TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

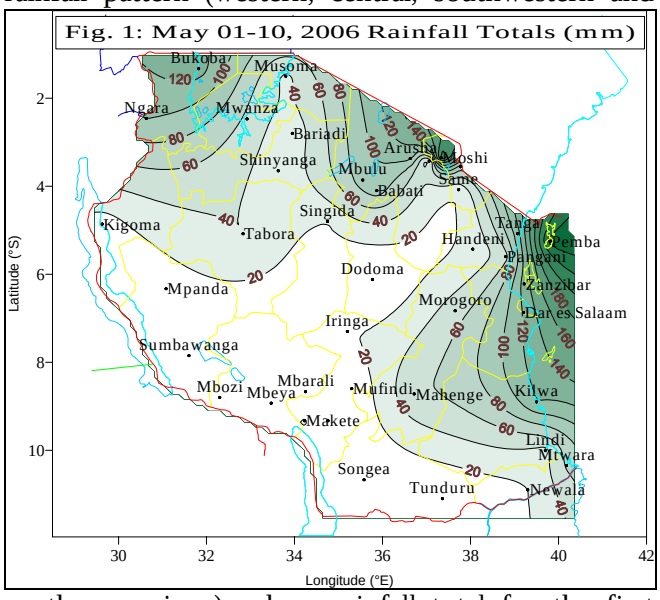
No. 25 2005/06 Cropping Season May 01 - 10, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 01st – 10th May, the southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the associated East African ridge weakened towards the end of the dekad. On the other hand, the northern hemisphere systems, the Azores and Siberian anticyclones slightly intensified thus pushing the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) towards the south. The near equatorial trough together with the southeasterly to easterly wind flow patterns over the East African coast continued to dominate, causing more rainfall activities over our coastal belt as a result of enhanced advection of moist air from the Indian Ocean.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Rainfall has ceased over most parts of the unimodal rainfall pattern (western, central, southwestern and



southern regions), where rainfall total for the first dekad of May was less than 20 mm (Figure 1). Over the southern coast some areas have continued experiencing rainfall activities which resulted into rainfall totals of up to 100 mm. On the other hand, more rainfall activities were reported over bimodal rainfall regime (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) where Pemba and Moshi reported the highest amounts, 248 mm and 223 mm respectively. Pemba airport has maintained reporting the highest rainfall amounts for the previous two dekads, although for this dekad the amount reported was about 120 mm less than that of the third dekad of April.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Over bimodal rainfall regime soil moisture replenishment continued to favor field crops particularly maize which was between tasseling and wax-ripeness stages. Over Lake Victoria Basin, northern coast and northeastern highlands the state of crops (maize and beans) was fairly good. Maize crop in these areas was between tasseling and wax ripeness stages as over Coast region, districts of Babati and Mbulu in Manyara region, and Mwanga and Pangani in Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions respectively, with the state of the crop being generally good. Beans crop was reported to be in good state between pod filling and ripeness stages in Kagera region (Ngara and Karagwe districts) and early vegetative stage in Mbulu district in Manyara region.

Soil moisture continued to maintain a downward trend signifying an approaching end of cropping season for the unimodal rainfall regime (southwestern highlands, southern, central and western). However, the trend was conducive to crops in the fields that were entering mature stage whereby a fall in soil moisture normally accelerates crops to full maturity as well as drying up. Generally, maize in central areas

(Dodoma and Singida regions) was between wax and full ripeness in moderate state, while millet and sorghum were still at milky stage and in moderate state. Over southwestern highlands and southern regions (Mbeya, Iringa, Rukwa and Ruvuma regions) maize crop was in good state between tasseling to full ripeness. Likewise, second phase beans crop over these areas was reported at between flowering and ripeness stage, also in good state. Harvesting of cereals and legumes continued over districts of Kasulu in Kigoma region (western) and Tunduru in Ruvuma region (southern).
As for cassava, the state was good at various stages across the country.

Pasture and water for livestock/wildlife generally maintained a satisfactory level over most areas of bimodal rainfall regime.

Hydrometeorological

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams have improved significantly during the period. However, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental

Temperatures are getting lower as we get into a cool/cold season and winds are weakening while evaporation rates are also coming down in many parts of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 11 – 20, 2006

The Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones are expected to intensify thus creating the East African ridge over southern and central parts of our country, which will enhance the southerly wind flow component over northern coastal areas and neighborhood. During the dekad the near equatorial trough together with the southeasterly to easterly wind flow patterns will weaken. The Arabian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere will continue to relax and hence give way to a northward shift of the ITCZ.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 11 – 20, 2006

Lake Victoria basin (Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) will continue experiencing partly cloudy to cloudy conditions at times with showers over most areas and thunderstorms over few areas. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Coast and Tanga regions, and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) will feature partly cloudy conditions with light rains over few areas and sunny periods. Western areas (Kigoma region) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods. Southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Rukwa and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma, Singida and Iringa regions) and southern (Ruvuma region) will feature partly cloudy with light rains at times over few areas and long sunny periods.

Towards the end of the period, most of the southern region, southwestern highlands and parts of central areas will be dominated by sunny periods over most areas and chilly temperatures at night and early morning hours.

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