TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

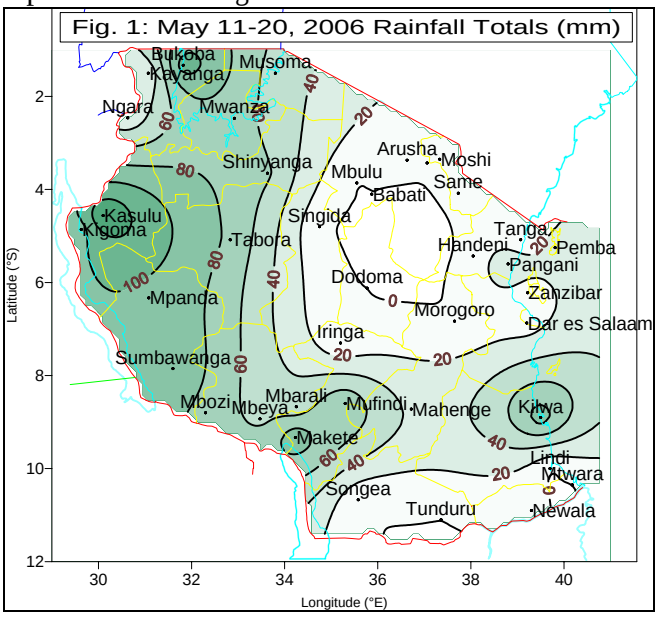
No. 26 2005/06 Cropping Season May 11 - 20, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 11 – 20th May, coastal areas continued to experience isolated light showers mainly over northern coast (Tanga, Dar-es salaam, Morogoro and isles of Zanzibar and Pemba). These activities were the result of occasional advection of moist air mass from the Indian Ocean as passage of frontal systems over the southern tip of Africa continued to erode the centers of Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones hence weakened the overland ridge. Lake Victoria basin received mainly isolated showers and thunderstorms caused by the lake trough coupled with position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) together with Congo trough or low. Northeastern highlands featured light isolated showers mainly over high grounds due to orographic lifting of southeasterly winds carrying moisture from Indian Ocean. Southern regions experienced dry conditions caused by the overland ridge emanating from sub-tropical high pressure cell (Mascarene high) covering most parts of the country, resulting into low level diffluence. The remaining parts of the country remained with cloudy conditions with light rains in the morning.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, most part of the country experienced decreased rainfall activities, where central, northeastern highlands, northern coast and southern regions) reported rainfall amounts was less than 40 mm (Figure 1). Over the central and southern regions (parts of unimodal regime), the observed dry conditions are normal at this time of the year, although for northeastern highlands and northern coast (bimodal areas) such dry spell interrupted *Masika* season. On the other hand, more rainfall activities were reported over Lake Victoria basin and western region, where Kasulu (western) reported the highest amount of 141 mm.



Generally, the country experienced fewer rainfall activities during the period than during first dekad of May.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Over bimodal rainfall regime soil moisture replenishment continued to favor field crops particularly maize that was in between tasseling and full ripeness stages. Over Lake Victoria Basin, northern coast and northeastern highlands the state of maize and beans was fairly good. Maize crop for instance, was generally good at between tasseling and full ripeness stages as were observed over Coast, Manyara (Babati and Mbulu districts), Kilimanjaro (Mwanga district) and Tanga (Pangani district) regions. Beans crop on the other hand was reported as being in good state between full ripeness and harvesting stages mainly in Ngara and Karagwe

districts in Kagera region and Mbulu district in Manyara region.

Over central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions) maize was almost in full ripeness, while millet and sorghum were still at milky stage in a moderate state. For southwestern highlands and southern sector (Mbeya, Iringa, Rukwa and Ruvuma regions) maize crop during the period was in good state at between wax and full ripeness stages. The second phase beans crop over these areas are reported at between flowering and ripeness stages, also in good state. Harvesting of cereals and legumes has started over most areas of the unimodal sector including western, central, southwestern highlands and southern areas of the country.

Paddy crop was doing well only that it was planted late to meet favorable conditions for its proper growth mainly in Coast region. Early planted paddy in these areas has entered into tasseling stage during the period. The late planted crop which covers the largest part of all the fields depicted stunted growth. Unlike paddy, cassava at various stages was reported in good state nearly country wide.

Pasture and water for livestock/wildlife generally maintained a satisfactory level across the country.

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 21 – 31, 2006

Mascarene and St. Helena anticyclones will remain intense over southern hemisphere. The near equatorial trough will be active over the coastal areas. The Siberian and Azores anticyclones and Arabian ridge are expected to remain relatively weak thus keeping the overland ridge (East African) to remain intense. The near equatorial trough will be active over the northern coastal areas. The southeasterly wind south of 5°S turning into southwesterly flow north of 5°N over the eastern coast of East Africa will become a dominant feature during the dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 21 – 31, 2006

Lake Victoria basin, (Mwanza, Mara and Kagera regions) will experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions at times with showers and thunderstorms over few areas and sunny periods. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Coast and Tanga regions, and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) will feature partly cloudy conditions with light morning rains over few areas and sunny periods. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) will experience partly cloudy with occasional light showers over few areas and sunny periods. Western areas (Kigoma region) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few areas at the beginning of the period and sunny periods. Southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Rukwa and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma, Singida and Iringa regions) and southern sector (Ruvuma region) will feature partly cloudy conditions with light rains at times over few areas and long sunny periods. Most of the southern region, southwestern highlands and parts of central areas will start observing minimum temperatures associated with chilly weather at night and early morning hours followed by long sunny periods in the afternoon.

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