No. 36 2006/07 Cropping Season

August 21-31, 2007

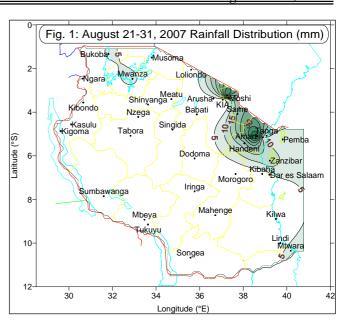
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 21st to 31st August, the Southern Hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge) relaxed slightly, influencing southeasterly to easterly flow to the country. The Near Equatorial Trough (NET) was still a dominant feature observed over northwest Indian Ocean. The scenario coupled with warm SSTs over the Indian Ocean was partially responsible for rainshowers over northern coast and northeastern highlands. The persistence of the weak trough observed over Lake Victoria basin, mainly over the western side of the Lake, influenced thundershowers in the region. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere intensified slightly especially the Azores high though the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was still over the northern hemisphere.



During the period, normal seasonal dry weather conditions were maintained over many places in the country, although a few occasions of off-seasonal light rains were reported over some few places of the high grounds of northeastern highlands and northern coastal belt including Island of Zanzibar.

Figure 1 indicates that during the 10 day period few stations reported rainfall amounts which exceeded 15 mm, where Amani in Tanga region recorded the highest amount of 49.9 mm, followed by Lyamungo in the northeastern highlands 43.0 mm, Same 20.8 mm, Handeni 17.9 mm and Zanzibar 15.1 mm. Some other few places reported rainfall between 5 and about 10 mm.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the period soil moisture levels continued to fall further over many areas due to seasonal dry conditions across the country, except over a few localized areas of northeastern highlands, northern coastal belt that reported some off-seasonal soil moisture replenishments while over Tukuyu in the high grounds of southwestern highlands the moisture remained at satisfactory level.

Harvesting activities continued over a few pockets of elevated lands in southwestern highlands (Njombe district) and northeastern highlands (Tarime and Loliondo districts) and some few places in the northern coast (Mlingano in Tanga region).

Growth of cassava and sweet potatoes was progressing well at various growth stages, while market supply for both crops was good.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife are decreasing in supply over the northern, northeastern highlands, western, southern and central areas as the dry season progresses.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Low humidity and prevailing winds during first dekad of September will result into higher evaporation rates leading to a persistent reduction in water levels in rivers, lakes and dams. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Nights and mornings are chilly due to prevailing low temperatures and windy conditions. In high altitude areas where temperatures get low, heating up of homes by using charcoal stoves, firewood, etc. should be done with great care to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide. Fire hazards (wildfires in particular) are also anticipated due to widespread dry and windy conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING SEPTEMBER 1 – 10, 2007

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge) are expected to relax slightly. The southeasterly wind flow is expected to dominate over the entire country. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify slightly. The relaxation of southern hemisphere anticyclones and the intensification of the northern hemisphere anticyclones will create further room for the ITCZ to move slightly southwards. However, its position will still continue to be further north from our country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 1 – 10, 2007

The Lake Victoria basin is expected to experience thundery showers over few areas, while northern coast and northeastern highlands are expected to feature light rainshowers over few areas. The southwestern highlands, southern, central and western areas are expected to be mainly dry.

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