TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 08. 2014/15 Cropping Season **Review for November 21-30, 2014 and Outlook for December 1-10, 2014**

HIGHLIGHT

- During November 21-30, 2014, seasonal rainfall featured over both the bimodal and unimodal areas. The rainfall provided favorable conditions for crops and pasture development over the bimodal areas while over the unimodal areas it was favourable for planting.
- The expected rainfall during December 1-10, 2014 will be favourable for crops and pasture 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 21-30, 2014

During November 21-30, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere (Azores and Siberian highs) especially the Siberian high, 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. However Warm SSTs over the central Indian, and Somali coast and Atlantic Ocean near Angola coast caused low level divergence over the eastern sector of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2014

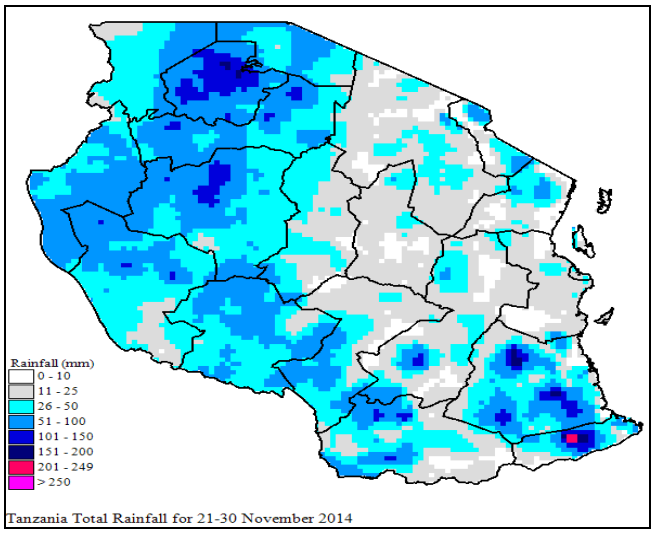

Figure 1: Improved rainfall estimates showing total rainfall distribution during November 21-30, 2014

In view of the observed synoptic conditions, *vuli* rains continued to feature over the bimodal areas whereas over the unimodal areas seasonal rainfall featured as well. Over the bimodal areas, it rained mostly over Lake Victoria basin. Over the unimodal areas, significant rainfall was observed over western regions, south-western highlands, southern coast and southern region. Figure 1 shows improved Rainfall Estimates from Satellite Rainfall Estimates merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution in the country whereby the highest total rainfall was 201-249mm observed Over Mtwara in the southern coast.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING NOVEMBER 21-30, 2014

During November 11-20, 2014, the observed seasonal rainfall over the bimodal areas was favourable for crops and pasture development. Maize crop was reported at tasselling stage over much of the bimodal areas and. The crops were generally in good condition. However, heavy rainfall that occred over Mwanza municipality caused flooding of cropped fields thus damaging crops in the fields. Over the unimodal areas, planting of crops was the main farm activity over most areas. Water and pasture availability for livestock and wildlife were moderate across the country but have 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 improvements over the bimodal areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING NOVEMBER 11-20, 2014

During November 21-30, 2014 moderate to high temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2014

During December 1-10, 2014 the nothern hemisphere high pressure systems (Azores and Siberian highs) are expected tointensify 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 warming of Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over West Indian Ocean north of the equator, weak, 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 DECEMBER 1-10, 2014

Lake Victoria Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions together with northern Kigoma regions): Frequent thunderstorms and rain showers are expected during the period. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Frequent rain showers and occasional thunderstorms are expected over most areas during the period.North Eastern Highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Rain showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected during the period. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Frequent thunderstorms and rain showers are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Frequent rain showers with occasional thunderstorms are expected during the period.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): Rain showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected during the period. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Frequent rain showers with isolated thunderstorms are expected during the period.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2014

The expected rainfall over the bimodal areas during December 1-10, 2014 will be favorable for crops and pasture development. However, timely weeding is recommended to salvage the soil moisture available for crops. Over the unimodal areas, the expected rainfall will be favourable for planting. Where frequent thunderstorms and rain showers 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 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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