



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 21, 2008/09 Cropping Season

March 21-31, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the dekad much of the country generally experienced below normal rainfall not exceeding 50 mm.
- Areas over northeastern highlands particularly Monduli and Simanjiro were still experiencing severe soil moisture stress hampering seasonal farming activities.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the dekad under review, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to relax while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere were intensifying. Wind flow pattern continued to be northeasterly and divergent resulting to less rainfall in the country especially along the coastal belt and northeastern highlands. However during the second half of the dekad, southeasterly and easterly winds became well organized coupled with weak easterly waves and an active phase of the zonal component of the ITCZ (Seasonal rainfall belt) resulting in an outbreak of thundershowers. Over the Lake Victoria Zone, a weak trough contributed to development of thundershowers mainly over the western and southern parts of the Lake Zone.

RAINFALL SUMMARY

Many areas over the western sector of the country including southern areas recorded above normal (i.e. >125% of normal) rainfall. The Areas under a 75 % Isohyet recorded below normal rainfall amounts during the dekad as shown in Figure 1. Below normal rainfall conditions have been reported over much of northeastern highlands, central, and northern coastal regions for the past two dekads. However during the end of the third dekad a few areas in the northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Coast region and northern Morogoro) received normal rainfall which brought relief over those areas.

During the dekad much of the country generally experienced below normal rainfall which did not exceed 50 mm as shown in Figure 2.

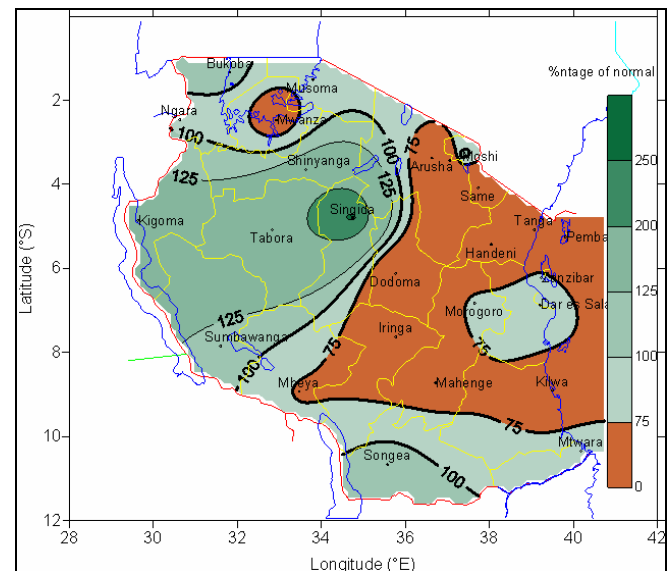


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall as Percentage of Normal: March 21-31, 2009

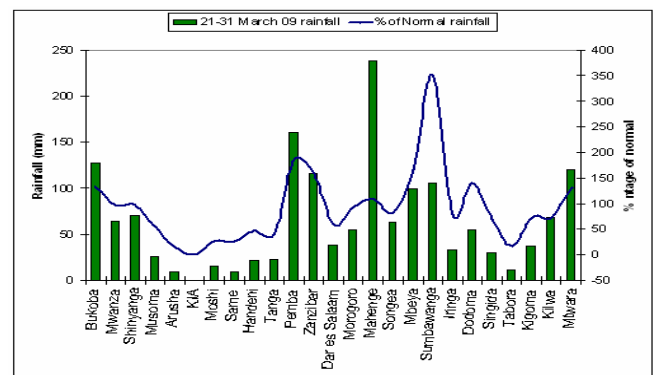


Figure 2: March 21-31, 2009 rainfall amounts against their respective percentages of normal

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the third dekad of March there was a slight boost of soil moisture supply over some parts of bimodal areas in the northern coast, east and south of Lake Victoria basin as well as northeastern highlands mainly towards the end of the dekad enhancing planting activities for a belated *Masika* cropping season. Other areas of northeastern highlands particularly Monduli and Simanjiro were still experiencing severe soil moisture stress hampering seasonal farming activities. As for unimodal areas, crops in the fields were progressing well due to adequate soil moisture supply with crops stages ranging from flowering to full ripeness, although the delayed or replanted crops were at weeding stage as observed over parts of southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara districts) and central (Dodoma region).

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was poor over the northeastern sector of the country.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Seasonal rains over unimodal areas and onset of *Masika* rains are anticipated to boost water levels in lakes and dams, and river flows in their respective catchments.

Environmental Summary

High temperature conditions over much of the coastal belt continued to cause human discomfort.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS APRIL 1-10, 2009

During the period 1st – 10th April, 2009, the current warmer Sea Surface Temperatures over the

southwest Indian Ocean are likely to persist. During this period, the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to relax while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) will continue to Intensify. The ITCZ is expected to slightly migrate northwards over the country. Lower level winds are expected to be mainly northeasterly over the northern parts of the country before changing to easterly resulting into wet conditions towards the second half of the dekad. Enhanced moisture is expected over the southern sector of the country spreading gradually to the northern parts. Western areas and southwestern highlands including Lake Victoria are likely to be influenced by moisture increase from Congo Forest.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING APRIL 1-10, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza and Mara) is expected to experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundershowers over most areas. Northern coast (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal region and the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. Northeastern highlands are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with rainshowers over few areas. Southwestern highlands including southern parts of Morogoro (Mahenge) and Southern region are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with isolated thundershowers. Western areas (Kigoma and Tabora), southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi) and Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and are expected to feature partly cloudy to cloudy conditions and enhanced thundershowers activities.