



# TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



## DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 25. 2011/12 Cropping Season

May 1 - 10, 2012

### HIGHLIGHTS

- *Soil moisture supply during the dekad was adequate particularly over bimodal sector where growth and development of crops were progressing well at vegetative to tasselling stages for maize, and flowering for beans.*
- *Floods were experienced along Mara River in Musoma, Mara region and Marangu in Kilimanjaro region where loss of property including crops and livestock was reported.*

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the first dekad of May 2012, southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones maintained their strength while Siberian high and the associated Arabian ridge relaxed slightly. This maintained the rain-making mechanism i.e. Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in the country though it was diffused over most parts of the country. Slightly Cool Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) conditions have been observed over the Eastern Indian Ocean while slight warming were observed over Southwestern Indian Ocean this resulted to easterly to southeasterly wind flow over the country.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the first dekad of May, 2012 wet conditions were observed over most parts of the country mainly of bimodal sector (north-eastern highlands, Lake Victoria basin, northern coast) and a few parts of southwestern highlands. The highest total amount of rainfall for the dekad was recorded at Bukoba Met. Station 254.2 mm, followed by Tukuyu 217.8 mm, Lyamungu 181.8 mm, Mwanza 144.4 mm, Kilwa Masoko 122.6 mm, Morogoro 73.6 mm, Mahenge 63.5 mm, Handeni 61.7 mm, Mugumu 58.8 mm, Pemba 54.2 mm, Musoma 54.1 mm, Mtwara 54.0 mm, Naliendele 52.1 mm, Zanzibar 50.6 mm, Mbozi 49.8 mm, Amani Marikitanda 46.2 mm, Ukiriguru 40.3 mm, Kigoma 39.9 mm. Moshi 33.5 mm, Mlingano 31.7 mm and Tanga 30.7 mm. Remaining areas received rainfall below 30 mm, with several others mainly over

central unimodal sector reported below 10 mm of rainfall, as shown in Figure 1.

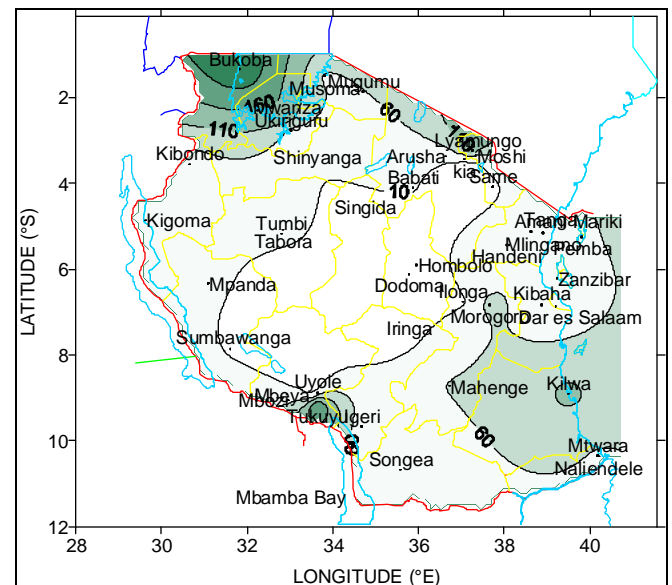


Fig 1: May 1- 10, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Soil moisture supply during the dekad was adequate particularly over bimodal sector enhancing better growth and development of crops mostly at various stages mainly starting from mid-vegetative to tasselling stage for maize and flowering stage for beans. Unlike over unimodal sector where the crops mostly at maturity and the higher moisture levels were destructive to the matured crops though favorable over a few pockets mainly in the southern coast Lindi region containing replanted crops. Paddy crop as well was reported at tasselling to harvesting stages, and in good state over both bimodal and unimodal sectors. Generally, pastures and water availability for livestock during the dekad

were good, although floods along river Mara in Musoma, Mara region, and at Marangu in Kilimanjaro region caused loss of property including hectares of field crops at mid stage and livestock as reported from Musoma and Moshi districts.

### Agrometeorological Outlook

Adequate levels of soil moisture expected over much of bimodal sector will favor better growth of crops ranging from vegetative to near tasselling stages, whereas a decrease over the remaining areas mainly unimodal will be beneficial for maturity of crops as well as harvesting activities.

### Hydrological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flow discharges over most parts of the country were generally good and likely to improve more over northern coast and north eastern highlands.

### Environmental Summary

Temperatures mostly over high ground areas in the country were fairly cool. Likewise, over the coastal belt and inland areas temperatures were relatively getting lower.

#### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING MAY 11- 20, 2012

During the coming dekad, the southern systems, i.e. St. Helena and Mascarene high pressure systems are expected to continue intensifying. Northern systems, i.e. Azores and Siberian high pressure systems are expected to continue relaxing.

The ITCZ is expected to continue migrating towards north from its current position. Southeasterly winds are expected to dominate during this dekad. This pattern is expected to cause enhancement of rainfall activities over Lake Victoria Basin, northeastern highlands, coastal regions, and Unguja and Pemba Islands. While the western, southwestern Highlands, southern region, and central regions are expected to feature mainly dry conditions, indicating the end of rainfall season.

#### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 11- 20, 2012

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

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