

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 33. 2013/14 Cropping Season

Review for August 1-10, 2014 and Outlook for August 11-20, 2014

HIGHLIGHT

The expected dry conditions are favourable for crop drying and storage over both unimodal and bimodal areas

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2014

During August 1-10, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere relaxed significantly. Meanwhile, in the southern hemisphere, both the St. Helena and the Mascarene high pressure systems maintained their strength. This configuration kept the East African Ridge intense. As a result, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was held further north and was confined in the northern hemisphere.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2014

During this period, seasonal dry conditions continued to prevail over most of the country except a few localized areas over Kagera, Tanga and Kigoma regions that received light rains above 20 mm. Figure 1 shows total rainfall distribution in the country whereby dry conditions exist almost the entire country except a few places over Bukoba, Tanga and Morogoro regions.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2014

During August 1-10, 2014, the observed seasonal dry conditions were favorable for crop drying and storage activities over both the unimodal and bimodal areas. Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife have decreased significantly due to the prevailing seasonal dry conditions.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2014

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges have decreased significantly due to the prevailing seasonal dry conditions associated with high rates of evaporation.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 1-10, 2014

During the period, relatively cool temperature conditions prevailed in the country, especially during the nights and early mornings. Figure 2 shows minimum temperature distribution in the country during the dekad, whereby the lowest minimum temperature was recorded over Igeri (7.7°C) while the highest minimum temperature was recorded over Pemba (23.4°C).

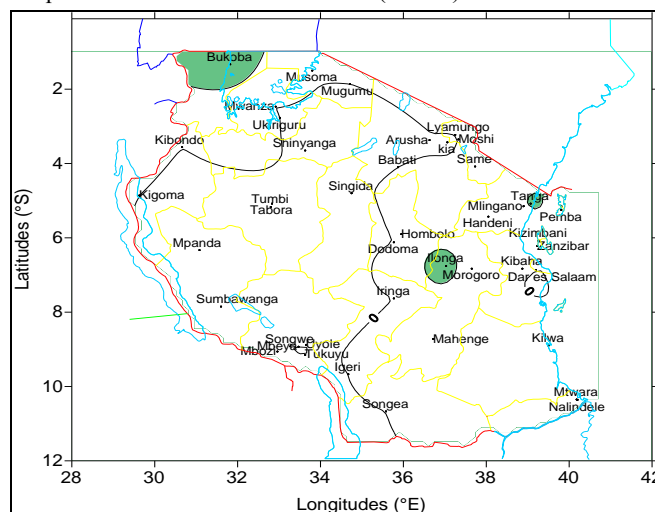


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution during August 1-10, 2014

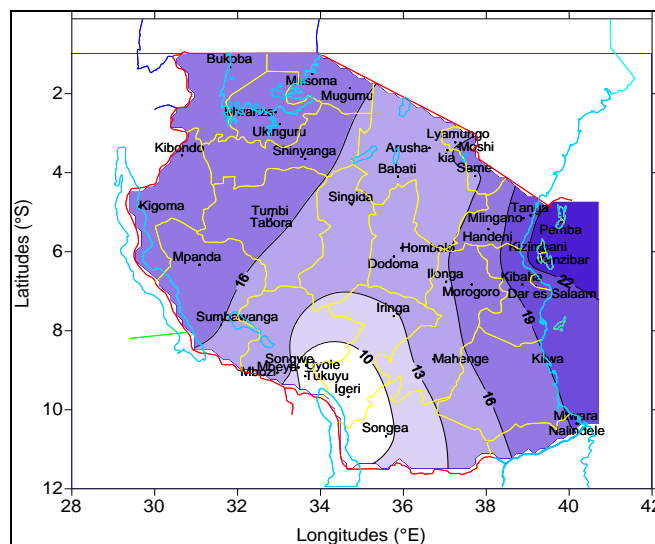


Figure 2: Minimum temperature distribution during August 1-10, 2014

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2014

During August 11-20, 2014, high pressure systems over both the northern hemisphere and in the southern hemisphere are expected to maintain their strength. With this configuration, the East African Ridge is expected to maintain its intensity while the ITCZ is expected to be kept over the north. The meridional arm of ITCZ is expected to maintain its position further west towards Congo basin. It will occasionally slightly be shifting east-wards and influence weather over some parts of the Lake Victoria basin. The present neutral to cool Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the Somali coast and neutral to warm Sea Surface Temperatures (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 AUGUST 11-20, 2014

Lake 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): Rain-showers over few areas especially during the second half of the dekad are expected. 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): Rain showers over few areas and cold nights are expected. North Eastern Highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Few light rain showers and cold conditions, especially over high grounds, are expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Mainly dry conditions, cold night conditions are expected during the dekad.

Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions, cold and windy conditions are expected. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): Mainly dry and cold night conditions. Occasional rain showers are also expected during the period. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry conditions and cold nights. However, few rain showers are expected at times. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mainly dry and cold night conditions are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2014

Persistent periods of dry conditions during August 11-20, 2014 are likely to cause further decrease of water due to high evaporation. The expected dry conditions are favourable for crop drying and storage.

BIMODAL AND UNIMODAL AREAS

1. *Bimodal areas:* Areas which experience two rainfall seasons (Oct - Dec/Jan and March - May). These are areas covering Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions including northern parts of Kigoma region), northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions together with the Isles of Unguja and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions).

2. *Unimodal areas:* Areas which experience one rainfall season (Nov - Apr). These are areas covering western areas (Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern areas (Ruvuma region).

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

Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA