



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY





DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No.14 2007/08 Cropping Season

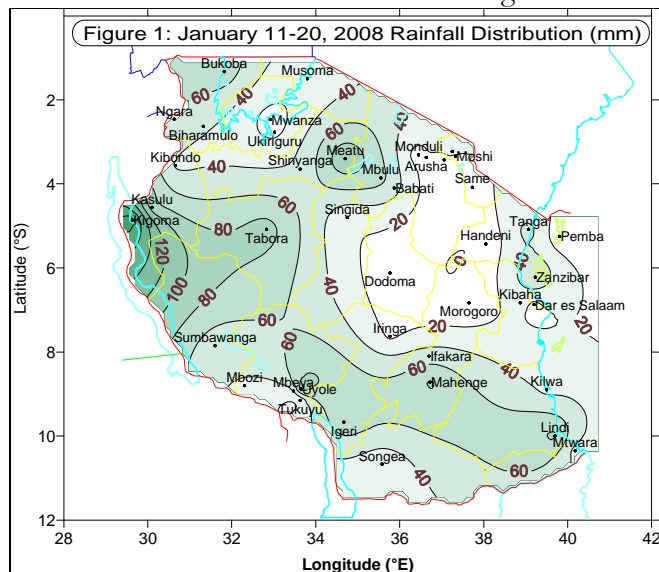
January 11-20, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of January, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) were relaxed, giving more room for the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to dominate over southern region. Northeasterly wind flow was dominant over the entire coast at low levels. East-west oscillation of the meridional component of the ITCZ was influencing rainfall activities over western areas. The pronounced trough observed over western parts of the country resulted in thundery showers over Lake Victoria basin. Northern coast and northeastern highlands were under the influence of the Arabian ridge and thus the dry condition and isolated rainshowers.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During January 11-20, a larger part of the country received rainfall amounts not exceeding 50 mm as



shown in Figure 1. Prolonged dry spell conditions

was reported over Dodoma, Singida and northern Iringa. Over most of bimodal rainfall pattern areas the reported dry spell marks the end of the short (*vuli*) rains season. On the other hand, a few pockets received rainfall which exceeded 80 mm with Kigoma station reporting the highest rainfall amount of 189.7 mm followed by Meatu in Shinyanga 99.3 mm, Uyole 92.7 mm, Tabora 89.5 mm, Kasulu 88.4 mm, Lindi 85.3, and Mahenge 82.6.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad a relatively poor soil moisture supply was reported over most areas of the unimodal rainfall pattern where field activities for the period included planting of crops such as maize, sorghum, paddy, and millet as reported in Lindi region and Mbozi in Mbeya region. Soil moisture deficits were also experienced over other parts of the unimodal regime including Dodoma and Singida regions and over transitional areas in Shinyanga and Morogoro regions. The soil moisture deficit experienced in these areas has negatively affected field activities including land preparations and planting, crop germination and growth.

In the western parts of Lake Victoria basin including Biharamulo, Muleba, Karagwe and Ngara districts in Kagera region maize crop was near ripeness while beans were at harvesting stage, both in good state. Over several parts of bimodal rainfall pattern such as northeastern highlands (Monduli, Handeni, Loliondo and Simanjiro districts) and northern coast (Coast and Tanga regions) few farmers were involved in planting while most of them have started land preparations for the long rain season after a total failure of the *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 and northeastern highlands were deteriorating as a result of persistent dry conditions experienced in the areas.

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 21 – 31, 2008

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to relax.

The development of depression over central Indian Ocean is expected to enhance rainfall activities over unimodal areas and isolated thundery showers over bimodal areas. The variation of the intensity for the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere is expected to allow the ITCZ to oscillate within the region.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 21 – 31, 2008

The Lake Victoria Basin and western areas (Kigoma region) are expected to receive showers and isolated thunderstorms over some areas. Southwestern highlands, southern region, western (Tabora region) are expected to feature cloudy conditions with thunderstorms, while southern coast and central areas are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northern coast and northeastern highlands are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and rainshowers over few areas.