



TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



DEKADAL WEATHER REVIEW

No. 5, 2009/10 Cropping Season

October 11- 20, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

The rains have just started over north eastern highlands and northern coastal areas; there is expected improvement of soil moisture levels over some areas in the bimodal rainfall regime.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

During the second dekad of October 2009, both Southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) relaxed contributing to the significant weakening of the East African Ridge. The Siberia and Azores high pressure system in the Northern hemisphere intensified. The above configuration contributed to southward shift of the rain making mechanism, the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ).

RAINFALL SUMMARY

During the period under review, central areas, south western highlands and southern areas of the country continued to experience generally dry conditions compared to normal as shown in figure 1. Other areas of the country received some rainfall amounts whereby Amani led with 198.0mm followed by Mlingano 69.3mm, Bukoba 49.5mm, Kizimbani 28.6mm, Tanga 27.8mm, Handeni 24.6mm, Matangatuani 23.6mm, Mwanza 23.0mm and Lyamungo 20.8mm. Other stations that received rainfall recorded amounts of less than 12mm for the period.

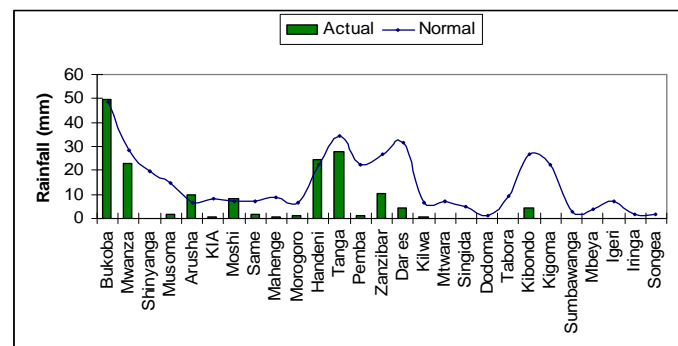


Fig 1: Oct 11-20 Rainfall amounts compared to normal

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Agrometeorological and Crop Summary

There is improvement of soil moisture levels over some areas of bimodal rainfall regime. Farmers are still preparing land for the new cropping season in most of the bimodal rainfall areas. The acute scarcity of pasture and water is decimating livestock and wildlife over much of northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara, and Kilimanjaro regions).

Hydrometeorological Summary

Water levels in rivers, lakes and dams and their respective catchments declined over most areas of the country as the dry season persisted. Water for industrial and domestic purposes should be used sparingly.

Environmental Summary

Night temperatures over most parts of the country are increasing while humidity levels have remained fairly low.

EXPECTED SYNOPTIC SYSTEMS OCTOBER, 21-30, 2009

During the dekad southern hemisphere high pressure systems (St. Helena and Mascarene) are expected to relax, whereas the Azores and Siberian high pressure systems in the Northern hemisphere are expected to intensify thus allowing the ITCZ to continue moving southwards into northern Tanzania. Wind convergence over Lake Victoria Basin and occasionally over the eastern part of the country is expected to allow slight moisture influx over the area. The seasonal wind flow patterns are expected to be a bit more organized and allow rainfall over some areas. Migration of Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) over West Indian Ocean towards Central Indian Ocean is likely to suppress rainfall over northern coast and other parts of the country.

EXPECTED WEATHER FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER, 21-30, 2009

Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions and Kibondo region) is expected to feature cloudy conditions with showers and thunderstorms and sunny intervals. Northern coast and hinterland (Dar es Salaam, northern Morogoro, Tanga, Coastal regions together with the Islands of Unguja and Pemba) the rains have started and are expected to be mainly normal with pockets of above normal. Southern Coast (Mtwara and Lindi regions) are expected to experience generally partly cloudy conditions with occasional showers. Northeastern highlands (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions) the rains have just started will spread gradually over the region and are expected to be mainly normal with few areas of the region likely to receive below normal rainfall during this dekad. Southwestern highlands (Rukwa, Mbeya and Iringa regions) are expected to feature generally dry conditions. However, light rains are expected mainly over high grounds. Western areas (Tabora, Southern Kigoma, and Rukwa regions) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions. However, few areas of Rukwa and Tabora region are expected to experience isolated showers and thunderstorms. Central (Dodoma and Singida regions) and Southern region (Ruvuma region) are expected to feature mainly partly cloudy conditions and long sunny periods.

Prepared by

TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

3rd, 4th & 10th Floors - Ubungo Plaza – Morogoro Road.

P.O. Box 3056 Tel. 255 -(0) 22 – 2460706-8 ; Fax: 255 - (0) 22 – 2460718 E-mail: (1) met@meteo.go.tz (2) agromet1_tz@meteo.go.tz

Dar es Salaam UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA