TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

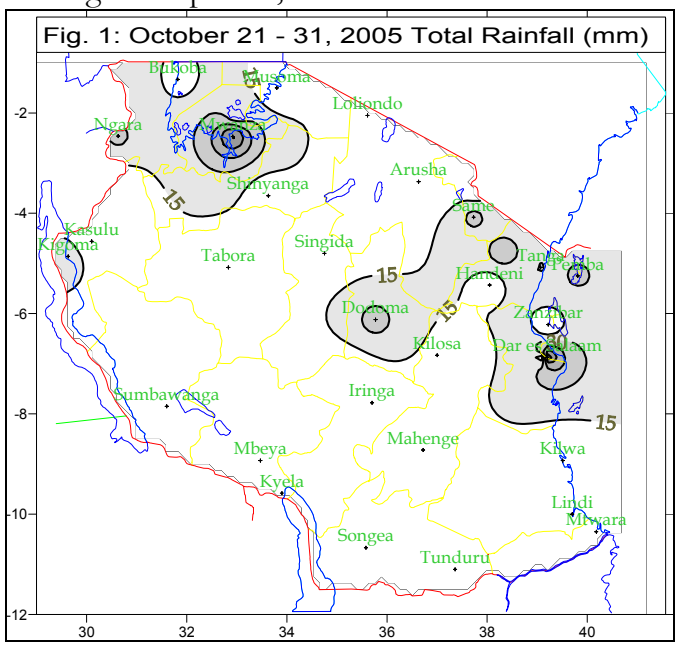
No. 6 **2005/06 Cropping Season** **October 21 - 31, 2005**

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

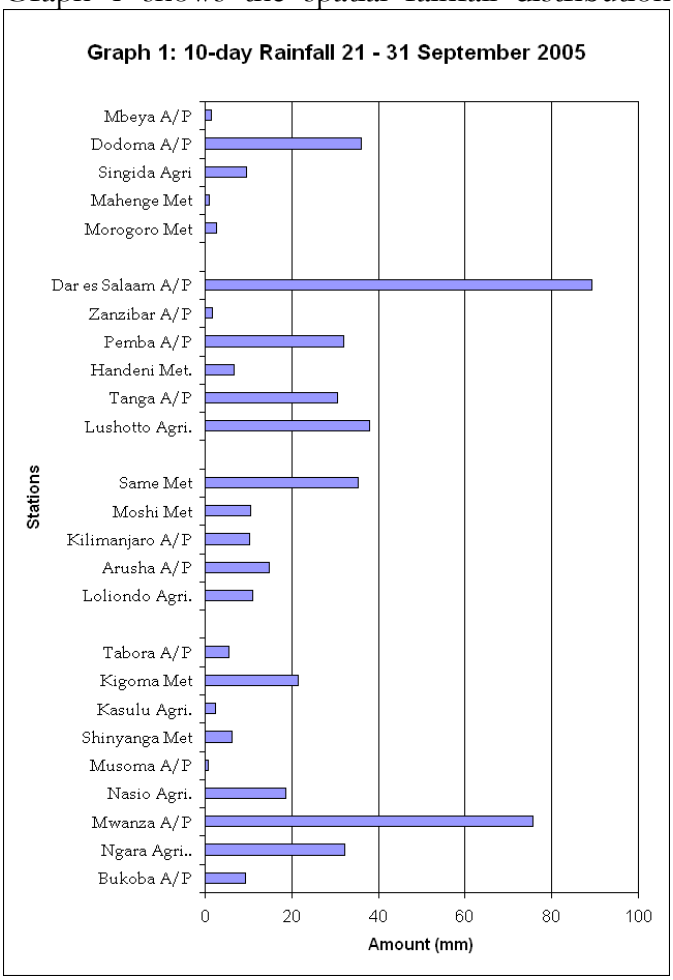
During dekad 21 – 31 October, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Arabian) remained intense giving way for the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to shift gradually southward. The southern hemisphere system the St. Helena, the Mascarene anticyclones together with the East African ridge slightly weakened following the passage of frontal systems over the southern tip of Africa. The south easterly wind flows over northern coast were relatively weak while the southern coast experienced an easterly wind flow.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, *vuli* rainfall continued to be observed over parts of Lake Victoria Basin (LVB), northeastern areas and northern coastal belt. A spark of off season rainfall activities occurred over parts of central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions). Significant rainfall recorded during the period ranged between 15mm and 60mm as shown by isohyets in Figure 1. The rest of the country remained dry.



Graph 1 shows the spatial rainfall distribution of rainfall recorded from a sample of observing stations.



The highest rainfall amount for the period was recorded at Dar-es-Salaam A/P (89.3mm in

3days), Mwanza A/P (75.6mm in 5days) and the odd showers at Dodoma A/P (36mm in 1day). The spikes are depicted in Graph 1 appearing on page 1.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Soil moisture replenishment experienced over bimodal rainfall areas of LVB, pockets of northern coast and northeastern areas favoured good growth and development of crops in the fields. As for central areas, the odd showers experienced during the period were temporally. All in all, acquiring of farm implements will continue to be a major concern for the farmers as the new growing season picks up. On the other hand, seasonal dry conditions continued to cover most unimodal rainfall areas of central, southwestern, southern and parts of western regions deteriorating quality and supply of pastures.

Hydrometeorological

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

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING NOVEMBER 1 – 10TH 2005

The Arabian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere are expected to continue to intensify while over the southern hemisphere the Mascarene anticyclone and the East African ridge are expected to weaken. The St. Helena anticyclone is expected to remain intense during the dekad. The position of the ITCZ is expected to be over the region during the period while to the west the intrusions of westerlies from the Congo basin are expected to strengthen. Northeasterly wind flows from the Arabian peninsula are expected to develop while over the western Indian Ocean an easterly wind flow is expected to dominate.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 1 – 10TH 2005)

The Lake Victoria basin and western parts of the country are expected to experience cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over some areas at times sunny periods. The northeastern highlands, northern coast and the hinterlands, Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba and central parts (Dodoma and Singida) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms 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 and sunny periods mainly over south western highlands.

Prepared by
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