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TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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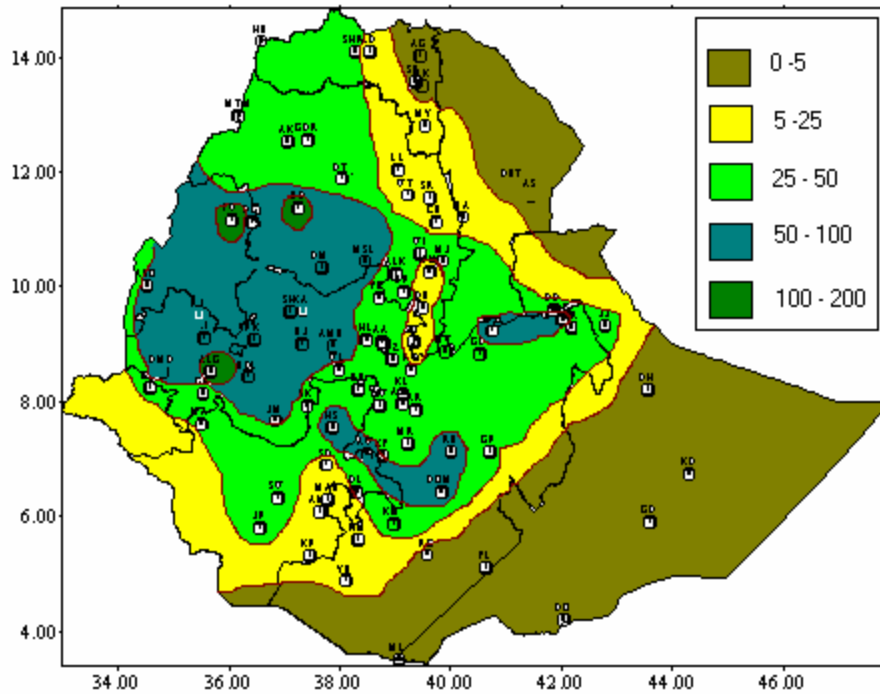
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SUMMARY

During the third dekad of August 2004, Benishangul-Gumuz, western Amhara, western and Oromiya including Arsi and Bale high lands as well as pocket areas of northern Somali experienced normal to above normal rainfall distribution.

During the first dekad of September 2004, Benishangul-Gumuz, much of Oromiya, southern half of Amhara, southern Afar, northern tip of Somali and southern, central and northern SNNPR experienced normal to above normal rainfall. In addition to this, Bahir Dar, Pawe, Alge, Nekemt, Meisso, Ejaji, Enewary, Arsi Negele, Gimbi, Limu Genet and Majete recorded 77.5, 71.8, 47.3, 39.5, 36.5, 35.9, 32.7, 32.6, 32.1, 32 and 31.1mm of heavy fall in one rainy day, respectively. In general the observed heavy falls associated with hailstorm over western Oromiya (Dembi Dolo), eastern SNNPR (Bodit and Shone), eastern Benishangul-Gumuz (Pawe) and western Amhara (Bahir Dar) resulted in crop damage and livestock loss. However, the observed above normal rainfall has indispensable contribution to alleviate the persisted moisture deficit in some areas of eastern Oromiya, eastern and Tigray and Amhara. However, some stations reported slight wilting, disease and weed infestations in some areas. Based on this information maize was at full ripeness stage in eastern Oromiya (Gelemso) while at wax ripening stage in western and central Oromiya, northern SNNPR (Aria, Nejo, Alge, Bedelle, Woliso and Bui). Moreover, it was at flowering and tasseling stage in western and central Oromiya (Gimbi, Sekoru and Zeway) as well as western, eastern and southern Amhara (Chagni, Sirinka and Dangila) while at 9th leaf stage in eastern Amhara (Bati). Sorghum was at flowering stage in western Oromiya (Gimbi) and eastern Amhara (Combolcha), it was at tasseling stage in eastern and central Oromiya (Gelemso and Woliso), northern SNNPR (Bui) and while at shooting stage in western Oromiya (Aira, Nejo and Alge). Wheat was at 3rd leaf stage in western Oromiya (Dembi Dolo and Shambu) and at tillering and shooting stage in central Oromiya (Kachessei, Zeway and Fitche) while near flowering stage in eastern Amhara (Combolcha). Teff was at tasseling stage in western and central Oromiya (Gimbi and Zeway) and southern Amhara (Majete) and at shooting stage in western, eastern central Oromiya (Bedelle, Fithce and Gelemso), western and eastern Amhara (Dangila, Sirinka and Combolcha). Beans and peas were at flowering stage in central Oromiya (Shambu and Fitche) and northeastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) while sowing was underway in northeastern SNNPR (Sodo). In addition to this, oil crops like nug and flax were at early vegetative stage in central Oromiya (Kachessei), western Amhara, eastern and southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Assosa and Bulen).



