TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 27 2007/08 Cropping Season May 21-31, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During May 21 – 30, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify extending a ridge towards the northeastern parts of Tanzania. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere relaxed allowing both the zonal and meridional arms of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move further northwards away from the country. Southerly wind flow was dominant, thus reducing rainfall over most areas. However, occasional southeasterly wind flow continued to supply moisture from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During May 21-30 rainfall was reported over a few areas occurring mainly over northern coastal belt and Lake Victoria basin as shown in Figure 1 for rainfall spatial analysis. Most stations over northern coast and hinterlands reported below average rainfall where Pemba recorded 96.7mm (79%), Zanzibar 17.1mm (20%), Handeni 26.1mm, DIA 15.6 mm(29%), Tanga 53.8 mm(71%), Kibaha 10.2 mm and Morogoro 7.2 mm(42%) of rainfall. Over northeastern highlands pockets of above average rainfall conditions were reported where Moshi received 51.6 mm (145%), nevertheless, most stations experienced below average rainfall. K.I.A received 3.6 mm (16%), Lyamungo 151.0 mm, Arusha reported 3.7mm (16%), and Same received the least at 0.5 mm (3%).

Lake Victoria Basin received near average to above average rainfall the highest amount recorded during the period was that received at Bukoba 231.4 mm (333%). Pockets of below average rainfall were reported at Shinyanga, Mwanza, and Musoma. Localized rainfall spots occurred over southern and southwestern highlands.

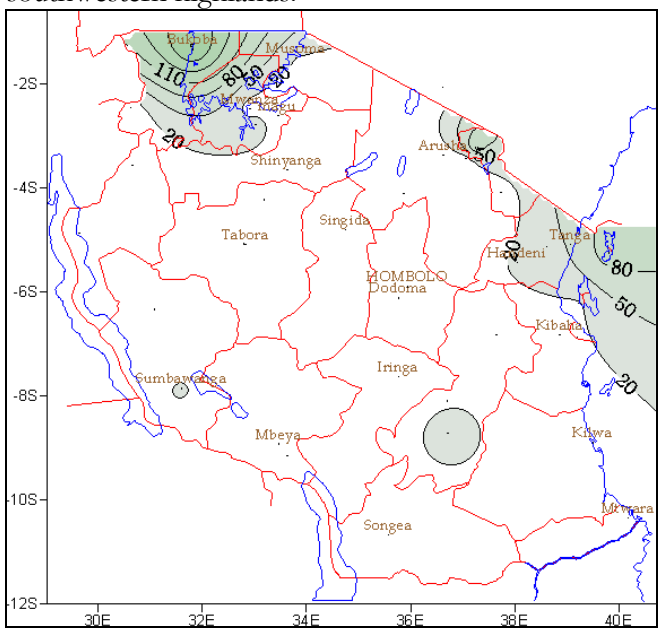

Fig. 1: May 11-20, 2008 Rainfall Distribution (mm)

Dry conditions covered western, central and southern areas which is seasonal during this period of the year. Nevertheless, the dry conditions over northeastern areas especially over low lying areas created dry spells as the seasonal rains approach cessation time.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad, soil moisture levels continued declining over most parts of the country rendering a conducive environment for further drying up of the crops (maize, paddy, and millet/sorghum) which are at harvesting maturity stages mainly over unimodal rainfall areas (southwestern highlands, southern, western, and central regions). Crop yield in these areas is anticipated to be good.

Over bimodal rainfall regime areas, early planted crops are being harvested while the late planted maize, rice and beans were mainly at wax ripeness stage and in good state as observed over Moshi and Arusha. However, crops were adversely affected by low soil moisture conditions as reported over Same (Mkumbara and Mkomazi), Mbulu, Loliondo, and Rombo in the northeastern highlands, and Ngara, Karagwe, Magu, Kwimba, and Tarime in the Lake Victoria basin. In these areas crop condition was between moderate to poor, as some rain was still desired for proper maturity to be accomplished. Poor harvests are anticipated over these areas.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country continued fairly well, while pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good across the country.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams were high as well as river discharges over parts of northeastern areas and Lake Victoria Basin. As for areas over central, southern, southwestern and western regions water levels have started to decline as the dry season sets in.

Environmental Summary

Night temperatures are falling over most parts of the country as we enter the cool/cold season.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JUNE 1-10, 2008

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to continue intensifying, whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the Northern Hemisphere are expected to relax thus allowing both the meridional and zonal components of the ITCZ to further move northwards. Southerly wind flow is expected to bring cold air from the southern hemisphere. Coastal areas especially over the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to continue having occasional supply of moisture as the sea surface temperatures over the west tropical Indian Ocean continue to be slightly warmer.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JUNE 1-10, 2008

Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga and hinterlands and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with light showers over few areas. The Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Mara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southern areas (Ruvuma region and Mahenge) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated light rains. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) and southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa regions), central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions. Cool to cold conditions with light rains are also expected mainly over high grounds.

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