



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 17, 2008/09 Cropping Season

February 11-20, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

The second dekad of February maintained soil moisture supply over much of unimodal areas particularly the southern coast regions (Lindi and Mtwara) that previously experienced wilting of crops.

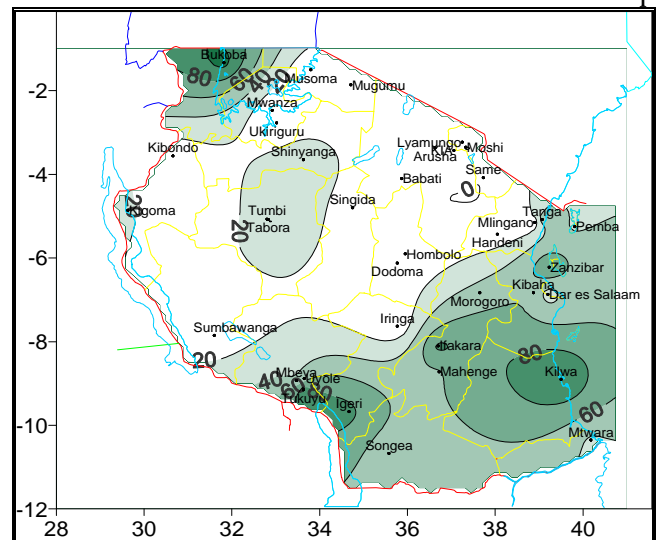
SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the past 10 days (11-20 February, 2009), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) were generally intense while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere relaxed. Occasional easterly and south easterly flow over the country resulted to increased moisture content and enhanced rainfall activities over most parts of the country. The West-East oscillation of the meridional component of the ITCZ was also enhanced over the southwestern areas of Tanzania.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Rainfall activities continued over much of the country with substantial amounts observed mostly over parts of the unimodal sector. Recorded rainfall from sample stations across the country was as follows: Bukoba 107.5mm, Kilwa 101.7mm, Tukuyu 89.7mm, Igeri 85.6mm, Ifakara 84.6mm, Zanzibar 76.9mm, Kibaha 59.6mm, Mahenge 57.8mm, Uyole 52.0mm, Tanga 51.7mm, Morogoro 48.1mm, Songea 44.6mm, Mbeya 43.4mm and Tabora 42.3mm. The rest of the stations in central and western regions including northeastern highlands received rainfall not exceeding 20 mm during the

dekad as shown in the rainfall map.



Rainfall amounts during February 11-20, 2009

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the second dekad of February soil moisture supply was adequately maintained over much of the unimodal areas that favored crop growth and development. Crops generally maize and beans ranging from vegetative to earing stages were in a poor to moderate states of growth as observed over most parts of central (Dodoma region), Tabora (east) region, southwestern highlands (Iringa north), southern region (Tunduru district) and southern

coast (Lindi and Mtwara regions). The wilted and stunted crops in some of these areas were to be replaced by short term and drought tolerant crop varieties such as millet, peas, and root crops like sweet potatoes and cassava.

Over most parts of bimodal sector the observed poor soil moisture supply favored land preparation being carried out during the period usually for long rain season to start sometime in next month.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at satisfactory level.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Seasonal rains that have continued over unimodal areas are anticipated to boost water levels in lakes and dams, and rivers in their respective catchments. However due to poor performance of *Vuli* rainfall over much of bimodal areas, water for domestic and industrial purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Higher temperature conditions over much of the coastal belt continued causing human discomfort in those areas.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS FEBRUARY 21-28, 2009

For the coming dekad (21st – 28th February, 2009), warmer Sea Surface Temperatures over the southwest Indian Ocean are likely to continue which may continue supporting development of tropical disturbances that could influence rainfall performance over the country. Northern

hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to remain slightly intense while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) are likely to remain weak. The ITCZ is expected to oscillate over the southern borders of the country and occasional Low level easterly to southeasterly wind flow is likely to enhancing moisture influx from the Indian Ocean. This configuration is expected to continue bringing some showers over coastal areas, Southern and Southwestern Highlands.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 21-28, 2009

Southwestern highlands, Southern region, Southern Coast and occasionally southern parts of Morogoro (Mahenge) are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundershowers. Western, Lake Victoria Basin is expected to experience partly cloudy conditions with a few showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeastern Highlands is expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions. Northern coast and its hinterlands, Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with a few outbreaks of showers and isolated thunderstorms.