TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 17 2005/06 Cropping Season February 11 - 20, 2006

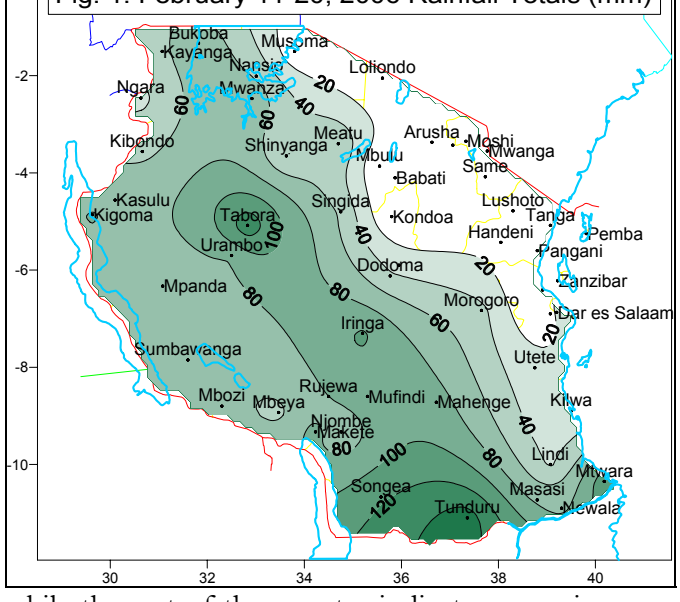
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 11–20th February, the Siberian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere were intense at the beginning of the dekad and weakened towards the end of the dekad. The southern hemisphere systems, the Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones were relatively weak during the period. The northwesterly to westerly wind flow from the Congo basin were converging with the northeasterly to northerly wind flows over western, Lake Victoria Basin and central parts of the country. The convergence led to active meridional component of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (TCZ) over those areas.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

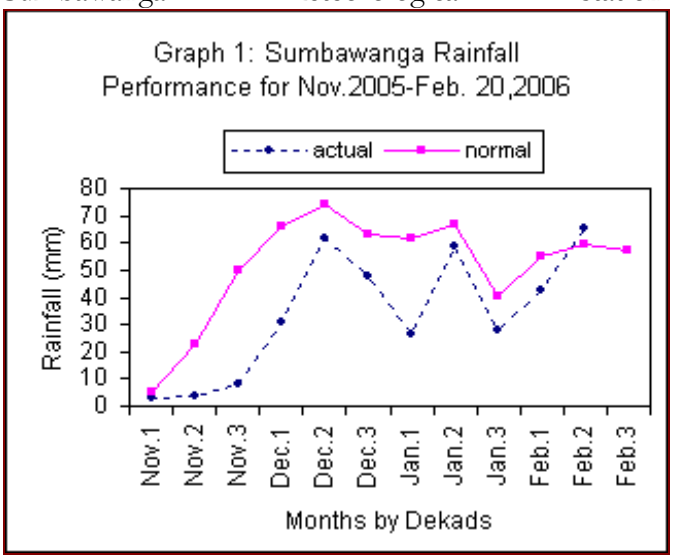
During the period, the northeastern and parts of central areas continued to observe dry conditions

Fig. 1: February 11-20, 2006 Rainfall Totals (mm)



while the rest of the country indicates some increase in rainfall activities as shown in Figure 1. The highest total rainfall reported for the period was 150.6 mm over Tunduru station in the Ruvuma region.

Graph 1 compares dekadal rainfall for the current season to the long-term mean (normal) for the period from first dekad of November to-date at Sumbawanga Meteorological station.



The area has observed below normal rainfall since November 2005, with above normal rainfall being reported for the first time this season during the reporting period.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Despite soil moisture replenishment during the dekad, persistence of temporarily wilted crops over several areas particularly central and southern coast was evident. Affected areas were mainly the lowlands in all districts of Morogoro region, except for a few highland locations of Mahenge and generally swampy areas of Kilombero district. Weeding activities were carried out in few fields mainly driven by usual activities though only patchy plants were in the fields. Over the western parts of the country some soil moisture replenishment was observed, crop was in

good state at earing stage with some areas in Kigoma region (Kasulu and Kibondo districts) reporting maize at wax ripeness. Likewise over the southern and southwestern highlands areas, sample reports from districts of Makete, Mufindi and Ludewa in Iringa region and Namtumbo in Ruvuma region indicate that maize crop was in moderate state at tasseling stage. For bimodal areas, farmers continued with acquisition of agricultural inputs and land preparations for long rains (*Masika)* season which is due to start in March.

Pastures and water supply for livestock has remained low over Shinyanga region, central and northeastern highlands areas.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams decreased further during the period. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental

Warm/hot conditions and high evaporation rates were experienced in many parts of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING FEBRUARY 21 – 28, 2006

The Arabian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere are expected to relax slowly due to transitional movement of the ITCZ from south to north. The Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones are expected to intensify gradually supporting the shifting of the zonal and meridional component of ITCZ towards the north. Northwesterly to westerly wind flow from the Congo basin and northeasterly to northerly wind flow from the western Indian Ocean will continue to dominate leading to low level moisture convergence over west, central and other parts of the Country and significant rainfall is expected over those areas. There is likelihood of continuing to observe the occurrence of the tropical cyclones over east coast of Madagascar which will enhance the pull of moist air from Congo basin and thereby increasing the possibility of rainfall activities over most parts of the Country especially those of western, central and parts of northern coast. The position of the ITCZ is expected to remain south below 5ºS over Tanzania region.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 21 – 28, 2006

Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) and central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms towards the end of the dekad. The Lake Victoria Basin (Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions) will experience cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over most areas especially at the beginning of the dekad breaking to partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas at the end of the dekad. Southern western highlands (Mbeya, Iringa south and Rukwa regions) will feature partly cloudy to cloudy at times with showers and thunderstorms over most areas towards the end of the dekad. Northern coast (Dare s Salaam, Pwani and Tanga regions, and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions) will experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms especially towards the end of the dekad.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd, 4th & 10 th Floors - Ubungo Plaza – Morogoro Road.
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet_tz@meteo.go.tz
Dar-es-Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA