TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the bimodal rainfall regime further decrease of soil moisture has favoured drying up of field crops.
- Over most parts of northeastern highlands and parts of northern coast (including Handeni district) pastures and water conditions continued deteriorating as the dry season continues.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period under review (21-30 June, 2009), the St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems over the southern hemisphere generally continued to intensify significantly contributing to extension of a strong ridge whose axis was crossing northeastern sector of Tanzania towards Kenya. Due to substantial intensification of high pressure cell over South Africa and deep cold front system over south-east of Madagascar, a high pressure gradient which contributed to very strong southerly winds flow from south was observed over the southern sector of the country mainly coastal areas. However, occasionally this flow became southeasterly associated with a good supply of moisture from the Indian Ocean towards northern coast and north-eastern highlands thus generating light rains particularly over the extreme northern coast including northeastern high grounds. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere continued to relax significantly while the Inter-tropical convergence Zone (ITCZ) continued to become stronger over the hemisphere.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the third dekad of June, northern coast and northeastern highlands received light rains over few areas while Lake Victoria basin featured isolated thundershowers mostly on the eastern flank of the Lake. The highest 10 day rainfall amount recorded was 40 mm over Tanga followed by Pemba (24.0 mm), Tukuyu (20.0 mm), Kigoma (17.4 mm), and Musoma (14.0 mm). Many areas remained seasonally dry.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture levels continued declining over much of the country due to a prevailing seasonal dry condition. Over the bimodal rainfall regime further decrease of soil moisture has favoured drying up of field crops that were between full ripeness and harvesting maturity. However, crop yields are anticipated to be poor a result of false start and poor rainfall distribution experienced over much of northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara regions) and northern coastal areas (Tanga, Morogoro, and Coast regions) during *Masika* 2009 cropping season.

Over unimodal rainfall regime (southwestern highlands, western, southern, southern coast, and central) many farmers have finished harvesting of maize, beans and paddy. Crop yields in this regime are variable, where some areas of Central (Dodoma region and northern Iringa), and southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) have had below average harvests.

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 and parts of northern coast (Handeni district) pastures and water conditions continued deteriorating as the dry season continues.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams, and discharges in rivers in their respective catchments were declining over most areas and are expected to persist as the dry season continues. Water for industrial and domestic purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

The country experienced generally cool to cold temperatures, giving comfortable conditions for the coastal belt which is normally warmer but chilly elsewhere. Night temperatures are low over most parts of the country as cool/cold season continues.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS JULY 1-10, 2009

During last dekad of June 2009, 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 keeping both the meridional and zonal components of the ITCZ further to the north of the country. The warmer Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the Central Tropical Indian Ocean are expected to persist while SSTs to the south of Madagascar are expected to be cool.

The SSTs over East-tropical Atlantic Ocean and western coast of South Africa are expected to be neutral to warm conditions. The East African ridge is expected to become stronger due to cooling over southern Madagascar and therefore allowing southerly to southeasterly wind flow to inject cold air over a greater part of the country mainly over high grounds resulting into chilly weather over the areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING JULY 1-10, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions) is expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with isolated light thunderstorms and sunny periods. **Northern coast and hinterland** (Dar es Salaam, northern Morogoro, Tanga, **Coastal regions** and the **Islands** of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience mainly partly cloudy conditions with few light rains especially over the extreme northern coast. **Northeastern Highlands** (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with light rains and low temperatures at night and early morning hours mainly over the highlands. **Southwestern highlands** and **southern parts** of Morogoro region (Mahenge) are expected to feature generally dry conditions and low temperatures at night and early morning hours. **Western areas** (Tabora, Kigoma and Northern Rukwa regions), **Southern Coast** (Mtwara and Lindi regions), **Central** (Dodoma and Singida regions) and Southern region are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and long sunny periods.

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