TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 28, 2008/09 Cropping Season June 1-10, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

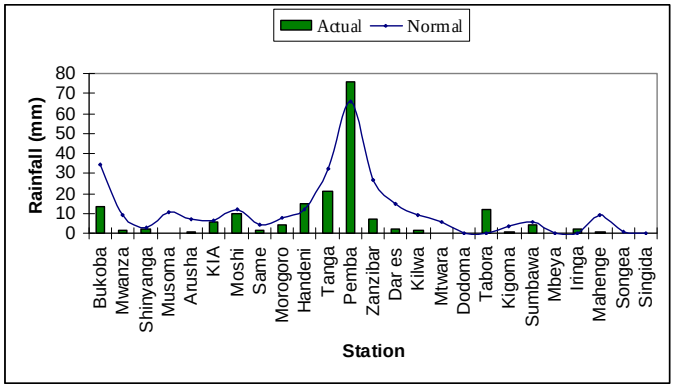
- Over the bimodal rainfall regime further decrease of soil moisture has exacerbated a very poor crop performance over much of the northeastern highlands and northern coast.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad under review the southern hemisphere pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify thus extending a ridge towards the eastern sector of Tanzania; while the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere relaxed resulting in both the zonal and meridional arms of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move further northwards out of the country. A southerly diffluent wind flow over the country was dominant enhancing dry conditions over most areas. However, occasional southeasterly wind flow continued to supply moisture from the Indian Ocean to northern coastal areas especially over the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba resulting in occasional rainfall.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the first dekad of June, most areas of the country did not receive rainfall as the dry season prevails. For the few areas which received rainfall during the period the amounts recorded were below normal and less than 25 mm, except over Pemba Island as shown in the Figure, where 76 mm of was recorded being the highest amount of rainfall for the period under review. It was followed by Tanga (21.1 mm), Handeni (15 mm), Bukoba (13.5 mm) and Tabora (11.7 mm). Other stations recorded less than 10 mm of rainfall.



June 1-10, 2009: Observed rainfall amounts against normal.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Declined soil moisture levels was experienced over much of the country during the period, indicating a normal decreasing trend for this time of year as the dry season sets in. Over the bimodal regime further decrease of soil moisture has exacerbated a very poor crop performance over much of the northeastern highlands (Same, Simanjiro, Loliondo, and Monduli districts and lowlands of Rombo district), and northern coast (Tanga and Coast regions). Generally, maize crop over bimodal areas was between tasselling and wax ripeness stages and in moderate to poor growth states. False start and poor rainfall distribution were the major causes of crop failures during *Masika* 2008/2009 cropping season.

Over unimodal areas (southwestern highlands, western, southern, southern coast, and central)

harvesting of maize, beans and paddy continued well, except over high grounds in Njombe district where crop maturation and drying continued slowly due to low temperature conditions.

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 mainly over unimodal areas. However, over most parts of northeastern highlands pastures and water conditions continued deteriorating.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams, and discharges in rivers in their respective catchments were declining mainly over central and northeastern highlands. Water for industrial and domestic purposes should be used sparingly as the dry season has started.

Environmental Summary

The country experienced generally cool temperatures and comfortable conditions. Night temperatures are falling over most parts of the country as we continue with the cool/cold season.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS JUNE 11-20, 2009

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to continue intensifying, whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax thus allowing both the meridional and zonal components of the ITCZ to move further northwards.

The warmer Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the central tropical Indian Ocean are expected to persist. The SSTs over east-tropical Atlantic Ocean and western coast of South Africa will continue to be warm. The East African ridge is expected to become stronger and therefore allowing southerly to southeasterly wind to inject cold air over a greater part of the country mainly over high grounds which will result into chilly weather over the areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JUNE 11-20, 2009

Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, northern Kigoma and Mwanza region) are expected to receive normal to below normal rainfall**.** Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coast, islands of Unguja and Pemba) including Mara and Shinyanga regions are expected to receive below normal rainfall. Western (Tabora and southern Kigoma regions), central (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) and southern regions (Ruvuma region and Mahenge) are expected to experience mainly normal dry season with cooler conditions during nights and early morning hours. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to receive below normal rainfall with most likely the persistence of cool nights and early morning hours.

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