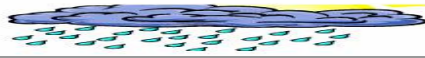




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 23. 2011/12 Cropping Season

April 11 - 20, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- o Additional soil moisture enhanced better growth and development of field crops observed at emergence to vegetative stages in the bimodal sector and late vegetative to ripeness stages in the unimodal sector.
- o During the next dekad soil moisture is expected to remain adequate over much of the bimodal sector enhancing better crop growth mostly ranging from early vegetative to flowering stages, while a decrease over the remaining areas will be beneficial for maturing crops and harvesting activities.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the second dekad of April 2012, the northern hemisphere high pressure cells, the Azores high remained less 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 weakened 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 contributed to south-easterly to easterly wind flows over the northern coast, northeastern highlands and central parts of the country which resulted in wet conditions over the areas. The rain-making mechanism, i.e. Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), was well organized in most parts of the country.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

The second dekad of April 2012 received substantial amounts of rainfall mainly in bimodal areas. The highest dekad total amount of rainfall was recorded at Bukoba 188.5 mm, followed by Dar es Salaam 138.1 mm, Mwanza 132.8 mm, Tukuyu 102.3 mm, Kilwa Masoko 82.5 mm, Pemba 76.6 mm, Kibondo 71.8 mm, Kibaha 70.1mm,

Lyamungu 66.7 mm, Tabora 64.1 mm, Mahenge 58.7 mm, KIA 53.0 mm, Moshi 49.6 mm, Mtwara 49.5 mm, Iringa 47.3 mm, Handeni 47.1 mm, Zanzibar 46.5 mm, Musoma 46.3 mm, Naliendele 45.9 mm, Morogoro 38.7 mm, Mugumu 38.5 mm, Igeri 38.1 mm, Tumbi 34.4 mm, Hombolo 33.9 mm and Mpanda 30.4 mm. Remaining areas received rainfall below 30 mm with a few obtaining below 10 mm of rainfall as shown in Figure 1 below.

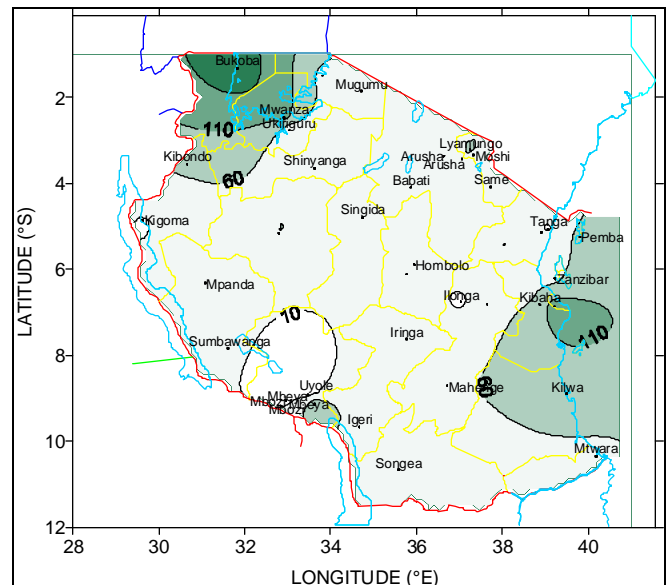


Fig 1: April 11-20, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Continued adequate supply of soil moisture during the dekad enhanced better growth and development of the field crops observed mostly at emergence to vegetative stages in bimodal sector, while at late vegetative to ripeness over the unimodal sector. During the period maize crop was observed at

between vegetative and harvesting maturity, while paddy crop was reported at flowering stage, both were in good state. The beans crop mainly over the western and southwestern highland areas of the country had 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 continued soil moisture status was sufficient for the crops mostly in early vegetative growth stages.

Generally, pastures and water availability for livestock during the dekad were good.

Agrometeorological Outlook

During the next dekad soil moisture is expected to remain adequate over much of the bimodal sector enhancing better crop growth mostly ranging from emergence to vegetative stages, while a decrease over the remaining areas will be beneficial for maturing crops and harvesting activities. On the other hand, expected rainfall over unimodal areas may lower crop quality at harvesting maturity and dry out stages.

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 warm.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING APRIL 21-30, 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. Therefore, the ITCZ is expected to continue migrating slowly towards the north. Southerly to south easterly winds are expected to set in during the dekad. This pattern is expected to enhance rainfall activities over the northern part of western region, Lake Victoria Basin, north eastern highlands, coast regions, and Unguja and Pemba Islands while, over western, southwestern highlands, southern, and central regions rainfall is expected to decrease gradually.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 21-30, 2012

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

Prepared by
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
3rd, 4th, & 10th Floors - Ubungo 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