



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 19, 2009/10 Cropping Season

March 1-10, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS

- Normal activities for long rains (masika) season including land preparation, planting and weeding occupied most farmers in bimodal areas.
- Over unimodal sector field crops were generally in good to moderate state at various stages between early vegetative to maturity.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the first dekad of March 2010, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to relax while the Siberian high pressure system in the northern hemisphere relaxed slightly causing the rain making mechanism Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move northwards towards the southern sector of the country. The meridional component of the ITCZ was relatively strong over the western part of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad there were floods experienced in Mwanza on 7th February, 2010 but recorded rainfall for the remaining 9 days was 49.3mm as shown in Figure 1. Other stations recorded significant amounts of rainfall exceeding 100mm as follows: Mahenge recorded the highest amount of 154.6 mm, followed by Musoma 150.8 mm, Ukiriguru 137.4 mm, Igeri 129.9 mm and Hombolo 128.9mm. Few stations mainly over central areas (Dodoma) and northeastern highlands (Same, Moshi) recorded rainfall below 20mm, as portrayed in figure 1.

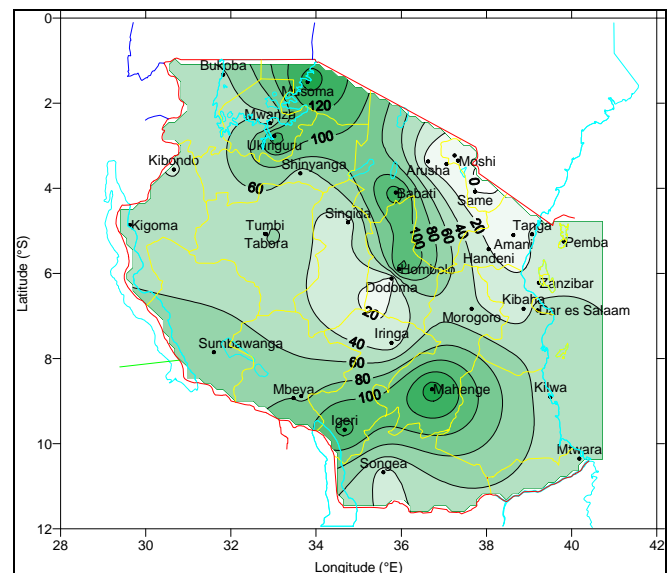


Figure 1: March 1-10, 2010 Rainfall distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and crop summary

During the period farmers particularly over bimodal areas were occupied mainly with land preparation, planting and weeding of crops as the prevailed condition was quite suitable. Likewise, over unimodal areas continued field activities such as late planting and replanting in Dodoma region (Kongwa) and Morogoro (Ilonga and Ifakara) as well as weeding were slightly carried out. Most crops were in moderate to good state at between vegetative and full maturity. The early planted beans mainly over higher altitudes have already been harvested and second planting phase was in

progress. Paddy crop was in moderate state at between transplanting and vegetative stages, while wheat over parts of Mbeya region was being planted, as was for sorghum in Kongwa district.

Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.

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

Hydro-meteorological Summary

The ongoing rains over unimodal areas have maintained water levels in lakes, dams and rivers. Water availability for human, industrial and energy generation purposes has improved.

Environmental Summary

During the dekad temperatures were generally mild with local variations of high temperatures causing discomfort over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2010

During the second dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (the St. Helena and the Mascarene) are expected to intensify whereas the Azores and Siberian high pressure system in the northern hemisphere are likely to relax allowing the zonal component of the ITCZ to continue moving slightly northwards. Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in the coming ten days are expected to remain warm over south-western towards southern Indian Ocean.

This configuration is likely to result into a low level south-easterly to easterly wind flow resulting to enhanced moisture over some areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH 11-20, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and

Mwanza regions) and Kibondo district is likely to experience near normal rainfall. However Kagera region and Kibondo district are likely to feature enhanced rainfall. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions together with the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to experience normal to above normal rainfall especially over the Islands and coastal belt. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) most areas are expected to experience normal rainfall. There is a likelihood of enhanced rainfall towards the end of this dekad. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience normal to below normal rains at the beginning of the expected *Masika* rains. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to experience normal to above normal rainfall over some areas. Southern region (Ruvuma) and Mahenge are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall. Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature normal to below normal rainfall. However the extreme western part of Kigoma is likely to feature enhanced rainfall. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature normal to below normal rainfall over some areas. During the coming 10 days there is a likelihood of near normal rainfall activities over most parts of bi-modal areas while uni-modal areas of southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa), southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions) area likely experience enhanced rainfall later. Generally the distribution of the expected enhanced rainfall is towards the end of the dekad thus dry spells are likely to occur in few areas where rainfall is currently suppressed