

No. 7 2006/07 Cropping Season

November 01-10, 2006

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period $01^{st} - 10^{th}$ November, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African overland ridge over the southern hemisphere relaxed due to the deep fronts which passed across southern tip of Africa. The Arabian ridge emerging from the Siberian anticyclone and the Azores anticyclone continued intensifying thus pushing southward the Meridional and Zonal components of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (I.T.C.Z). The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow becoming easterly component at upper levels at the East African coast had maintained its direction.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period $01^{st} - 10^{th}$ November, rainfall activities spread over much of the country covering both bimodal and unimodal rainfall pattern areas.



Over several stations rainfall recorded was above

normal while a few stations received rainfall above 100 mm for the period. The highest rainfall amount was reported at Arusha Airport 163.0 mm, followed by Dar es Salaam 157.2 mm, Bukoba 145.6 mm, Zanzibar 130.0 mm, Handeni 111.9 mm, and Tanga 109.1 mm. Other stations obtained rainfall below 15.0 mm thus suggesting the approaching onset of seasonal rains over unimodal rainfall regime. Central and southern regions remained generally dry.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological

Soil moisture replenishment during the dekad increased as observed over much of bimodal rainfall pattern (the northeastern highlands, northern coastal belt and Lake Victoria basin) while over the unimodal rainfall regime (southern, southwestern highlands, western and southern coast) there was a slight increase in soil moisture marking onset of the seasonal rains. The situation compelled farmers across the country to seriously engage in field work as to make good use of the improved soil moisture conditions. This included finalizing land preparations, planting and weeding being the activities dominated during the dekad across the country. Central areas remained dry.

The rains over both rainfall patterns are expected to boost water supplies and pasture for livestock/wildlife.

Hydrometeorological

Vuli rains in the northern sector have boosted water levels in rivers, lakes and dams whereas they will get even lower in the southern part of the country where the dry season is still continuing.

Environmental

Temperatures are warm and comfortable, with less windy conditions over some areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING NOVEMBER 11 – 20, 2006

The Arabian and Azores anticyclones over the northern hemisphere are expected to continue intensifying thus pushing southward the Meridional and Zonal arms of the I T C Z. The southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge are expected to continue relaxing due to influence of extra tropical The near equatorial trough frontal systems. will be active over the northern coast, south of the The southeasterly monsoon (SE) flow Equator. becoming easterly flow south of the Equator becoming easterly at upper levels on reaching the East African coast will persist allowing some moisture fetch from the Indian Ocean.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING NOVEMBER 11 – 20, 2006

Lake Victoria basin and western areas (Kigoma region) will continue to experience cloudy conditions with thundershowers over most areas mainly over the western parts of the lake and sunny intervals The ITCZ is still active, hence the northern coast (Tanga and Dar es Salaam regions and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) will continue to feature cloudy conditions with showers over most areas and isolated thunderstorms and sunny intervals. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions at times with rainshowers mainly over high grounds and sunny periods. Southern, southwestern and central areas will experience partly cloudy conditions with occasional light thundershowers towards the end of the dekad and sunny periods.

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