TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 10, 2008/09 Cropping Season — December 1-10, 2008

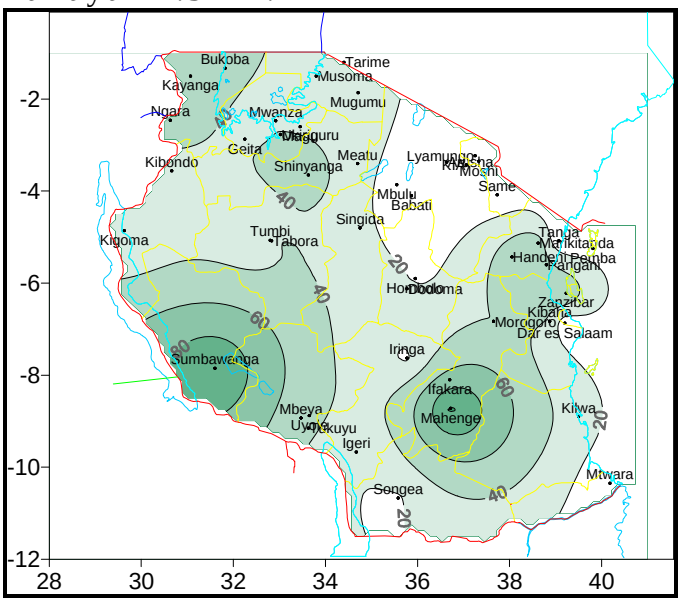
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the past 10days (1-10 December, 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 ITCZ over southern parts of the country. The continued warm Sea Surface Temperatures over the central Indian Ocean enhanced convection thus leading the northeasterly winds to become westerly blowing towards the low pressure area depriving moisture supply to our region hence persistent reduction of rainfall over coastal belt and northeastern highlands. During this dekad the Meridional component of the ITCZ was less active over the western region thus reducing rainfall over those areas.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

The dekad was generally moist for the observed substantial amounts of rainfall during the period, except for parts of coastal belt, central and northeastern highlands that obtained the lowest values below 20mm as shown in the rainfall Figure.

The 40mm isohyet, as shown in the 10-day total rainfall figure, covered parts of the eastern sector, southwestern and Lake Victoria Basin. The highest amount was obtained at Mahenge station 103.9mm followed by Sumbawanga 100.6mm, Zanzibar 57.4mm, Bukoba 53.1mm, Marikitanda 52.6mm, Handeni 50.8 mm, Shinyanga 49.3mm, Uyole 46.9mm, Mbeya, 46.6mm, Ukiriguru 45.8mm and Tukuyu 44.3mm.



Rainfall amounts during December 1-10, 2008

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad most areas across the country observed adequate supply of soil moisture although it was unevenly distributed mostly over parts of bimodal sector (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, Isles of Zamzibar and Pemba). This hindered normal crop growth and development mainly over most parts of northern coast and northeastern highlands where crops

in the fields were generally at vegetative stage and in poor to moderate state.
Beans crop was reported to be in moderate state between vegetative and ripeness stages mainly over Kagera region.
Over unimodal sector (central, western, southwestern highlands, southern and southern coast regions) land preparation and planting of maize and beans continued well in most areas as soil moisture replenishment was conducive for the activities.
Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined.
Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife generally ranged from poor to moderate state.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Despite the ongoing rains over some areas of bimodal rainfall regime, water levels in lakes, and dams generally declined. In view of that, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures are increasing and windy conditions are decreasing over much of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2008

For the coming dekad (10days), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain intense while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones are likely to continue weakening. The meridional component of the ITCZ is expected to retreat westwards reducing rainfall over the Western region and Lake Victoria Basin. The Zonal component of the ITCZ is expected to fluctuate over the southern regions of the country occasionally causing rainfall activities over the area..
The current northeasterly winds which are relatively dry and at times becoming westerly are likely to contribute in suppressing rainfall activities over parts of Northern Coast and Northeastern highlands and central areas

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated thundershowers. The Northeastern Highlands, Northern coast and its hinterlands, isles of Zanzibar and Pemba together with Central areas are expected to feature mainly dry conditions with a few outbreaks of isolated showers. Southwestern highlands, Southern Region and Southern Coast are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms.

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