TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

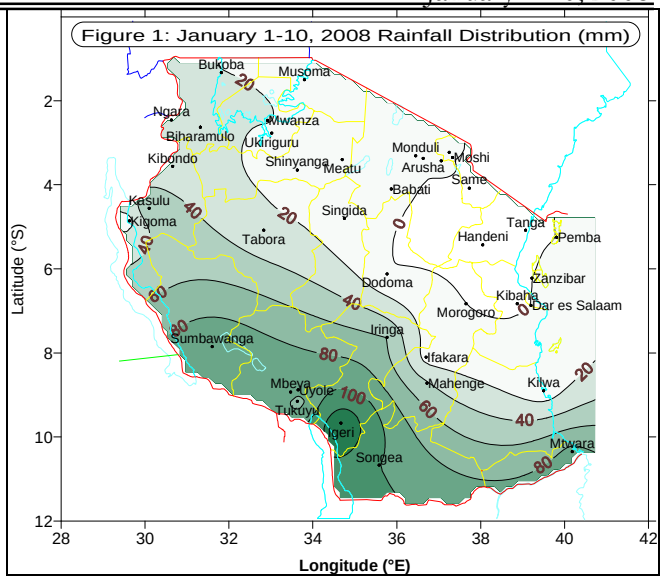
No.13 2007/08 Cropping Season January 1-10, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the first dekad of January, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena, and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to relax, giving more room for the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to enhance rainfall activities mainly over the southwestern highlands and southern regions of Tanzania. An easterly wind flow dominated over the country, mainly at low levels. East-west oscillation of the meridional component of the ITCZ coupled with eastwards traversing frontal system over the southern tip of Africa resulted in an increase of rainfall activities. Most parts of the northern coast and northeastern highlands were under the influence of the Arabian ridge as it occasionally intensified thus experiencing mostly dry condition with isolated rainshowers.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During January 1-10, rainfall activities concentrated largely over the southwestern highlands and southern parts of the unimodal sector where most stations registered rainfall amounts that exceeded 40 mm as indicated in Figure 1. Igeri in southern Iringa region reported the highest rainfall amount of 138.7 mm followed by Songea 100.3 mm, Sumbawanga 98.1 mm, Mbeya 93.9 mm, Uyole 88.9 mm, and Mtwara 86.7 mm. A dry spell was reported over Dodoma, Singida, northern Tabora, Shinyanga, and northern Morogoro regions due to some parts in these regions experiencing little rainfall (<20 mm) or none.
However over most of bimodal rainfall pattern areas the reported dry spell marks the end of the short (*vuli*) rains season.



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad relatively good soil moisture supply was reported over most areas in the unimodal rainfall pattern whose major field activities during the dekad included finalizing land preparation and planting of crops such as maize, beans, sorghum, together with transplanting of paddy and tobacco, as reported from southwestern highlands, south, southern coast, and central regions. However, soil moisture deficits experienced over other parts of the unimodal regime including Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, and Lindi regions and transitional areas in Shinyanga and Morogoro regions, have negatively affected crop germination in some areas as reported in Singida region.

Following good replenishment of soil moisture over some areas in the Lake Victoria basin and western parts (Biharamulo, Muleba, Karagwe and Ngara districts) in Kagera region crops mainly maize and beans during the period was at near ripeness and

harvesting stages respectively and in good state. In Kibondo and Kasulu districts in Kigoma region maize crop was at tasselling stage and beans at near ripeness, both in good state although over two villages in Kasulu district (Bukuba and Buhimanyi) a hailstorm caused damage to crops and other properties. Preliminary reports indicate that in Buhimanyi village the hailstorm damage to crops was 100% especially maize which was at tasseling stage.

Over several parts of bimodal rainfall pattern such as northeastern highlands (Monduli, Handeni, Loliondo and Simanjiro districts), northern coast (Coast and Tanga regions) farmers were involved slightly in planting and largely in land preparation aiming for the long-rains season following a failed *vuli* season.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country was good.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife especially over central, northeastern highlands and southwestern areas are improving.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams are expected to rise as well as river discharges as a result of the ongoing seasonal rains over unimodal areas.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures were high over most parts of the country while humidity was particularly high over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JANUARY 11 – 20, 2008

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems are expected to remain weak. The easterly flow over low levels is expected to persist over the entire country. The rain-making mechanism, the ITCZ is expected to continue lying over the southern sector of the country. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to continue intensifying, hence allowing the ITCZ remain active over the southern regions of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 11 –20, 2008

The northern coast and northeastern highlands are expected to experience light rain-showers over few areas, The Lake Victoria Basin and Western areas (Kigoma) are expected to continue receiving showers and isolated thunderstorms over most areas. Southwestern highlands, southern region, western (Tabora) and southern coastal areas are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and isolated thunderstorms over most areas.

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