# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

# DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

**No: 21. 2011/12 Cropping Season** **March 21 - 31, 2012**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **During the next dekad soil moisture is likely to increase over most areas of the country, enhancing crops mostly at early vegetative stages for bimodal sector and beneficial mainly for late grown crops over unimodal sector.**
- **Pastures and water availability for livestock were generally good.**

## SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the third dekad of March 2012, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores and Siberian highs, and Arabian ridge remained relatively intense. Over the southern hemisphere, the St. Helena and Mascarene highs were intense. The relatively strong Arabian ridge over the northern part of the Indian Ocean near Mombasa and Somali coast persisted during the dekad. Neutral to slightly cool SSTs were established over western Indian Ocean, while warm SSTs were observed over Central-eastern Indian Ocean. The above patterns contributed to hot dry north to northeasterly winds over the northern coast, northeastern highlands and central parts of the country resulting into dry conditions over these areas. Diffuse rain-making mechanism, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was observed over most part of the country.

## RAIFALL SUMMARY

The third dekad of March 2012, experienced mainly dry conditions as observed over much of the country, with the highest total rainfall obtained at Kibondo 89.5 mm, followed by Naliendele 80.9 mm, Kigoma 74.8 mm, Mlingano 60.4 mm, Igeri 48.6 mm, Tukuyu 42.4 mm, Kilwa 39.4 mm, Hombolo 38.4 mm, Mbeya 38.3 mm, Tumbi 38.1 mm, Uyole 37.1 mm, Mpanda 36.3 mm, Mugumu 32.2 mm, Shinyanga 29.7 mm, Musoma 26.6 mm, Mwanza 25.0 mm, Songea 19.0 mm, Tabora 18.5 mm, DIA 17.0 mm, Bukoba 13.4 mm, Iringa 12.4 mm, Mahenge 15.3 mm, Zanzibar 12.3 mm, Singida 11.6 mm, and Mtwara 10.9 mm. Remaining areas mainly those over northeastern highlands and central areas recorded the lowest amounts of less than 10 mm, as shown in Figure 1.

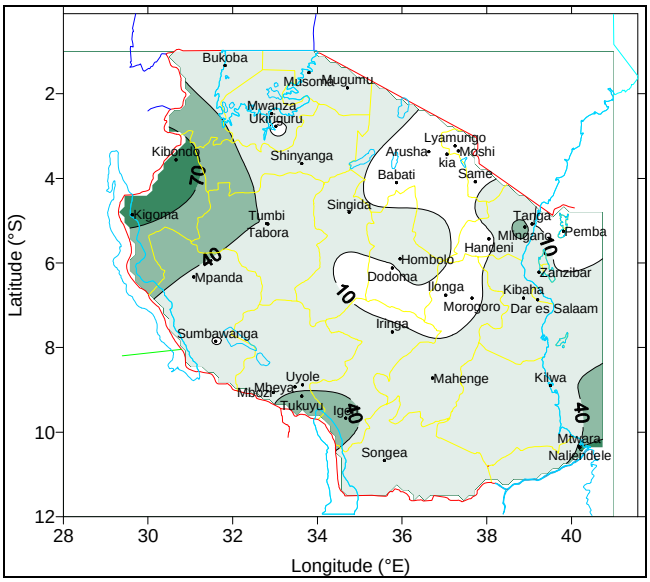


**Fig 1:** March 21-31, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Relatively low soil moisture conditions were observed across the country during the dekad. Crops were adversely affected from soil moisture stress that previously hit several parts of central and southern-coast regions. The situation compelled most farmers particularly in Lindi region to replant short term variety crops. Other parts of this sector reported crops like maize at between vegetative and harvesting maturity, paddy at flowering and both in good state, while beans crop mainly in the western areas of the country was at ripeness to harvesting stage, except for Mbeya region where second planting is normally carried out during this period. As for bimodal sector the obtained soil moisture

supply for the period was conducive for weeding activities as mosts crops were mainly at early vegetative growth stages.
Likewise, pastures and water availability for livestock were generally good.

## Agrometeorological Outlook

During the next dekad soil moisture is likely to increase over most areas of the country, enhancing crops mostly at advanced vegetative stage for bimodal sector and beneficial mainly for late grown crops over unimodal sector. Expected soil moisture supply and wet conditions are likely to affect crops at harvesting maturity.

## 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 in northeastern highlands were relatively hot.

## EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 1-10, 2012

During the coming dekad, St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems are expected to intensify. On the other hand, the northern systems, the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems, are expected to relax.

The ITCZ is expected to continue migrating slowly towards the north. South-easterly to easterly wind are expected to set-in and converging with short track of westerly over the western half of the country during this dekad. This pattern is expected to cause enhancement of rainfall activities over the most part of the country.

## EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 1-10, 2012

**Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, and Shinyanga regions):** Normal to above 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. Enhanced rainfall activities are expected during the dekad. **Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions):** Normal to above normal rainfall pattern is expected.

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