

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

P.BOX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 512299 FAX 517066 E-mail nmsa@telecom.net.et

11-20, August 2004 Volume 14 No. 23

Date of issue: August 24, 2004

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of August, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Meher growing areas favored season's agricultural activities. Nevertheless, most parts of western half of the countries exhibited heavy falls greater than 30 mm. Even some areas experienced heavy fall repeatedly two to three days. Among the reporting stations Adama (31 and 43.3 mm), Senkata (34.5 and 64.4 mm), Shire (32.6 and 32.4 mm), Gelemso (38.6 and 78.3 mm), Nekemte (48.0 and 53.1 mm), Bahir Dar (45.9 and 39.8 mm) and Bullen (33.3, 51.4 and 78.8mm) exhibited heavy falls ranging from 31 - 78.8 mm. As result, some areas reported crop damage and livestock loss.

During the second dekad of August 2004, Meher crops were in a good shape in most parts of Meher growing areas. Nevertheless the observed heavy falls ranging from 30 - 86.5 mm over some areas of western, north-western and north-eastern the parts of the country resulted in land slide, crop damage and livestock loss. For instance Mezezo, Debre Tabor and Enewary reported land slide crop damage and livestock loss. Pursuant to the crop phenological report early season's agricultural activities like sowing and land preparation are still going on in some arias of northeastern, western and northwestern parts of the country. Maize was at tasseling and flowering stages over some areas of western and southern Oromiya (Alge, Aira, Gimbi and Bedelle) including some areas of northern Benishangul Gumuz (Chagni) while at wax ripeness stage in some areas of western (Dembi Dolo). Sorghum was at tillering and shooting stages in some areas of eastern Amhara (Bati), western and eastern Oromiya (Alge, Nedjo, Asosa, Dembi Dolo and Aira) while at tasseling stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Gimbi and eastern Amhara (Kombolcha). Wheat and barley were at early vegetative stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Kachise, Dembi Dolo and Shambu) and eastern Amhara like Wegel Tena. Teff was at emergence and third leaf stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Woliso, Kachise, Bedelle, Shambu and Gimbi) and eastern Amhara like Sirinka while it was at shooting stage eastern Amhara(Majete). Millet was at tillering in some areas of western Oromiya and western Amhara (Nejo and Chagni). Nug was at elongation stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Kachise and Asosa) whereas at flowering stage in some areas of central Oromiya like Woliso. Moreover pulse crops were at flowering and budding stages in some areas of central and northern Oromiya, respectively while at early vegetative stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena). Assosa and Shambu reported slight and sever weed infestation on pulse crops, respectively. Bui reported slight water logging on sorghum crop.

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Gambela, western and central Oromiya, much of Afar, Tigray and Amhara, Much of Benishangul-Gumuz, northern and northwestern SNNPR as well as northern tip of Somali experienced normal to above normal rainfall distribution.

