

No. 35, 2007/08 Cropping Season

August 11-20, 2008

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad, the East African ridge remained strong resulting into much of the country falling under low-level diffluent flow pattern. This situation continued to influence dry weather over most areas of the country. Southeasterly wind flow persisted over the coastal belt occasionally supplying moist air from the Indian Ocean to the extreme northern coast and high grounds of northeastern highlands. The zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was 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.

pockets in the Lake Victoria basin and northern coastal belt. The highest 10-days rainfall amount was reported at Mlingano 20.3 mm followed by Zanzibar 17.6 mm, Bukoba 16.8 mm and Marikitanda in Tanga region 10.7 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 due to persistence of seasonal dry conditions across the country. Late harvesting activities of maize crop continued over high ground areas of Njombe district (southwestern highlands), while wheat crop was at harvesting stage. Harvesting of coffee was progressing well in northeastern highlands, southwestern highlands and the Lake Victoria basin.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During August 11-20 rainfall was reported over a few

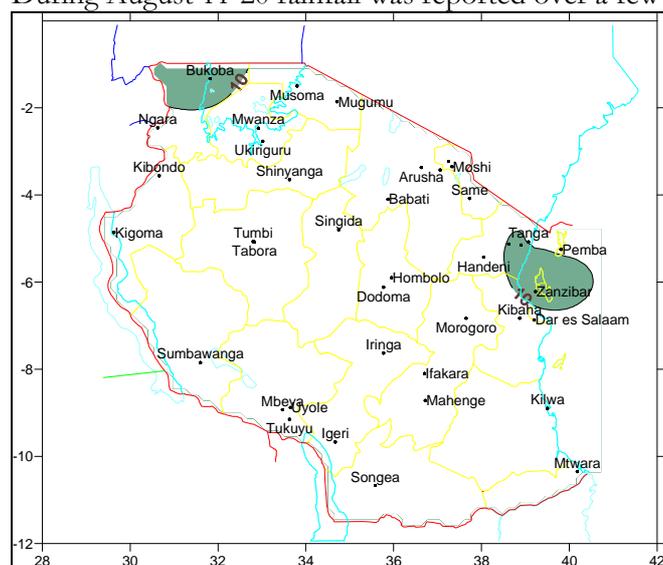


Figure indicating rainfall distribution (mm) during August 11-20, 2008.

Market supply for cassava 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 21-31, 2008

During the third dekad of August, Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) are expected to remain near neutral conditions over the global Oceans. The northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain weak while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones are expected to relax slightly. This configuration will allow the East African ridge to relax and reduce the low level diffluent flow pattern. Southeasterly winds are expected to occasionally fetch moist air from the Indian Ocean to the northern coastal areas spreading to the northeastern highlands.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING AUGUST 21-31, 2008

The Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with sunny periods with isolated showers and thundery activities caused by low level convergent wind and the prevailing Lake trough. Occasional advection of moist air-mass from the Indian Ocean is expected to develop a few showers over northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba together with northeastern highlands. Central regions, southwestern highlands, western and southern areas are expected to feature mostly dry weather with sunny periods. Cool morning associated with light rain is expected to persist mainly over high grounds particularly in the Southwestern highlands. The remaining areas are expected to experience mild temperatures and progressively warming conditions.

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