TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 26. 2011/12 Cropping Season **May 11 - 20, 2012**

HIGHLIGHTS

- ***Soil moisture levels were adequate for optimal crop growth and development mainly over bimodal sector where most crops observed past mid vegetative stage during the period.***
- ***A few pocket areas over unimodal sector mainly in the southern coast, Lindi region, reported replanted crops that needed additional soil moisture supply.***

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the second dekad of May 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 i.e. Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in the country though it was diffused over the most part of the country. Slightly cool Sea Surface Temperature (SST) conditions have been observed over the eastern Indian Ocean while slight warming were observed over southwestern Indian Ocean, thus favouring easterly to southeasterly wind flows over the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the second dekad of May, 2012 seasonal dry conditions prevailed in most parts of the country, except for a few stations mainly over bimodal sector (Lake Victoria basin, north-eastern highlands, northern coast including the Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) that obtained substantial rainfall amounts ranging from 100 to 200 mm. The highest total amount of rainfall for the period was reported at Pemba Met. Station 210.2 mm, followed by Bukoba 189.5 mm, Lyamungu 155.9 mm, Amani Marikitanda 145.5 mm, Dar es Salaam Airport 100.4 mm, Mwanza Maji 82.6 mm, Mlingano 81.3 mm, Kibaha 68.8 mm, Mugumu 60.3 mm, Zanzibar 49.7 mm, Tanga 46.3 mm, Handeni 42.8 mm, Morogoro 42.7 mm, Musoma 40.9 mm, KIA 29.2 mm, Tukuyu 25.8 mm, Mahenge 16.8 mm, Arusha 13.7 mm, Moshi mm, Same 12.2 mm, Mwanza Airport 11.8 mm and Ilonga 11.3 mm. Remaining areas largely constituting the unimodal sector recorded the least amounts of rainfall below 10 mm as shown in Figure 1 below.

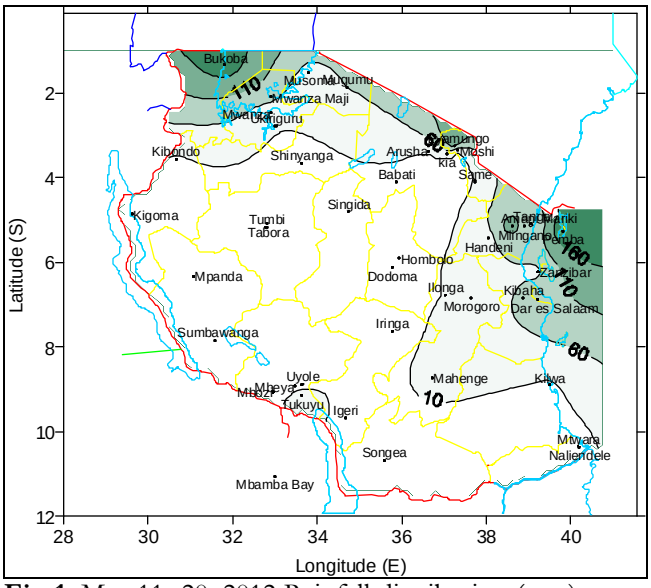

Fig 1: May 11- 20, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture levels were adequate for optimal crop growth and development mainly over bimodal sector where most crops were observed at advanced vegetative stage during the period. Maize and beans crops were reported at mid vegetative to flowering stages, in moderate to good state. As for unimodal sector the crops mostly were reported at maturity to harvesting stage. A few pocket areas in this sector mainly in the southern coast, Lindi region, reported replanted crops that needed additional soil moisture supply. Similarly, paddy crop over both bimodal and unimodal sectors was reported at tasselling to harvesting stages, and in good state

Generally, pastures and water availability for livestock during the dekad were good, although floods were again reported over Arusha Chini in Moshi rural damaging infrastructure and cutting off communication between various terminals in the area.

Agrometeorological Outlook

Adequate levels of soil moisture expected over bimodal sector will favor better growth of crops ranging from mid vegetative to flowering stages, whereas a decrease over the remaining areas mainly unimodal will be favorable for maturity of crops as well as harvesting activities.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flow discharges over most parts of the country were generally good and likely to improve more over northern coast and north eastern highlands.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures mostly over high ground areas in the country were fairly cool. Likewise, over the coastal belt and inland areas temperatures were relatively getting lower.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 21- 31, 2012

During the coming dekad, southern systems, i.e. St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying. 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 from its current position.

Southeasterly winds are expected to dominate over most part of the country during this dekad. This pattern is expected to cause persistence of rainfall activities over Lake Victoria Basin, northeastern highlands, coastal regions, and Unguja and Pemba Isles. While over the western, southwestern highlands, southern region, and central regions are expected to feature mainly dry conditions, indicating the end of rainfall season.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 21- 31, 2012

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, and Mara and Shinyanga regions): Normal rainfall pattern is expected. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions): mainly normal to below rainfall is expected during the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): 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 is expected during the dekad. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): Periods of dry conditions are expected to prevail. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Normal to below normal rainfall pattern is expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mainly dry conditions are expected.

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