TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 11, 2009/10 Cropping Season December11-20, 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, livestock conditions are also improving.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of December 2009, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed contributing to a southward shift of the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the country. The Siberia and Azores high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere remained fairly strong. A northeasterly wind flow continued to dominate a greater part of the country while westerly wind flow occurred over western and southwestern parts of the country and resulted into low level wind convergence. This configuration associated with abundant moisture over the lower levels contributed to enhanced rainfall activities over the southwestern highlands and western part of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During December 11-20, most areas of the country received enough rainfall whereby Mahenge recorded the highest amount of 228.9 mm followed by Tanga 105.2 mm, Mwanza 93.1 mm, Loliondo 79.2 mm, Bukoba 78.7 mm and Tabora 71 mm which were all above normal. Other stations recorded rainfall as shown in Figure 1.

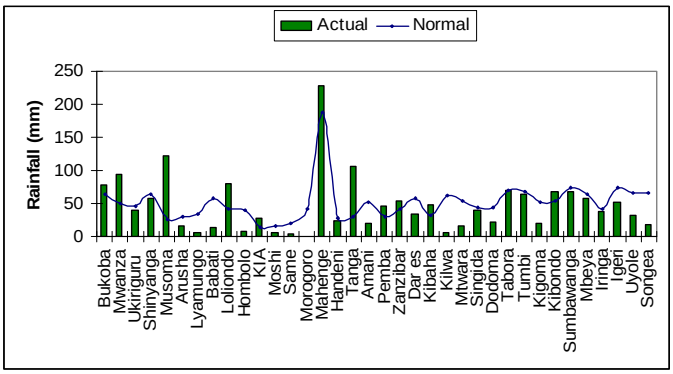

Figure 1: December 11-20, 2009 Rainfall distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and crop summary

Soil moisture supply during the dekad was adequate over several areas of bimodal regime, except for those areas covering the lowlands of northeastern highlands particularly Loliondo, Monduli and Simanjiro districts that reported declining levels of soil moisture, though most farmers were still planting. Remaining areas mostly in the unimodal rainfall regime including southeastern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) and central (Dodoma and Singida regions) finalized land preparation and started planting. Other areas like Kongwa (Dodoma region) applied dry seeding in anticipation of soil moisture improvement as the season sets in.

Generally, the early planted crops (maize and beans) in Lake Victoria basin and northeastern coast were at advanced vegetative stage and younger in Mbeya, Iringa, Rukwa (Sumbawanga) and Ruvuma regions.

Crop state over some of those areas was poor as reported from parts of northern coast (Pangani district) and northeastern highlands (Rombo and Same districts) and in some areas of Dodoma (Hombolo) 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 improved and livestock condition was returning back to normal.

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, 21-31, 2009

During the dekad southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to remain relaxed with occasional intensification whereas the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are expected to remain intense thus allowing the ITCZ to move further south over the country. Weekly Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean show a persistent warming trend and are likely to influence easterly to northeasterly wind flow pattern. Low level northwesterly flow over the western sector of the country is likely to enhance moisture influx over those areas. There is a likelihood of significant wind and moisture convergence over the central areas to southwestern highlands occasionally including northeastern highlands in the coming ten days. The above configuration is likely to enhance rainfall activities over the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DECEMBER, 21-31, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions and Kibondo district) is likely to experience normal 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) most areas 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 enhanced rainfall activities. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to feature enhanced rainfall activities. Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature enhanced rainfall over most areas. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature enhanced rainfall activities. Floods are likely to occur over these areas. Southern region (Ruvuma region) is expected to feature normal rains with few areas near Lake Nyasa likely to feature above normal rainfall.

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