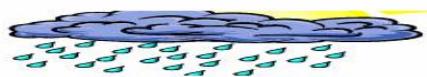




# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKDAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 34, 2007/08 Cropping Season

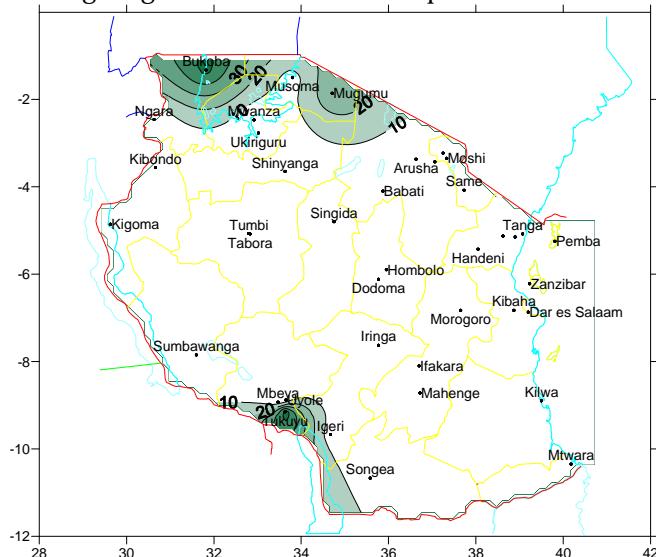
August 1-10, 2008

### SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad, East African ridge remained strong resulting into much of the country falling under low-level diffluent wind flow pattern. This situation continued to influence dry weather over most parts of the country. Southeasterly wind flow persisted over the coastal belt occasionally supplying moist air mass from the Indian Ocean to the extreme northern coast and northeastern highlands. The zonal arm of the rain-making mechanism ITCZ is still further north away from Tanzania. The Azores and Siberian anticyclones over the northern hemisphere remained relaxed thus keeping the meridional component of the ITCZ north of Africa.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During August 1-10 rainfall was reported over a few



**Figure indicating rainfall distribution (mm) during August 1-10, 2008.**

pockets in the Lake Victoria basin and southwestern highlands. The highest 10-days rainfall amount was

reported at Tukuyu 57.4 mm followed by Bukoba 53.9 mm and Mugumu (Mara region) 29.7 mm. Generally, much of the country remained seasonally dry, with few stations recording rainfall amounts below 10 mm while most had no rainfall at all as shown in Figure.

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture levels continued falling during the dekad as a result of seasonal dry conditions that prevailed across the country. Late harvesting of maize crop were carried out over the upland areas of Njombe district (southwestern highlands), while wheat crop was approaching ripeness stage. Over the bimodal rainfall regime areas a few farmers during the period continued with final harvesting of maize particularly northeastern highlands and northern coast (Pangani district). Poor distribution and early cessation of rains were the major factors behind yield drop for the season observed over several areas. However, harvesting of coffee was progressing well in northeastern highlands, southwestern highlands and the Lake Victoria basin.

Market supply for cassava and sweet potatoes over several areas of the country continued fairly well, while pasture conditions and water availability for livestock and wildlife were declining.

#### Hydrometeorological Summary

Low humidity and prevailing winds during the first dekad of August resulted into higher evaporation rates leading to a further reduction in water levels in lakes and dams, and river discharges. In view of that, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

### Environmental Summary

Night temperatures remained low over most parts of the country as the cool/cold season continued. In high altitude areas where temperatures occasionally drop too low, the heating up of homes by use of either charcoal or firewood should be done with great caution to avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2008

The northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain relaxed while the St. Helena and Mascarine anticyclones are expected to remain intense. This configuration will continue to sustain the East African ridge and cause most areas of the country to continue falling under diffluent flow pattern. Southeasterly winds are expected to occasionally continue fetching moist air from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING AUGUST 11-20, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature mainly dry weather with long sunny periods and few cases of isolated showers and thundery activities caused by the Lake Trough. Occasional advection of moist air from the Indian Ocean is expected to continue causing a few isolated showers over northern coast together with isles of Zanzibar and Pemba. The central regions, southwestern highlands, western and southern areas are expected to feature mostly dry weather with long sunny periods. Cold morning associated with light drizzle is expected to persist mainly over high grounds particularly in the northeastern and southwestern highlands. The remaining areas are expected to experience cool temperatures with gradual warming.

*Prepared by*

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