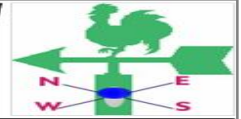
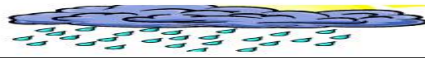




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 17 Cropping Season 2011/12

February 11- 20, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prolonged dry spells that extended up to this dekad badly hampered crops mainly maize at tasselling stage over central areas of the unimodal sector including Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, and Tabora regions.
- Pastures and water availability was getting less mainly over low grounds of northeastern highlands in the bimodal sector, also in the central areas of the unimodal sector.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the second dekad of February 2012, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores and Siberian highs, and Arabian ridge have been gradually weakening. In the southern hemisphere, St. Helena has largely maintained its intensity while the Mascarene high weakened during the mid dekad due tropical cyclone *Giovanna* (with central pressure as low as 937hPa). This kept rain-making mechanism, i.e. Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), in the south and rather diffused. Cool Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) conditions continued to rein over the Equatorial central-eastern Pacific. On the other hand, cool SSTs were established over western Indian Ocean, while warm SSTs were observed over central-eastern Indian Ocean, with dry northerly to north-easterly flow, the scenario which kept eastern parts of the country generally dry.

RAIFALL SUMMARY

During the dekad under review, less significant amounts of rainfall were observed except for parts of Lake Victoria basin particularly Kagera region where Bukoba station recorded the highest amount of 120.1 mm for the period, followed by Tabora 90.3 mm, Mbimba 48.0 mm, Shinyanga 47.7 mm, Mpanda 42.9 mm, Igeri 38.7 mm, Songea 38.4 mm, Sumbawanga 35.7 mm, Kigoma 32.9 mm, Mbeya 32.8 mm, Morogoro 29.9 mm, Mwanza 21.1 mm, Mtwara 20.2 mm, Iringa 18.4 mm, Mahenge 18.2 mm, and Musoma 14.5 mm. The rest of the stations mainly those along the coastal belt and extending up

to parts of northeastern highlands experienced dry conditions as shown in Figure 1.

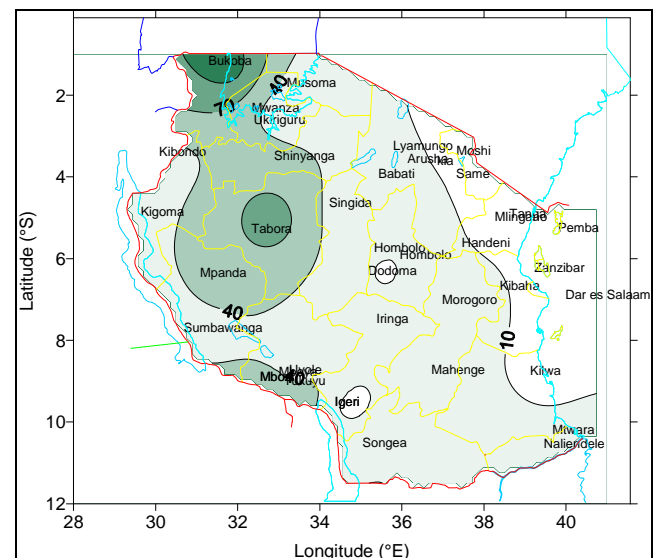


Fig 1: February 11-20, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Prolonged dry spells that extended up to this dekad badly hampered crops mainly maize at tasselling stage over central areas of the unimodal sector including Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, and Tabora regions. Other areas of this sector such as southern, southwestern highlands and southern coast obtained only the average soil moisture to sustain the crop growth and development in the area where maize crop in particular was reported at tasselling stage in good state. Beans crop was in the harvesting phase of the first planting and second planting was in preparation. Wheat crop was reported at emergence stage and in good state too, while paddy and

sorghum were progressing well at vegetative stage. In the bimodal sector particularly Kagera, Mara, and Tanga regions crops were in the harvesting maturity although most of these areas mainly over lowlands of northeastern highlands encountered extreme poor performance of the *Vuli* season, as observed over the east of Lake Victoria mainly parts of Magu and Musoma districts, northeastern highlands and northern coast areas. Cotton crop was doing well at budding stage.

Pastures and water availability was getting less mainly over low grounds of northeastern highlands in the bimodal sector, and central areas of the unimodal sector.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flow discharges were maintained mainly over southern parts of the country.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures mostly over high ground areas in the country were fairly cool, while over the coastal belt and inland areas they are rising to relatively hot over northeastern highlands.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 2012

During the coming dekad, the Mascarene high shows signs of intensification, while St. Helena is expected to maintain its intensity. On the other hand, the northern systems i.e. Azores and Siberian highs and its associated Arabian Ridge are expected to relax.

Therefore, the ITCZ is expected to continue migrating slowly towards the north. Significant convergence is expected to develop during the second half of the dekad over the southern sector of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 21-29, 2012

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, and Shinyanga regions): Normal to below normal rainfall pattern is expected. Western regions (Kigoma, Rukwa, and Tabora regions): Normal rainfall pattern is expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Normal rainfall pattern is expected with pockets of above normal over northern Morogoro. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Normal to above normal rainfall pattern is expected. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Normal rainfall pattern is expected. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): Normal to above normal rainfall pattern is expected. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Normal to above normal rainfall pattern is expected. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Normal to above normal rainfall pattern is expected.

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd, 4th, & 10th Floors - Ubungu Plaza – Morogoro Road.
P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz
(2) agromet@meteo.go.tz
Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA