TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 20 Cropping Season 2011/12 **March 11 - 20, 2012**

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Moderate soil moisture conditions were observed across the country with higher levels experienced over the unimodal sector particularly southwestern highlands and southern regions.**
- **Pastures and water availability for livestock were generally good.**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the second dekad of March 2012, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores high and Siberian highs, and Arabian ridge remained relatively intense. Over the southern hemisphere, St. Helena maintained its intensity while the Mascarene high was slightly weakening. The relatively strong Arabian ridge over the northern part of the Indian Ocean near Mombasa and Somalia coast persisted during the dekad. Such configuration contributed to convergence of winds over the coastline towards the hinterlands resulting into slightly enhanced rainfall over these areas. The rain-making mechanism, i.e. Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), is fluctuating between southern and central Tanzania. Cool Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) conditions continued to rein over the Equatorial central-eastern Pacific. On the other hand, neutral to slightly cool SSTs were established over western Indian Ocean, while warm SSTs were observed over central-eastern Indian Ocean.

RAIFALL SUMMARY

Moderate amounts of rainfall were observed over much of the unimodal sector largely over southwestern highlands, whereas over the bimodal sector little rainfall amounts were reported. The highest total amount of rainfall for the period was recorded at Igeri station 133.3 mm, followed by Naliendele 115.0 mm, Songea 96.7 mm, Mahenge 90.1 mm, Zanzibar 72.6 mm, Mtwara 69.1 mm, Bukoba 66.5 mm, Mbeya 64.9 mm, Tukuyu 64.1 mm, Mpanda and Sumbawanga each 60.4 mm, Uyole 57.3 mm, Kibaha 54.2 mm, Handeni 51.3 mm, Mbozi 49.2 mm, Tabora 49.1 mm, Iringa 47.1 mm, Kibondo and Singida each 20.6 mm, Morogoro 39.0 mm, Dar es Salaam 31.4 mm, Babati 27.2 mm, Tumbi 12.7, and Ilonga 10.9 mm. Remaining areas mainly those over northeastern highlands and eastern side of Lake Victoria recorded little rainfall of below 10 mm, as shown in Fig.1below.

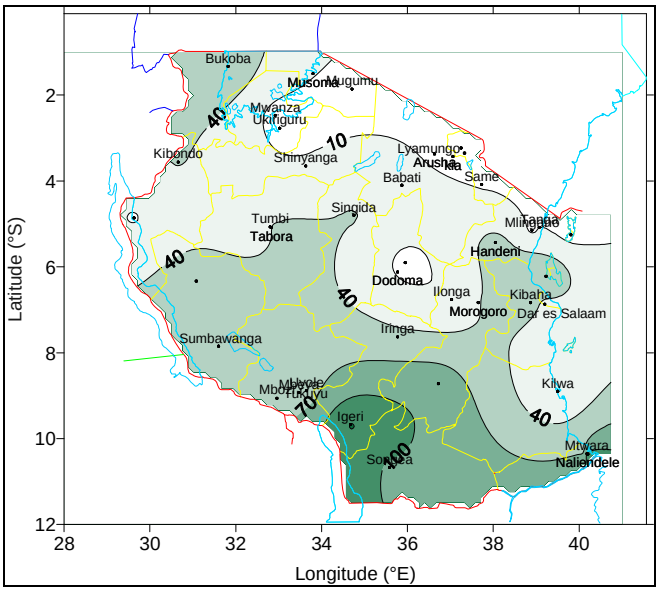

Fig 1: March 11-20, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Moderate soil moisture conditions were observed across the country with higher levels experienced over the unimodal sector particularly southwestern highlands and southern regions, reviving the adversely affected crops from soil moisture stress that previously hit several parts of central and southern unimodal areas. As for other parts of this sector reported maize at between vegetative and

ripeness, paddy at tasselling and both in good state, beans at second planting and is normal in Mbeya region.

As for bimodal sector the obtained moisture supply for the period was conducive mainly in the field activities such as land preparations and planting for *Masika* season. Likewise pastures and water availability for livestock were generally good.

Agrometeorological Outlook

During the next dekad, declining soil moisture is likely over much of bimodal areas; however weeding will reduce soil moisture loss under normal to below normal rainfall conditions.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flow discharges were maintained mainly over southern parts of the country.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures mostly over high ground areas in the country were fairly cool, while over the coastal belt and inland areas over northeastern highlands were relatively hot.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MARCH 21-31, 2012

During the coming dekad, St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems are expected to significantly intensifying. On the other hand, the northern systems, i.e. Azores and Siberian high pressure systems, are expected to slightly relax. Therefore, the ITCZ is expected to continue migrating slowly towards the north. South-easterly to easterly winds are expected to set-in during this dekad.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MARCH 21-31, 2012

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, and Mara and Shinyanga regions): Normal to below normal rainfall pattern is expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Normal rainfall with pockets of above normal are expected during the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Normal rainfall pattern is expected. Moreover, enhancement of rainfall is expected in the first half of the dekad. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Normal to below normal rainfall pattern is expected. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Normal to below normal rainfall pattern is expected.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd, 4th, &10th Floors - Ubungo Plaza – Morogoro Road.
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz
(2) agromet@meteo.go.tz
Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA