TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 27, 2008/09 Cropping Season — May 21-31, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

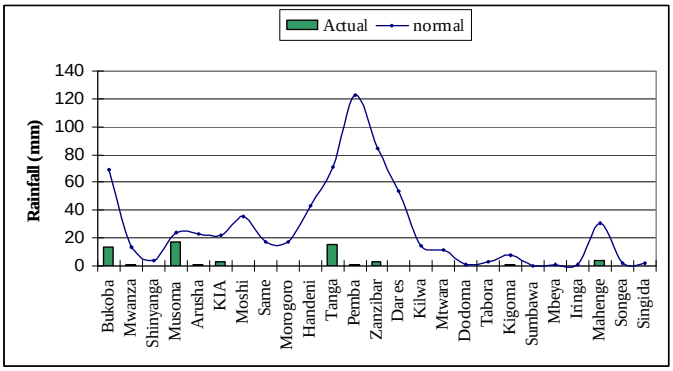
- Crops over much of bimodal areas mainly Arusha, Manyara, Tanga, Coast and Morogoro regions, were badly affected due to poor soil moisture.
- Low soil moisture conditions during the period favored harvesting and drying up of mature crops over unimodal areas.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad under review the southern hemisphere pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify thus extending ridge towards the eastern sector of Tanzania; while the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere relaxed resulting in both the zonal and meridional arms of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to move further northwards out of the country. Southerly diffluent wind flow over the country was dominant thus reducing rainfall over most areas. However, occasional southeasterly wind flow continued to supply moisture from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas especially over the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba resulting to occasional rainfall.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the third dekad of May, Most areas of the country did not receive rainfall during the third dekad of May. For the few stations which received rainfall during the period the amounts recorded were less than 20 mm, as shown in the graph. The highest rainfall amount of 17.4 mm for the period under review was recorded at Musoma, followed by Tanga (15.5 mm), Bukoba (13.5 mm), and Mahenge (2.6 mm) while Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro each recorded 2.4 mm. The rest of the sample stations recorded nil rainfall, an indication of cessation process mainly for bimodal areas at this time of the year.



May 21-31, 2009: Observed rainfall amounts against normal.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the third dekad of May, soil moisture supply particularly over bimodal areas remained far below normal except for parts of Lake Victoria basin that registered nearly normal supply of the moisture. Poor soil moisture condition spread extensively to northeastern highlands, northern coast and eastern areas (Coast and Morogoro regions) badly hampered crops over much of bimodal areas resulting to a wilting state for late planted crops as observed specifically in Arusha, Manyara, Tanga, Coast and Morogoro regions.

Over unimodal areas (southwestern highlands, western, southern, southern coast, and central) harvesting of maize, beans and paddy continued

well, except over high grounds in the southwestern highlands where crop maturation and drying continued slowly due to low temperature conditions.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at a satisfactory level mainly in unimodal areas. However, over most parts of northeastern highlands pastures and water conditions were very poor.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams, and discharges in rivers in their respective catchments were maintained.

Environmental Summary

The country experienced cool conditions, while cold conditions have started over some parts of the southwestern and northeastern highlands.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS JUNE 1-10, 2009

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere pressure systems (St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are expected to continue intensifying, while the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax thus allowing both the meridional and zonal components of the ITCZ to further move northwards. The high pressure system (Ridge) is expected to persist over southern parts of Tanzania occasionally extending to central areas.

Low level flow is expected to be south easterly and occasionally becoming southerly resulting into near normal rainfall over most areas. There is also a likelihood of westerly winds from Congo converging with easterlies. The warmer Sea surface temperatures over the central tropical Indian Ocean are expected to shift slightly westwards. The East African ridge is expected to continue to enhance southerly diffluent wind flow and bring cold air from southern hemisphere. As the southerly wind becomes divergent, a greater part of the country is expected to be under low level diffluent flow and suppressed moisture supply.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JUNE 1-10, 2009

Lake Victoria basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, and western Shinyanga regions), western (Kigoma region), and northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, and Coast regions, and islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to receive normal to below normal rainfall. Western (Tabora and Rukwa regions), central (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) and southern region (Ruvuma and Mahenge) are expected to receive mainly normal dry season with cooler conditions during nights and early morning hours. Over northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) persistence of below normal rainfall is most likely.

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