No: 2 Cropping Season 2011/12

September 11-20, 2011

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Falling levels of soil moisture were experienced over most parts of the country during the period except for Lake Victoria basin and the northern coast
- Land preparation for the coming season has started over some areas mainly of bimodal sector.

## SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the first dekad of September 2011, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores and Siberian high and its associated Arabian ridge were relaxed while the southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones remained intense. Southeasterly low level wind flow prevailed over eastern parts of the country during the period. Convergences of the winds were observed over the Lake Victoria basin resulting into thundery showers, while light rains were observed over the northern coast and high grounds of northeastern highlands.

#### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review, rainfall activities concentrated over Lake Victoria basin and parts of northern coast with the highest total amount for the period recorded at Ngara 55.5 mm, followed by Bukoba 53.2 mm, Tanga 51.1 mm, Mlingano 49.6 mm, Kibondo 30.6 mm, Zanzibar 29.9 mm, Musoma 19.3 mm, Mugumu 17.4 mm, Handeni 16.7 mm, Ukiriguru 11.9 mm, Dar es salaam 10.6 mm, and Mtwara 10.3 mm. Other stations recorded less than 10 mm with the rest receiving zero rainfall as shown in Figure 1 below.

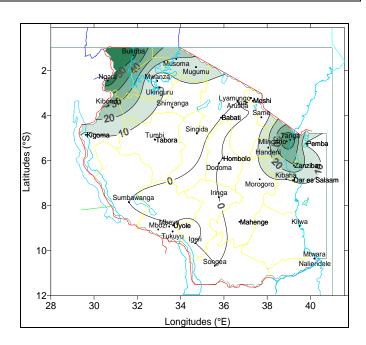


Fig 1: September 11-20, 2011 Rainfall distribution (mm)

#### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Falling levels of soil moisture were experienced over most parts of the country during the period except for Lake Victoria basin particularly the western side of the Lake and over a few areas in the northern coast where the moisture supply was generally optimal. Land preparation for the coming season has started in some areas mostly over bimodal sector. However, the onset of the short-rain season `Vuli` over this sector is expected for around mid October, with a likelihood of obtaining normal to above normal levels of soil moisture supply. Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife continued

declining as largely observed over parts of central, southern coast and northeastern highlands.

# Hydro-meteorological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flows have declined. Water for domestic and industrial use, and hydro-power generation should be used sparingly.

# **Environmental Summary**

Temperatures over most areas in the country mainly high grounds depicted cool to cold conditions. Dry and windy conditions coupled with low relative humidity dominated over most areas.

# EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS SEPTEMBER 21- 30, 2011

The southern hemisphere systems, St Helena high pressure cell is expected to slightly intensify during the early days of this dekad and relaxing towards the end of the dekad. The Mascarene high is expected to relax for the first days of the dekad and intensifying during the second part of the dekad. The northern hemisphere systems, Azores and Siberian highs are expected to slightly intensify. Easterly to southeasterly low level wind flows are expected over eastern parts of the country and weak convergence over Lake Victoria basin during the period. Neutral warm SSTs are also expected over western Indian Ocean.

# EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2011

**Lake Victoria Basin** (Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions): Showers and thunderstorms are expected over Mara, Mwanza and Kagera regions. While Shinyanga region is expected to experience dry conditions with few cases of thunderstorms. **Western region** (Tabora and Kigoma regions): Some parts of Kigoma region are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions, showers with a few cases of thunderstorms. Tabora region is expected to feature mainly dry conditions.

Northern coast and its hinterlands (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, and Coastal regions, and Isles of Unguja and Pemba): Partly cloudy conditions, showers of rain expected at the beginning of the dekad and reducing towards the end. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Partly cloudy conditions, isolated cases of light rains are expected during this dekad. North-eastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions): Some parts will feature partly cloudy conditions, rain showers and sunny periods during this dekad.

**Southwestern highlands** (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions): Mainly dry conditions are except for the northern parts of Rukwa region are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and rain showers over few areas. **Southern region** (Ruvuma region): Mainly dry conditions with isolated light rain showers. **Central Region** (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions and low temperatures during night and early morning hours.

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