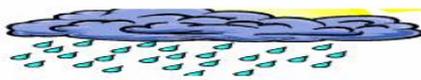




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 25 Cropping Seasons 2010/11

May 1-10, 2011

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture condition was generally good during the dekad favoring most field crops over the bimodal sector and late planted crops over unimodal sector which were at advanced vegetative and maturity stages.
- Some farmers over unimodal areas have started harvesting crops including maize and moderate to good harvest is anticipated for 2010/2011 cropping season.

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the first dekad of May 2011, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores and Siberian highs and Arabian ridge were relaxed while the southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones intensified resulting in a northward shift of the rain making mechanism, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). Southerly to southeasterly low level winds continued to dominate the eastern parts of the country supplying moisture to the coastal belt. The meridional arm of the ITCZ was occasionally active over the western border of the country.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review, significant amounts of rainfall were observed over few areas in southwestern highlands (Tukuyu), southern Morogoro (Mahenge), northern coast and islands of Unguja and Pemba, and northeastern highlands. Over much of the central, western and southwestern highlands areas experienced less rainfall activities (amounts not exceeding 20 mm/dekad). The highest 10-day rainfall of 299.6 mm was reported at Tukuyu. Other areas that reported rainfall exceeding 100 mm were the northeastern highlands (Lyamungu 183.6 mm) and coastal belt (Zanzibar and Pemba 180.8 mm each, and Tanga 112.5 mm). Much of the unimodal areas experienced relaxed rainfall amounts that depicted

withdrawal of seasonal rains 'Msimu' as indicated in Figure 1.

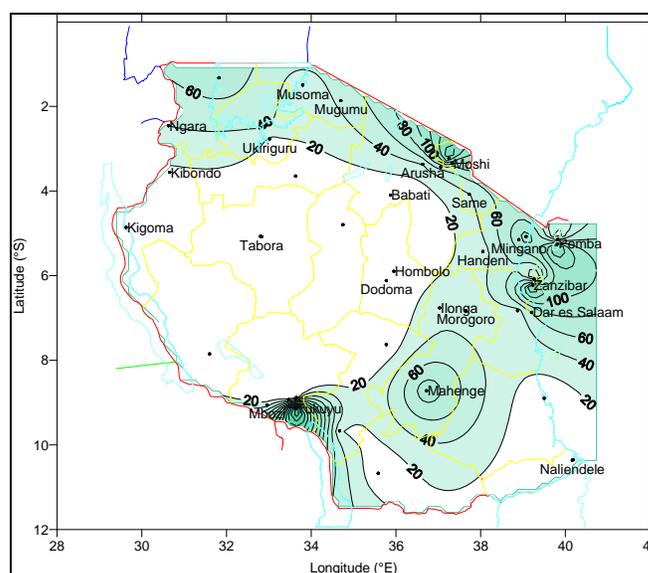


Fig. 1: May 1-10, 2011 Rainfall distribution (mm)

### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture conditions were generally good during the dekad favoring most field crops development over the bimodal sector and late planted crops over unimodal areas which were at advanced vegetative to early maturity stages. The resumed rains benefited crops mainly maize over northeastern highlands (Same, Moshi, Arusha, and Mbulu districts) and southwestern highlands (except Malenga Makali in Kilolo district) after a prolonged dry spell which was reported in April.

However, over much of unimodal areas crops mostly maize, beans, rice, and paddy were progressing well at stages ranging from tasselling to

harvesting maturity being in moderate to good state. Some farmers over unimodal areas have started harvesting crops including maize, and moderate to good harvests are anticipated for 2010/2011 cropping season.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good 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 received rainfall amounts, 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 moderate.

## **EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 11-20, 2011**

The southern hemisphere systems, the St Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to remain strong pushing the ITCZ to the north of its current position. In the northern hemisphere, the Azores high is expected to relax. The Siberian high and the associated Arabian ridge are expected to relax. The meridional arm of ITCZ is expected to be active mainly over extreme western parts of the country. The zonal arm of the ITCZ is expected to remain active over the extreme eastern parts of the country with significant influence on rainfall over the northern coastal areas gradually extending to the north. Warm SSTs conditions are expected to persist over southwestern Indian Ocean.

## **EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 11-20, 2011**

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions): Significant amount of rainfall and isolated thunderstorms are expected over Mwanza, Kagera and Mara regions. Shinyanga is expected to experience mainly dry conditions. Western region (Tabora and Kigoma regions): Isolated moderate showers and thunderstorm activities are expected mainly over Kigoma region. Tabora region is expected to feature mainly dry conditions. Northern coast and its hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coast regions, Isles of Unguja and Pemba): Moderate to heavy rainfall and isolated thunderstorms are expected mainly along the coastal belt (Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Coast regions), and Isles of Unguja and Pemba and occasionally spreading to some parts of Morogoro region.

North-eastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions): Isolated rain showers are expected. However, less amount of rainfall is most likely during this dekad. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Light showers are expected. 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 activities during this dekad. Southern region (Ruvuma region): A decreasing rainfall trend is expected, with some localized showers along the Lake Nyasa areas. Central Region (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions are expected.

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