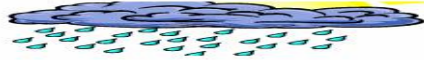




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No: 5. 2012/13 Cropping Season

October 11-20, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Land preparation is widely ongoing over many bimodal areas. In some areas where rains have started early vegetative stages of crops such as maize and beans are reported especially over Kagera region in Lake Victoria basin.*

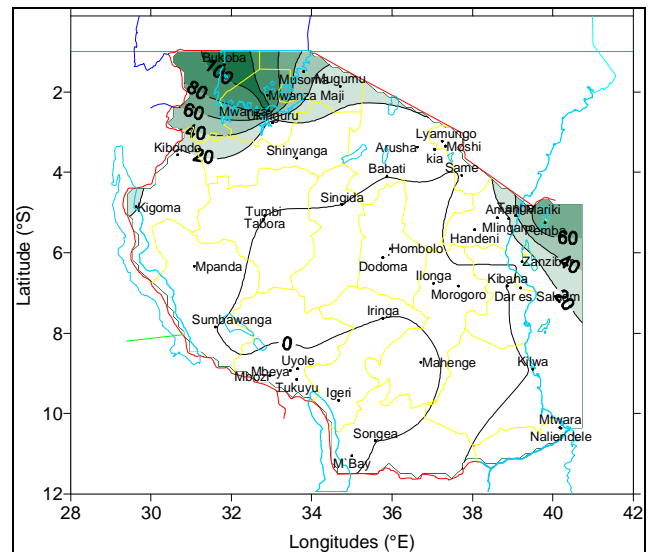
SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

During the second dekad of October, 2012, southern hemisphere high pressure cells, the St Helena and Mascarin anticyclones were noted to relax. On the other hand, Azores anticyclone, over the northern hemisphere intensified, while Arabian ridge extending from the Siberian high has relaxed. As a result, the zonal arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) remained over the Greater Horn of Africa and noted to suppress rainfall activities over north-eastern highlands and northern coastal areas and few areas of Lake Victoria basin. Sustained warmer and cooler Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) were still noted over the western and eastern Indian Ocean respectively. During the dekad, the first Tropical cyclone called ANAIS developed and decayed east of Madagascar in the south western Indian Ocean. Throughout the lifetime of ANAIS, the ITCZ over northern Tanzania stayed disrupted as most of the humid easterly to south easterly low level wind flow was diverted towards the cyclone ANAIS. The move interrupted the seasonal rains which had just started over Lake Victoria basin and extreme northern coast. They also delayed the start of the much awaited seasonal rains over north eastern highlands.

RAINFALL

During this second dekad of October 2012, dry conditions continued to dominate over most areas of the country with only a few areas particularly parts of Lake Victoria basin and northern coast experiencing moderate rains. The highest total amount of rainfall for the period was recorded at Bukoba, 109.0 mm, followed

by Mwanza 104.7mm, Pemba 77.0 mm, Musoma 46.3 mm, Tanga 40.1 mm, Mgumu 27.4 mm, Kigoma 20.7 mm, Mlingano 15.9 mm, Kibondo 15.4mm, Lyamungo 15.1 mm, Kilimanjaro 13.4 mm, Amani Marikitanda 12.2 mm, Shinyanga 9.1 mm, Mtwara 6.9 mm, Mpanda 5.8 mm, Handeni 5.7 mm and Naliendele 4.1 mm, Igeri 4.0 mm, Mbeya 2.4 mm, Mahenge 1.1 mm and Zanzibar 1.0 mm. Remaining areas were absolutely dry as indicated in the Figure below.



October 11-201, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

Land preparation is widely ongoing over many bimodal areas. In some areas where rains have

started early vegetative stages of crops such as maize and beans are reported especially over Kagera region in Lake Victoria basin. Early seasonal onset by late September enhanced planting, emergence and vegetative stages of the crops as observed over several parts of Kagera region. Remaining areas of the sector were also ready for planting once the conditions turned conducive mainly the reliable soil moisture.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife continued to decline during the period mainly over the reported drier areas of the country during the period.

Agrometeorological Outlook

Planting of crops over bimodal areas including Lake Victoria basin, northern Kigoma, *northern coast and the Isles of Zanzibar* in particular are likely to benefit from improving soil moisture expected during the third dekad of October, 2012, Pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife especially over central and northeastern highlands will continue to decrease due to persistent dry conditions anticipated during the period.

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in dams and river-flow are likely to drop during the third dekad of October as dry condition is expected to persist over most parts of the country.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures were slightly rising over most parts of the country following the current overhead position of the sun that usually causes discomfort to people.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2012

During this period, the southern pressure systems including St. Helena and Mascarine are expected to continue relaxing while their counterpart to the north are expected to continue intensifying. The ITCZ is thus expected to strengthen over Lake Victoria basin and adjoining areas of western Tanzania, northern coast and re-emerge over north eastern highlands. Easterly low level winds are expected to dominate during the period over much of the country. The remaining parts of the country are expected to remain mainly dry.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING OCTOBER 21-31, 2012

Onset of the seasonal rains has started in the bimodal region over the northern parts of the country except for north eastern highlands. The spatial and temporal distribution was not good. Over the Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mara, Mwanza and Geita regions) the rains started during the fourth week of September 2012 and the temporal and spatial distribution was generally good, except for Simiyu and Shinyanga regions. In the northern coast, seasonal rains started in the second week of October, 2012. However, the onset was interrupted by development of a Tropical cyclone "ANAIS". The rains are expected to continue towards the end of the dekad. Seasonal rains are yet to start over north eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions). However, they are expected to start towards the end of the dekad. Details of expected rains over the country are as follows: Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara and Shinyanga regions): Moderate to heavy thunder showers are expected during the dekad. North-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions): Isolated rains are expected to prevail.

Prepared by

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