

## REPORT OF THE SUB NATIONAL CLIMATE CAFÉ HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2019 AT GOLD CREST HOTEL, MWANZA, TANZANIA



*A group photo of the participants of the sub national climate café held at Gold Crest Hotel, Mwanza, Tanzania.*

### **1.0 Introduction**

The Network of Climate Journalists of the Greater Horn of Africa (NECJOGHA) held a sub-national climate café at Gold Crest Hotel, Mwanza in Tanzania on Wednesday, October 23, 2019.

It was attended by 41 participants who were drawn from the different sectors impacted by climate namely agriculture, fisheries and pastoralism. The media and civil society organisations (CSO) as

disseminators of climate information and an official of the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) who are the generators of climate information for Tanzania in general and Mwanza in particular also attended. There were also two lecturers from St. Augustine University, Mwanza.

Tanzania being a port city with fishing as the main economic activity there was good attendance by someone from the fisheries sector and members of the Tanzania Fisheries Union (TAFU).

## **2.0 Presentations**

There were three presentations made at the climate café. The first was by Andrew Kaggwa the café facilitator from the NECJOGHA secretariat on what NECJOGHA stands for and does, what are climate cafes, an explanation of the country WhatsApp Mentoring groups and the website. A second presentation was by Munda Amri a meteorologist from the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) on the seasonal forecast for the October to December (OND) rainfall season, impacts on agriculture and other sectors and advisories. A third presentation was Fredrick Kathulanda of the UKWAMA project on beekeeping and how it is impacted by the climate.

### **2.1. Welcome remarks by NECJOGHA**

This presentation was made by the NECJOGHA, Research, Documentation and Publication Officer, Andrew Kaggwa who was also the facilitator for the café. He started by welcoming the participants to the climate café and he took them through the program for the day.

Later to went through the history of NECJOGHA, its vision, mission and objectives. He said NECJOGHA was started over 15 years ago with the main objective of improving on the dissemination of climate information.

On climate cafes, Kaggwa told the participants that a climate café is a creation of NECJOGHA. He explained that a 'café' is an English word borrowed from French which means a small restaurant selling light meals. He however, explained that in a climate café people don't come to have light meals but have a light though important discussion on climate. He emphasized that what happens in a climate café is not training or a workshop but a conversation around issues to do with climate.

He noted that the relationship between the media and scientists is sometimes not good with each side accusing the other of frustrating it. He noted that the media usually accuses the scientists of not only being hard to approach but using hard terms which are not easily understood. Kaggwa, therefore said climate cafes are a way of creating a rapport between the scientists who generate climate information, the users who are mainly farmers, fishermen and pastoralists as well as the media and civil society who disseminate the climate information

Kaggwa also briefed participants that NECJOGHA had started three WhatsApp groups for each country of East Africa namely Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda which are under the present Weatherwise project which NECJOGHA is implementing now. He said these groups help to develop story ideas and generate stories for the NECJOGHA website [www.necjogha.com](http://www.necjogha.com). He encouraged members to sign to and launch the Kenya group because the Uganda and Tanzania groups are already up and running.

## **2.2 Presentation of the OND seasonal rainfall forecast**

This presentation was made by Amri Munda a meteorologist with the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) in Mwanza region of Tanzania.

### **2.2.1 Unimodal and bimodal rainfall regimes**

Amri started by explaining that Tanzania has two rainfall regimes, namely Bimodal and Unimodal rainfall regimes.

The Bimodal rainfall regimes are two rainfall regimes happening from October to December, and March to May. The areas that experiences bimodal rainfall regimes are Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga, Simiyu regions and Northern part of Kigoma region) , Northeastern Highlands ( Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Moshi and Manyara regions) and Northern Coast (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coastal, Northern Morogoro regions together with Unguja and Pemba Isles).

On the other hand, Amri said that the unimodal rainfall regime is a prolonged rainfall season starting from November to April. The areas that experiences unimodal rainfall regime are Central regions (Singida and Dodoma regions), Western regions (Kigoma, Tabora and Katavi regions), Southwestern highlands regions (Mbeya, Iringa, Njombe, and Rukwa regions), and Southern regions (Mtwara, Lindi, and Songea regions).



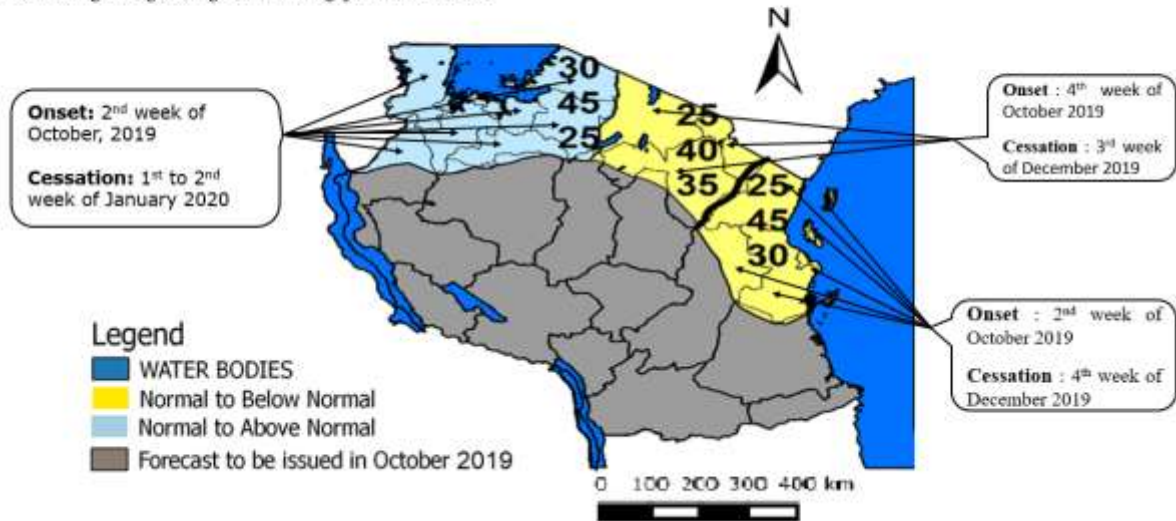
*Amri (left) of TMA makes a presentation on the OND seasonal weather forecast.*

### **2.2.2 OND 2019 Outlook in the Lake Victoria Basin, Tanzania**

Amri told participants that on September 3, 2019, TMA Issued a seasonal outlook for bimodal areas including Lake Victoria Basin. The outlook was as follows;

## VULI (OCTOBER-DECEMBER) 2019 RAINFALL OUTLOOK

During the period of October to December, 2019 normal to above normal rains are expected over Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara and Northern Kigoma regions while normal to below normal rains are expected over Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Pwani, Dar es salaam and northern Morogoro regions together with Unguja and Pemba isles.



### 2.2.2.1 Seasonal forecast for Lake Victoria Basin

On the specific forecast for the Lake Victoria Basin, Amri said that according to the TMA seasonal forecast:

- Rains were expected to start during the second week of October 2019 and are expected to spread to Mwanza, Mara, Geita, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions between the third and fourth week of October 2019.
- The rains are expected to be normal to above normal over most areas.
- These rains are expected to cease between the first and second week of January 2020.

### 2.2.2.2 Likely impacts and advisories for the Lake Victoria basin

Amri concluded his presentation by giving the likely impacts of the seasonal rainfall for OND and the advisories for the different sectors;

- **Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Livestock Production**

Favorable conditions for normal cropping practices as well as sufficient pasture and water for livestock keeping are anticipated.

- **Energy, Water and Minerals**

Sufficient water availability is likely to improve water levels over the dams and rivers. In small-scale mining activities, safety precaution should be observed as excessive water in the soil may trigger landslides and cave-ins.

- **Local Authorities**

Clean water supply and wastewater management infrastructure may be impacted, especially during the time of heavy rains, therefore local authorities as well as the community are advised to clear water drainage systems so as to avoid possible water accumulation due to surface runoff and floods.

