

No. 34, 2008/09 Cropping Season

August 1-10, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

Continuous soil moisture deficits over much of the country resulted into more decline of pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the first dekad of August 2009, both southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) were intense contributing to a persistent strong East African Ridge towards the region. The continued intensification of the high pressure cells over South African tips and developments of cold front systems resulted into southerly wind flow associated with cold air advection towards the country. The Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere relaxed, thus keeping the Inter-tropical convergence Zone (ITCZ) in the northern hemisphere.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the first dekad of August coastal areas and Lake Victoria basin received some rainfall whereby Nyiberekera was leading by 37.3mm followed by Kilwa 28.4mm, Tanga 24.3mm, Amani 23.5mm, Naliendele 17.8mm, Bukoba 17.3mm and Mlingano 15.3mm.Other stations received very light rains not exceeding 10 mm.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Continuous soil moisture deficits over much of the country resulted into more decline of pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife. The situation was more pronounced over northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro regions), and parts of northern coast and central areas due to a poor rainfall performance during previous season.

Hydrometeorological Summary

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

Environmental Summary

Night temperatures continued to be low over most parts of the country. As night temperatures get low, caution should be taken against use of charcoal stoves for heating homes to avoid asphyxiation.

Dry windy conditions that prevailed over northeastern highlands, coast, central and western areas increased prospects for diseases such as coughs, colds, pneumonia, and asthma.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS AUGUST 11-20, 2009

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to remain intense, whereas the Azores and Siberian high pressure system in the northern hemisphere are occasionally expected to intensify slightly thus allowing north-south oscillation of zonal component of the ITCZ. The Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over Southwestern Indian

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Ocean are expected to be near neutral while tropical Pacific Ocean SSTs are expected to continue warming. The East African ridge is expected to slightly retreat southwards, the configuration is at occasions expected to bring moist southeasterly to the coastal areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions) is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated thundershowers and sunny periods mainly over western parts of Lake Victoria Basin. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, northern Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are generally expected to feature partly cloud conditions and isolated showers mostly over extreme northern sector. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to experience mainly partly cloudy Northeastern Highlands (Arusha. conditions. Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and a few light rains in early morning hours mainly over the high ground. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa and southern parts of Morogoro region) are expected to feature generally dry conditions with chilly and cool to cold weather conditions especially during nights and early morning hours. Western areas (Tabora, Kigoma and Northern Rukwa regions), Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and Southern regions are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and long sunny periods. Chilly weather (especially early morning hours and nights) is also expected over Ruvuma region.

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