



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 29, 2009/10 Cropping Season

June 11-20, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

Over unimodal and bimodal rainfall sectors, crop harvesting was the major activity, and good harvest is anticipated.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the 2nd dekad of June 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 keeping the rain-making mechanism, Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further north of Africa. The East African Ridge intensified significantly thus maintaining low level diffluent wind flow pattern, thus a relatively less convective atmosphere over the country. A trough over the Indian Ocean near the coast of Tanzania led to a favorable rainfall condition over the coastal belt.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review, parts of central areas, east of Lake Victoria basin, western and southwestern highlands were dry. However, a few areas over bimodal rainfall regime continued experiencing rains whereby 10 mm to 90 mm of rainfall were reported over coastal areas, west of Lake Victoria basin and northeastern highlands. Pemba reported the highest amount of about 87.6 mm followed by Lyamungo 19.4 mm, Tanga 18.4 mm, Zanzibar 14.7 mm, Kilwa 13.9 and Bukoba 12.9 mm as shown in Figure 1. Other stations recorded less than 10 mm with much of the country remaining seasonably dry.

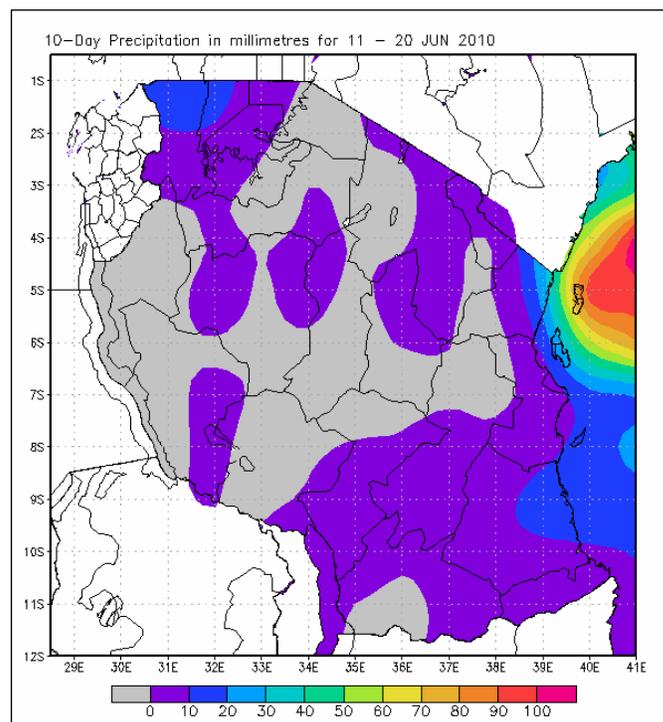


Figure 1: June 11-20, 2010 Rainfall Distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the second dekad of June 2010 most farmers were engaging in harvesting of crops mainly maize, paddy and beans over most areas of bimodal rainfall regime. Most crops were generally in good state as reported over the Lake Victoria basin and northeastern

highlands, despite the extensive dry spell experienced during the previous period particularly over some lowland areas of Hai and Same districts, and parts of northern coast (Tanga and Coast regions). Yield prospects for 2010 *Masika* cropping season is expected to be good despite of false starts, dry spells and early cessation. Over unimodal areas, farmers were continuing with harvesting of maize, beans, paddy, sunflower, sorghum and millet, and yield prospects is generally good, though some areas like Ismani in Iringa (north) and Nzega in Tabora experienced poor crop performance due to inadequate soil moisture supply enhanced by earlier cessation of the seasonal rains.

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 hydro power generation is good.

Environmental Summary

Cool temperatures over most areas in the country have led to comfortable conditions at night although over high ground areas cold temperatures were uncomfortable as reported from Mbulu and Meru districts.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JUNE 21-30, 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 systems together with the Arabian ridge in the northern hemisphere are likely to relax pushing the ITCZ further northwards. Mainly southerly to occasional southeasterly flow is expected over the country. Moist air mass is expected over the coastal belt and occasionally over high ground of southwestern.

EXPECTED WEATHER SITUATION DURING JUNE 21-30, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions) is likely to experience thunderstorms and a few showers. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience occasional rains. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Most areas are expected to experience mainly dry conditions with a few light showers. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience mainly orographical rainfall over high grounds. Relatively low temperatures are likely to dominate over the region. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to experience reduced night temperatures associated with chilly weather mainly over high grounds. Occasional rainfall is expected over Rungwe Mountains. Southern region (Ruvuma region) and part of Mahenge are expected to experience occasional light rains outbreaks of light rains over high grounds near the Lake. Kigoma region is expected to feature mainly dry conditions. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and Tabora region are expected to feature dry conditions. Relatively low temperatures are likely during night and early morning hours. Occasionally windy conditions are also likely to occur.