

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 24. 2013/14 Cropping Season

Review for April 21-30, 2014 and Updates for May 1-10, 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rainfall performance during April 21-30, 2014 was favourable for crops development mainly over the bimodal areas.
- Thundery showers and strong winds are predicted over Lake Victoria basin, western, central, southern, and southern coast, thus farmers are advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and property.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During April 21-30, 2014 pressure systems over the northern hemisphere relaxed significantly. In the southern hemisphere, the Mascarene high pressure system continued to intensify and extended a ridge mainly over southwestern and southern parts of the country. This configuration enhanced the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), resulting into mainly wet conditions over the northwestern highlands, northern and eastern parts of the country.

WEATHER SUMMARY

In view of the above synoptic conditions, the country continued to receive seasonal rainfall mainly over bimodal areas with few pocket areas over the unimodal areas receiving significant rainfall amounts.

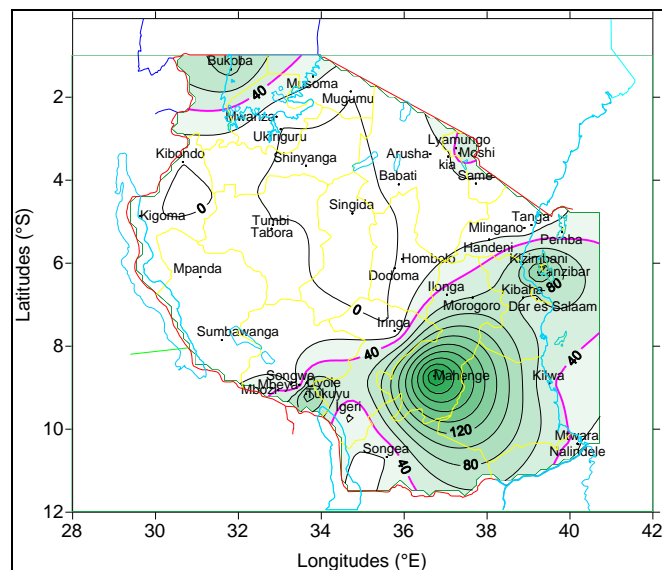


Figure 1: April 21–30, 2014 dekadal total rainfall distribution in millimeters.

The highest amount of rainfall during the dekad was recorded at Mahenge (245.4 mm) followed by Zanzibar (125.8 mm), Tukuyu (117.3 mm), Matangatuani (90.1 mm), Bukoba (88.0 mm), Dar es Salaam Port (65.9 mm), Uyole (65.7 mm), Moshi (62.2 mm),

Morogoro (60.3 mm), Kibaha (60.0 mm), Ilonga (48.1 mm), Julius Nyerere International Airport (46.6 mm), Kizimbani (46.2 mm), Kilwa Masoko (42.3 mm) and Lyamungo (42.0 mm). The remaining areas received dekadal total rainfall below 40 mm as shown in Figure 1 above.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the period under review, the rainfall received over the Bimodal areas was favourable for development of crops and pasture. Maize crop over much of the bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coast) was mainly at tasseling stage and was in moderate condition. Over the unimodal areas, the rainfall that was received was useful mainly for late grown crops as maize crop over most of these areas (western regions, southern coast, southern regions, southwestern highlands and central regions) was at full ripeness stage with good condition. However, heavy rainfall associated with hails and floods damaged crops, stored foods and infrastructure in Mbozi district. Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife is good over much of the country.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in dams and river flows discharge improved greatly over much of the country during the third dekad of April (April 21-30, 2014).

Environmental Summary

During the third dekad of April, 2014, moderate temperature conditions prevailed in the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING MAY 1-10, 2014

In May 1-10, 2014 pressure systems over the northern hemisphere are expected to relax, while in the southern hemisphere, both the St. Helena and the Mascarene high pressure systems are expected to

intensify. With this configuration, the orientation of the ITCZ is expected to be confined mostly over Lake Victoria basin, coastal and northern parts thus influencing activities over those areas. On the other hand, the meridional arm of ITCZ is expected to shift further west towards Congo basin influencing reduced weather over western, Lake Victoria basin and central parts of the country. Neutral to warm sea surface temperatures in South West Indian Ocean, close to Tanzanian coast, are expected to enhance convection over some areas and therefore influence activities especially over the coastal areas during the period.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 1-10, 2014

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions including northern parts of Kigoma region): Rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms are expected throughout the dekad. Periods of strong wind are also expected over western parts of Lake Victoria Basin. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions together with the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Rain-showers with occasional thunderstorms are expected, mainly during first half of the dekad. Periods of strong wind are also expected over few areas.

Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Rain showers with isolated thunderstorms over few areas, especially over high ground are expected during the entire dekad. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions) and southern region (Ruvuma region): Isolated rain showers and thunderstorms and periods of strong winds are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Few rains showers with isolated thunderstorms and periods of strong wind are expected, particularly during the first half of the dekad. Southwestern highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): Rain showers and isolated thunderstorms and periods of strong wind are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Occasional rain-showers and thunderstorms and periods of strong wind are expected.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK DURING MAY 1-10, 2014

During the period of May 1-10, 2014, the expected rainfall over the bimodal areas, will be useful for crop development. Rainfall will also contribute to good availability of pasture and water for livestock and wildlife. Over the unimodal areas, the expected rainfall may favour mainly late grown crops at advanced vegetative stages. Where thundery showers and strong winds are predicted, community is advised to take precautionary measures for their safety and property. However, proper soil water and crop management is recommended particularly over the bimodal areas to salvage soil moisture and nutrients available for crops. Farmers are strongly advised to seek professional advice from nearby agricultural and livestock extension officers.

Prepared by

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