TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 14, 2009/10 Cropping Season — January 11-20, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- Planting continues in some unimodal rainfall areas (Morogoro region), while in bimodal rainfall areas weeding continued along with delayed land preparation and planting mainly over upland areas of northeastern highland. Armyworm outbreaks in unimodal areas.
- Availability of good pastures and water improved livestock condition back to normal.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of January 2010, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to relax while the Siberian anticyclone in the northern hemisphere was very strong extending a ridge towards the eastern sector of the country thus pushing the rain making mechanism Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) towards northern parts of Mozambique while the Azores anticyclone maintained moderate strength. The Meridional component of the ITCZ was generally weak over the western part of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Most areas particularly the eastern sector of the country experienced decreasing amounts of rainfall during the second dekad of January 2010, except for southern coast regions and parts of Morogoro region that obtained above 20 mm. Igeri station obtained the highest value for the period, 119.7mm, followed by Mbozi 110.3mm, Uyole 81.9mm, Bukoba 56.6mm, Sumbawanga 44.9mm, Tukuyu 41.9mm, Kigoma 41.1mm, Mtwara 40.5mm, Kilwa and Tumbi each 38.4mm, Kasulu 37.0mm, Mbeya 36.0mm, Kibondo 34.6mm, Songea 32.1mm, Mwanza 29.2mm, Singida 25.9mm, Nzega 23.3mm, Ukiriguru 21.3mm and Hombolo 20.3mm. Some stations in our sample stations recorded rainfall below 20 mm while other stations did not receive any rainfall as depicted in Figure 1 below.

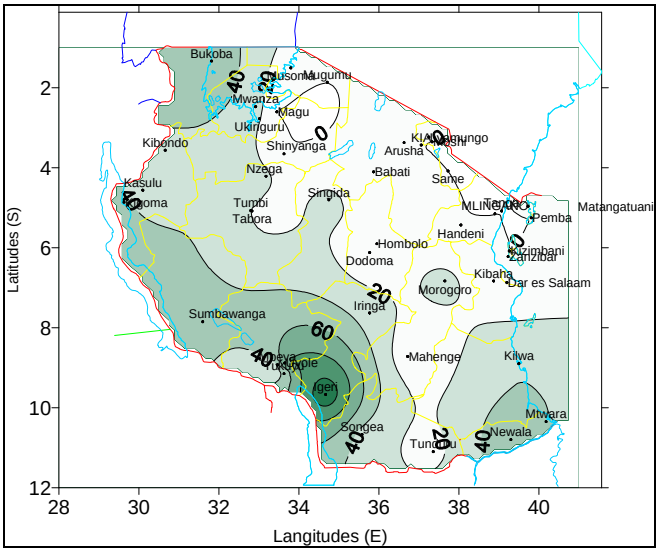

Figure 1: January 11-20, 2010 Rainfall distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and crop summary

Declining soil moisture experienced across the country during the dekad did not holdup the crop growth and other field operations such as land preparation, planting and weeding that continued over Ifakara and Ilonga (Morogoro region), also over Simanjiro, Monduli and Loliondo in northeastern highlands). Generally, field crops ranged from emergence to ripeness stage over both unimodal and bimodal rainfall areas where early planted maize crop was between weeding and wax

ripeness stage in good state, while in a few areas late planting was going on following the delayed onset of the rains which eventually started but was excessive thereby causing difficulty in the use of ploughs as reported from northeastern highlands (Simanjiro, Monduli and Loliondo). However, over Lake Victoria basin particularly Kagera region the excessive soil moisture was unfavorable to maturing beans, as was in some areas of Sumbawanga (south western highlands) where beans in vegetative stage exhibited leaching. Over northeastern areas, crops (maize and beans) during this period were from advanced vegetative stage to wax ripeness and in good state while beans at vegetative stage in Rombo was poor due to excessive soil moisture obtained in the previous dekad. In areas like Pangani district over northern coast, the maize crop was extremely poor. Armyworm outbreaks have been reported mainly in unimodal areas.

Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.

Pasture and water availability are good and livestock conditions are normalizing.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

The ongoing rains have boosted water levels in lakes and dams and flooded some rivers and their respective catchments**.** Water availability for human, industrial and energy generation purposes has improved.

Environmental Summary

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

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING JANUARY, 21-31, 2010

During the 3rd dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to remain relaxed whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to remain intense, occasionally the Siberian anticyclone is expected to relax allowing the zonal component of the ITCZ to oscillate north-south over the southern parts of the country. (SSTs) in January 2010 are projected to be generally warm over western tropical Indian Ocean but slightly warmer over a greater part of tropical Central Indian Ocean. The weekly Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are near normal conditions.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY, 21-31, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions, and Kibondo district): likely to experience mainly normal rainfall. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coast regions together with the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to experience decreasing rainfall conditions with few outbreaks of moderate showers, southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Most areas are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) the Vuli rain season has ended. However a few showers are likely mainly over high grounds. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions): A greater part is expected to feature normal rainfall. Outbreaks of enhanced rainfall are likely to occur over some areas. Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall over some areas. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall activities. A slight reduction of rainfall is expected over the northern parts. Southern region (Ruvuma region) is expected to feature enhanced rainfall over some areas. Generally, during the coming 10 days there is a likelihood of near normal rainfall activities over most parts of uni-modal areas. Isolated cases of moderate to heavy rainfall are likely over southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa), and southern parts of the country (Ruvuma, Mahenge, Lindi and Mtwara).

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