TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 13, 2008/09 Cropping Season — January 1-10, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

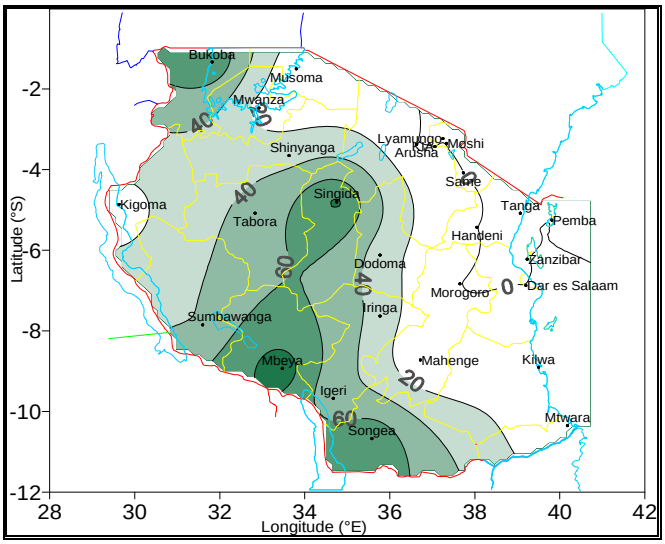
Dry conditions and high temperatures persisted over northern coast and northeastern highlands thus depriving crops of much needed soil moisture.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the past 10 days (01-10 January, 2009), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to remain intense while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones remained relaxed. The period was dominated by warm SSTs over the Central Indian Ocean which disorganized the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the country thus suppressing weather especially over the Northeastern Highlands, coastal areas and hinterlands. However, northwesterly winds over the south western parts of the country continued to support development of substantial rainfall over the unimodal areas.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Most areas over the bimodal sector (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) and few areas in the unimodal rainfall areas (southern coast including Morogoro region) received little rainfall not exceeding 20 mm during the dekad as shown in the rainfall map. Recorded 10 day rainfall from sample stations across the country indicates that the highest amount was reported over Mbeya 91.7 mm, Singida 83.8 mm, Bukoba 78.7 mm, Songea 78.3 mm, Tabora 47.5 mm, Igeri 43.5 mm, Sumbawanga 42.1 mm, Iringa 33.0 mm, Shinyanga 31.1 mm, Dodoma 28.8 mm, Kilwa 19.3 mm, Mwanza 13.5 mm and Kigoma 11.0 mm. The rest of the stations reported rainfall below 10 mm with parts of northern coast and northeastern highlands received no rainfall at all as shown in the rainfall map.



Rainfall amounts during January 1-10, 2009

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the first dekad of January bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) did not receive adequate rainfall, thus soil moisture stress impeded vuli crop growth around the region where some crops were approaching ripeness stage. The affected areas include eastern parts of Lake Victoria basin, (Mwanza, northern Shinyanga, and Mara regions), northeastern highlands (Rombo, Karatu, Moshi and Same districts), northern coast (Pangani and Handeni districts) and parts of Coast region (Kibaha district) where crops mostly maize and beans were at various growth stages.

For the unimodal sector (central, western, southwestern highlands, southern and southern coast regions) planting of maize, beans and paddy continued well in several areas as a result of slightly favourable soil moisture conditions. However, a few areas over the southern coast in Lindi and Mtwara regions planted late due to late onset of seasonal rains and the crops are at emergence stage.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was generally moderate.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Seasonal rains that have started over unimodal areas are anticipated to boost water levels in lakes and dams, and rivers in their respective catchment areas. However due to poor performance of *Vuli* rainfall over much of bimodal areas, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Increased temperatures were recorded over much of the country especially in the northeastern highlands and northern coast including Morogoro where mean 10-day temperatures ranged from 33 to 35 °C.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS JANUARY 11-20, 2009

Warmer Sea Surface temperatures over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to favour the formation of tropical disturbances that could influence rainfall performance over the region.

Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to slightly intensify while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) are likely to remain weak. The ITCZ is expected be on the peripherals of the Southern borders. This configuration is most likely to favour the South Western Highlands and Southern areas. Arabian ridge coupled with persistence of northeasterly to northerly winds which are relatively dry and divergent are likely to dominate over the coastal areas and hinterlands.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 11-20, 2009

Northeastern Highlands, Northern coast and its hinterlands, Isles of Unguja and Pemba are expected to continue featuring mainly dry conditions with a few outbreaks of isolated light showers mainly over high grounds. Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with a few outbreaks of thundershowers mainly over western parts of the Lake Victoria Basin. Southwestern highlands, western, southern areas including southern coast together with central areas are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with showers and isolated thunderstorms.

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