

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 35. 2013/14 Cropping Season

Review for August 21-31, 2014 and Outlook for September 1-10, 2014

### HIGHLIGHT

- During August 21-31, rainfall was observed mainly over the bimodal areas while seasonal dry conditions continued to prevail over much of the unimodal areas.
- The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during September 1-10, 2014 will be useful for land preparation.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2014

During August 21-31, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere continued to relax significantly while the ones in the southern hemisphere (both the St. Helena and the Mascarene highs) maintained their strength. This configuration made the East African Ridge to maintain its intensity. As a result, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was maintained further north and confined in the northern hemisphere.

### WEATHER SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2014

During this period, rainfall was observed mainly over the bimodal areas of the country particularly Lake Victoria basin and a few places of north-eastern highlands (Arusha region). The unimodal areas continued to feature seasonal dry conditions, except northern Kigoma region and some parts of Ruvuma and Morogoro regions which received rainfall amounts above 25mm. In Figure 1 below, are Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution in the country whereby, rainfall above 25 mm was observed mainly over Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga and parts of Arusha and Kigoma regions. The rest of the country featured mainly dry conditions.

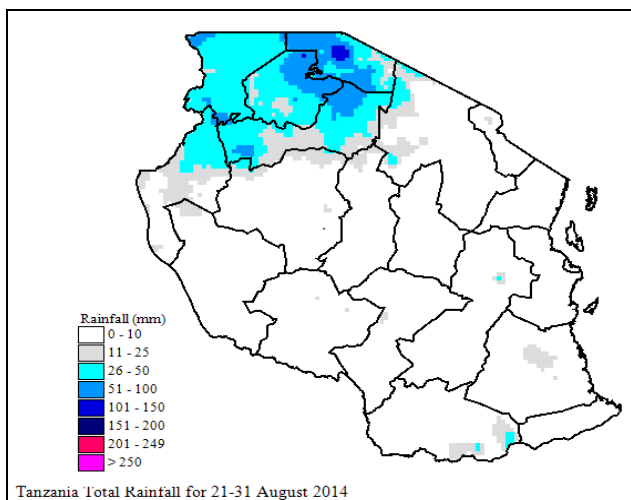


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution during August 21-31, 2014

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2014

During August 21-31, 2014, the observed rainfall over the bimodal areas was useful in land preparation that has started over some areas including Sengerema, Magu, Musoma, Bukoba and Shinyanga. The seasonal dry conditions that continued to prevail over the unimodal areas were favorable for crop drying and storage activities. Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife have decreased due to the prevailing seasonal dry conditions over much of the country.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2014

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have decreased as well due to the seasonal dry conditions that are still prevailing over much of the country.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2014

During the period, moderate winds and relatively warm to cool night temperatures were observed over most parts of the country.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2014

During September 1-10, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify slightly, while the ones in the southern hemisphere are expected to maintain their strength. With this configuration, the East Africa Ridge is expected to remain intense while the ITCZ is expected to move slowly southwards within the northern hemisphere. The meridional arm of ITCZ is expected to move slightly eastwards over the Congo basin and influence weather over some parts of the Lake Victoria basin. The continuing neutral to cool Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the Somali coast and neutral to warm SSTs in South West Indian Ocean, close to Tanzanian coast, are expected to induce shallow

convection over some areas and therefore influence rainfall activities over the north-eastern part of the country.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2014

**L**ake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions including northern parts of Kigoma region): Isolated rain showers and thunderstorms are expected over some areas. Cold nights and periods of strong winds are also expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions together with the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Occasional rain showers are expected over few areas. Warm nights are also expected. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Few rain showers are expected especially over high grounds. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Mainly dry and cool to warm night conditions are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry and cold to slightly warm nights with moderate windy conditions are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry and warm night conditions are expected. However, few rain showers are expected at times. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mainly dry and cold night conditions are expected. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): Mainly dry and cold night conditions are expected. However, occasional rain showers are expected.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2014

**T**he expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during September 1-10, 2014 will be favourable for land preparation. The prevailing seasonal dry conditions over the unimodal areas expected to continue during August 21-23, 2014 is favourable for drying and storage of crops but may cause further decrease of water and pasture.

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