- **Health sector**

In areas that are expected to receive excessive rains, occurrences of associated water borne diseases are likely to be pronounced.

- **Disaster Management**

It is advised to set up preparedness and mitigation mechanisms such as close monitoring as the season progresses for timely communication of early warning information, preparedness and contingency planning for floods and hazards triggered by floods.

- **Media**

Recommendation is made to the media to make regular follow-up on weather and climate information and warnings, and disseminate accordingly and appropriately.

### **2.2.3 Reactions to the TMA presentation**

After Amri's presentation of the OND seasonal rainfall forecast, there were several questions and comments from the participants with Amri responding to them.

- i) Maganga James, a journalist from Metro FM asked Amri how TMA gathers information about the weather from all areas of the country.

Response : Amri replied that they use radar to obtain the information.

- ii) Edwin Soko, Chairman of the Mwanza Press Club asked how TMA can extend their capability in getting climate information from other countries.



*Soko (standing) makes a reaction to the TMA presentation.*

Response: TMA uses two global information centres. On dissemination of the information he explained that they use the media as well as make visits to schools and other groups to spread the information on the weather forecasts.

- iii) Nashon Kennedy of Daily News and Habari Leo asked about the relationship between TMA and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)?

Response: Tanzania is a member of WMO and the Director General of TMA, Dr. Agnes Kijazi is the Third Vice President of WMO.

- iv) Yusuph Magasha of Radio Free Africa (RFA): Are we at the same level with other countries in weather forecasting?

Response: Yes TMA is quite excellent and is sometimes benchmarked by other countries on weather forecasting.

- v) Suggestion by Alvera Kashushura Kaganda, a retired Geography teacher and now a farmer: Government should make subjects like Climatology part of the syllabus from primary to secondary school to enable people understand climate information.

## 2.3 Presentation by beekeeper

A presentation was made by Fredrick Kathulanda of the Mwanza Beekeepers Association on the morphology and behavior of bees and how they are impacted by the climate.



*Kathulanda makes his presentation on beekeeping and how climate impacts on the sector.*

### 2.3.1 about the project

Kathulanda started by giving an overview of their beekeeping project. He said they rear bees under the UKWAMA project which is based in Nyamahinza Forest.

#### 2.3.1.1 Reasons for bee keeping

He then gave the reasons for keeping bees which are:

- To provide employment for members of the UKWAMA project.
- To preserve the forest
- To generate income which will be divided between members and the local government.

#### 2.3.1.2 What they do in the project

- Planting of trees such as Mironge to increase darkness in the forest making the best habitat for bees.



- Special gardens for growing flowers to be used to attract bees
- Creation of water sources in the forests to attract bees

### **2.3.1.3 How beekeeping is impacted by climate**

- Bees help in preserving the environment because people who would for instance want to cut trees will fear to come to a forest with bees.
- The trees we mentioned earlier which in the project are meant to make the forests thicker and a better habitat for bees help in the improvement of the microclimate of the area.
- When there are no trees there are no bees, no vegetation, no bees and these are also related to climate.
- In the dry season, the flowers dry up hence affecting the number of bees that's why in project they devised artificial source of water.

### **3.0 Panel discussion**

The two main presentations were followed by a panel of five people representing the media, poultry keeping, civil society organisations (CSOs), agriculture and fisheries. These discussed how climate impacts on their sectors, whether climate information is important for them, how they get climate information,



*The panel with participants representing the different sectors at the Mwanza Climate Café.*

### **3.1 Poultry farming sector**

The presentation for the poultry sector was done by Sadiq Omar, a teacher by profession and a poultry farmer.

Omar said the poultry sector is affected both negatively and positively by climate. He said that during dry season, chicken eat a little feeds and a lot of water hence the cost on feeds comes down. On the other hand, during the rainy season not only are there many poultry diseases but chicken eat a lot to gain warmth and drink little. If its layers during the rainy season the number of eggs drops.

On getting climate information from TMA, Omar said it's hard for many poultry farmers to access this information.

Omar said it's important in poultry keeping to know which kind of diseases spread more during which season.

### **3.2 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) sector**

The panel discussion on behalf of CSOs was led by Adventina Kashalaba of an organization called Tanzania Ambassadors. She said the organization provides entrepreneurial skills to youth, mothers and children.

She explained that CSOs do perform different roles in the society especially where government cannot reach. On a large extent Kashalaba said CSOs consult farmers and pass on information to them like that regarding weather forecasts.

She suggested that CSOs should work hand in hand with TMA offices to make sure that the correct information regarding climate reaches the people especially on when to plant.

She also suggested that there should be regular trainings and climate cafes like what NECJOGHA is doing to make sure non meteorologists like CSO members pass on the right climate information to the users.

Among the challenges, Kashalaba said was the difficulty in accessing climate information by CSOs interacting with the end users.

She also said there was little engagement between meteorologists who are the generators of climate information and the users hence actions like the climate cafes NECJOGHA is carrying out should be encouraged and funded.

### **3.3 Agriculture sector**

Deborah Malaba who is Director of the Media Agribusiness Initiative in Tanzania an organization that deals with farmers discussed for the agriculture sector.

Deborah said there was little flow of climate information from TMA to the farmers and initiatives like what NECJOGHA is doing should be encouraged.

There was also lack of knowledge among the farmers about what kind of seed or crop to plant in certain soil or area depending on the climatic conditions.

She therefore suggested that in climate cafes like the ones NECJOGHA is organizing experts in seeds should be involved to tell farmers what seeds or crops to plant where and in which climatic conditions.

Deborah concluded by saying that climate change is inevitable and education and training is needed to help the farmers carry out their activities.

### **3.4 Fisheries sector**

James Sijaona an official of the Tanzania Fisheries Union (TAFU) discussed for the fisheries sector.

He said that weather and climate affect fishing a lot for instance when winds blow a certain direction it affects the movement of boats. Also during the dry season there is little fish and although there is a lot of fish in the rainy season its dangerous for fishermen to go out fishing as there are many accidents sometimes leading to loss of lives.

Regarding climate information from TMA, Sijaona said most of it is general and not specific hence not helping the fishermen.

He said during the rainy season fishermen get a lot of fish as they are many but government stops them saying they will deplete the fisheries resources which he said is wrong and there is need to amend the law regarding this.

### **3.5 Fisheries sector**

Nashon Kennedy of Daily News and Taifa Leo and he said that the media has a responsibility to pass on the right weather and climate information from the meteorologists to the end users.

He however, noted that the challenge the media faces is that many people are not interested in reading, listening or watching news on weather and climate unless there is a disaster.

He suggested that radios and televisions should have special programs for climate information and address issues of climate change.

He also suggested that the media and other stakeholders should come together under the NECJOGHA umbrella to improve on the dissemination of climate information.

Nashon also said there is a need to improve the relationship between the media and meteorologists and climate cafes are one way of addressing this.

### **4.0 Way forward**

As the climate café was winding up members gave the following suggestions on the way forward:

- Participants to register and join the Tanzania NECJOGHA Mentoring group so as to continue with the climate conversation on a national level. Of all the 41 participants, 31 registered to be added to the mentoring group.
- There should also be an independent Mwanza group to be run under the auspices of NECJOGHA and the Mwanza Press Club to discuss local weather and related problems like flooding.
- There should be regular climate cafes organized by TMA and other stakeholders even when the NECJOGHA project ends.
- There should be regular meetings between the media and other stakeholders to improve on the dissemination of climate information to the end users.
- Environmental officers should work with organisations like TAFU to stop harmful activities around lakes and rivers.
- School clubs should be formed to specifically discuss climate information and use them to disseminate the information to the people in the villages.
- TMA should use phone text messages to disseminate information on weather forecasts to everyone with a phone in the country.