TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 30 2007/08 Cropping Season June 21-30, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During 21-30 June, occasional merging of St. Helena and Mascarine anticyclones strengthened the East African ridge resulting into much of the country falling under low-level diffluent flow pattern. This situation continued to influence dry weather over most areas of the country. South-easterly winds occasionally continued to fetch moisture from the Indian Ocean to the coast mainly northern coast. The Near Equatorial Trough (NET) was weak, hence reducing activities over the coastal belt. Relaxation of the Azores anticyclone over the northern hemisphere resulted into retreat of the meridional component of the rain – making mechanism, ITCZ. The zonal arm of the ITCZ remained further north away from Tanzania.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During June 21-30 rainfall was reported over a few areas mainly over northern coast and northeastern highlands as shown in Figure 1. The highest 10 day rainfall amount was reported at Lyamungu 36.1 mm, followed by Marikitanda 21.1, Tanga 16.7 mm and Moshi 10.3 mm. More than 50% of the sample stations reported zero rainfall for the period whereas the remaining few reported rainfall amounts far below 10 mm. Generally, a larger part of the country was dry. This indicates a normal tendency of dry season during this period of year.

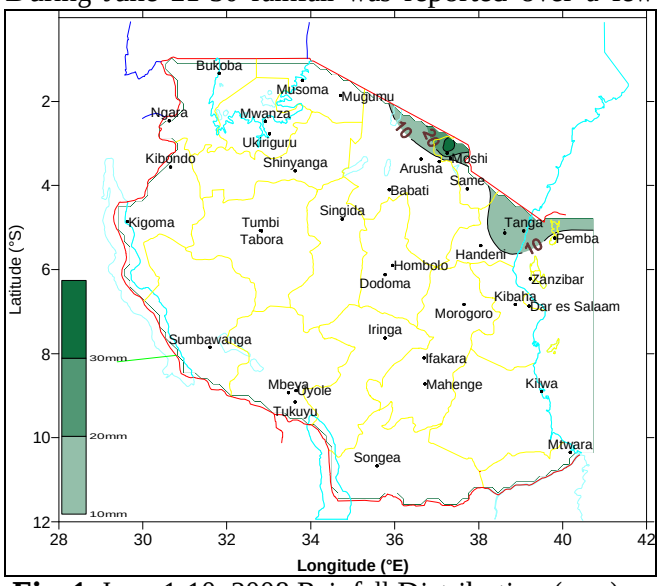

Fig. 1: June 1-10, 2008 Rainfall Distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Declining soil moisture levels continued over most parts of the country creating a conducive situation for both harvesting activities and further drying up of the mature crops (maize, paddy, and millet/sorghum) found in unimodal rainfall areas (southwestern highlands, southern, western, and central regions). Crop yields for 2007/08 cropping season in these areas is anticipated to be good.

Likewise over bimodal rainfall regime areas, early planted crops were being harvested while the late planted maize, rice and beans were between wax ripeness and full ripeness stages and in good state as observed over some parts of northeastern highlands. However, crops 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 were adversely affected by persistent soil moisture stress. Crops condition in these areas was between moderate and poor.

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 continues.

Environmental Summary

Night temperatures continue falling over most parts of the country as the cool/cold season continues.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JULY 1-10, 2008

During the coming 10 days, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain relaxed while the St. Helena and Mascarine anticyclones are expected to gradually continue intensifying. This situation will continue to reinforce the East African ridge and cause much areas of the country to continue falling under diffluent flow pattern.

Southeasterly winds are expected to occasionally continue fetching moisture from the Indian Ocean to the coastal areas but will mainly affect northern coast.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JULY 1-10, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature mainly dry weather and long sunny periods with occasional light rains and isolated thundery activities caused by the Lake trough. Occasional advection of moist air from the Indian Ocean is expected to cause few isolated showers over northern coast together with Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba. Central regions, south-western highlands, western and southern areas are expected to feature dry weather with long sunny intervals. Northeastern highlands will experience few outbreaks of orographic light rains. Cold morning associated with light drizzle is expected to persist mainly over high grounds particularly in the northeastern and southwestern highlands. The remaining areas are expected to generally feature night and morning cool temperatures.

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