

No: 10. 2012/13 Cropping Season

HIGHLIGHTS

Observed soil moisture supply observed over much of the country during the dekad was insufficient for growing crops mainly over bimodal sector, though the moisture was favorable for planting and land preparation currently progressing over much of the unimodal sector.

December 1- 10. 2012

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

uring the first dekad of December, 2012, the southern hemisphere high pressure cells (anticyclones), particularly the Mascarene was noted to observe gradual relaxation. On the other hand, Azores anticyclone and Siberian high and the associated Arabian ridge over the northern hemisphere were noted to significantly intensify with time. As a result, the Meridional arm of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was slightly pushed towards west while the zonal arm of the ITCZ moved south wards from its previous position. These settings influenced rainfall over most parts of the country (Lake Victoria basin, Western regions, North-eastern highlands and northern coast regions). Sustained warm and cool sea surface temperature (SST) pattern was observed over the eastern and central Indian Ocean respectively, while warm to neutral conditions was observed over western Indian Ocean. The overland ridge from southern Africa was generally relaxed, allowing penetration of the easterlies to south-easterlies towards the Tanzania coastal line thus causing showers over some parts of the coastal regions.



Dring the first dekad of December 2012, almost moderate rains associated with thundery activities were observed over some parts of the country particularly over Lake Victoria basin, western, south western highlands, central, northern coast and southern areas of the country. The highest rainfall amounts for the period was recorded at Matangatuani Agromet station in Pemba (127.0 mm), followed Kigoma (92.0 mm), Tukuyu (88.5 mm), Bukoba (85.1 mm), , Shinyanga (69.8 mm), Morogoro (68.9 mm), Mwanza (67.2 mm), Zanzibar (63.1 mm), Iringa (62.0 mm), Singida (50.1 mm) Songea (50.1 mm), Mpanda (47.2 mm), Songea (45.5 mm), Namanyere (42.7 mm), Kibondo (39.8 mm), Ukiriguru (38.7 mm), Tumbi (33.7 mm), Mugumu (33.7 mm), Arusha (31.2 mm), Mlingano (31.0 mm), Hombolo (30.8 mm), Same (29.8 mm), Tabora (29.2 mm), Mbozi (27.7 mm), Mtwara (26.6 mm), Dodoma (21.7 mm), Pemba (21.5 mm) and Sumbawanga (20.6 mm). Remaining stations obtained rainfall of less than 20 mm for the period as shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: December 1-10, 2012 Rainfall distribution (mm)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

O bserved soil moisture supply observed over much of the country during the dekad was not sufficient for growing crops mainly over bimodal sector, though the moisture was favorable for planting and land preparation currently progressing over much of the unimodal sector. Early planted crops including maize and beans over parts of Lake Victoria basin particularly Kagera and Mara regions were observed at stages ranging from ninth leaf to near tasselling for maize, while budding to wax ripeness stage for beans crop during the period and both in good to moderate state. Bean crop was negatively affected by excessive soil moisture and few sunshine hours experienced over western Lake Victoria as reported over Ngara and Karagwe districts. Other areas in the region had crops at emergence stage like for beans observed particularly over Lyamungu in the northeastern highlands that were in moderate state due to inadequate soil moisture supply. However, the areas in unimodal rainfall pattern particularly; central, southwestern highlands, southern region and southern coast experienced light to moderate rains that were favorable mainly for planting and land preparation continued during the period.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife have improved over much of the country.

Hydrological Summary

VV ater levels in dams and river-flow had not changed much due to poor rainfall distribution experienced over some parts of the country during the dekad.

Environmental Summary

emperatures remained generally high over much of the country as well as warm and humid air observed mainly over the coastal areas that occasionally caused discomfort.



Ding this period, the southern pressure systems particularly the Mascarene are expected to continue relaxing while their counterpart to the north are expected to continue intensifying. Thus, strengthen the - ITCZ over unimodal areas of the country, especially over western, southern coast regions and adjoining areas of south-western highlands, Southern regions and central regions of the country

> EXPECTED WEATHER DURING DECEMBER 11-20, 2012

ke Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions), north-eastern highlands (Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions), and northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga regions, the Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba), and southern coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to experience normal rains during the dekad. Normal to above normal rains are expected over the rest of the country; western regions (Kigoma and Tabora regions), central areas (Dodoma and Singida regions), southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya regions), and southern region (Ruvuma region).

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL OUTLOOK FOR DECEMBER 11-20, 2012

During the dekad, crops over both unimodal and bimodal areas are expected to benefit from normal rains, although over unimodal areas where above normal rains are expected there is likelihood of excessive soil moisture over low lying fields and leaching of nutrients, hence affecting crop management. For daily farm operations of their farms, farmers are advised to follow daily weather forests issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Agency in media such as radios, TV, etc.

