TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 7, 2009/10 Cropping Season — November 1-10, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

Other areas of northern coast (Handeni district) and Lake Victoria basin (Ukiriguru) maize and beans were generally ranging from early vegetative to weeding stage.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the first dekad of November 2009, both southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed contributing to a significant weakening of the East African ridge. The Siberia and Azores high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere continued to intensify and allowing Arabian ridge to establish itself and push the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) southwards. Northeasterly wind flow continued dominating northern part of the country and westerly wind flow over the western towards central areas. Convergence prevailed over Lake Victoria basin, western and central areas accompanied with abundant moisture over the lower levels.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During November 1-10, some areas of northern coast including Dar es Salaam did not receive any rainfall while the rest of the country recorded significant amounts of rainfall which were above normal. Igeri station in the southwestern highlands was leading by recording 139.9 mm, followed by Mbozi 108.7 mm, Songea 93.7 mm and Bukoba 81.0 mm. Other stations which received rainfall for the period are as shown in Figure 1. During the dekad, much of the northern coast including Dar es Salaam and Coast regions, and Zanzibar Islands experienced erratic performance of *Vuli* rains.

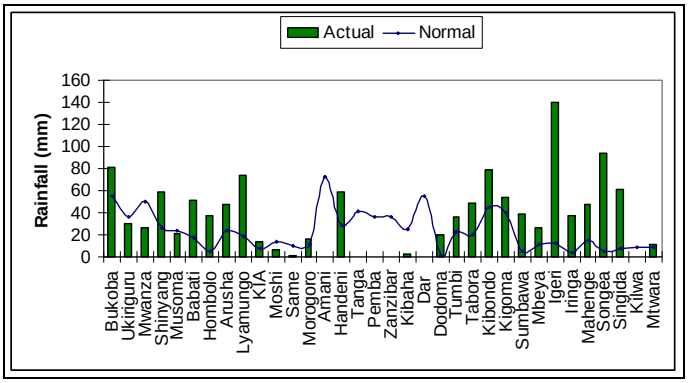

Fig 1: November 1-10, 2009 Rainfall amounts compared to Normal

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad there was improvement in the soil moisture supply over some areas in the northeastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin, and southwestern highlands where farmers were involved in land preparations and planting of crops. However much of the northern coast and lowlands of Same district (in the northeastern highlands) remained generally dry. On the other hand, torrential rains (about 116 mm or 1470 ml in 3 days consecutively as reported at Ndungu Development Project) that fell over highlands in Same district from 8th to 10th November 2009 caused loss of property and human life due to landslide. A few areas particularly over high grounds of northeastern highlands (Rombo district), northern coast (Handeni district) and parts of Lake Victoria basin (Ukiriguru in Mwanza district) as well as Bukoba district reported early

planted crops (maize, beans) ranging from early vegetative to weeding stages.
Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.

Pastures have started to rejuvenate over some parts of bimodal areas where short rains have started. However, poor pasture and water availability have continued been reported over some parts of northeastern highlands including Loliondo, Monduli and Simanjiro districts.

Hydrometeorological Summary

There was still no significant improvement in water levels in rivers, lakes and dams and their respective catchments over most areas of the country. Water for industrial and domestic purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Rising trend of temperatures was observed over most parts of the country, becoming uncomfortable condition mainly along the coastal belt where temperatures were higher and humid.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS NOVEMBER, 11-20, 2009

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to continue relaxing, whereas the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify thus allowing the ITCZ to continue moving southwards over the central and western parts of Tanzania. Wind convergence over Lake Victoria Basin, western and occasionally central parts of the country, accompanied with meridional component of ITCZ is expected to allow moisture influx over the areas. Northeasterly wind flow is expected to influence the weather over the coastal areas and few cases over the hinterlands.
Warmer Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are shifting towards central Indian Ocean, causing lower level wind to be deflected towards the area. The situation is likely going to contribute to the reduction of rainfall activities over the coastal and northeastern highlands areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER NOVEMBER, 11-20, 2009

Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions) and western (Kibondo district) are expected to feature cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms. Few cases of heavy rainfall are likely to occur. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coast regions together with the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to experience partly cloudy condition with isolated cases of showers. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to experience generally partly cloudy condition with occasional showers. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with isolated cases of showers. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms. Few cases of enhanced rainfall activities are likely to occur. Western areas (Tabora, Southern Kigoma, and Rukwa regions) are expected to feature cloudy condition with showers and thunderstorms. Few areas are expected to experience enhanced rainfall activities. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions, showers and thunderstorms. A few outbreaks of heavy rainfall are likely to occur. Southern region (Ruvuma region) is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and showers. A few outbreaks of thunderstorms are likely to occur.

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