

No: 36. 2012/13 Cropping Season

August 21- 31, 2013

Expected light rains during the first dekad of September may be useful for land preparations especially over the bimodal sector

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the third dekad of August 2013, pressure systems over southern Africa were observed to remain intense while the northern hemisphere high pressure systems intensified significantly. This maintained the East African low level ridge strong over the country while the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) retreated significantly towards southern Ethiopia. This configuration caused slight to significant rains over some parts of the bimodal areas of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, thundery activities along with occasional cases of showers characterized much of Lake Victoria basin. Also, influx of moisture from the Indian Ocean influenced the occurrence of light rains over the coastal areas during the dekad. The highest amount of rainfall was recorded over Mwanza (37.5 mm) followed by Tanga (36.5 mm), Lyamungo (13 mm) and Bukoba (12.8 mm). Other areas remained dry with few pocket areas reporting rainfall less than 10 mm.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad under review, the country experienced mainly seasonal dry conditions, which were favorable largely for crop storage and marketing over both the unimodal and the bimodal sectors. Off season rains were over the bimodal areas. Majority of farmers over the bimodal sector (Mwanza, Kagera, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Geita, Mara and Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro regions) had started farm preparations.. Similarly, some areas in the unimodal sector including Mbeya, Njombe, Rukwa, Katavi, and Iringa regions farmers in few places were also involved with land preparation.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife decreased slightly over much of the country.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in dams and river-flow continued decreasing due to prevailed seasonal dry conditions.

Environmental Summary

Temperature conditions over much of the country were generally low but slightly increasing during the period.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2013

Dafrica and those in the northern hemisphere are expected to maintain their strength. This configuration is expected to keep the fairly strong East African low level ridge over the country while keeping the ITCZ far north over Ethiopia. With this weather scenario, mainly dry conditions are expected over much of the country. However, few light rains are expected along the coastal strip, its hinterlands and over high ground areas of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2013

Lossin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions) is expected to feature mainly dry conditions with occasional thunder showers. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the Isles of Unguja and Pemba) is expected to feature mainly dry conditions with few light rains. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Katavi, Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya regions), northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Manyara regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), southern region (Ruvuma region), western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions) and central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature mainly dry conditions.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2013

During the first dekad of September, 2013, the expected light rains may be beneficial for land preparation and regeneration of pasture.

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