TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 07. 2014/15 Cropping Season **Review for November 11-20, 2014 and Outlook for November 21-30, 2014**

HIGHLIGHT

- During November 11-20, 2014, seasonal rainfall featured over most of the bimodal areas and some of the unimodal areas. The rainfall provided favorable conditions for crops growth and development as well as pasture development over the bimodal areas.
- The expected rainfall during November 21-30, 2014 will be favourable for crops growth and development over the bimodal areas and planting over the unimodal areas.
- Community is advised to take precautionary measures for people's safety and properties where frequent thunderstorms and rain showers are predicted.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

During November 11-20, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian highs) intensified while the high pressure systems in the southern hemisphere (St Hellena and Mascarene highs) slightly relaxed, especially the Mascarene high. As a result, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) reached the northern parts of the country, especially the north-eastern highlands, while its meridional arm slightly shifted east-wards and covered the western sector of the country. In terms of wind flow, low level convergence was maintained throughout the period over the Lake Victoria basin, western and north-eastern highlands areas of the country. Moist north-easterly to easterly winds dominated the coastal regions of the country and the hinterlands, especially towards the second half of the dekad.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

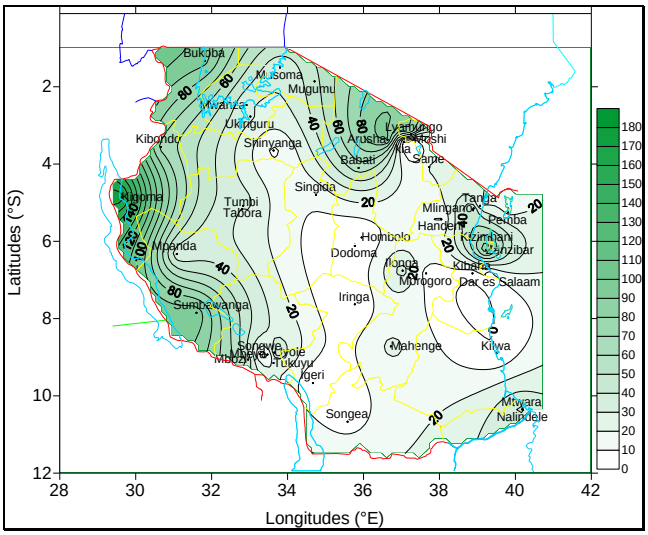

Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution during November 11-20, 2014.

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, seasonal rainfall featured over most of the bimodal areas and some of the unimodal areas. Over the bimodal areas, rainfall was observed over Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and northern coast whereas over the unimodal areas, significant rainfall was observed particularly over the western regions. However, a large part of the unimodal areas experienced dry conditions. Figure 1 shows total rainfall distribution in the country during the dekad whereby the highest total rainfall was 175.2 mm recorded over Kigoma airport.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

During November 11-20, 2014, the observed seasonal rainfall over the bimodal areas provided favourable conditions for crops growth and development as well as pasture development. Maize crop was reported at ninth leaf stage over much of the bimodal areas but in some areas especially Kagera and Mwanza regions, maize crop was between ninth leaf and tasseling. The crops were generally in good condition. Over the unimodal areas, farmers were engaged mainly in finalizing land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs. Water and pasture availability for livestock and wildlife were moderate, but improved over the bimodal areas due to the prevailing *vuli* rains.

HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

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

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

During November 11-20, 2014 moderate to high temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2014

During November 21-30, 2014 the nothern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian highs) are expected to continue intensifying while southern hemisphere systems (St Hellena and Mascarene highs) are expected to relax. The zonal arm of the ITCZ is expected to lie over the northern part of the country. On the other hand, due to the expected slight warming of Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over West Indian Ocean north of the equator, weak, less moist north-easterly to easterly flow is expected over the coast. Low level wind convergence is expected to dominate over the Lake Victoria basin towards western and south-western parts of the country. Slightly warm SSTs are expected to be observed over West Indian Ocean closer to southern part of the East African coast. These configurations are anticipated to maintain some thundershower activities over the Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands and enhance them over the western and some parts of south-western highland areas while persistence of rain showery activities are likely along the coast and its hinterlands.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2014

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions together with northern Kigoma regions): frequent thunderstorms and rain showers, and periods of strong wind are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): rain showers are expected over few areas. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): rain showers with isolated thunderstorms are expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): frequent thunderstorms and rain showers, and periods of strong winds are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): occasional rains showers are expected particularly towards the end of the dekad. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): frequent thunderstorms and rains are expected during the period. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry conditions with few rain showers are expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mostly partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with occasional rain showers with isolated thunderstorms are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2014

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during November 21-30, 2014 will be favorable for crops growth and development as well as pasture development. However, timely weeding is recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Over the unimodal areas, farmers are advised to finalize land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs and start planting as soon as soil moisture is adequate to support seed germination. Where frequent thunderstorms and rain showers are expected (Lake Victoria basin and western regions), 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 extension and livestock officers.

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).

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