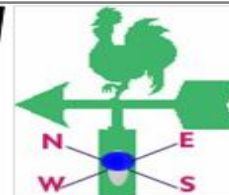




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 9

2005/06 Cropping Season

November 21 - 30, 2005

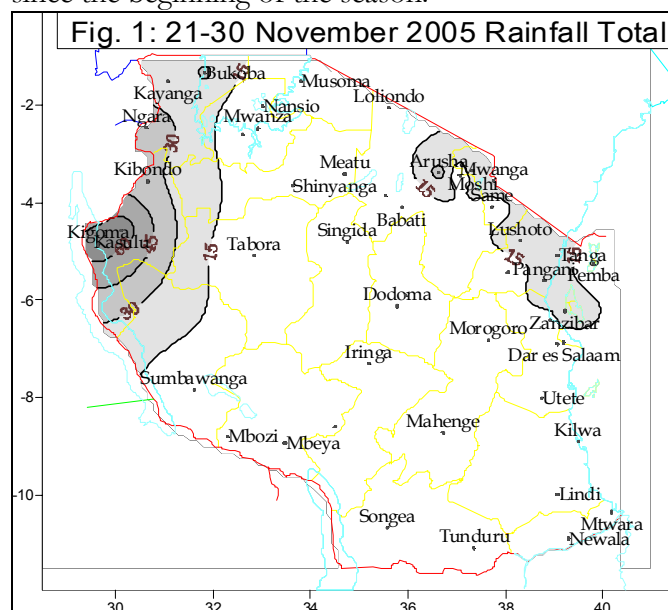
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 21st –30th November, the Azores anticyclone over northern hemisphere was generally weak while the Arabian ridge was intense. The St. Helena anticyclone was generally strong while the Mascarene anticyclone continued to relax slowly southeastward. The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained active over the East African regions (Kenya and Uganda) although over Tanzania it was defused over the land but active to the east over the western Indian Ocean. The northeasterly wind flow from the northern Indian Ocean was evident during the dekad, but more continental and less moisture contents. The convergence of northwesterly to westerly wind flows from the Congo basin and northeasterly wind flows from the northern Indian Ocean over western part of the country and Lake Victoria Basin was apparent and contributed to rainfall activities over those areas during the period. The weak convergence of weak easterly wind flows from western Indian Ocean and northeasterlies from the northern Indian Ocean over eastern parts of Tanzania contributed to rainfall activities, which occurred over those areas during the dekad.

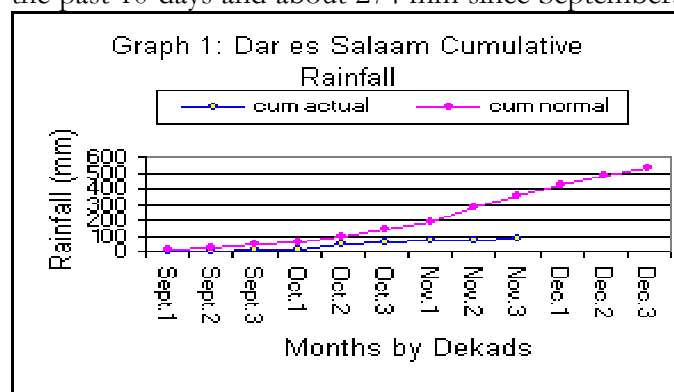
RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, most part of the country generally experienced dry conditions, with rainfall activities (cumulative rainfall greater than 15 mm) reported over a few areas of the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB), northwestern (Kigoma region), northern coast and northeastern highlands (Fig.1). The highest rainfall recorded was 66.0 mm per dekad at Kigoma Airport. The observed low rainfall amounts (less than 15 mm) and poor distribution, mainly over short rains season (*vuli*) regions (LVB, northeastern highlands, northern coast and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba)

indicated the persistence of dry spell conditions, which were observed since the first dekad of November. Though, over other areas of the region, the dry spells have persisted since the beginning of the season, for example in the northern coast, Dar es Salaam has been experiencing below normal rainfall since the beginning of the season.



Graph 1 compares the current cumulative rainfall to the long-term mean for the period from September 1st dekad to-date at Dar es Salaam A/P. Rainfall over this area indicated shortfall of about 67 mm during the past 10-days and about 274 mm since September.



Seasonal rains (*mvua za mwaka*) indicated to have set in over southern Kigoma, although other areas of unimodal rainfall regime had observed occasional light rains (rainfall total of about 5 mm), the conditions that portray transitional period towards onset of seasonal rains.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Soil moisture deficits occurred over bimodal rainfall regime (LVB, northern coast and northeastern highlands) due to sequence of dry spells. The episode forced crops mainly maize and beans to partial wilting as reported over districts of Ngara, Bukoba (Misenye and Rubale locations) in Kagera region and Pangani in Tanga region. Crop stages over these areas ranged between early vegetative and tasseling for maize, and vegetative to ripeness for beans. Maize over Mlingano (Tanga region) was at tasseling stage and in good state. As for cassava, the crop was at various stages and in good state. Crops situation was generally moderate. Over the unimodal rainfall regime (central, western, southwestern highlands and southern regions), land preparations were the major farming activities occupying the farmers and they are advised to plant immediately when it rains.

Hydrometeorological

Low water levels in rivers and lakes were generally experienced during the period. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental

Warm/hot conditions have at last come back after an extraordinarily long spell of cool / cold conditions going back to April.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING DECEMBER 01 – 10, 2005

The Arabian ridge and Azores anticyclone are expected to remain strong over the northern hemisphere while over the southern hemisphere the Mascarene anticyclone is expected to weaken southeastward. The St. Helena anticyclone is expected to remain intense during the dekad. The position of the ITCZ is expected to shift further south over Tanzania while to the west the meridional arm of ITCZ is expected to become more active and oscillate westward over Congo to western and southwestern Tanzania. Westerly wind flows from the Congo basin are expected to strengthen. The Northeastly monsoon flows from the Arabian Peninsula are expected to persist and converging with westerlies from Congo basin and easterlies from western Indian Ocean over Tanzania. *In this regard, more rainfall activities are expected to increase over the western and southwestern regions.* The easterly wind flow over western Indian Ocean is expected to prevail.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING DECEMBER 01 – 10, 2005

The LVB, western parts of the country, southwestern highlands and southern region (Ruvuma region) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms over few to most areas and sunny periods. The northeastern highlands, northern coast and the hinterlands, central parts, southern coast, and Zanzibar and Pemba Islands are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with showers over few areas and sunny periods.

Prepared by

TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

3rd, 4th & 10th Floors - Ubungo Plaza Ltd - Morogoro Road.

P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 - (0) 22 - 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 - 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet_tz@meteo.go.tz

Dar-es-Salaam, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA