TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

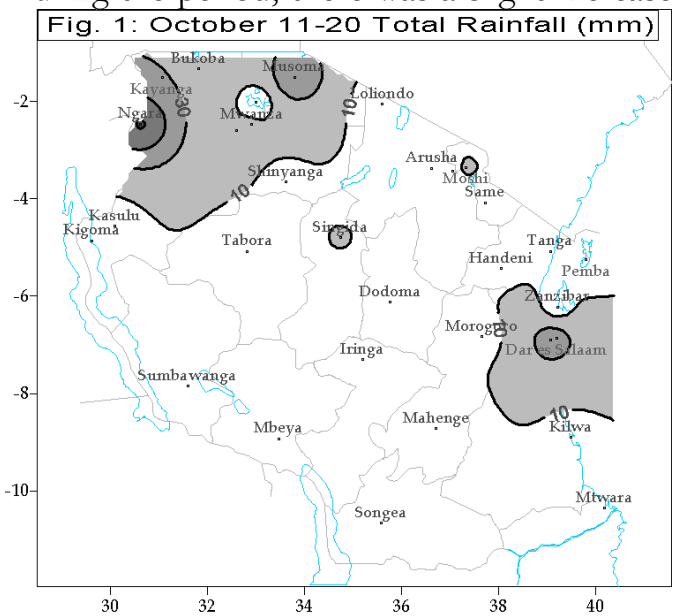
No. 5 **2005/06 Cropping Season** **October 11 – 20, 2005**

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad 11-20th October, the northern hemisphere systems, the Azores and Arabian anticyclones intensified significantly hence shifting the ITCZ further south especially towards the end of the dekad. The southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena, Mascarene anticyclones and East African ridge weakened due to passage of frontal systems on the southern tip of Africa. The southeasterly wind flows over northern coast were relatively weak while the southern coast had experienced easterly wind flow.

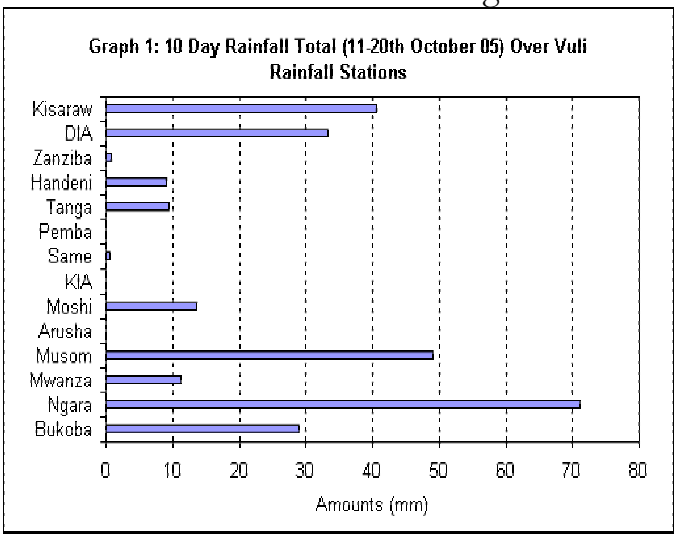
RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, there was a slight increase



of rainfall activities compared to previous dekad. This increase was mainly over parts of the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) and northern coast, which had pocket areas that received rainfall amounts above 30 mm (Figure1). Rainfall activities over the northern coast slightly increased towards the end of the dekad question.

Graph 1 shows the spatial rainfall distribution over *vuli* rainfall receiving stations.



The highest rainfall amount of 71.2 mm was recorded over Ngara district for the LVB and 40.6 mm over Kisarawe for the northern coast. Most of the stations received rainfall between 0 - 10 mm, a condition that predominantly covered northeastern highlands.

Remaining areas continued to have the seasonal dry conditions.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Soil moisture replenishment continued over bimodal rainfall areas mainly LVB and pockets of northern coast. During the period, land preparations were the major agricultural activity across the country. However, most areas of the LVB planting of *vuli* crops (Beans and maize) continued while the early-planted crop was between emergence and vegetative stages, and in moderate state. Persistent dry conditions over unimodal rainfall regime (Shinyanga and Tabora, Singida and Dodoma regions) continued causing deterioration of quality and supply of pastures.

Hydrometeorological

Low water levels in rivers and lakes were experienced during the period.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING THIRD DEKAD (21 – 31ST OCTOBER 2005)

The Arabian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere are expected to continue intensifying hence pushing the ITCZ further south making the Equatorial trough and the Congo air mass to be active.

The relaxations of St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones over southern hemisphere are expected to continue, as there are continuous passages of the frontal systems over the southern tip of Africa. The East African ridge will remain weak at times. Easterly wind flow over southern coast will dominate while over northern coast there will be some south easterly to easterly wind flow.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING THIRD DEKAD (21 – 31ST OCTOBER 2005)

The entire Lake Victoria basin, and western areas will experience cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over some areas and sunny intervals. The coastal belt is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers over few areas and sunny periods. The northeastern highlands will feature partly cloudy conditions with showers at times over few areas and sunny periods.

The remaining parts of the country will continue to experience partly cloudy conditions with passage of light showers at times mainly over south western highlands and sunny periods.

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