TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 24, 2008/09 Cropping Season April 21-30, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

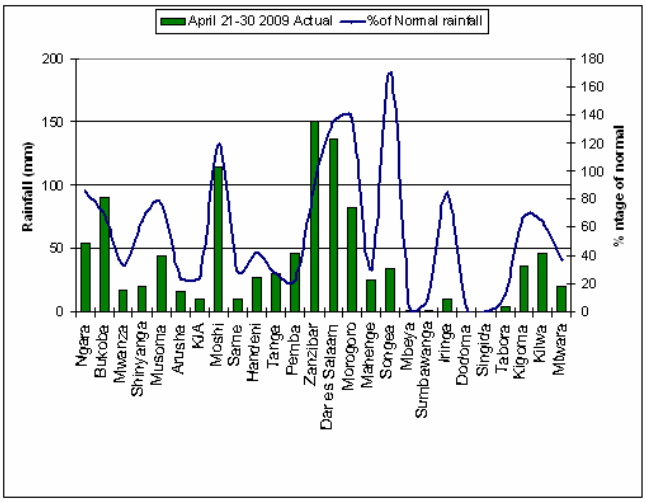
- Over bimodal areas the long rains *Masika* have performed poorly mainly over northeastern highlands.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad under review, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to relax while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere intensified. Southerlies converging with moist easterlies from the Indian Ocean at various occasions enhanced rainfall over coastal areas. Over Lake Victoria Basin northeasterlies converging with easterly winds continued to allow development of thundershowers mainly over the western and southern parts of the Lake Zone extending to northern Kigoma.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad, much of the country experienced below normal rains except for a few areas with a bimodal rainfall pattern (northern coast and northeastern highlands) where above normal rainfall was reported (see Figure). The highest amount of rainfall recorded was 172 mm at Lyamungo in the northeastern highlands. Stations which reported rainfall amounts exceeding 100 mm in a dekad under review were Zanzibar 150.4 mm and Dar es Salaam 136.6 mm (northern coast) and Moshi 114.6 mm (northeastern highlands). Unimodal areas (central, southwestern highlands, southern, and southern coast) recorded very small amounts of rainfall indicating the end of *Msimu* rainfall season. The *Msimu* rains normally cease from the third dekad of April. Over bimodal areas the long rains *Masika* have performed poorly over northeastern highlands.



April 21-30, 2009 rainfall amounts against percentages of normal

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the third dekad of April soil moisture deficits continued to adversely affect farming activities in several parts of bimodal areas mainly northern coast and northeastern highlands particularly in Ngorongoro, Monduli and Simanjiro districts. Over unimodal areas crops in most of the fields were progressing well as many of the crops have reached maturing stage where harvesting of maize and paddy was carried out as reported specifically from Tabora and Ruvuma (Tunduru) regions. However, soil moisture over most areas of southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara districts) during the period was inadequate for the delayed and

replanted crops (maize and sorghum) which wilted at vegetative stages.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at a satisfactory level in unimodal areas. Pastures and water conditions over most parts of northeastern highlands (Ngorongoro) are very poor.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Prevailing rains have slightly boosted water levels in lakes and dams, and discharges in rivers in their respective catchments.

Environmental Summary

Cold conditions have started to set in over most of the southern highlands whereas cool conditions are prevalent over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS MAY 1-10, 2009

Currently there is slight cooling along the coast of Tanzania towards Mozambique Channel and warm Sea Surface temperatures over the eastern Madagascar. For the coming 10 days (1^{st} – 10^{th} May, 2009), the current warm Sea Surface Temperatures are likely to persist. Northern hemisphere anticyclones are expected to relax while the southern hemisphere anticyclones will continue to intensify resulting in a northward shift of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) towards northern parts of the country.

The high pressure system (Ridge) is expected to persist over southern parts of Tanzania occasionally extending to central areas. Low level flow is expected to be south easterly and occasionally becoming southerly resulting into near normal rainfall over most areas. There is also a likelihood of westerlies from Congo converging with easterlies from Indian Ocean enhancing moisture over the Coastal belt and the bimodal areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 1-10, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Kigoma, and western Shinyanga) is expected to experience normal to above normal rainfall. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal region and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to receive mainly near normal rainfall. Western (Tabora and Rukwa regions), central (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Mbeya and Iringa) and southern (Ruvuma region and Mahenge areas) are expected to receive normal to below normal rainfall. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara regions) are expected to feature near normal to below normal rainfall.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd, 4th & 10 th Floors - Ubungo Plaza – Morogoro Road.
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet1_tz@meteo.go.tz