No. 36, 2007/08 Cropping Season

August 21-31, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones together with the East African ridge relaxed slightly reducing the low-level diffluent wind flow pattern over the country. This situation allowed localized convergence of moist air mass from the Indian Ocean particularly over the northern coast. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones over the northern hemisphere remained relaxed thus keeping the meridional component of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) away from the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During August 21-31, rainfall was reported over a Kibondo Arusha Same Moshi 10 •Babati Singida -Kigoma Tumbi Tabora Hombolo Handeni •Zanzibar Dodoma Kibaha Morogoro Iringa Sumbawanga ·lfakara Mbeya •Mahenge Kilwa ⊌kuyuIgeri Mtwara Songea

Figure indicating rainfall distribution (mm) during August 21-31, 2008.

few pockets in the Lake Victoria basin and northern coastal belt. The highest 10-days rainfall amount was reported at Mugumu 84.2 mm followed by Musoma 56.1 mm, Zanzibar 29.7 mm, Bukoba 28.1 mm Moshi 13.2 mm, Tanga 11.0 mm and Kibaha 10.7 mm. Generally, much of the country remained seasonally dry, with few stations recording rainfall amounts below 10 mm while most had no rainfall at all as shown in the Figure.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Continued decreasing trend of soil moisture levels was observed during the dekad, signifying real features of a dry season across the country. Late harvesting of maize crop continued over high ground areas of southwestern highlands (Njombe district), while wheat crop has reached harvesting stage. Harvesting of coffee was progressing well over northeastern highlands, southwestern highlands and the Lake Victoria basin, whereas some parts in the Lake basin have started land preparation for the next farming season.

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

Hydrometeorological Summary

Low humidity and prevailing winds during the first dekad of September will result into higher evaporation rates leading to a further reduction in water levels in lakes, and dams, and river discharges. In view of that, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Night temperatures remained low over most parts of the country as the cool/cold season continued. In high altitude areas where temperatures occasionally drop too low, the heating up of homes by use of either charcoal or firewood should be done with great caution to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2008

During the first dekad of September, near neutral Sea Surface Temperatures conditions are expected to persist over the global Oceans. The northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to intensify slightly while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones are expected to relax. This configuration will cause the East African ridge to relax and allow southeasterly to easterly wind to flow from the Indian Ocean towards northern coast and hinterlands.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 1-10, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated showers and thundery activities caused by low level wind convergence. Occasional advection of moist air mass from the Indian Ocean is expected to develop a few showers over northern coast hinterlands, isles of Zanzibar and Pemba together with northeastern highlands. The central regions, southwestern highlands, western and southern areas are expected to feature partly cloudy weather with sunny periods with few occasions of light rains over high grounds. The remaining areas are expected to experience mild temperatures and progressively warming conditions.

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