

No: 4. 2012/13 Cropping Season

October 1-10, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- Land preparation engaged most farmers mainly over bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, and northern coast) aiming at onset of “Vuli” season expected soon.

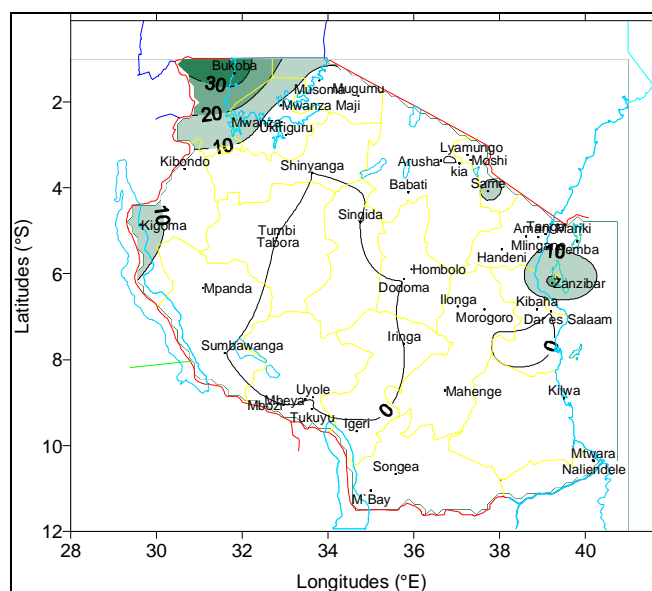
SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the first dekad of October, 2012, southern hemisphere high pressure cells, the St Helena and Mascarine anticyclones were noted to gradually relaxing. On the other hand, Azores anticyclone, Siberian high and the associated Arabian ridging over the northern hemisphere were simultaneously noted to intensify. 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 start of seasonal rains over Lake Victoria Basin and some areas of the northern coastal.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During this dekad of October 2012, dry conditions continued to dominate over the whole country with few areas that experienced essentially light rains. The highest total amount of rainfall for the period was observed at Bukoba, 36.3 mm, followed by Zanzibar 23.3 mm, Kigoma 14.4 mm, Same 12.0 mm, Mtwara 8.2 mm, Pemba 6.5 mm, Musoma 6.5 mm, Hombolo 5.5 mm, Moshi 5.4 mm, Ilonga 3.8 mm, Handeni 3.5 mm, Kibaha 2.8 mm, Amani Marikitanda 2.7 mm, Mwanza 2.5

mm, Lyamungu 2.0 mm and Kilwa Masoko 1.9 mm. Remaining areas were generally dry with a few isolated areas reporting rainfall less than 10 mm, as indicated in the Figure below.



October 1-10, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Land preparation engaged most farmers mainly over bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, and northern coast) aimed at complying with proper onset of “Vuli” rainfall season expected soon. Those preparations involved also collection of the essential farming gear for *Vuli* cropping season. The availability of pastures and

water for both livestock and wildlife in bimodal areas were slightly maintained although there observed generally a decreasing scenario over most parts particularly over the unimodal sector.

Agrometeorological Outlook

Planting of crops over bimodal areas, the Lake Victoria basin and northern Kigoma in particular are likely to benefit from improving soil moisture expected during the second dekad of October, 2012, as most of bimodal areas are expected to experience start of short rain season. Pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife especially over central and northeastern highlands will continue decreasing due to persistent dry conditions anticipated during the second dekad of October.

Hydrological Summary

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

Environmental Summary

Temperatures were generally moderate over most parts of the country, though the prevalence upward trend is expected during the second dekad of October mainly over bimodal areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2012

During this period, the southern pressure systems including St. Helena and Mascarine 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.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING SEPTEMBER 21-30, 2012

Seasonal rains are expected to spread over most areas 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. Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara and Shinyanga regions): Moderate to heavy showers are expected during the dekad. North-eastern 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): Moderate rains are expected over region during the dekad. Western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions): Mainly dry conditions with few cases of isolated showers are expected during the dekad. Central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions): Dry conditions are expected during the dekad. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions): Mainly dry conditions are expected during the dekad. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Normal rains are expected towards the end of the dekad. Southern region (Ruvuma region): Normal rains are expected towards the end of the dekad.