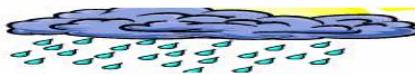




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 23 2007/08 Cropping Season

April 11-20, 2008

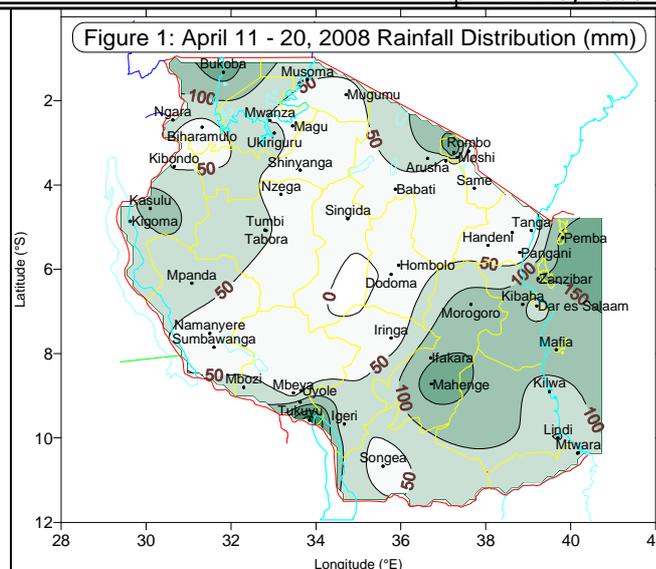
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During April 11 – 20, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones) continued to intensify extending a ridge towards the southern and central parts of Tanzania. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere were relaxed and allowed both the zonal and meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical convergence Zone (ITCZ) to remain active over the country. Convergence between southeasterly and easterly moist air-masses from the Indian Ocean sustained rainfall over the coastal areas extending to the interior and over the northeastern Highlands of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During April 11-20, rainfall activities concentrated mainly over eastern sector of the country (coastal belt and Morogoro region) and few pockets of southwestern and northeastern highlands, and Lake Victoria basin where some stations reported 10-day rainfall amounts which exceed 100 mm as shown in Figure 1. Lake Victoria basin (Kagera region) experienced some increase while rainfall recorded over the rest of the country was generally less than that of first dekad of April. Dry condition that was reported over central areas is an indication of cessation of the seasonal rains. The highest rainfall amount for the period was recorded at Kyela station 292.5 mm, followed by Lyamungo 222.5 mm, Mahenge 185.4 mm, Bukoba 175.7 mm, Pemba 171.7 mm, and Zanzibar 161.7. Some stations reported rainfall between 100 mm and 150 mm; Kasulu 143.3 mm, Ifakara 142.6 mm, Mafia 140.5 mm, Tukuyu 113.7 mm, Kibaha 113.3 mm, and Lindi 102.5 mm.

Figure 1: April 11 - 20, 2008 Rainfall Distribution (mm)



IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Adequate supply of soil moisture continued to persist during this dekad generally across the country. Some pockets over the coastal belt, southern Morogoro (Ifakara) and northeastern highlands particularly around Mt Kilimanjaro received excessive supply, whereas low levels of soil moisture were observed over most areas of unimodal sector including central and southwestern highlands. However, this condition was conducive for development of crops in the fields mostly being maize, sorghum and paddy which were at between wax and full ripeness stages with moderate to good state.

Over bimodal rainfall areas crops (maize, sorghum and paddy) during the period were at early vegetative growth stages following late onset of *Masika* rains, hence, farmers were largely involved in weeding. Excessive soil moisture supply experienced in several parts of northern coast (Pwani, Dar es Salaam, and Tanga regions, the Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba), and

over Moshi district in the northeastern highlands impeded some of the farming operations.

In Monduli district (Arusha region), Loliondo district (Manyara region) and Magu district (Mwanza region) maize, sorghum and paddy crops were at various stages ranging between early vegetative and tasselling and in good state except for Magu district where the crops condition was moderate following insufficient soil moisture supply that persisted during the early stages of the crops.

The second phase planted beans crop was reported to be at between vegetative and flowering stages over several parts in southwestern highlands, western, Lake Victoria basin and northeastern highlands with its state ranging between fair and good. The lower crop status was a result of adverse effect of excessive soil moisture experienced over parts of Mbeya region.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country continued fairly well.

Pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife were generally good across the country and improved over lowlands of the northeastern highlands following the ongoing long rains (*Masika*).

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in lakes and dams were rising as well as river discharges as a result of the ongoing seasonal and *Masika* rains over the eastern sector.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures were moderate over most parts of the country due to increased cloud cover and wet conditions.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 21-30, 2008

During this dekad, the southern hemisphere systems (St. Helena and the Mascarene anticyclones) are

expected to continue intensifying, whereas the Azores and Siberian anticyclones in the northern hemisphere are expected to relax thus allowing both the meridional and zonal arms of the ITCZ to slightly move northwards over the country. Convergent easterly to southeasterly wind flow is expected to enhance supply of moisture from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas and hinterland at various intervals. The wind flow configuration between the lower and upper levels is expected to enhance convective activities especially over the northern coast and Lake Victoria regions.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 21-30, 2008

Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Tanga, and Morogoro regions together with islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) and Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera Mwanza, Shinyanga and Mara regions) are expected, to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundery showers over some areas. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with thundery showers over some areas. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated thundery showers over few areas. Southwestern highlands (Mbeya, Iringa and Rukwa regions), southern region (Ruvuma and Mahenge) and central (Dodoma and Singida regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods with isolated cases of showers and thunderstorms, except over the Mafia Island where enhanced rainfall is expected to continue.