TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 14. 2013/14 Cropping Season **January 11-20, 2014**

HIGHLIGHT

Sufficient soil moisture over the unimodal areas during January 11-20, 2014 was favorable for field activities ranged from planting to early growing stage.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the second dekad of January 2014, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (the Azores and Siberian) continued strengthening while in the southern hemisphere (the St. Helena and Mascarine) high pressure systems relaxed significantly. This setting generally made the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to maintain its position further extreme south parts of the country. The meridional arm of ITCZ continued to influence weather in the western sector of the country. In terms of wind flow; low level convergence was maintained throughout the period over the Lake Victoria Basin, western, central, south-western highlands and southern areas of the country. Less moist and strong north easterly to weak easterly winds was favored to reach north-eastern high lands, coastal regions of the country and the hinterland. The periods of low level strong winds and rough seas were favored along the coast zone.

WEATHER SUMMARY

With the observed synoptic and weather conditions, the country experienced seasonal rainfall mostly over the unimodal areas. However, few areas of north-eastern highlands and the coastal belt experienced light rain showers over few areas with strong winds and rough seas along the coast line. The highest amount of rainfall during the dekad was recorded at Mahenge (189.6 mm), followed by Tukuyu (157.9), Mbeya (122.4 mm), Songea (120.9 mm), Kibondo (110.4 mm) and Iringa (109.0 mm). The remaining stations recorded dekadal total rainfall below 100 mm (see Figure 1).

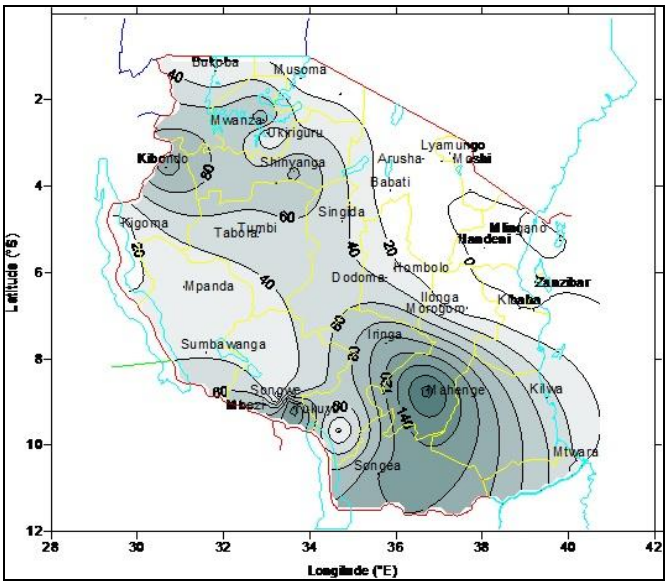

Figure 1. January 11–20, 2014 dekadal total rainfall distribution in millimeters.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the second dekad of January, 2014, rainfall received over the unimodal areas led to soil moisture improvement which was favourable for crop production. Crops in these areas were mainly at emergence and establishment stages, with some planting activities carried out in few areas, except for Kigoma region where maize crop was at ninth leaf stage and in good state. The fact that there is a decrease in rainfall over bimodal areas especially along the coast and Northeastern highlands the moisture levels for late planted crops is not sufficient. Over the bimodal areas, maize crops in most areas have reached full ripeness stage. However, the decreased soil moisture condition was reported in most parts of the bimodal areas, except for some few places of Lake Victoria basin which led to wilting of late planted crops in

some areas including Mara, Shinyanga, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Coast and Manyara regions.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife have improved over much of the country especially in unimodal areas.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in dams and river-flows improved significantly over most parts of the country mainly over unimodal areas.

Environmental Summary

During the period of 11-20, January 2014 warmer temperature conditions prevailed over much of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2014

During the third dekad of January, 2014 pressure systems over the northern hemisphere are expected to continue with significant intensification while their counterparts in the southern hemisphere are expected to relax further. On the other hand, the expected continuation of the neutral to cool Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in West Indian Ocean off Tanzanian coast will continue to contribute on drier north-easterly flow over the coast. This configuration is anticipated to cause easterlies flow which will be in phase with the retreat of the Meridional arm of ITCZ slightly west wards. Low level northerly wind is expected to dominate over the Lake Victoria basin, while Low level wind convergence is expected to dominate over the western, south-western, central and southwestern highlands. Slight SSTs is expected to be observed over Atlantic Ocean closer to Angola coast.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2014

Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions together with the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Light rains are likely over few areas mainly over the islands. North Eastern Highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Mainly cloudy and dry conditions. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Frequent thundershowers are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Rain showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): Rain showers with isolated thunderstorms. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over few areas. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Rain showers and thunderstorms.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2014

Continued favorable soil moisture expected over the unimodal sector during the third dekad of January, will be beneficial for crop establishment and finalizing planting of crops in the region. The *vuli* rains are on cessation stages over the bimodal areas. Timely weeding is therefore recommended to salvage little soil moisture available for crops. Farmers are advised to seek professional advice from their extension officers.

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