TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

HIGHLIGHT

- During *April 21-30, 2015,* seasonal rains featured well in most areas of the country, with a large part of the country receiving above normal rainfall
- During *May 1-10, 2015* seasonal rainfall is predicted to continue in the country but is expected to end over some of the unimodal areas. The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas may be favorable for crops at development stages.
- Where thunderstorms are predicted, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties.

No: 23. 2014/15 Cropping Season **Review for April 21-30, 2015 and Outlook for May 1-10, 2015**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

During April 21-30, 2015, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberia) relaxed significantly whereas the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) intensified. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were observed over the north western Indian Ocean closer to Somali coast. Neutral to slightly warm SST pattern was observed over the Eastern and Central Indian Ocean whereas neutral conditions were observed over the Western Indian Ocean closer to East African coast. This configuration influenced the Meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to shift slightly east ward towards western parts of the country. The zonal arm of the ITCZ on the other hand, moved north wards to cover most of the northern part of Tanzania and reducing the ITCZ rainfall influence to the southern part of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

In view of the observed synoptic conditions during April 21-30, 2015, seasonal rains continued to feature in most parts of the country. Figure 1 is Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing rainfall performance during the dekad as percentage of long term average whereby a large part of the country received above normal rainfall. However, some areas including the southern cost and southern region received mostly below normal rainfall.

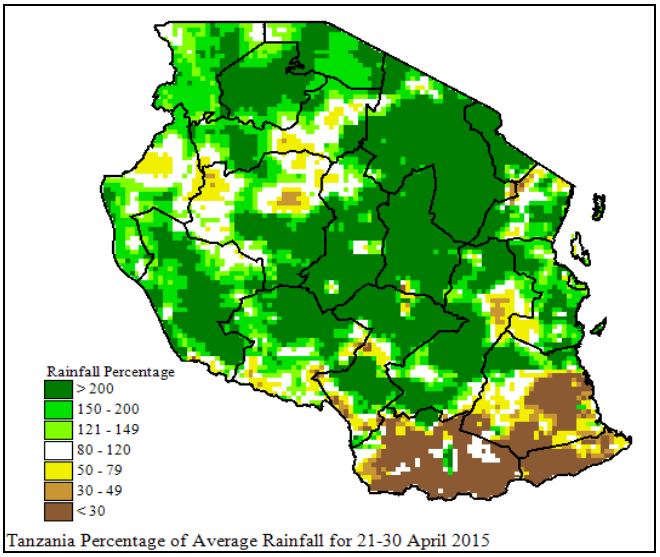

Figure 1: Rainfall performance during April 21-30, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

During April 21-30, 2015, the observed rainfall was reported to have provided good soil moisture for crops and pasture for livestock. The acquired soil moisture over the bimodal areas was favourable for crops growth and development. Maize crop in most of places including Mwanza, Mara, Tanga, Arusha and Morogoro regions was between ninth leaf and tasseling stages but some areas, early planted maize crop has already entered tasseling stage. The crops were generally in good condition. Over the unimodal areas, maize crop is at full ripenes stage but the crop failed in many places (including Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Tabora and Kigoma regions) due to long dry spell durations during the previous dekads.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate in most areas of the country, better conditions were in the bimodal areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

During April 21-30, 2015 moderate to cool temperature conditions prevailed across the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 2015

During May 1-10, 2015, the high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are expected to remain relaxed while their counterparts in the southern hemisphere are expected to intensify significantly. Therefore, the ITCZ is expected to continue moving northwards from its current position. This shifting is expected to influence weather over both unimodal and bimodal areas of the country. With this influence, seasonal rains are expected to end within this dekad over the unimodal areas especially Western, South-western highlands, Southern, Southern coast and central regions whereas the rains (*masika*) areas will continue over the bimodal including northern coast, north-eastern highland and Lake Victoria basinNeutral to warm SSTs are expected over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast. Neutral to slightly warm SSTs are expected to be observed East Africa coast while warm SSTs are expected over the Somali coast in the West Indian Ocean. Lower level wind speed is likely to start rising over some parts of the country and are expected to be characterized by south-easterly and westerly wind convergence over the western and south-western areas of the country. Over the remaining parts of the country, south-easterly turning to southerly wind is expected.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 1-10, 2015

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions) and northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): thunderstorms and showers over some areas are expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Thunderstorms and showers over some areas are expected especially during the first half of the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions), south-western highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern region (Ruvuma region): rain showers with occasional thunderstorms over few areas are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): rain showers over few areas are expected during the period. Seasonal rains are expected to end over some of the unimodal areas within the dakad.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING APRIL 21-30, 2015

During May 1-10, 2015, the expected rainfall over the bimodal areas may be favorable for crops at development stages. However, timely weeding and proper soil water conservation practices are recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Where thunderstorms are predicted, farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and properties. Farmers are also advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural and livestock extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING MAY 1-10, 2015

During May 1-10, 2015, water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to remain moderate over most parts of the country.

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