

## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 29. 2013/14 Cropping Season

Review for June 21-30, 2014 and Outlook for July 1-10, 2014

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Strong winds and cold nights are expected over high ground areas in the southwestern and northeastern highlands.
- Fire hazards (wildfires in particular) are also anticipated due to widespread dry and windy conditions.

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY DURING JUNE 21-30, 2014

During June 21-30, 2014, high pressure systems over the northern hemisphere relaxed significantly. In the southern hemisphere, the Mascarene high pressure system continued to intensify and extended a ridge over most parts of the country which was pushing the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) further north. As a result mainly dry conditions, strong winds and cool nights were observed over most parts of the country.

### WEATHER SUMMARY DURING JUNE 21-30, 2014

During the period under review, seasonal dry conditions continued to prevail across the country. Figure 1 below is the analysis of Satellite Rainfall Estimates (RFE) merged with gauge data from Tanzania rainfall stations network showing total rainfall distribution during the dekad whereby only a few localized areas in Kagera, Arusha, Tanga, Mbeya and Rukwa regions received rainfall between 26 and 100 mm. Most places across the country featured dry conditions.

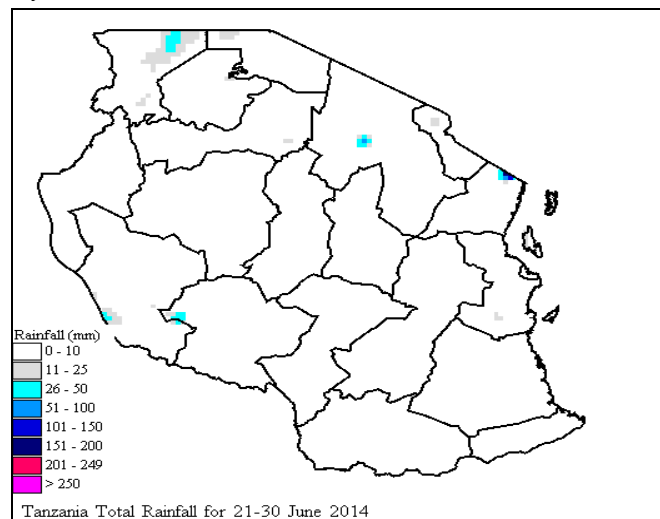


Figure 1: Total rainfall distribution during June 21-30, 2014.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY DURING JUNE 21-30, 2014

During June 21-30, 2014, the observed seasonal dry conditions that prevailed over much of the country were favourable for crops harvesting activities especially over the unimodal areas. During the dekad, maize crop was at full ripeness stage with ongoing harvesting activities as observed over Iringa, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Mtwara, Kigoma, Tabora and Mwanza regions. Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was generally good.

### HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 21-30, 2014

Water levels in dams and river flow discharges remained moderate across the country.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 21-30, 2014

During the period, cool temperature conditions especially during the night, prevailed in the country. Cold temperatures were experienced over high ground areas in the south- and north-eastern highlands.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JULY 1-10, 2014

During July 1-10, 2014 pressure systems over the northern hemisphere are expected to relax significantly while in the southern hemisphere, both the St. Helena and the Mascarene high pressure systems are expected to intensify, thus increasing the strength of the East African Ridge. With these configurations, the ITCZ is expected to be held further north and be confined in the northern hemisphere. The meridional arm of the ITCZ is expected to maintain its position further west to Congo basin, influencing reduced weather over western parts of Lake Victoria basin. However, intensification of the southern pressure systems is expected to influence the wind speed regime over most parts of the country. The current neutral to warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) in South-West Indian Ocean, close to Tanzanian coast, are expected to continue. These conditions are expected to induce

embedded convection over some areas and influence rainfall activities over the northern coastal strip. This situation is expected to influence mainly dry and cold conditions over most parts of the country with periods of cloud and slight wet conditions over few areas especially over high grounds and northern coastal areas.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JULY 1-10, 2014

**L**ake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions including northern parts of Kigoma region): Mainly dry conditions are expected, but with chance of isolated rain showers and thunderstorms over few areas especially during the first half of the dekad. Cold nights and periods of strong winds are also expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions together with the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Rain-showers over few areas are expected especially during the second half of the dekad. Cold nights and periods of strong wind over few areas are also expected. North eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Rain-showers over few areas are expected during the second half of the period. Cold conditions are also expected especially over high grounds. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa and Tabora regions): Mainly dry conditions and cold nights are expected. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Mainly dry conditions, cold nights and chilly weather conditions are expected. South-western highlands (Southern Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region): Mainly dry and cold night conditions are expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry conditions and cold nights are expected. Occasional rain showers are also expected during the first half of the dekad. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Mainly dry and cold night conditions are expected during the dekad.

### AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK AND ADVISORY DURING JULY 1-10, 2014

**D**uring the period of July 1-10, 2014, strong winds and cold nights are expected over high ground areas in the southwestern and northeastern highlands. In high altitude areas where temperatures get low, heating up of homes by using charcoal stoves, firewood, etc. should be done with great care to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide. Fire hazards (wildfires in particular) are also anticipated due to widespread dry and windy conditions.

#### BIMODAL AND UNIMODAL AREAS

1. *Bimodal areas:* Areas which experience two rainfall seasons (Oct - Dec/Jan and March - May). These are areas covering Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions including northern parts of Kigoma region), northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions together with the Isles of Unguja and Pemba) and northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions).

2. *Unimodal areas:* Areas which experience one rainfall season (Nov - Apr). These are areas covering western areas (Kigoma, Rukwa, Katavi and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya region), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) and southern areas (Ruvuma region).

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