TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 24 Cropping Season 2010/11 April 21-30, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture condition was generally good during the dekad favoring most field crops over the bimodal sector and late planted crops over unimodal sector which were at advanced vegetative and maturity stages.
- Excessive soil moisture was reported to affect crops over Kilosa district and Mahenge (lowlands) in Morogoro region and Kibondo district (Kigoma region) where maize crop was between earring and maturity stages.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the third dekad of April 2011, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores and Siberian highs and Arabian ridge were relaxed while the southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones intensified resulting to northward shift of the rain making mechanism (ITCZ). Weak easterly to southeasterly low level wind continued to dominate the eastern parts of the country supplying moisture to the coastal belt.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review, significant amounts of rainfall were observed over some areas in the coastal belt, Morogoro region, western Lake Victoria basin, and northeastern highlands. Most areas over northeastern highlands, central, western, and southwestern highlands experienced less rainfall activities (amounts not exceeding 30 mm). The highest 10- day rainfall of 168.5 mm was reported at Ilonga (northern Morogoro). Other areas that reported rainfall exceeding 100 mm were the northeastern highlands (Lyamungu 166.5 mm), coastal belt (Unguja and Pemba 156.4 mm, Kilwa 140.2 mm, and Kibaha 108.4 mm), southern (Mahenge 145.5 mm), and Lake Victoria basin (Bukoba 111.8 mm) as shown in Figure 1. Much of unimodal areas experienced relaxed rainfall amounts that depicted withdrawal of seasonal rains '*Msimu*'.

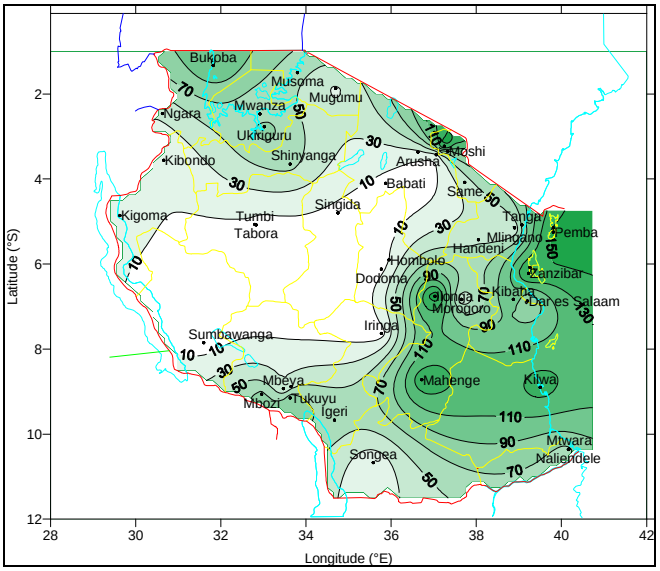

Fig. 1: April 21-30, 2011 Rainfall distribution (mm)

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture condition was generally good during the dekad favoring most field crops development over the bimodal sector and late planted crops over unimodal areas which were at advanced vegetative and maturity stages. Over most parts of bimodal areas, bean crop was between flowering to pod filling stages, while maize was between early vegetative to earring stages and in moderate state. However, soil moisture deficit was reported over much of Mwanza and Shinyanga regions and northeast highlands (parts of Arusha, Same, and areas surrounding Kilimanjaro International Airport, KIA). Much of the unimodal sector, maize crop was at maturity stage and between moderate and good state with some farmers doing harvesting.

Excessive soil moisture was reported to affect crops over Kilosa district and Mahenge (lowlands) in Morogoro region and Kibondo district (Kigoma region) where maize crop was between earring and maturity stages.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good over much of the country due to ongoing seasonal rains.

Hydro-meteorological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flows have regained fairly well due to substantial rainfall amounts recorded, but water for human and industrial usage and hydro-power generation should still be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures over most areas in the country were generally moderate.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 1-10, 2011

The southern hemisphere systems, the St Helena and Mascarene highs are expected to strengthen and thus pushing the ITCZ equator wards to the north of its current position. In the northern hemisphere, the Azores and Siberian highs and the Arabian ridge are expected to relax further. The ITCZ is expected to be active mainly over extreme western and eastern parts of the country with significant influence on rainfall over the coastal areas gradually extending to the north.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 1-10, 2011

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga, and Mwanza regions): Heavy rainfalls are expected to feature over much of Lake Victoria basin except to its southern areas including Shinyanga region. **Western region (Tabora and Kigoma regions):** Moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms are expected mainly over Kigoma region, while Tabora region is expected to feature mainly dry conditions. **Northern coast and its hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coast regions, Isles of Unguja and Pemba):** Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected mainly along the coastal belt (Dar es Salaam and Coast regions), and Isles of Unguja and Pemba, occasionally spreading to eastern parts of Tanga and Morogoro regions. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Moderate showers and thundershowers are expected. **Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions):** Isolated rain-showers are expected. Rainfall in this area is likely to be poorly distributed and below average during the dekad. **Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions and southern Morogoro (Mahenge areas):** Few showers are expected over high grounds in Mbeya, Southern Morogoro and western parts of Rukwa and remaining areas likely to experience dry conditions during the dekad. **Southern region (Ruvuma region):** Mainly dry with some localized showers along the Lake Nyasa areas. **Central Region (Dodoma and Singida regions):** Mainly dry conditions are expected.

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