TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 26, 2008/09 Cropping Season May 11-20, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

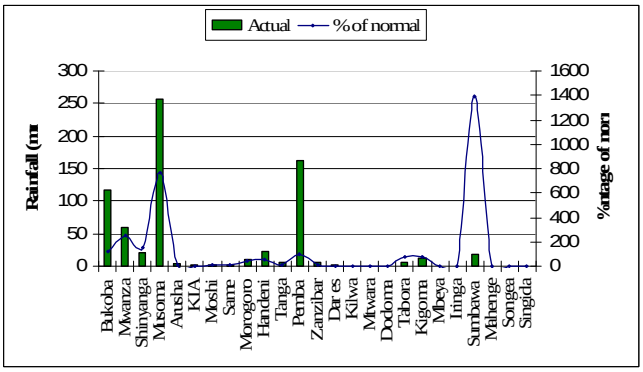
- Decreased soil moisture supply experienced across much of the country except for Lake Victoria basin (Mara, Bukoba, Mwanza), northern coast (Handeni), the Islands (Pemba) and southwestern highlands (Sumbawanga).

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the past 10 days (11-20 May, 2009), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) remained relaxed while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere continued to intensify. Southeasterly wind flow occasionally becoming southerly resulted into a near normal to below normal rainfall. Moreover localized convergence resulted to heavy rainfall over the eastern parts of the Lake Victoria Basin. Also high grounds of southwestern highlands received moderate rainfall.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the second dekad of May, most areas of the country recorded rainfall amounts below 20mm except for Lake Victoria basin (Musoma, Bukoba and Mwanza stations) as shown on the graph of rainfall amounts as percentage of normal. Rainfall amounts exceeding 20mm were recorded at Musoma (256.7mm), Bukoba (118.0 mm), Pemba (161.7mm), Mwanza (60.0mm), Lyamungu (42.5mm), Ukiriguru (34.5mm), Babati (24.1,mm), Handeni (23.4mm), Kibondo (21.9mm) and Shinyanga (20.3mm). The rest of stations involved in this analysis recorded below 20mm of rainfall, an indication of cessation process for unimodal areas.



May 11-20, 2009 Rainfall amounts as percentage of normal.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the second dekad of May, soil moisture supply showed a declining trend mainly over much of northeastern highlands (Mwanga, Same, Monduli, Loliondo and Simanjiro districts) where crop performance was observed to worsen generally. Likewise, over northern coast particularly in Pangani district prolonged dry spells were experienced causing very poor performance of maize crop for the period. Over unimodal areas harvesting of maize and paddy crops was carried out as reported from Tabora and Ruvuma (Tunduru) regions. However, soil moisture over southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara districts) during the period maintained a falling trend of soil moisture levels causing further wilting of the replanted maize and sorghum crops in the areas.

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 were also poor.

Hydrometeorological Summary

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

Environmental Summary

Cooler conditions prevailed over most parts of the southern highlands and cool conditions established over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS MAY 11-31, 2009

Along the coast of Tanzania towards Mozambique Channel Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) are observed to be near neutral state while warmer SSTs are developing over the central equatorial Indian Ocean, a condition which is likely to result into divergent flow along the coast of Tanzania. This will enhance the East African Ridge over the country causing a southerly fetch of cold air that will likely result to early cold conditions over the southwestern highlands. Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain relaxed while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) will continue to intensify resulting into further northward shift of the ITCZ. Low level flow is expected to be southerly and occasionally becoming south easterly resulting into significant moisture - influx especially over the extreme northern coast which will cause occasional rain showers. Moreover, localized convergence over western side of Lake Victoria Basin is expected to allow development of thundershowers over the area.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 21-31, 2009

The Western part of the Lake Victoria Basin, particularly, Kagera region, is expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with thundershowers over some areas, while the remaining parts are likely to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and isolated thunderstorms Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal region and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with isolated rain showers especially over the extreme northern coast. North eastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions. Southwestern highlands and southern parts of Morogoro (Mahenge) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with light rains mainly over high grounds. Cool temperatures are expected to set in over the high grounds of southwestern highlands. Western areas (Tabora, Kigoma and northern Rukwa), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi), central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southern region are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods. However there is a likelihood of a few isolated showers over Mtwara during the dekad.

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
Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA