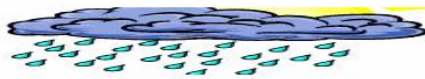




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 23 Cropping Season 2010/11

April 11-20, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

Improved soil moisture levels during the dekad favored most field crops over the bimodal sector and late planted crops over unimodal sector which were at advanced vegetative and maturity stages.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of April 2011, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores and Siberian highs and Arabian ridge were relaxed thus allowing the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to remain active over Tanzania. The southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones intensified resulting to northward shift of the ITCZ. The meridional arm of ITCZ was much active over western border of Tanzania and DRC.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review, particularly the second half of the dekad heavy rains associated with easterly waves were observed over the eastern part of the country specifically over northern and southern coast. During the dekad, heavy rains were observed over northern coast and Isles of Unguja and Pemba, where the highest 10 day rainfall was reported at Zanzibar 259.5 mm. other areas that reported rainfall exceeding 100 mm were northern coast (Dar es Salaam 117.3 mm and Kibaha 107.9 mm) and southern regions (Mahenge 241.9 mm, Tukuyu 154.8 mm, and Igeri 111.1 mm).

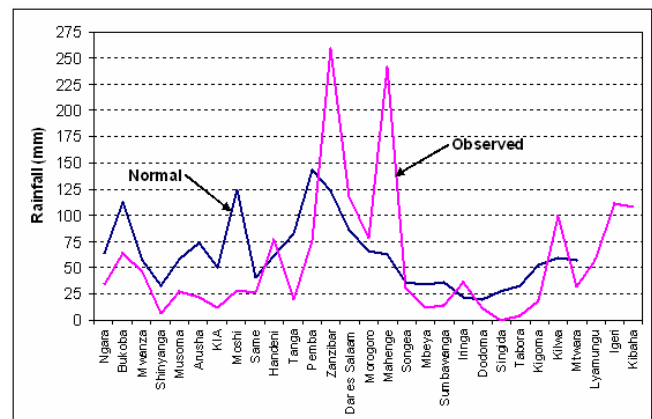


Fig. 1: April 11-20, 2011 observed against long-term average (normal) rainfall

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Improved soil moisture levels during the dekad favored most field crops over the bimodal sector and late planted crops over unimodal sector which was at advanced vegetative and maturity stages. Over most parts of bimodal areas, bean crop was between flowering to pod filling stages, while maize was between early vegetative to earing stages and in moderate state as reported over northern coast (Handeni), northeastern highlands (Arusha, Moshi, and Monduli districts), and western Lake Victoria Basin (Ngara districts). On the other hand, soil moisture deficit was reported over Ukiriguru and Magu in Mwanza region. Over much of the unimodal sector maize crop was at maturity stage and between moderate and good state with some few farmers started harvesting. Yield prospects is expected to be low over Meatu and Maswa districts (Shinyanga region), Kondoa district (Dodoma region), and over Ismani and Usangu areas in Iringa

and Mbeya regions of southwestern highlands due to observed soil moisture deficit which acutely impeded field crops during the season.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife has improved over much of the country due to ongoing seasonal rains.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flows have regained fairly well due to substantial rainfall amounts obtained, but water for human and industrial usage and hydro-power generation should still be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures over most areas in the country were generally high but on a decreasing trend.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2011

The southern hemisphere systems, the St Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to remain strong thus pushing the ITCZ to the north of its current position. In the northern hemisphere, the Azores and Siberian highs and the Arabian ridge are expected to relax. The meridional arm of ITCZ is expected to be active mainly over the extreme western parts of the country. On the other hand the zonal arm of ITCZ is expected to remain active over the country with significant influence on rainfall over the eastern parts of the country gradually extending to the north.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2011

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga, and Mwanza regions): Moderate to heavy rains are expected mainly over Mwanza, Mara and Kagera while southern while eastern parts of Shinyanga region will experience less rainfall as the seasonal rains come to an end. Western region (Tabora and Kigoma regions): Isolated moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms are expected mainly over Kigoma region. Northeastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions): Isolated rain-showers are expected. Rainfall in this area is likely to be poorly distributed and below average during the dekad.

Northern coast and its hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, and Coast regions, and Isles of Unguja and Pemba): Enhanced rainfall is expected mainly along the coastal belt (Dar es Salaam, Coast and Tanga regions), Isles of Unguja and Pemba and occasionally spreading to Morogoro region. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Moderate showers and thundershowers are expected even as the main season is about to end. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions and southern Morogoro (Mahenge areas): Few showers are expected over Mbeya, Southern Morogoro and western parts of Rukwa, while other areas are likely to experience decreasing rainfall towards the end of the dekad. Southern region (Ruvuma region): A decreasing rainfall trend is expected. Central Region (Dodoma and Singida regions): Less rainfall is expected as the season comes towards the end. However, episodes of isolated moderate rainfall can occur.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd, 4th 5th & 10th Floors - Ubungo Plaza – Morogoro Road.
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet1_tz@meteo.go.tz
Dar-es-Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA