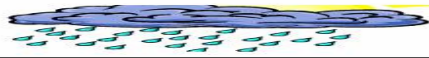




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 27. 2011/12 Cropping Season

May 21 - 31, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Better crop growth and development widely observed over bimodal sector with crop stages during the dekad ranging from advanced vegetative to wax ripeness, whereas further decrease of soil moisture levels as over unimodal sector favor harvesting and storage.*

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the third dekad of May, 2012 southern hemisphere high pressure cells, St Helena anticyclone relaxed slightly while Mascarene anticyclone continued to intensify. Northern hemisphere high pressure cells, Siberian high and the associated Arabian ridge continued to relax slightly. This continued to enhance the movement of the rain-making mechanism i.e. Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in the northern hemisphere. Slightly cool Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) conditions were observed over the eastern Indian Ocean while slight warming was observed over southwestern Indian Ocean, thus resulted to easterly to southeasterly low level wind flow over the country and enhanced rainfall over some parts of the country.

unimodal sector were generally dry as shown in Figure 1 below.

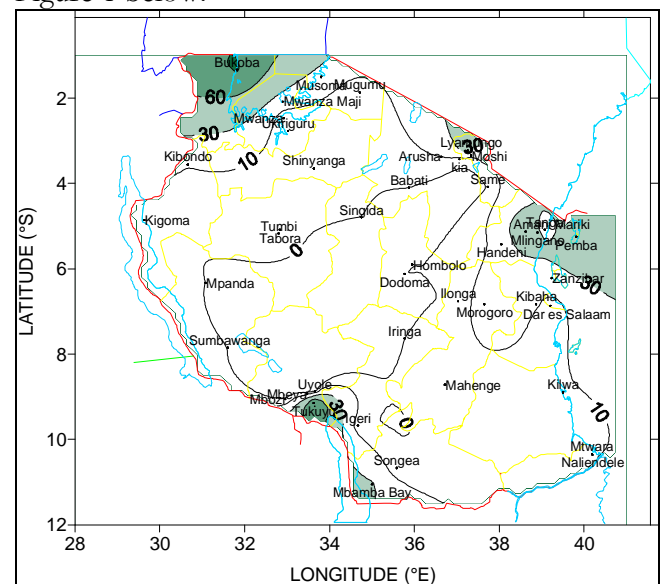


Fig 1: May 21- 31, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the third dekad of May, 2012 seasonal dry conditions continued to prevail over almost the whole of the unimodal sector of the country. A few areas over the bimodal sector (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast including the Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) experienced rainfall activities for the period. The highest total amount of rainfall was reported at Tukuyu station 96.2 mm, followed by Bukoba 92.5 mm, Pemba 58.2 mm, Amani Marikitanda 52.3 mm, Lyamungu 43.9 mm, Mlingano 38.6 mm, Mbamba Bay 32.2 mm, Musoma 23.5 mm, Zanzibar 20.7 mm, Morogoro 19.3 mm, Tanga 15.4 mm, Handeni 15.0 mm, Kibaha 11.9 mm, Kibondo 10.8 mm and Arusha 10.1mm. Remaining areas largely constituting the

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Better crop growth and development were widely observed over bimodal sector with crop stages during the dekad ranging from advanced vegetative to wax ripeness, whereas further decrease of soil moisture levels as over unimodal sector favored well harvesting and storage activities. Most maize and beans crops were at advanced to wax ripeness stages, and in moderate to good state, contrary to the crop performance over low ground areas of the northeastern highlands particularly in Same and Moshi locations that experienced a higher soil moisture deficit that resulted into stunted crops. However, coffee harvesting over the high grounds was in good state. As for unimodal sector crops

were reported at maturity to harvesting stage. Similarly, paddy crop over both bimodal and unimodal sector was reported at tasselling to harvesting stages, and in good state.

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

Agrometeorological Outlook

Decreasing levels of soil moisture expected over bimodal sector are favorable for crops that are getting to maturity stages, whereas further decrease over the remaining areas mainly unimodal will be favorable for crop harvesting and storage.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in lakes, dams and river flow discharges over most parts of the country were generally good and likely to maintain the levels over most parts of the bimodal sector particularly west of Lake Victoria basin and northern coast.

Environmental Summary

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

The ITCZ is expected to continue migrating towards north from its current position. Southerly to southeasterly low level winds associated with cold nights are expected to dominate over most part of the country. This pattern is expected to favor rainfall activities over Lake Victoria Basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast regions, and Unguja and Pemba Isles. While over the western, southwestern highlands, southern, southern coast, and central regions are expected to feature mainly dry conditions, marking the end of rainfall season in unimodal areas.



Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, and Mara and Shinyanga regions): Normal rainfall pattern and cold nights conditions are expected. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Normal rainfall and cold nights are expected during the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Normal rainfall pattern and cold nights are expected. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions, southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions) and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Mainly dry and cold nights are expected during the dekad.



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

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