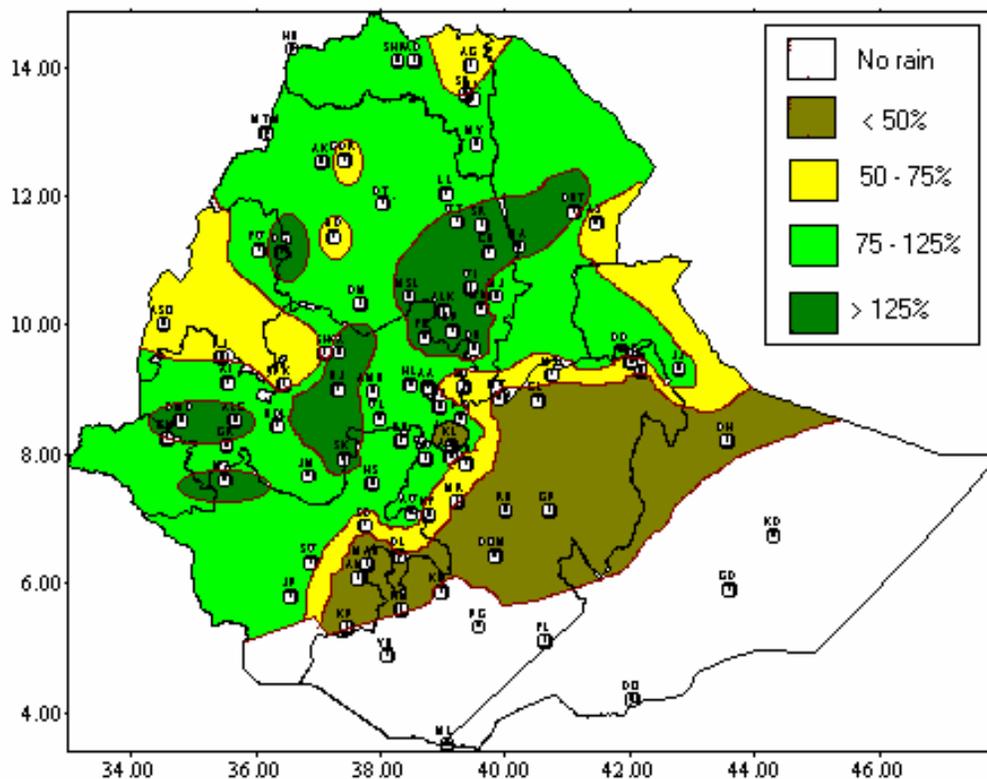


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20, August 2004)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

> 125% ---- Above normal

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

There was no significant temperature anomaly during the dekad under review.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF AUGUST 2004

In the coming dekad below normal rain fall distribution is expected over Afar and its adjoining areas like eastern Tigray and Amhara, eastern Oromiya and northern Somali including southern and western SNNPR while mostly dry weather conditions will prevail over central and southern Somali as well as southern Oromiya. On the contrary, normal rainfall distribution is anticipated over central and western Tigray, central and western Amhara Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, western and central Oromiya, western northern SNNPR with a chance of above normal rainfall at places.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Even though most parts of Meher producing areas of the country received falls in well distributed manner (more than six number of rainy days in the ten days period), significant number of reporting stations received heavy falls ranging from 30 - 86.5 mm. Moreover some stations like Were Ilu, Alge, Chefa, Debre Birhan, Enewary, Pawe and Mezezo reported heavy falls for two to three days. As the result land slide, crop damage and livestock loss has been reported from some stations like Mezezo, Enewary and Debre Tabor. Pursuant to the crop phenological report early season's agricultural activities like sowing and land preparation are still going on in some arias of northeastern, western and northwestern parts of the country. Maize was at tasseling and flowering stages over some areas of western and southern Oromiya (Alge, Aira, Gimbi and Bedelle) including some areas of northern Benishangul Gumuz (Chagni) while at wax ripeness stage in some areas of western (Dembi Dolo). Sorghum was at tillering and shooting stages in some areas of eastern Amhara (Bati), western and eastern Oromiya (Alge, Nedjo, Asosa, Dembi Dolo and Aira) while at tasseling stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Gimbi and eastern Amhara (Kombolcha). Wheat and barley were at early vegetative stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Kachise, Dembi Dolo and Shambu) and eastern Amhara like Wegel Tena. Teff was at emergence and third leaf stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Woliso, Kachise, Bedelle, Shambu and Gimbi) and eastern Amhara like Sirinka while it was at shooting stage eastern Amhara(Majete). Millet was at tillering in some areas of western Oromiya and western Amhara (Nejo and Chagni). Nug was at elongation stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Kachise and Asosa) whereas at flowering stage in some areas of central Oromiya like Woliso. Moreover pulse crops were at flowering and budding stages in some areas of central and northern Oromiya, respectively while at early vegetative stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena). Assosa and Shambu reported slight and sever weed infestation on pulse crops, respectively. Bui reported slight water logging on sorghum crop.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall distribution over central and western Tigray, central and western Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambela, western and central Oromiya including western and northern SNNPR would have great contribution for season's agricultural activities. Nevertheless, the expected above normal rainfall over some areas of the aforementioned areas would result in water logging on crops field found in areas where the soil moisture has already attained saturated level due to the abundant rainfall condition observed during the preceding dekads. The expected excess moisture would also result in crop damage and livestock loss in low lying areas and in areas where the soil type is clay which is not allow the water to percolate easily. Thus, proper drainage systems should be applied in order to mitigate the effect of excess moisture. In addition to this the observed continuous rainfall condition during the preceding dekads together with the anticipated above normal rainfall in some areas of the above mention areas would enhance weeds infestation. Therefore, appropriate control measures should be undertaken on time so as to minimize yield loss due adverse weather condition. On the contrary, the expected below normal rainfall distribution over Afar and its adjoining areas of eastern Tigray and Amhara, including eastern Oromiya, northern Somali and southern SNNPR would negatively affect the water requirement of existing as well as the recently sown crops. Hence, the on going water harvesting practices should be continue over those areas in order to cope with stress situation persisted in the areas. Besides, the erratic rainfall distribution particularly over eastern lowlands including the Rift valley and adjoining areas, which are known as the breeding areas of epidemic pests, would favor the outbreak of those pests. Thus attention and close monitoring should be given for sensitive areas ahead of time to prevent the effect of adverse condition below economic threshold level.