

- This issue contains the Seasonal Weather Outlook for the period of September – December 2006 Rainy Season.

### WEATHER AND CLIMATE SYSTEMS

During August and early September 2006 normal warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) have been observed over the central and western equatorial Indian Ocean as well as southern Atlantic Ocean. In the same period, colder than normal sea surface temperatures have been observed over far eastern Indian Ocean close to Indonesia.

### 10 DAY RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period 11-20<sup>th</sup> September, dry conditions persisted over much of the country, normal condition for the time of the year. However, areas with bimodal rainfall pattern, the Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands and northern coastal belt had occasions of light rainshowers, whereby a few localized areas reported rainfall amounts above 20 mm, the highest being at Mwanza Airport 37.3 mm, followed by

Bukoba 25.4 mm, Tanga 23.3 mm and Arusha 19.7 mm. The reported rainfall activities over bimodal areas indicate onset of the short rains which is expected from mid-September to mid-October 2006.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT DURING SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2006

#### Agrometeorological

Land preparations was the major activity occupying farmers during the dekad mainly over most areas in a bimodal rainfall pattern where short rains (*Vuli*) were expected to start from mid September 2006. Over the unimodal rainfall regime, the western, southwestern highlands and southern parts farmers have also started land preparations for the seasonal rains (*Msimu*) which is due to start by November 2006. The continuing land preparations countrywide are going on smoothly aided by dry conditions.

Onset of *vuli* will boost pasture and water for livestock/wildlife in bimodal rainfall areas whereas in the southern half of the country the conditions are acute.

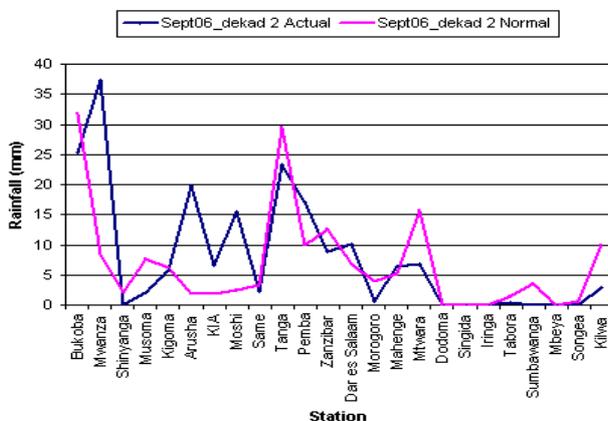
#### Hydrometeorological

Onset of *vuli* in the northern sector will boost water levels in rivers, lakes and dams whereas they will get even lower in southern sectors where the dry season is still continuing.

#### Environmental

Temperatures are warm and comfortable, no more windy conditions.

Graph 1: 11-20 September 2006 Rainfall performance



## EXPECTED WEATHER AND CLIMATE SYSTEMS DURING SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER, 2006

Neutral conditions have been projected over the El Nino basin of the Equatorial Pacific Oceans areas during the next two months with warm episode (weak El Nino) conditions likely by the end of the year. Local and month-to-month variations may occur. These conditions are likely to favor enhanced rainfall activity over the coastal areas of the country.

## RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2006 RAINY SEASON

### Short Rains (*Vuli*)

The September to December rainfall season (*Vuli*) is more significant over Northern Coast, Northeastern highlands, Lake Victoria Basin and Northern Kigoma. The onset of short rains (*Vuli*) season in the northern (bimodal rainfall) sector of Tanzania is anticipated between mid-September and mid October.

**Lake Victoria basin:** (Kagera, Mara and Mwanza regions): Rains are expected to start during the second to third week of September in Kagera region and northern parts of Kigoma region, gradually spreading to other areas (Mwanza and Mara regions) during the fourth week September. These rains are expected to be mainly normal with some areas getting above normal.

**Northern coastal areas and hinterland:** (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coast, and north Morogoro regions and Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba): The rains are expected to commence around first week of October and are expected to be mainly above normal with a few areas getting normal rainfall.

**Northeastern highlands:** (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): The onset is expected during the third to fourth week of October. The rains in these areas are likely to be mainly normal with few areas getting below normal.

### Seasonal Rains (*Msimu*)

**The western areas:** (Tabora, Rukwa, Southern parts of Kigoma and Shinyanga): The seasonal rains are likely to set in during the first week of November. These rains are expected to be mainly normal to above normal.

**Central, Southern and Southwestern areas:** (Singida and Dodoma, Mbeya, Iringa, Ruvuma, Mtwara and Lindi regions): Onset of the seasonal rains over these areas is expected in the third and fourth weeks of November, with a likelihood of being mainly normal over most areas and below normal in parts of Ruvuma, Iringa, Mbeya and Rukwa regions.

## IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2006

Sufficient soil moisture conditions are anticipated over areas receiving short rains. Farmers in these areas should therefore prepare for normal crops grown in their areas in consultation with Agricultural Extension Officers.

## ADVISORY

This Outlook is relevant only for seasonal time scales and over relatively large areas. Local and month-to-month variations may occur. It should be noted that heavy and short duration episodic events are common even in below normal rainfall conditions.

The current status of seasonal forecasting allows for prediction of spatial and temporal averages and may not fully account for physical and dynamical factors that influence short term national climate variability. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten day and monthly updates issued by the Agency.

