TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 15, 2008/09 Cropping Season January 21-31, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

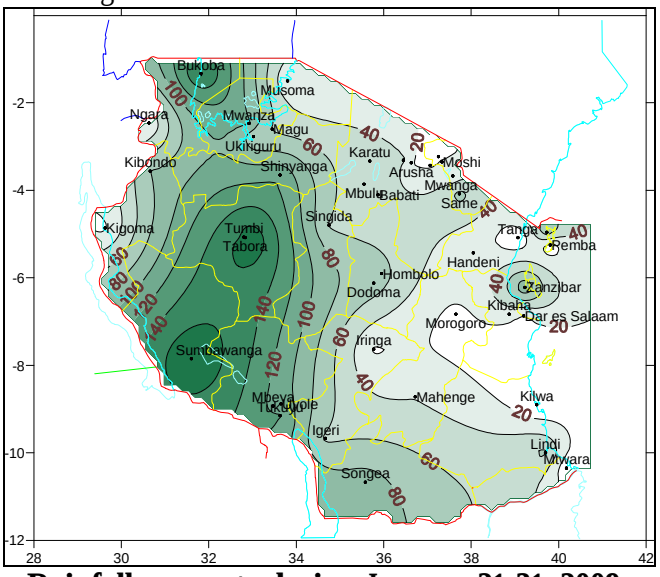
During the third dekad of January soil moisture improved significantly over much of the unimodal areas except the southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) where insufficient soil moisture and high temperature conditions continued depriving crop of much needed soil moisture.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad (21-31 January, 2009), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) were generally intense. However, there was significant relaxation that occurred to Siberian anticyclone while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere relaxed. Occasional southeasterly and easterly flow occurred over the coastal areas increasing moisture influx. The above configuration allowed development of thundery showers over the coastal areas and northeastern highlands. The West-East oscillation of the meridional component of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was slightly enhanced resulting into rainfall activities over some parts of the southwestern highlands and western areas.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Rainfall activities improved over much of the country compared to the second dekad of the month. Much of the bimodal sector (eastern Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) and some parts of the unimodal rainfall regions (central, southern, and 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 rainfall amounts exceeding 100 mm were reported at Tabora 183.7 mm, Sumbawanga 178.2 mm, Bukoba 164.1 mm, Tumbi 161.0 mm, Tukuyu 122.0 mm, Mbeya 114.5 mm, Uyole 110.9 mm, and Mwanza 103.7 mm. The rest of the stations reported rainfall below 80 mm with some areas over the eastern sector of the country receiving rainfall less than 20 mm in the dekad.



Rainfall amounts during January 21-31, 2009

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the third dekad of January soil moisture improved significantly over much of the unimodal areas except the southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) where insufficient soil moisture and high temperature conditions continued depriving crops of much needed soil moisture. Maize and beans generally ranging from early vegetative to weeding were in a very poor to moderate state of growth as observed over most parts of the unimodal sector central (Dodoma region), Tabora (east) region,

southeastern highlands (Iringa north), southern (Tunduru district), and southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions).
Crops in some of these areas were generally wilting as a result of severe soil moisture deficit during the period, thus farmers in these areas are advised to switch to short term and drought tolerant varieties like millet, peas, and root crops including sweet potatoes and cassava.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at satisfactory level.

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 catchments. 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

Higher temperature conditions over much of the coastal belt continued causing human discomfort in those areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS FEBRUARY 1-10, 2009

Warmer Sea Surface Temperature conditions over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to continue which may support development of tropical disturbances that could influence rainfall performance over our region.

Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain intense while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) are likely to remain weak. The ITCZ is expected to remain on the peripherals of the southern borders while low level westerly wind flow is likely to enhance moisture influx from Congo forest. This configuration is expected to continue to bring showers over the southwestern highlands and southern areas but, the condition is unlikely to change the seasonal projection of the rains in the region. The Arabian Ridge coupled with northeasterly to northerly winds which are relatively dry and divergent is likely to dominate over the coastal areas and hinterlands including northern parts of central region.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 1-10, 2009

Enhanced showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected over southwestern highlands, western, southern region, Lake Victoria Basin and occasionally including central areas. Southern coast areas are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with a few showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeastern highlands are expected to feature mainly dry conditions. Northern coast and its hinterlands, isles of Unguja and Pemba are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with a few outbreaks of showers.

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