TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 24. 2011/12 Cropping Season **April 21 - 30, 2012**

HIGHLIGHTS

- ***Adequate soil moisture obtained mainly over bimodal sector during the month maintained growth and development of crops ranging from vegetative to near tasselling stage, and decreased levels over unimodal areas favored drying of matured crops and harvesting.***

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the third dekad of April 2012, southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones maintained their strength while Siberian high and the associated Arabian ridge relaxed slightly. This maintained the rain-making mechanism, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in the country though it was diffused over the most part of the country. Slightly cool Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) conditions have been observed over the eastern Indian Ocean while slight warming were observed over southwestern Indian Ocean, thus resulting to easterly to southeasterly wind flow over the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review most areas across the country received decreasing amounts of rainfall, below 150 mm against 180 mm recorded in the past dekad. The highest total amount of rainfall was recorded at Mwanza 145.2 mm, followed by Tukuyu 130.5 mm, Bukoba 127.5 mm, Ukiriguru 114.5 mm, Matangatuani 111.9 mm, Arusha 103.4 mm, Pemba 98.9 mm, Lyamungu 83.9 mm, Zanzibar 80.8 mm, Tanga 66.5 mm, Dar es Salaam 62.8 mm, KIA 58.7 mm, Musoma 47.4 mm, Kibondo 45.2 mm, Mahenge 42.4 mm, Morogoro 42.0 mm, Mlingano 42.0 mm, and Shinyanga 40.8 mm. Remaining areas mostly over unimodal sector received rainfall below 40 mm, where much of the region reported below 10 mm of rainfall as shown in Figure 1.

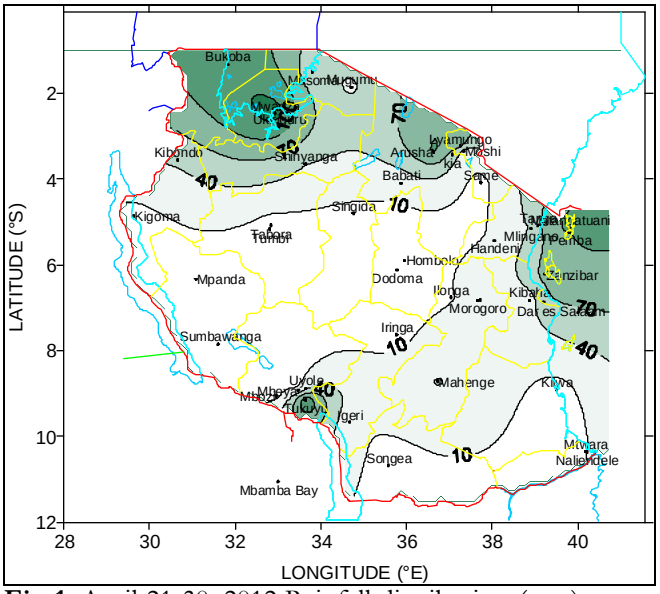

Fig 1: April 21-30, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Adequate soil moisture obtained mainly over bimodal sector during the month favoured growth and development of field crops ranging from vegetative to near tasselling stage, whereas decreased levels observed over unimodal areas were favorable for the maturing crops and harvesting activities. During the period maize crop observed in unimodal areas was ranging between late vegetative and harvesting maturity, while paddy crop was reported at flowering stage, both were in good state. The beans crop mainly over the western and southwestern highland areas of the country had reached ripeness to harvesting stages, though in Mbeya region the usual second planting of the crop was undertaken.

Generally, pastures and water availability for livestock during the dekad were good.

Agrometeorological Outlook

Adequate levels of soil moisture expected over much of the bimodal sector will maintain better growth of crops mostly ranging from vegetative to near tasseling stage, whereas a decrease over the remaining areas mainly unimodal will be beneficial for maturing crops and harvesting activities.

Hydrological Summary

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

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 warm.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 1-10, 2012

During the coming dekad, St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying. On the other hand, the northern systems, i.e. Azores and Siberian high pressure systems, are expected to continue relaxing. Therefore, the ITCZ is expected to continue migrating towards north of the equator.

Southeasterly winds are expected to dominate during this dekad. This pattern is expected to enhance rainfall activities over the northern part of western regions, Lake Victoria Basin, northeastern highlands, coastal regions including Unguja and Pemba Isles. On the other hand, western, south-western highlands, southern region, and central regions are expected to feature mainly dry conditions, indicating the end of rainfall season.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 1-10, 2012

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, and Shinyanga regions): Normal to above normal rainfall pattern is expected. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions): Normal to below normal rainfall is expected during the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Normal to above normal rainfall pattern is expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions are expected. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Normal rainfall with pockets of above normal are expected during the dekad. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): Normal to below normal rainfall pattern is expected. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Normal rainfall pattern is expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Normal to below normal rainfall pattern is expected.

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