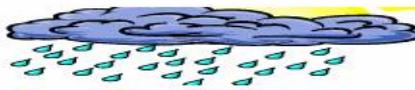




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 33 2006/07 Cropping Season

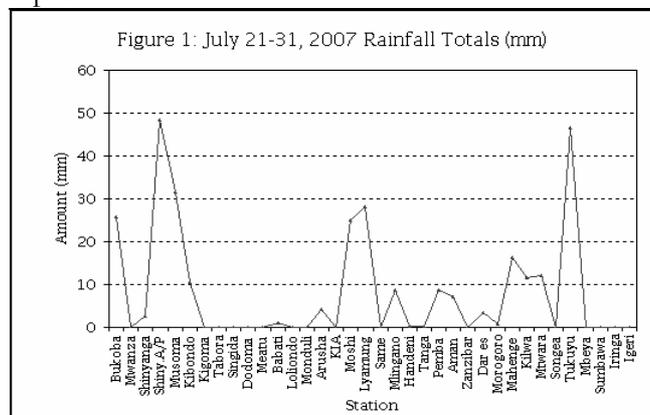
July 21-31, 2007

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period 21<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July, the frontal systems over southern hemisphere were propagating eastwards influencing the southern hemisphere systems, the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge to fluctuate in intensity resulting in southeasterly and southerly wind flows to dominate in intervals over entire coastal. The Near Equatorial Trough (NET) continued influencing isolated rainshowers over northern coast and northeastern highlands. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were still relaxed, maintaining the position of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over northern hemisphere. The weak trough over Lake Victoria was still dominant, hence influencing light thundershowers over the Lake Victoria Basin.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period, the country was dominated by normal seasonal dry weather conditions although a few occasions of off seasonal light rains were reported over some



parts of the high grounds of northeastern and southwestern highlands, and Lake Victoria basin.

Figure 1 indicates that during a 10 day period a few stations reported rainfall amounts which exceeded 20 mm, with Shinyanga Airport in the Lake Victoria basin recorded the highest amount of 48.3 mm, followed by Tukuyu in the southwestern highlands 46.6 mm, Musoma 31.6 mm, Lyamungo 28.2, Bukoba 25.7 mm, and Moshi 25.0 mm. Some other few areas reported rainfall between 5 and about 10 mm.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the period soil moisture levels continued to fall further over many areas due to seasonal dry conditions across the country, except over a few localized areas of northeastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin and southwestern highlands (Tukuyu) that reported some off-seasonal soil moisture replenishments.



The status of the Maize crop over some few remaining fields as observed in Mlingano areas in Tanga region (northern coast) during July 21-31, 2007. The crop was approaching harvesting maturity. Photo by M. Chanyoya (Mlingano Agromet station).

Harvesting activities have been completed over most areas except over a few pockets of elevated lands in southwestern highlands (Njombe district) and northeastern highlands (Tarime and Loliondo districts) and some few areas in the northern coast

(Mlingano in Tanga region) where the crop was between wax ripeness and harvesting maturity.

Cassava and sweet potatoes were progressing well at various growth stages, while market supply for both crops was good.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife are decreasing in supply over the northern, northeastern highlands, western, southern and central areas as the dry season continues.

### Hydrometeorological Summary

Low humidity and prevailing winds during first dekad of August will result into higher evaporation rates leading to a reduction in water levels in rivers, lakes and dams. Water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

### Environmental Summary

Nights and mornings are chilly due to prevailing low temperatures and windy conditions. 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.

## EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING AUGUST 1 – 10, 2007

During the dekad, the southern hemisphere systems, St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones and the East African ridge are expected to remain intense. The general flow pattern expects to be southerly to southeasterly over entire coast and inland. The Azores and Arabian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to maintain their strengths.

## EXPECTED WEATHER DURING AUGUST 1 – 10, 2007

Over Lake Victoria basin, thundershowers are expected over some areas, while northern coast and its hinterlands light rains are expected over few areas. Over northeastern and southwestern highlands, and southern areas light rains are expected mainly over high grounds. Central regions are expected to experience partly cloud conditions. These will alternate with occasional sunny periods.