TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 13. 2014/15 Cropping Season **Review for January 11-20, 2015 and Outlook for January 21-31, 2015**

HIGHLIGHT

- During *January 11-20, 2015*, seasonal rainfall continued to feature over most of the unimodal areas of the country; the received rainfall was favorable for crops growth and weeding activities. The bimodal areas experienced mostly seasonal dry conditions.
- The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during *January 21-31, 2015* will be favourable for crops growth and development.
- The community is advised to take precautionary measures for people's safety and properties where thundershowers are predicted.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2015

During January 11-20, 2015, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian highs) slightly relaxed whereas the high pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St Hellena and Mascarene highs) slightly intensified thus contributing to a slight northward shifting of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) from its extreme south position to cover most part of the country. However, the systems were modified by development of the Tropical Storm *CHEDZA* in the Mozambique Channel and Tropical cyclone *BANSI* over eastern coast of Madagascar Island. This configuration, associated with abundant moisture over the lower levels contributed to rainfall activities over most parts of the country during the period, especially the unimodal areas.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2015

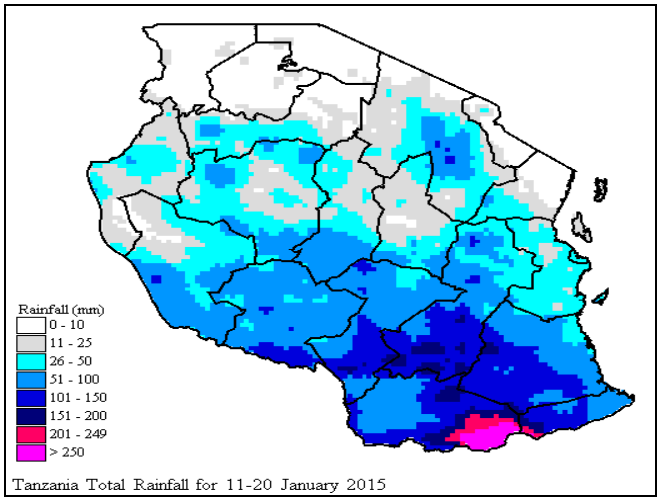

Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution (mm) during January 11-20, 2015.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions during January 11-20, 2015, seasonal rains continued to feature over most of the unimodal areas of the country whereas the bimodal areas experienced mostly seasonal dry conditions. The highest total rainfall was above 250 mm recorded over Songea as shown in Figure 1(total rainfall distribution in milimetres). Figure 2 (Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network) is also showing rainfall performance as percentage of long term average whereby the unimodal areas received mostly above normal rainfall except the bimodal areas where a large part received below normal rainfall.

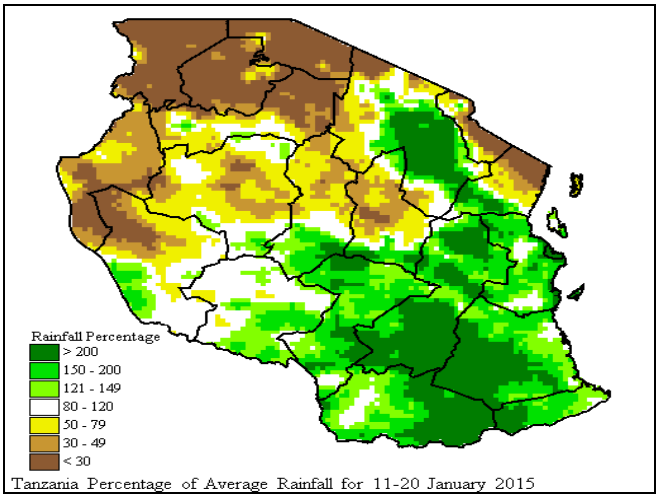

Figure 2: Rainfall performance during January 11-20, 2015 as percentage of long term average.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2015

During January 11-20, 2015, the observed rainfall over the unimodal areas were reported to provide favorable conditions for crops growth and pasture development. Maize crop over much of the unimodal areas was at 9th leaf stage and was in good condition in most places. Farm activities included weeding and fertilizer

applications. Over the bimodal areas, the maize crop was at full ripeness stage. Water availability for livestock and wildlife was good especially over the unimodal areas. Pasture availability for livestock and wildlife was moderate across the country.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2015

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges were moderate across the country, with slight improvements over the unimodal areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2015

During January 11-20, 2015 relatively cooler temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

During January 21-31, 2015 the northern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian highs) are expected to intensify significantly thus allowing the ITCZ to move further southwards to its extreme position in the southern hemisphere. In the southern hemisphere, the St. Helena high is expected to remain intense while the Mascarene anticyclone is expected to relax significantly. Over the Somali coast, Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) indicate trend of cooling whereas SSTs over the Southwest Indian Ocean show persistently warming trend. Low level north-westerly to westerly flow over the western, central and southern sector of the country is expected to allow moisture influx over those areas. However, significant warming of SSTs over eastern coast of Madagascar Island is expected to allow development of depressions over eastern coast of Madagascar Island which may influence reduced weather over the coastal strip of the country during the dekad. The trend is expected to change if depression will be formed in the channel as more moisture will be allowed to reach the coast strip of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions together with northern Kigoma regions), Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba) and North Eastern Highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): mainly dry conditions are expected. However, occasional thunderstorms and few rain showers are expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Thunderstorms and rain showers are expected especially during the first half of the period. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Thundershowers are expected especially during the first half of the period. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): Thunderstorms and rains are expected during period. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Rain showers and isolated thunderstorms especially during first half of the period. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Rain showers and thunderstorms are expected during the period.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

The expected rainfall over the unimodal areas during January 21-31, 2015 will favour crops growth and development as well as pasture development. The expected few rain over the bimodal areas may favour late grown crops and root crops. However, timely weeding is recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Where thunderstorms are expected, community is advised to take precautionary measures for people's safety and their properties. Farmers are also advised to seek professional advice from nearby Agricultural and livestock extension officers.

HYDROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2015

During January 21-31, 2015, water levels in dams and river flow discharges are expected to be high over the unimodal areas but low over the bimodal areas.

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