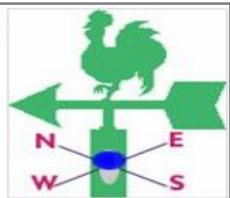




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKDAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 7 2007/08 Cropping Season

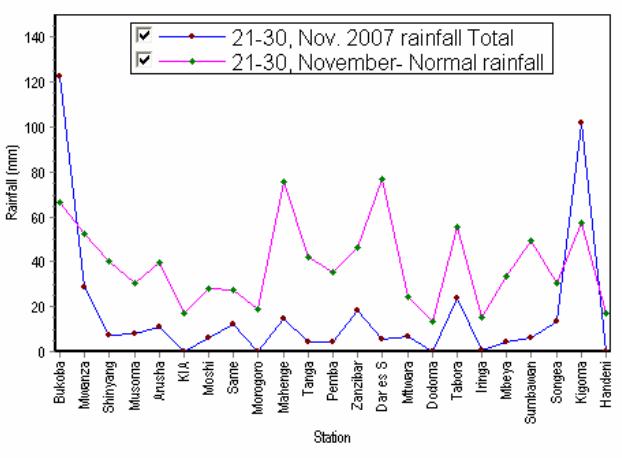
November 21-30, 2007

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad under review, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge) were intense; the south easterlies were backing to westerly. The existence of *Bongwe* tropical cyclone over the central Indian Ocean and development of a low along the Somali coast influenced rainfall over western areas and Lake Victoria basin. The Siberian high, Azores high and Arabian ridge were relaxed, resulting in a diffused Inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ).

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During November 21 - 30, rainfall activities were below normal over most parts of the country with dekad rainfall amounts less than 20 mm, as indicated in the Figure below. Relative to the previous dekad, a significant decrease in rainfall activities was observed over bimodal rainfall regime areas of the northern coastal belt, northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin where these rains were anticipated to start during early October.



Bukoba in the Lake Victoria basin and Kigoma over the western part of the country were the only two stations which reported rainfall above normal. A major part of the short rains receiving areas have not recorded significant rainfall so far. On the other hand, seasonal dry conditions continued over unimodal rainfall pattern areas where seasonal rains have not yet started.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological

During the third dekad of November, most areas in the bimodal sector experienced relatively poor soil moisture supply that was not conducive for growth and development of the early planted crops. Sample reports from these areas indicate that over several parts of Lake Victoria basin particularly in Kagera and Mara regions field crops at vegetative stage were negatively affected by soil moisture stress. Moreover, over other areas of the same sector had not even commenced land preparations such as parts of Monduli, Handeni, Loliondo and Simanjiro districts in northeastern highlands and northern coast.

However, over a few pocket areas of the western parts mainly; Kibondo and Kasulu districts in Kigoma region, Muleba, Biharamulo, and Ngara districts in Kagera region some favorable soil moisture conditions enhanced crop status in the areas.

Over much of the unimodal rainfall regime areas; central, south, southern coast and southwestern highlands, farmers were still in land preparations for the coming cropping season.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country was good.

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Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife are dwindling especially over central and southwestern areas hoping the seasonal rains start early to arrest the situation.

The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to intensify, hence allowing the ITCZ to move further south.

### Hydrometeorological

Water levels in lakes and dams are falling as well as river discharges as a result of below normal rains that has been observed so far and the ongoing dry season.

### Environmental

Temperatures are high over most parts while humidity is particularly high over the coastal belt.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING DECEMBER 1 – 10, 2007

The northern coast and northeastern highlands are expected to feature rainshowers over few areas. Southern coast, southern region and southwestern highlands are expected to feature rainshowers over some areas. Lake Victoria basin and western areas (Kigoma and western Tabora) will feature thundery showers over few areas. Central and eastern parts of Tabora region will be partly cloudy with light rainshowers over few areas.

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

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones, and the East African ridge) are expected to relax allowing easterly air flow to dominate over southern regions, hence enhancing rainfall over those areas.

Prepared by

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