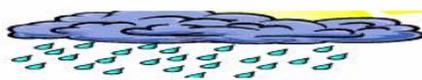




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 26 Cropping Seasons 2010/11

May 11-20, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most parts of bimodal sector during this period continued to experience favorable soil moisture condition enhancing development and growth of field crops that were generally between late vegetative to tasselling stages.
- Temperatures over most areas in the country were generally moderate with cool conditions reported over high ground areas in the northeastern and southwestern highlands.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of May 2011, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores and Siberian high and its associated Arabian ridge were relaxed while the southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones intensified resulting to northward shift of rain making mechanism (ITCZ). Southerly to southeasterly low level winds continued to dominate the eastern parts of the country, thus supplying moisture to the coastal belt and northeastern highlands. The meridional arm of ITCZ retreated westwards along the western border of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review significant amounts of rainfall were observed mainly over parts of bimodal sector including Lake Victoria basin and northern coast. Some stations over this sector experienced rainfall amounts exceeding 100 mm e.g. Bukoba (171.9 mm), Pemba (161.3 mm) and Tanga (120.4 mm). Much of unimodal areas were dry with rainfall not exceeding 20 mm as shown in Figure 1.

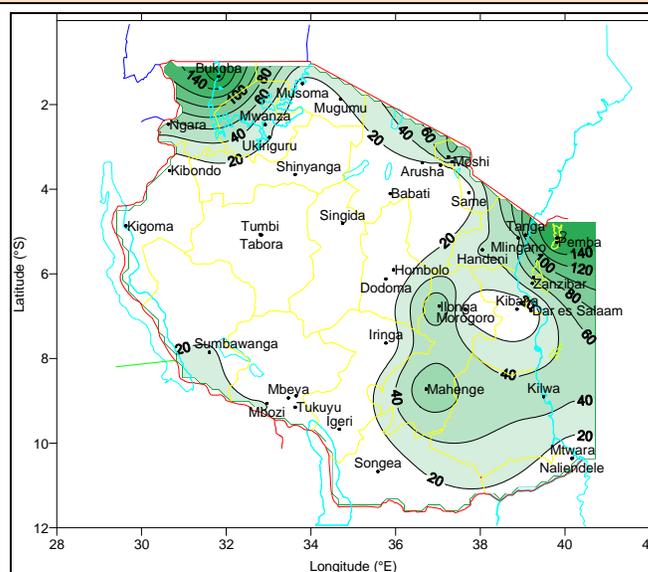


Fig. 1: May 11-20, 2011 Rainfall distribution (mm)

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Most parts of bimodal sector during this period continued to experience favorable soil moisture condition enhancing development and growth of field crops that were generally between late vegetative to tasselling stages. The resumed soil moisture supply benefited crops mainly maize and beans over northeastern highlands (Same, Moshi, Arusha, and Mbulu districts). Likewise, over unimodal sector the decreasing levels of the moisture favoured harvesting activities of most crops including maize. Less harvests are anticipated over some parts of southern coast, southern, western and the central areas following low soil moisture supply during the season.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good over much of the country.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

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

Environmental Summary

Temperatures over most areas in the country were generally moderate with cool conditions reported over high ground areas in the northeastern and southwestern highlands.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 21-31, 2011

The southern hemisphere systems, the St Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to intensify pushing the ITCZ to the north of its current position. The northern hemisphere systems; the Azores and Siberian highs and Arabian ridge are expected to relax. The meridional arm of ITCZ is expected to retreat westwards becoming less active towards the end of the dekad. The zonal arm of 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 21-31, 2011

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions): Moderate 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, while 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), Isles of Unguja and Pemba; occasionally spreading to some parts of Morogoro region. **Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions):** Mainly dry conditions with occasional showers. **Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions):** Isolated rain showers are expected during the first half of the dekad.

Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions and southern Morogoro (Mahenge areas): Generally these areas are likely to experience decreasing rainfall activities during this dekad. Few showers are expected over Mbeya and southern Morogoro

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