TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 23, 2009/10 Cropping Season **April 11-20, 2010**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Weeding was the major activity that occupied most farmers in bimodal areas.
- Most field crops over unimodal rainfall sector were approaching full ripeness and the state was generally good.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of April 2010, the southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) continued to intensify whereas the Siberian high pressure system in the northern hemisphere relaxed thus causing the rain making mechanism Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move further northwards over the northern sector of the country. The zonal component of the ITCZ was relatively active over the eastern sector of the country. The East African Ridge developed and extended over the southwestern and central areas of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Parts of northeastern highlands, northern coast and southern Morogoro region experienced enhanced rainfall during the dekad. Moshi was leading by recording 278.7 mm, followed by Ilonga 240.4 mm, Lyamungo 209.6 mm, Tanga 165.9 mm, and Mahenge 152.9 mm, Pemba 145.2 mm, Tukuyu 144.1 mm, Kizimbani 138.8 mm and Arusha 137.7 mm of rain. Remaining stations recorded rainfall amounts below 130 mm as depicted in the rainfall map in Figure 1.

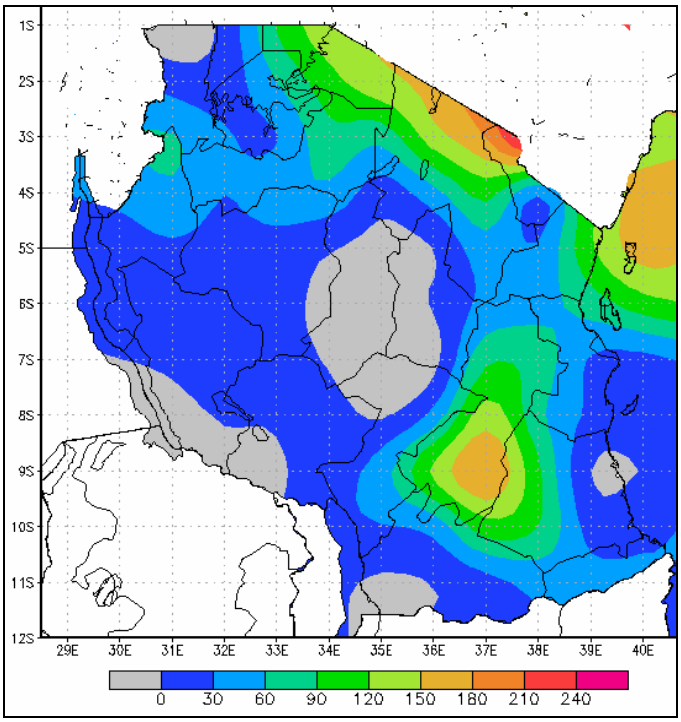

Figure 1: April 11-20, 2010 Rainfall Distribution

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad under review, crops over bimodal rainfall pattern mainly maize, paddy and beans ranged from early emergency (late planting) to advanced vegetative growth stages (for the early planted crops). Most crops were generally in good state as observed mainly over lowland areas of northeastern highlands (Hai and Same districts) and northern coast (Tanga and Coast regions) where soil moisture supply from *Masika* rains was adequate.

Weeding was observed as a major activity for most farmers in the areas. Over unimodal areas most crops particularly maize, beans, paddy, sunflower and sorghum were generally between moderate and good state at vegetative to full ripeness stages. The early planted beans mainly over higher altitude areas have already been harvested and second planting phase was in progress at vegetative to flowering stages. Paddy crop in moderate state was from early vegetative to ripeness stages, while planting of wheat mainly over parts of Mbeya region was almost completed and the crop looks good at emergence stage. A few areas like Ismani in Iringa (north) experienced poor crop performance resulting from inadequate soil moisture supply experienced during consecutive past dekads. Desert locusts which broke out in Stalike and Itenka villages in Mpanda district, Rukwa region have been contained.

Market supply for cassava over several areas continued fairly well.
Pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife are good and livestock conditions are normal.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

The ongoing rains over most parts of the country have maintained water levels in lakes, dams and rivers, though a few cases of river floods were observed. 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 at the beginning of the dekad causing slight discomfort over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2010

For the coming dekad, the southern hemisphere high pressure system (the Mascarene) is expected to intensify significantly while the St. Helena is expected to slightly relax. The Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the northern hemisphere are likely to relax allowing the zonal component of the ITCZ to continue moving northwards. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to persist during the coming ten days. This configuration will allow mainly a southeasterly to easterly wind flow pattern from the Indian Ocean. The flow is therefore expected to enhance moisture over the eastern part of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER SITUATION DURING APRIL 21-30, 2010

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Shinyanga, Mara and Mwanza regions) is likely to experience mainly normal rainfall. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to experience normal rainfall. Heavy rains are likely to occur at times especially over the Islands and the coastal belt. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Most areas are expected to experience normal rainfall. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to experience normal rainfall with outbreaks of above normal at times. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall. Southern region (Ruvuma region) and parts of Mahenge are expected to experience mainly normal rainfall. Western areas (Tabora and Kigoma regions) are expected to feature mainly normal rainfall. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature normal rainfall with a decreasing trend.

Prepared by
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