TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 22. 2011/12 Cropping Season **April 1 - 10, 2012**

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Adequate supply of soil moisture countrywide enhancing field crops mostly at emergence to vegetative stages over bimodal sector and mid vegetative to ripeness over unimodal sector.**
- **Pastures and water availability for livestock were generally good.**

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the first dekad of April 2012, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores high remained relatively intense while Siberian high and its associated Arabian ridge relaxed. Over the southern hemisphere, St. Helena maintained its intensity while the Mascarene High intensified further. The relatively weak Arabian ridge over the northern part of the Indian Ocean near Mombasa and Somali coast persisted during the dekad. Warm Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) conditions formed over the Equatorial central-eastern Pacific. On the other hand, neutral to warm SSTs were established over western Indian Ocean, while warm SSTs were observed over central-eastern Indian Ocean. The above patterns influenced humid easterly to southeasterly winds over the northern coast, northeastern highlands and central parts of the country resulting in wet conditions over these areas. The rain-making mechanism, i.e. Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), was well organized in most parts of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

The first dekad of April 2012 had adequate rainfall spread almost countrywide. The highest total amount of rainfall was obtained at Mahenge station recording 217.2 mm, followed by Tukuyu 204.4 mm, Mbozi 139.4mm, Bukoba 135.3 mm, Arusha 119.9 mm, Kilwa Masoko 122.9 mm, Kibaha 111.8 mm, Mbamba Bay 95.9 mm, Lyamungu 88.7mm, Mpanda 87.6mm, Igeri 77.8mm, Babati 76.6 mm, Kibondo 63.0 mm, Dar es Salaam 62.8 mm, Kigoma 60.3 mm, Lyamungu 58.7 mm, Dodoma 57.4 mm, Same 55.3 mm, Tabora 54.3 mm, Mtwara 51.7 mm and Zanzibar 51.1 mm. A few stations received rainfall below 10mm as shown in Figure 1 below; they include Sumbawanga 8.1 mm, Mlingano 7.0 mm, and Mbeya 5.6 mm.

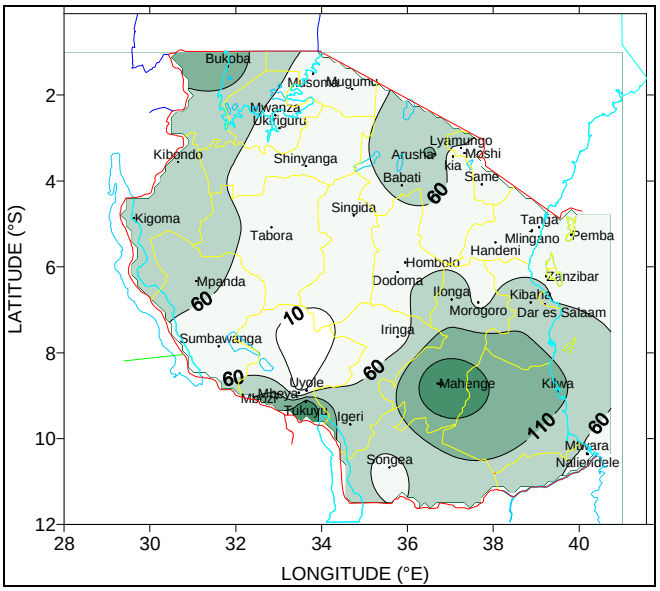

Fig 1: April 1-10, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Adequate supply of soil moisture was well extended countrywide during the dekad, enhancing better growth of the field crops which were mostly at emergence to vegetative stages in the bimodal sector, while at mid vegetative to ripeness stages over the unimodal sector where maize was at between vegetative and harvesting maturity, while paddy was at flowering and both in good state. Likewise, beans crop mainly over parts of western and southwestern highland areas of the country

reached ripeness to harvesting stages, though in Mbeya region the normal second planting of the crop during the period was undertaken. In the bimodal sector, the obtained soil moisture supply was conducive to the crops which were mostly in early vegetative growth stages.

Pastures and water availability for livestock were generally good.

Agrometeorological Outlook

During the next dekad soil moisture is expected to increase over a few areas of bimodal enhancing crop growth mostly at emergence to vegetative stages while a decrease over the remaining areas will be beneficial mainly for late grown crops over unimodal sector.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flow discharges were boosted over most 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 in northeastern highlands were relatively hot.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 10-20, 2012

During the coming dekad, St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems are expected to intensify. On the other hand, the northern systems, i.e. Azores and Siberian high pressure systems, are expected to relax. The ITCZ is expected to continue migrating slowly towards the north. Easterly to south-easterly winds are expected to set-in during this dekad. This pattern is expected to cause enhancement of rainfall activities over the western, Lake, northeastern and Coast regions of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 11-20, 2012

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

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