TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 8. 2013/14 Cropping Season **November 11- 20, 2013**

HIGHLIGHTS

- The expected rains during the third dekad of November 2013 are beneficial for planting, crop development and regeneration of pastures over bimodal areas.
- Farmers over the unimodal sector are advised to continue with land preparations and acquisition of farm inputs.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the second dekad of November 2013, the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian highs) continued to strengthen while in the southern hemisphere, the St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems continued relaxing. This setting generally made the Inter –Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to reach the northern parts of the country especially the northeastern highlands while its meridional arm slightly shifted east wards covering the western sector of the country. The low level wind convergence was maintained throughout the period over the Lake Victoria basin, western and northeastern highlands areas of the country. Moist north easterly to easterly winds reached the coastal regions of the country towards second half of the dekad.

WEATHER SUMMARY

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, areas around the Lake Victoria Basin, western regions, coastal belt and few areas of the northeastern highlands experienced thundershower activities while rain showers occurred over the hinterlands of coast and few areas in high grounds of southwestern highlands. However, the rainfall distribution was very poor. As shown in Figure 1, the highest amount of rainfall during the dekad was recorded at Kigoma (81.5mm), followed by Mwanza (45.2 mm), Tabora (30.6 mm), Mbozi (21.2 mm), Bukoba (19.0 mm), Musoma (14.0 mm), Zanzibar (11.8 mm), and Mbeya (10.6 mm). The remaining stations recorded a ten day rainfall total less than 10 mm.

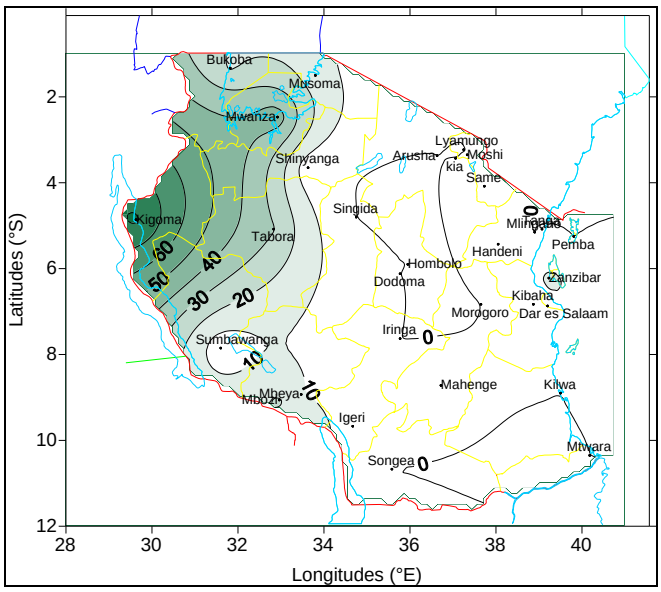

Fig 1: November 11–20 2013 rainfall distribution in millimeters

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the second dekad of November 2013, seasonal rains were observed to continue over parts of bimodal areas and western regions. Farming activities in some areas of the bimodal sector including Mwanza, Kagera, Same, Handeni (Tanga) and Kigoma regions involved weeding. Over the northeastern highlands especially Kilimanjaro region, most crops were at emergence stage, with few farmers going on with planting.

Over the unimodal sector, land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs were the major activities. Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife were slightly improving largely over the bimodal sector.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in dams and river-flow continued to decrease due to prevailing seasonal dry conditions over most parts of the country.

Environmental Summary

During the period temperature conditions over much of the country was at increasing trend.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 21-30 , 2013

During the third dekad of November 2013, pressure systems over the northern hemisphere are expected to continue intensifying while their counterparts in the southern hemisphere are expected to relax. On the other hand, slight warming of sea surface temperatures in West Indian Ocean north of the Equator and weak less moist northeasterly to easterly flow is expected over the Tanzania coast. Low level wind convergence is also expected to dominate over the Lake Victoria basin towards western and southwestern parts of the country while slightly warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are expected to be observed over West Indian Ocean closer to southern part of the east Africa coast.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2013

With these configurations, thundershower activities are expected to be maintained over the Lake Victoria basin and northeastern highlands. Enhanced rainfall activities over the western and some parts of southwestern highland areas while persistence of rain shower activities are likely along the coast, its hinterlands, and northeastern highlands. Other areas of the country are expected to experience mainly dry conditions with occasional light rain showers.

The details of the forecast are as follows;

Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions including northern parts of Kigoma region): Frequent thundershowers are expected. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Rain showers with isolated thunderstorms are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions)**:** Rain showers are expected over few areas. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Frequent thundery showers are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions with occasional light rains are expected. Southwestern highlands (southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): Mainly dry conditions, with few rain showers and isolated thunderstorms over extreme western regions and over high grounds. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mostly partly cloudy to cloudy conditions, with occasional rain showers are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2013

The expected rains during the third dekad of November 2013 are beneficial for crop development over bimodal areas mainly Kagera, Geita, Mwanza and Mara regions as well as northern Kigoma region. Timely weeding is highly recommended to salvage little moisture available for crops. The rest of bimodal areas should continue with planting where soil moisture is sufficient to support crop germination although the remaining period may not be suitable for crops like maize and rice. Farmers over the unimodal sector are advised to continue with land preparations and acquisition of farm inputs.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd, 4th & 10th Floors - Ubungo Plaza – Morogoro Road.
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet1_tz@meteo.go.tz