TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 9, 2008/09 Cropping Season — November 21-30, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

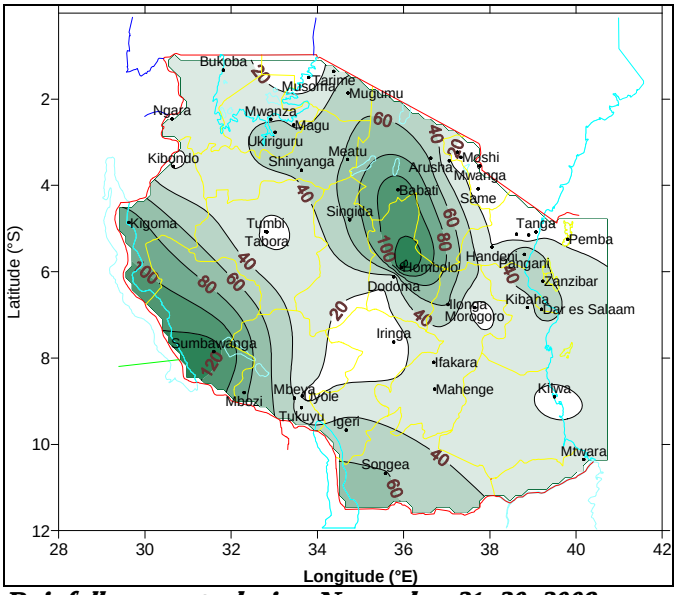
During November 21-30, 2008, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to intensify while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones relaxed. The above configuration continued to allow southward shift of Zonal component of Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the country. The rise in Sea Surface Temperatures over the central Indian Ocean led to low pressure and enhanced convection over the area. This resulted in northeasterly and southeasterly winds flowing towards the area thus depriving moisture supply to our region and causing rainfall reduction over the coastal belt and northeastern highlands. However, occasional fluctuation of the zonal and meridional components of ITCZ contributed to outbreaks of showers over the coastal areas and hinterlands towards the end of the dekad.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

The dekad was relatively wet with the highest amounts of rainfall reported over unimodal areas especially over central, western, southwestern highlands, and transitional areas of Manyara region in the northeastern highlands. The highest value was recorded at Hombolo 149.2 mm, followed by Sumbawanga 130.3 mm, Babati 117.5 mm, Kigoma 91.6 mm, and Mbozi 83.1 mm.

Observation of the spatial rainfall distribution in the figure below indicates that some parts over the short rains receiving areas in northeastern highlands and northern coast reported little rainfall (less than 20 mm) in the dekad, which trend that has persisted for two consecutive dekads.

Observed significant amount of rainfall over unimodal rainfall pattern areas (central, south western highlands, and southern) indicates onset of seasonal rains in those areas.



Rainfall amounts during November 21- 30, 2008

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad most areas were engaged in field activities such as land preparation, planting, and weeding as a result of favorable supply of soil moisture observed across the country. Crops mainly maize and beans over bimodal sector (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast and the Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) continued to grow moderately well at stages ranging from emergence to late vegetative stages regardless late onset and false start of the season experienced over most parts of this sector. But a few pockets particularly districts of Muleba in Kagera region and Tarime in Mara region crops have entered near ripeness stage for those

planted earlier. Likewise, over unimodal sector (central, western, southwestern highlands, southern and southern coast regions**)** land preparation was in final stages for some areas while for other areas planting had started following onset of the seasonal rains.

However, in northeastern highlands the planting activities were done in patches as a result of inadequate soil moisture resulting from poor *Vuli* performance in the region.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife were declining over northeastern highlands and most parts of unimodal rainfall areas. However, this situation is likely to improve following soil moisture replenishment which has been reported in those areas.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams, as well as river discharges are likely to improve as a result of onset of seasonal rains and *Vuli* rains. However, water for domestic and industrial purposes should continue be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures are increasing over most areas while low lying areas are very humid and causing a lot of discomfort.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2008

During the dekad, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to continue intensifying while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones are likely to continue weakening.

The meridional component of the ITCZ is expected to continue to be active over western regions and Lake Victoria Basin supporting low level wind convergence over the areas.

Occasionally this is expected to include some parts of Central region. The Zonal component of the ITCZ is expected to remain active over the southern sector of the country. The above configuration is very likely to maintain rainfall activities over the western, central, southwestern highlands and southern sector of the country. The current westerly wind vector anomaly over the central Indian Ocean coupled with strong positive outgoing long wave radiation near the coast show a likelihood of persistent suppression of rainfall activities over parts of northern coast and northeastern highlands.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING DECEMBER 1-10, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin and Kigoma regions are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with thundery showers over some areas. Northeastern highlands, northern coast and its hinterlands, the Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to feature generally dry conditions with outbreaks of isolated showers. Central and southern regions, southwestern highlands and the southern coast areas are expected to feature cloudy to partly cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms.

Prepared by
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