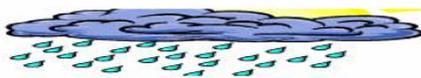




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

Na: 19 Cropping Season 2010/11

March 1-10, 2011

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture supply was experienced at lower levels over much of bimodal sector.
- A few areas of the unimodal sector including southwestern highlands, southern, southern coast and Morogoro (south) experienced significant soil moisture supply.

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the first dekad of March 2011, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Siberian High and its associated Arabian ridge remained intense keeping the zonal arm of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in the vicinity of the southern border of Tanzania. The ITCZ has been oscillating according to the intensity of depression along its track over Mozambique Channel. The southern systems, the Azores high was slightly relaxed resulting into unfavourable conditions for development of rainfall activities over the northeastern Tanzania. The meridional arm of ITCZ was generally confined over central western parts of DRC. The southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones remained weak throughout the period and situated further southeast of South Africa.

dry implying that the long rains (March-April-May) have not yet started in those areas.

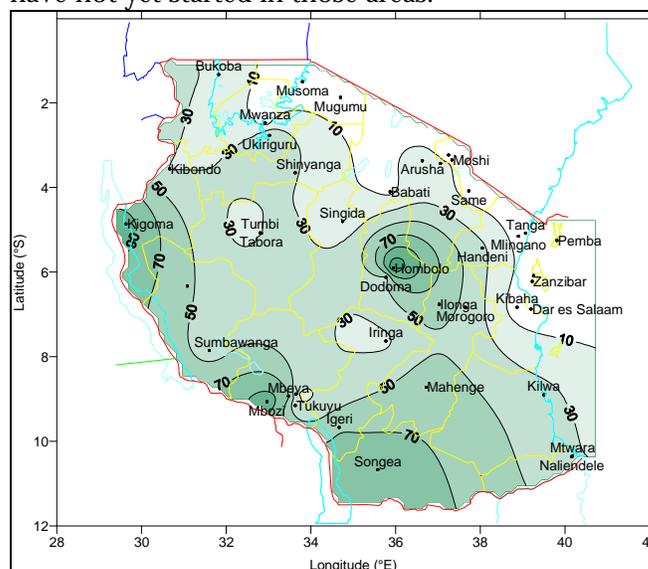


Fig. 1: March 1-10, 2011 Rainfall distribution (mm)

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period under review, areas over unimodal areas experienced rainfall activities with the highest amount recorded at Hombolo Agromet station (130.2 mm), followed by Kigoma and Mbimba in Mbozi district (100.2 mm) each, Songea (83.1mm), Mbeya (79.6mm), Igeri (68.2 mm), Mahenge (62.6 mm), and Naliendele (54.5 mm). The rest of the stations in a sample stations recoded rainfall below 50 mm. On the other hand, most parts of bimodal areas (northern coast, northeastern highlands, and Lake Victoria basin) were generally

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture supply was experienced at lower levels over much of bimodal areas. However, few parts of the unimodal areas including southwestern highlands, southern, southern coast and Morogoro (south) experienced significant soil moisture supply. The observed soil moisture was conducive to the field crops reported at various stages ranging from vegetative to earing stages in most of the southern sector where weeding of maize and transplanting of paddy were the leading activities for the earliest

planted crops. Bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast) observed land preparation for *Masika* rainfall season. Likewise, dry condition during the period had a negative effect to pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife mainly over northeastern highlands.

### Hydro-meteorological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams, and rivers have remained low, thus water for human and industrial usage and hydropower generation should be used sparingly.

### Environmental Summary

Temperatures over most areas in the country were generally hot coupled with high humidity leading to uncomfortable conditions, and it is expected to continue during the coming dekad.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2011

The southern hemisphere systems, the St Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to be slightly strong pushing the ITCZ to the north of its current position. In the northern hemisphere, the Azores high is expected to relax slightly towards the end of the dekad. The Siberian high and the associated Arabian ridge are expected to start relaxing slightly towards the end of the second dekad of March 2011. The meridional arm of ITCZ is expected to be active mainly over Congo basin due to warming over southwestern coast of Africa and occasionally oscillate eastwards towards western part of Tanzania.

The zonal arm of ITCZ is expected to be more active over southern half of the country signifying the gradual migration of the ITCZ northwards, giving a window for the onset of the coming *Masika* season.

### EXPECTED WEATHER SITUATION DURING MARCH 11-20, 2011

**Lake Victoria Basin** (Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions): Rain showers are expected over Kagera, Mwanza and Shinyanga regions towards the end of dekad.

**Western region** (Tabora and Kigoma regions): Isolated showers and thunderstorms are expected. Slightly enhanced rainfall is likely towards the end of the dekad.

**Northern coast and its hinterland** (Dar es Salaam, Coast, Tanga and Morogoro regions, Isles of Unguja and Pemba): Isolated rain showers are expected.

**Southern Coast** (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Moderate thundershowers are expected.

**North-eastern Highlands** (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions): Isolated rain-showers are expected mainly over high ground.

**Southwestern highlands** (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions and southern Morogoro (Mahenge areas): Thundery showers are likely during the dekad.

**Southern region** (Ruvuma region): Thundery showers are expected.

**Central Region** (Dodoma and Singida regions): Isolated rain showers are expected.

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