No: 6. 2012/13 Cropping Season

October 21-31, 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

• More areas over bimodal sector reported field activities ranging from planting to early vegetative crop stages particularly over Kagera and Mara regions in Lake Victoria basin with delayed onset of 'Vuli' season worrisome to several areas in the northern coast.

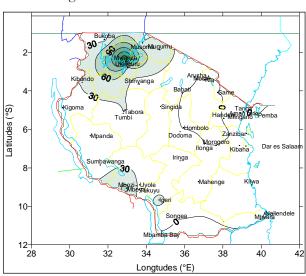
SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

uring the third dekad of October, 2012, southern hemisphere high pressure cells, the St Helena and Mascarene anticyclones were gradually intensifying. On the other hand, Azores and Siberian anticyclones, and the Arabian ridge over the northern hemisphere were simultaneously were slightly relaxing. As a result, the Meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was slightly displaced to the east while the zonal arm of the ITCZ maintained its position in the northern hemisphere the setting that influenced enhancement of rainfall over the Lake Victoria basin, western and south western highlands. However, the rainfall onset over the north eastern highlands and northern coastal areas of Tanzania was delayed. Sustained warmer and cooler sea surface temperatures (SSTs) pattern which was observed by cooler SSTs over the eastern Indian Ocean and warmer SST over central Indian Ocean extending towards western Indian Ocean with cool to neutral conditions was observed. Warm temperatures in the central and northwest tropical Indian Ocean and development of the Tropical cyclone "Murjan" during October 23-26, 2012 triggered dry conditions along the coastal areas and even deep inland and northeastern highlands.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

uring the third dekad of October, 2012, light rains were recorded over few parts of northern coast while isolated thundershowers were observed over the Lake Victoria basin and western regions during the end of the dekad. The highest total amount of rainfall for the

period was recorded at Mwanza 230.0 mm, Mbozi 67.2 mm, Ukiriguru 52.7 mm, Mugumu 49.7 mm, Mbeya 44.8 mm, Igeri 37.9 mm, Tabora 32.8 mm, Kibondo 31.5 mm, Musoma 30.5 mm, Kilwa masoko 26.0 mm, Kigoma 25.6 mm, Iringa 24.1 mm, Bukoba 22.4 mm, Shinyanga 18.2 mm, Sumbawanga 13.5 mm, Tukuyu 11.2 mm, Amani marikitanda 9.5 mm, Uyole 7.8 mm and Singida 6.3 mm, Other areas were absolutely dry as shown in the Figure below.



October 21-31, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

More areas over bimodal sector reported field activities ranging from planting to early vegetative crop stages particularly over Kagera and Mara regions in Lake Victoria basin with delayed onset of 'Vuli' season worrisome to several areas in the northern coast. The early planted crops including maize and beans were generally at good state between emergence to ninth leaf for maize and budding for beans as observed mainly over parts of Kagera and Mara regions during this period. Other areas including much of rainfall pattern (central, unimodal western, southwestern highlands, and southern regions), northeastern highlands and northern coast were still experiencing dry condition which was conducive for land preparation and acquisition of farm inputs.

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

Hydrological Summary

Water levels in dams and river-flow were dropping during the third dekad of October due to persistent dry conditions over most parts of the country.

Environmental Summary

T emperatures were generally high over much of the country, warm and humid air over coastal areas occasionally cause discomforts.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK FOR NOVEMBER 1-10, 2012

Crop planting over bimodal areas including Lake Victoria basin, northern Kigoma, northeastern highlands, northern coast and the Islands of Zanzibar are likely to benefit from the soil moisture expected to improve during the first dekad of November, 2012.

Pasture and water availability for livestock and wildlife are expected to improve due to expected normal to above normal rains during the period.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS DURING NOVEMBER 1-10, 2012

During this period, the southern pressure systems neluding 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 remerge over North Eastern Highlands. Easterly to North-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 NOVEMBER 1-10, 2012

ake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara and Shinyanga regions), western regions (Kigoma Tabora regions), and northeastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), and southern region (Ruvuma region): Normal to above normal rains are expected. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the isles of Unguja and Pemba) and southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions), and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions): Normal rains are expected during the dekad.

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