

No: 2. 2012/13 Cropping Season

September 11-20, 2012

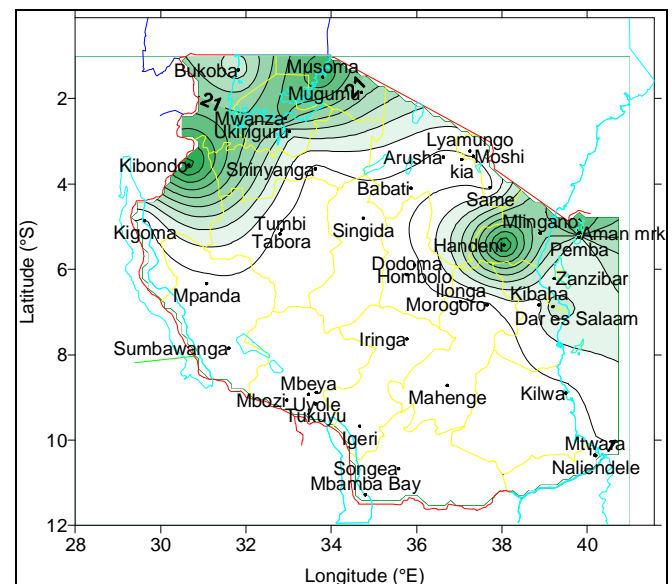
HIGHLIGHTS

- Many farmers over bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, and northern coast) and northern Kigoma were still in land preparations and collection of farm gears for the October-December 2012/2013 short “Vuli” rainfall season.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

Throughout the second dekad of September, 2012 southern hemisphere high pressure cells involving St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones showed gradual relaxation. On the other hand, Azores and Siberian highs and the associated Arabian ridge over the northern hemisphere were steadily intensifying. The resultant south north pressure gradient indicates weakening giving way for initialized equator ward migration of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). Sustained enhanced warmer Sea Surface Temperature (SSTs) conditions and cooling SSTs are still noted over the western and Eastern Indian Ocean respectively. This scenario kept on triggering easterly to south easterly low level wind flow over much of the country and resulted into light rains over much of coastal areas and north-eastern highlands.

and Moshi 1.1 mm. Remaining areas were absolutely dry as depicted in the figure below;



September 11-20, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the second dekad of September 2012, dry conditions continued to dominate over most parts of the country, where many stations recorded much less rainfall. The highest total amount of rainfall was observed at Kibondo 39.0 mm, followed by Handeni 38.2 mm, Musoma 32.2 mm, Amani Marikitanda 31.2 mm, Mwanza 25.9 mm, Mugumu 18.2 mm, Mlingano 17.9 mm, Dar es Salaam 12.2 mm, Bukoba 10.0 mm, Ukiriguru 9.9 mm, Pemba 5.8 mm, Zanzibar 5.6 mm, Kibaha 3.5 mm, Lyamungo 2.3 mm, Mtwara 1.2 mm,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the second dekad of September 2012, many farmers over bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, and northern coast) and northern Kigoma were still involved in land preparations and collection of farm gears for the October-December 2012/2013 short “Vuli” rainfall season. The availability of pastures and water for both livestock and wildlife in bimodal areas were slightly improving but in unimodal areas were generally decreasing.

Agrometeorological Outlook

Land preparations and planting over bimodal areas, the Lake Victoria basin and northern Kigoma in particular are likely to benefit from soil moisture which is expected to improve during the third dekad of September, 2012. It should be noted that the rains in September are highly variable and therefore they are associated with false starts over the rest parts of the country including unimodal areas. However, pasture and water availability conditions for livestock and wildlife especially southwestern, northern coast, northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria basin areas will improve due to soil moisture anticipated during the third dekad while in other areas will be decreasing.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in dams and river-flow are likely to drop during third dekad of September as dry conditions persist over most parts of the country, despite the ongoing rains over some areas of bimodal rainfall regime.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures were moderately over most parts of the country while over high ground areas in the country were fairly cool, particularly over Igeri and Lyamungo. Slight increase of temperatures over most parts of the country is expected to during the third dekad of the month as rainfall season approaches.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2012

During the period, the southern pressure systems including St. Helena and Mascarene highs are

expected to continue relaxing while their counterpart to the north are expected to intensify. The budge is expected to systematically weaken the south - north pressure gradients and thus improve the anticipated equator ward shift of the ITCZ. Southeasterly to easterly low level winds are expected to dominate over much of the country. Light rains are expected over much of northern coast. Start of rains is expected over Lake Victoria Basin whereby few to occasional thundershowers are likely to dominate much of the areas. Dry conditions are likely to continue over the remaining parts of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2012

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara and Shinyanga regions): Occasional thundery showers are expected especially over western parts of the lake. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Cool nights and dry conditions are likely to persist during the dekad. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro north, Coast, and Tanga regions, the Islands of Unguja and Pemba): Light rains are expected during the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions); Isolated showers are expected over north of Kigoma region during the dekad. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions), southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions), and southern region (Ruvuma region): Dry and cool nights are expected during the dekad.

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