TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 10, 2009/10 Cropping Season December1-10, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Land preparation and planting in unimodal rainfall areas, planting and weeding of crops in bimodal rainfall areas.
- Pastures and water availability were improving though the tender soft grass caused problems for the weak, hungry livestock.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

Generally during the first dekad of December 2009, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed contributing to a significant southward shift of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the country while the Siberian and Azores high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere remained fairly strong. A northeasterly wind flow and occasional easterly flow continued to dominate a greater part of the country while a westerly wind flowing over the western areas resulted into persistent wind convergence. The above configuration associated with abundant moisture over the lower levels contributed to enhanced rainfall activities over the western part of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During December 1-10, most areas of the country continued to receive rainfall whereby Kibondo led with 99.4 mm followed by Musoma 88.3 mm, Kibaha 74.3 mm, Pemba 72.9 mm, Bukoba 65.3 mm, Dar es Salaam 64.3 mm, Mwanza 53.6 mm and Moshi 50.4 mm which were all above normal. Other stations recorded rainfall less than 50mm while central areas were dry as shown in Figure 1.

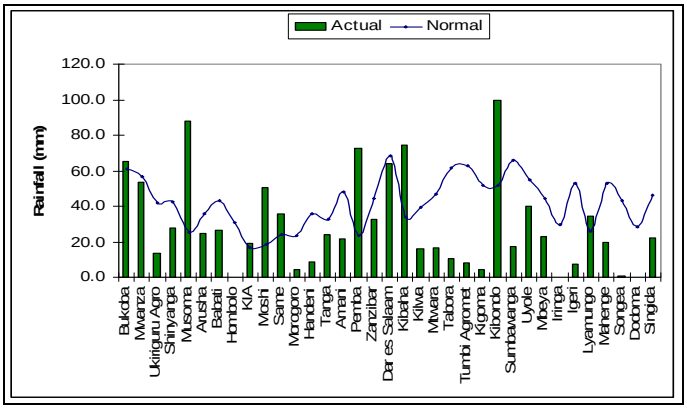

Figure 1: December 1-10, 2009 Rainfall Distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture supply during the dekad was at adequate levels over most areas of the country enhancing farming activities mainly in bimodal areas particularly northeastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin as well as greater part of unimodal rainfall areas. Remaining areas including southeastern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) were in the final touches of land preparation to meet their planting dates which normally fall by late December. Generally, the early planted crops (maize) in Lake Victoria basin and northeastern coast was at advanced vegetative stage and much younger for Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa (Sumbawanga) regions. Crop state over several areas was poor in parts of northern coast and northeastern highlands (Pangani, Rombo and Same districts) and in several areas of Dodoma

and Iringa (north) districts as a result of late and false start of the rains.

Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.

Pastures and water availability were improving though the tender soft grass caused problems for the weak, hungry livestock in several areas of northeastern highlands.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

The ongoing rains have slightly boosted water levels in lakes and dams and rivers and their respective catchments**.** Water availability for human, industrial and energy generation purposes has improved but should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures over most parts of the county were rising along with humidity levels making it rather uncomfortable particularly over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DECEMBER, 11-20, 2009

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and the Mascarene) are expected to remain relaxed with occasional intensification of the St. Helena high pressure system whereas the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are expected to remain intense thus allowing the ITCZ to move further southwards over the country.

Weak Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean show a persistently warming trend and are likely to influence easterly wind flow pattern. Low level westerly flow over the western sector of the country is likely to allow moisture influx over those areas.

EXPECTED WEATHER DECEMBER, 11-20, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions and Kibondo district) is likely to experience enhanced rainfall. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall conditions. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to experience below normal rainfall with few areas likely to feature normal rainfall. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature mainly normal rainfall. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to feature enhanced rainfall activities. Western areas (Tabora, Kigoma, and Rukwa regions) are expected to feature enhanced rainfall over most areas. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall with occasional enhanced rainfall over few areas. Southern region (Ruvuma region) is expected to feature normal rains with few areas likely to feature below normal rainfall.

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