



# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 30, 2009/10 Cropping Season

June 21-30, 2010

### HIGHLIGHTS

Over unimodal and bimodal rainfall sectors, crop harvesting was the major activity during the past harvest. Good harvest is anticipated over the two sectors.

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the 3rd 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 pattern, with relatively less convective atmosphere over the country. A trough and warmer Sea surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the Indian Ocean near the coast of Tanzania continued to generate some favorable rainfall conditions over the coastal belt.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review, most areas of the country were dry except for few areas which received insignificant amount of less than 12 mm of rainfall. Lyamungo station recorded the highest amount of 11.9 mm followed by Zanzibar 11.4 mm and Mahenge 10.9 mm as shown in Figure 1. Other stations recorded less than 10 mm.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the third dekad of June 2010 most farmers were engaged 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 rainfall season 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 maize, beans, paddy, sunflower, sorghum and millet harvest, and yield prospects are generally good, though few pockets 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 JULY 1-10, 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 pushing the ITCZ further northwards. Mainly southerly to southeasterly flow is expected over the country. A trough near the coast of Tanzania coupled with warm SSTs is likely to supply moisture to the coastal belt and the high grounds of southwestern highlands.

#### EXPECTED WEATHER SITUATION DURING JULY 1-10, 2010

Generally cool nights and mornings are expected over most parts of the country while chilly nights and mornings will dominate over the high grounds. Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions) is likely to experience thunderstorms and few showers are likely over the eastern and western part of the Lake basin.

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 showers. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Most areas are expected to experience mainly dry conditions with occasional light showers. Northeastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience relatively low temperatures. Occasional orographical rainfall is expected over high grounds. 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 outbreaks of light rains over high grounds and near the Lake Nyasa. Kigoma region is expected to feature mainly dry conditions. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and Tabora region are expected to feature relatively low temperatures during night and early morning hours. Occasionally windy and dust devil conditions are also likely to occur.

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