

No: 3. 2012/13 Cropping Season

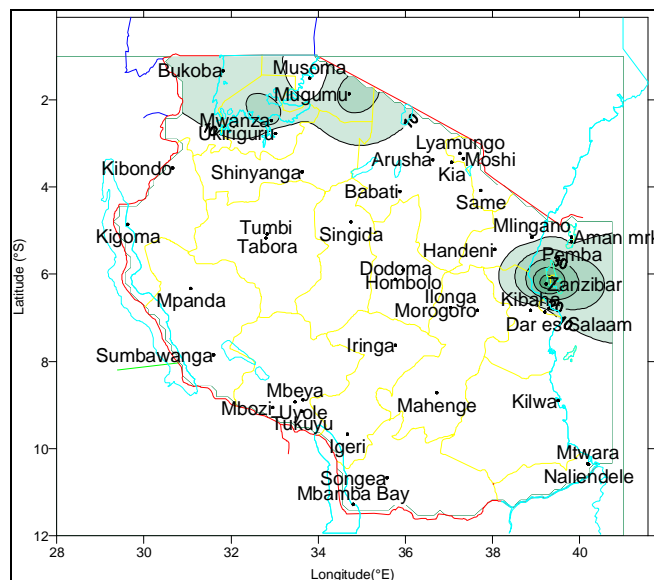
September 21-30, 2012

### HIGHLIGHTS

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

### SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the third dekad of September, 2012, southern hemisphere high pressure cells, the St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones were noted to gradually relaxing. On the other hand, Azores and Siberian highs and the Arabian ridge over the northern hemisphere intensified. As a result, the south-north pressure gradient continued to weaken and foster equator-ward migration of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). Sustained warmer and cooler Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were still noted over the western and eastern Indian Ocean respectively. This scenario kept occasionally humid easterly to south easterly low level wind flow over much of the country and resulted to light rains over much of the northern coastal areas.



September 21-30, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

### IMPACT ASSESSMENT

#### Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the third 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 Zanzibar 61.7 mm, followed by Mwanza 28.3 mm, Mugumu 27.4 mm, and Bukoba 17.5 mm. Remaining areas were generally dry with a few isolated areas reported rainfall not exceeding 10 mm as indicated in the Figure below.

During the third dekad of September 2012, many farmers over bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, 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.

### RAINFALL SUMMARY

## Agrometeorological Outlook

Planting of crops 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 first dekad of October, 2012. It should be noted that much of the bimodal areas are expected to experience start of short rains in October. Pasture and water availability conditions for livestock and wildlife especially over central and northeastern highlands will continue deteriorating due to persistent dry conditions anticipated during the first dekad of October.

### Hydrological Summary

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

### Environmental Summary

Temperatures were moderately over most parts of the country while over Lake Victoria basin especially Shinyanga during third dekad of September. Increase of temperatures over most parts of the country is expected during the first dekad of October as rainfall season draws near.

### EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2012

During this period, the southern hemisphere pressure systems including St. Helena and Mascarene are expected to continue relaxing while their counterpart to the north are expected to continue

intensifying.

This is expected to continue weakening the south-north pressure gradient and thus progress the already evident equator-ward swing of the ITCZ. Easterly low level winds are expected to dominate during the period over much of the country.

Start of rains is expected over much of Lake Victoria basin and northern parts of Kigoma region and also over extreme northern coast. The remaining parts of the country are expected to remain mainly dry.

### EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2012

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara and Shinyanga regions): Thundery showers are expected during the dekad. Northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Mainly dry conditions are expected to prevail. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba): Occasional thundery showers are expected mainly over Zanzibar and Tanga regions during the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions): Mainly dry conditions with few cases of isolated thundershowers are expected 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): Mainly dry conditions are expected during the dekad.

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