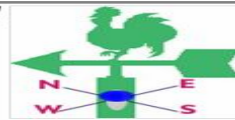
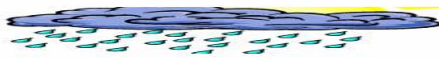




TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 25, 2008/09 Cropping Season

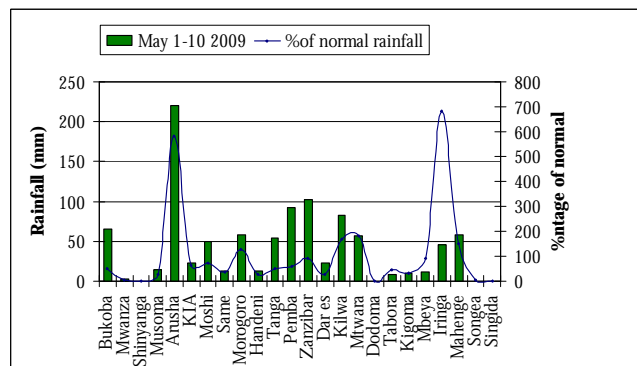
May 1-10, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Soil moisture replenishment over parts of bimodal areas (northeastern highlands) was not good enough for seasonal farming activities.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the period under review (01-10 May, 2009), the northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) continued to relax while the St. Helena and Mascarene anticyclones in the southern hemisphere intensified significantly. A southeasterly flow from the Indian Ocean at various occasions enhanced moisture influx and resulted in some rainfall over coastal areas. Towards the end of the dekad enhanced westerlies converging with the southeasterlies contributed to some showers over the western areas including Rukwa region.



May 1-10, 2009 Rainfall amounts as percentage of normal

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the first dekad of May much of the country recorded rainfall amounts not exceeding 50 mm except over northeastern highlands (Arusha) and Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, and Kilwa in the southern coast. Rainfall in these areas was generally normal (75-125% of normal) except over Arusha and Iringa as indicated in the rainfall Figure. Rainfall amounts exceeding 100 mm were recorded at Arusha 181.8 mm, Lyamungo 113.9 mm, Zanzibar 102.6 mm, and Hombolo 100.7 mm. The remaining stations mostly over unimodal areas (central, southwestern highlands, southern, and southern coast) recorded below 50 mm of rainfall indicating *Msimu* rainfall season has ceased over much of these areas.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

During the first dekad of May soil moisture replenishment was experienced in northeastern highlands although it was not good enough for seasonal farming activities in places such as Ngorongoro area, Monduli and Simanjiro districts which had severe soil moisture stress since the beginning of the season. Over unimodal areas most of field crops were progressing well as many of them have reached maturity stage where harvesting of maize and paddy were carried out as reported specifically from Tabora and Ruvuma (Tunduru) regions. However, soil moisture over most areas of southern coast (Lindi and Mtwara districts) remained inadequate for the delayed and replanted crops (maize and sorghum) to flourish, instead wilted at vegetative stages.

Market supply for cassava over several areas of the country slightly declined, while pastures and water availability for livestock and wildlife was at a satisfactory level in unimodal areas. Pastures and water conditions over most parts of northeastern highlands were very poor.

Hydrometeorological Summary

Prevailing rains have slightly boosted water levels in lakes and dams, and discharges in rivers in their respective catchments.

Environmental Summary

Cold conditions have started to set in over most of the southern highlands whereas cool conditions are prevalent over the coastal belt.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS MAY 11-20, 2009

The current cooling along the coast of Tanzania towards Mozambique Channel and warm Sea Surface temperatures over the eastern Madagascar are likely to persist. This will allow the East African ridge to become stronger over the southern sector of the country extending to central areas. Northern hemisphere anticyclones (Azores and Siberian) are expected to relax while the southern hemisphere anticyclones (St. Helena and Mascarene) will continue to intensify resulting in a northward

shift of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over our northern borders. Low level flow is expected to be southeasterly and occasionally becoming southerly resulting into near normal rainfall over most areas. Moreover, localized convergence over Lake Victoria Basin is expected to allow development of thundershowers.

EXPECTED WEATHER DURING MAY 11-20, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mwanza and Mara) is expected to experience partly cloudy to cloudy conditions with thundershowers over some areas. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal region and the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms especially over the extreme northern coast. Northeastern Highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions with isolated showers. Southwestern highlands are expected to feature partly cloudy conditions with light rains mainly over high grounds. Western areas (Tabora, Kigoma and Northern Rukwa), Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi) and Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and southern parts of Morogoro (Mahenge) and Southern region are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and sunny periods.

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