



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 14, 2008/09 Cropping Season

January 11-20, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

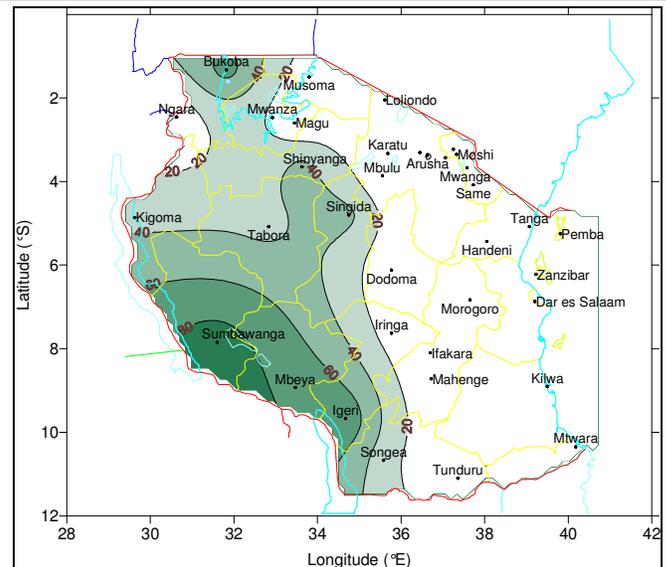
Dry conditions and high temperatures deprived crops of much needed soil moisture over both bimodal and unimodal rainfall areas.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the past 10 days (11-20 January, 2009), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) remained intense while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere were relaxed. The West-east oscillation of the meridional component of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was minimal resulting into less rainfall activities over the southwestern highlands and western areas. However, development of tropical disturbances over the southwest Indian Ocean resulted in some outbreak of showers and thunderstorms over Lake Victoria basin, southwestern and southern parts of the country towards the end of the dekad.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Much of the bimodal sector (eastern Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) and some parts of the unimodal rainfall areas (central, southern coast including Morogoro region, and southern) received little rainfall not exceeding 20 mm during the dekad as shown in the rainfall map. Recorded 10 day rainfall from sample stations across the country indicates that the highest amount was reported over Sumbawanga 91.2 mm, Igeri 77.5 mm, Mbeya 73.8 mm, and Bukoba 69.3 mm. The rest of the stations reported rainfall below 20 mm with some areas receiving no rainfall at all during the dekad.



Rainfall amounts during January 11-20, 2009

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the dekad dry conditions and high temperatures deprived crops of much needed soil moisture. Crops mostly maize and beans were generally ranging from vegetative to grain/seed formation and in a very poor to moderate state of growth. The soil moisture stress badly impeded *vuli* crops mostly over eastern parts of Lake Victoria basin (Mwanza, northern Shinyanga, and Mara regions), northeastern highlands (Rombo, Karatu, Moshi, Mwanza and Same districts), northern coast (Pangani and Handeni districts) and parts of Coast region (Kibaha district) where crops in most of these areas have reached permanent wilting. The

October-November-December (OND) 2008 rainfall season has failed over much of bimodal areas (lowlands of eastern Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, and northern coast) thus *Vuli* harvest is expected to be poor.

Over the unimodal sector (central, western, southwestern highlands, southern and southern coast regions) continued with weeding of maize, beans as well as transplanting of paddy although wilting of crops was also observed in parts of central (Dodoma region), Tabora (east) region, southeastern highlands (Iringa north), southern (Tunduru district) and southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions). The farmers in these areas were compelled replant short term and drought tolerant varieties like millet, cassava and peas.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at satisfactory level.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Seasonal rains that have started over unimodal areas are anticipated to boost water levels in lakes and dams, and rivers in their respective catchments areas. However due to poor performance of *Vuli* rainfall over much of bimodal areas, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Higher temperatures were recorded over much of the country thus causing human discomfort mainly over the coastal belt.

influence rainfall performance over our region.

Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain intense while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) are likely to remain weak. The ITCZ is expected remain on the peripherals of the southern borders while low level westerly wind flow is likely to enhance moisture influx from Congo. This configuration will occasionally likely favour south western highlands and southern areas. The Arabian ridge coupled with persistence of north easterly to northerly winds which are relatively dry and divergent are likely to dominate over the coastal areas and hinterlands including northern parts of central region.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 21-31, 2009

The northeastern highlands areas are expected to continue featuring mainly dry conditions with a few outbreaks of light rains mainly over high grounds. Northern coast and its hinterlands, Isles of Unguja and Pemba are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with a few outbreaks of showers. During the dekad, enhanced showers and isolated thunderstorms are expected over the southwestern highlands, western, southern region and Lake Victoria Basin. Southern coast together with central areas are expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with a few showers and isolated thunderstorms.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS JANUARY 21-31, 2009

Warmer Sea Surface temperatures over the southwest Indian Ocean may continue supporting development of tropical disturbances that could