally good.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the 1st dekad of May 2010, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to intensify while the Siberian high pressure system and the associated Arabian ridge in the northern hemisphere relaxed thus causing the rain-making mechanism, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move further northwards over the northern sector of the country. The zonal component of the ITCZ was active over the eastern and northeastern sector of the country. The East African Ridge over southwestern and central areas of the country continued to intensify thus suppressing rainfall development over the region.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Few areas of the country especially northern coast, western and northeastern highlands recorded rainfall in excess of 80 mm. Pemba station was leading by 285.0 mm of rainfall followed by Lyamungo 156.5 mm, Kigoma 106.1 mm, Tanga 93.7 mm and Zanzibar 89.8 mm. Other stations recorded less than 80 mm with parts of central areas remaining generally dry as shown in Figure 1.

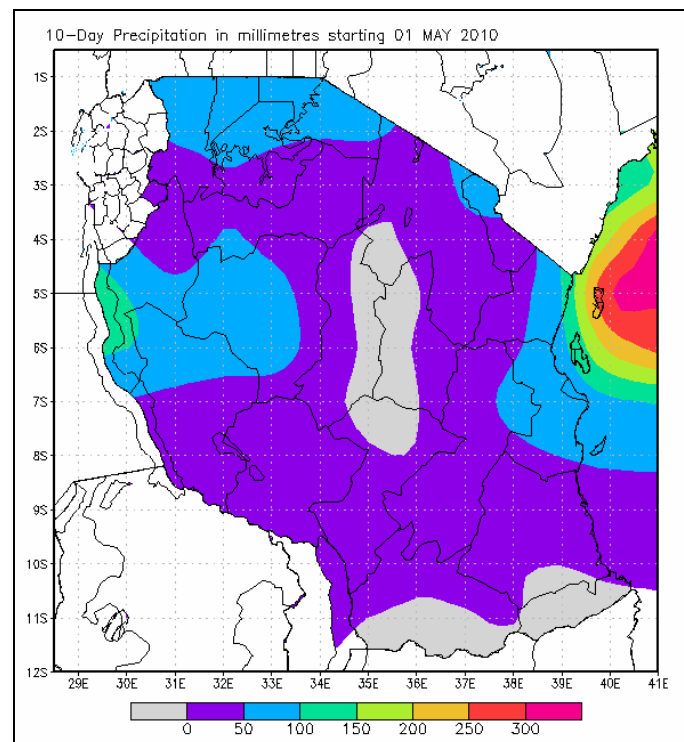


Figure 1: May 1-10, 2010 Rainfall Distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During this dekad crops mainly maize, paddy and beans over most areas of bimodal rainfall pattern had reached stages ranging from vegetative to advanced vegetative stage of growth. Crops were generally in good state as observed mainly over lowland areas of northeastern highlands (Hai and Same districts) and northern coast (Tanga and Coast regions) where soil moisture supply

was adequate, with farmers engaged in weeding as the major activity. Likewise, over unimodal areas the state of most crops particularly maize, beans, paddy, sunflower and sorghum were generally mixed in moderate and good condition ranging from vegetative to full ripeness stage. The second phase planted beans was in progress at vegetative to flowering stage in good state. Paddy crop in moderate state was from flowering to harvesting stages, while planting of wheat mainly over Mbeya region was complete and the crops are good at between third-leaf to tillering stages. A few areas like Ismani in Iringa (north) experienced poor crop performance resulting from inadequate supply of soil moisture experienced mainly during previous consecutive dekads.

Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.

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

Hydro-meteorological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flows were maintained during the period, thus water availability for human and industrial use and energy generation purposes has improved.

Environmental Summary

Cool temperatures over most areas in the country have led to comfortable conditions at night although some areas had local variations of high temperatures.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 11-20, 2010

For the coming dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (the Mascarene and St. Helena together with the associated East African ridge) are expected to

continue intensifying while the Azores and Siberian high pressure system together with the Arabian ridge 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 allow southeasterly to easterly wind flow pattern from the Indian Ocean.

EXPECTED WEATHER SITUATION DURING MAY 11-20, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions) is likely to experience normal to above normal rainfall. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience normal rainfall. Over southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), most areas are expected to experience reduced rainfall. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience normal to above normal rainfall. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall over high grounds. Reduced night temperatures associated with chilly weather is expected over some areas mainly over high grounds. Southern region (Ruvuma region and part of Ulanga district) are expected to experience occasional light rains. Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature mainly normal rainfall. However, Tabora is likely to experience mainly dry conditions. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature mainly dry conditions. Temperatures are likely to drop significantly during night and early morning hours mainly over higher ground areas.

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