



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 12, 2008/09 Cropping Season

December 21-31, 2008

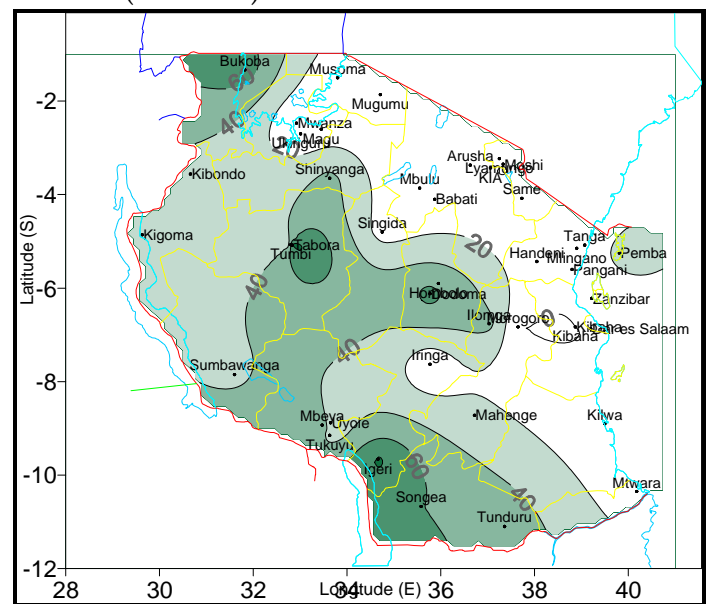
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period under review (21-31 December, 2008), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to remain intense while the St. Helena and Mascarine anticyclones relaxed. There was a development of tropical cyclone "Cinda" over the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar. The above synoptic situation continued to cause the zonal component of Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to remain diffused over the southern parts of the country. Persistence of the dry northeasterly wind flow pattern over parts of the country continued to suppress rainfall activities over Northeastern highlands and northern coast.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Most areas over the bimodal sector (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) experienced much lower levels of rainfall amounts during the dekad except for a few parts in Kagera region that observed rainfall above 40mm as shown in the rainfall map. Sample stations across the country recorded as follows: Tabora (87.0mm), Igeri (83.2mm), Bukoba (72.1mm), Dodoma (67.4mm), Songea (60.5mm), Hombolo (53.9mm), Mbeya (53.6mm), Ilonga (46.7mm),

Shinyanga (46.0mm), Sumbawanga (37.6mm), Kigoma (35.7mm), Tukuyu (33.2mm), Kibondo (32.3mm), Tumbi (28.2mm) and Pemba (26.9mm).



Rainfall amounts during December 21-31, 2008.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the third dekad of December (21-31) bimodal areas (Lake Victoria basin, northeastern highlands, northern coast, Isles of Zanzibar and Pemba) did not get boost of soil moisture supply. This condition worsened the severe moisture stress to most crops that were between vegetative and earing stages. The badly affected areas include eastern part of Lake Victoria basin, (Mwanza, Shinyanga north and Mara regions), northeastern highlands (Rombo and Karatu districts, Lyamungu and lower Same), northern coast

(Pangani and Handeni districts) and Kibaha district in Coast region where crop growth and development mostly for maize and beans failed.

For the unimodal sector (central, western, southwestern highlands, southern and southern coast regions) planting of maize, beans and paddy continued well in several areas as facilitated by favorable soil moisture supply. A few areas over the southern coast in Lindi and Mtwara regions were finalizing planting activities.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly dropped.

Pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was generally moderate.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Despite the ongoing rains over some areas of bimodal rainfall regime, water levels in lakes, and dams generally declined. In view of that, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Temperatures and humidity are increasing while windy conditions are decreasing over much of the country.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS JANUARY 1-10, 2009

During the 1st dekad of the year 2009, tropical depressions over the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar are expected to persist. Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to slightly

intensify while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarine) are likely to remain weak. Considering the above-mentioned synoptic situation, it is therefore anticipated that the meridional component of the ITCZ will continue to be fairly active over the western regions, south-western highlands and occasionally influencing rainfall over the central areas. The Zonal component of the ITCZ is expected to remain generally diffuse with slight activity over the southern regions bringing outbreaks of rainfall. The Arabian ridge will influence the persistence of northeasterly winds which are relatively dry and at times divergent thus suppressing rainfall activities over parts of Northern Coast and Northeastern highlands

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING JANUARY 1-10, 2009.

Northeastern Highlands, Northern coast and its hinterlands, isles of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to continue featuring mainly dry conditions with a few outbreaks of isolated showers. Lake Victoria basin is expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with a few outbreaks of thundershowers. Southwestern highlands, Western, Southern Region including Southern Coast together with Central areas are expected to experience artply cloudy conditions with showers and isolated thunderstorms