TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 20 2006/07 Cropping Season — March 11-20, 2007

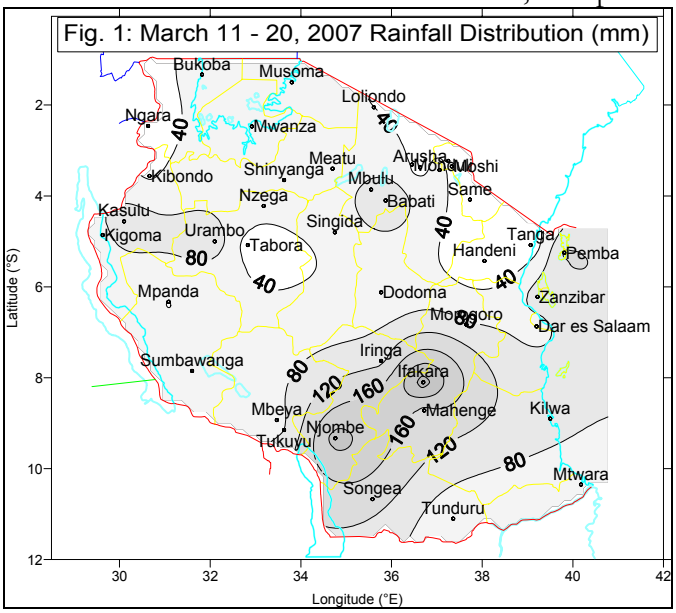
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 11th to 20th March, the Northern Hemisphere systems, the Azores and Arabian anticyclones were relatively strong. The Southern Hemisphere systems, the St. Helena, the Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge intensified, and allowed the position of the Zonal Arm of ITCZ to be located within latitude 10^0 and 15^0 south. The northwesterly and southeasterly flows in the low levels dominated over both north and southern coast respectively.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad, much of the country reported rainfall amounts between 40 and 80 mm, except for some areas in the southern and western sectors where reported rainfall exceeded 100 mm as shown in Figure 1. The highest rainfall recorded was 262.5 mm at Ifakara followed by Njombe that recorded 217.5 mm, Mahenge 146.0 mm, Songea 136.8 mm, and about 120 mm at Pemba and Babati. Except for a few pockets over unimodal rainfall regime of the southwestern, central and western areas where seasonal rains continued, the observed rainfall indicated onset of the long rains season (*Masika*) over areas with a bimodal rainfall pattern, mainly the Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast. However, some areas in the northeastern highlands the *Masika* season has not started, therefore most of the areas continued to report little or no rainfall (10 - day rainfall ≤ 40 mm). The *Masika* rains are anticipated to cover the whole bimodal areas during the third dekad of March.

Fig. 1: March 11 - 20, 2007 Rainfall Distribution (mm)



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Most parts of the country experienced sufficient soil moisture supply during the dekad. However over some areas, the soil moisture was excessive, a situation that slowed down growth and development of crops mainly over unimodal areas where crops such as maize ranged between vegetative and ripeness growth stages. The state of crops was just moderate to poor due to excessive supply of soil moisture since the beginning of the season in some areas of Ifakara and southern lowlands of Morogoro region.

Over bimodal regime areas the excessive soil moisture levels impeded land preparations due to over-wetted soils. However, over parts of Arusha and Manyara regions farmers were finalizing land preparations, planting and weeding for early planted *Masika* crop. Over unimodal rainfall pattern, the conditions for the second planted beans crop was moderate to poor, while over Kasulu, Kibondo, Mpanda, and Ngara districts the crop was at early vegetative growth stage and in good state.

Paddy and cassava were at various growth stages, and in good state.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock were very good across the country.

Hydrometeorological

Rains have boosted water levels in rivers, lakes and dams over the south of the country and eased off the acute load shedding experienced in the country during the second half of 2006.

Environmental

Coastal areas were hot and humid. The rest of the country experienced warm temperatures and comfortable conditions with less windy conditions over some areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH 21 – 31, 2007

During this dekad the tropical storms *Indlala* is expected to move westwards on the northern edge of the pressure high system, hence eroding the sub-tropical high pressure cells, resulting into a diffuse pattern of the position of the zonal arm of ITCZ, which will reduce rainfall activities over the country.

The anti-cyclonic flow over the northwestern Indian Ocean will intensify, allowing the development of series of anti-cyclonic flows. The easterlies will dominate over the entire country, hence rainfall decrease over most parts of the country, except along the coast due to advection.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 21 – 31, 2007

Southern region, southwestern highlands, central and western areas will feature partly cloudy conditions with rainshowers over few areas and sunny periods. Lake Victoria basin and northeastern highlands will feature partly cloudy conditions with thundershowers over few areas and sunny periods. Southern coast, northern coast and its hinterlands will feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms with sunny intervals.

Prepared by
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