1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10, September 2004)

Alge, Chagnin, Pawe, Gimbi, Bahir Dar, Ejaji, Nejo, Debre Markos and Kachissei received 162.3, 140.8, 138.3, 110.2, 109.4, 88, 84.6, 83.2 and 82.5 mm of rainfall, respectively.

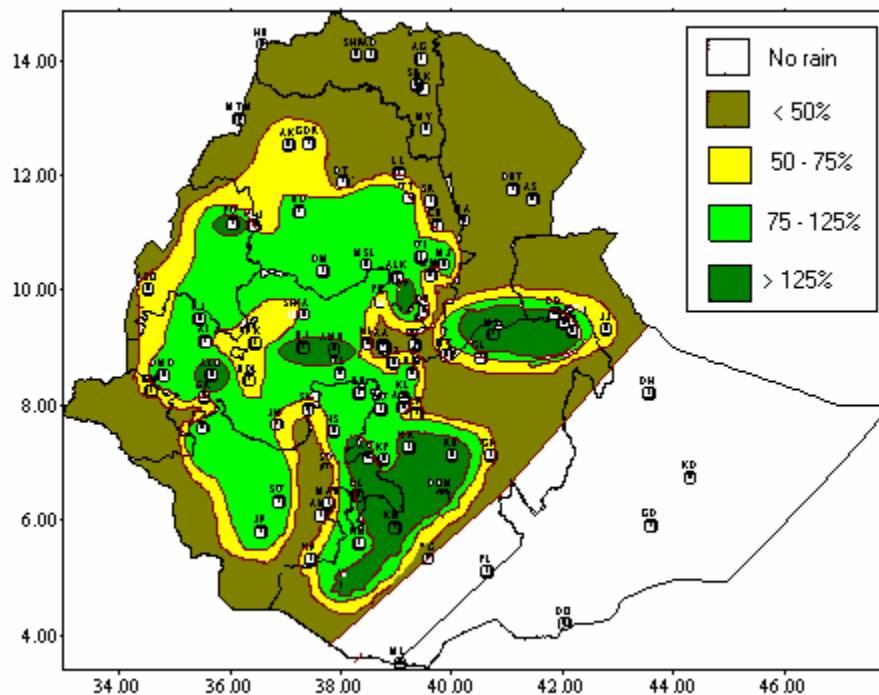


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10, September 2004)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

> 125% ---- Above normal

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Benishangul-Gumuz, much of Oromiya, southern half of Amhara, southern Afar, northern tip of Somali and southern, central and northern SNNPR experienced normal to above normal rainfall.

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

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

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF SEPTEMBER 2004

For the coming dekad the rainfall activities is expected to weaken gradually over various parts of the country. However, southern portions of the country will start getting their seasonal rains.

In general, normal to above normal rains are anticipated over central and western Tigray and Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, central and western Oromiya, Gambela and northern half of SNNPR. Eastern Tigray and Amhara, eastern Oromiya, northern Somali, Dire Dawa and Harai will have below normal rains. On the other hand, southern half of SNNPR, Borena, Bale and Southern portions of Somali will start to get their second seasonal rains. However, it will be below normal over most places and pocket areas will have near normal rains.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed heavy falls associated with hailstorm over western Ormiya (Dembi Dolo), eastern SNNPR (Bodit and Shone), eastern Benishangul-Gumuz (Pawe) and western Amhara resulted in crop damage, livestock and property loss. More over, the observed fall over some of western Oromiya, southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz resulted in the outbreak of pest, disease and weed infestation. However, The observed normal and above normal rainfall gave indispensable contribution to alleviate the persisted moisture deficit in some areas of eastern Oromiya, eastern Tigray and Amhara. Based on this information maize was at full ripeness stage in eastern Oromiya (Gelemso) while at wax ripening stage in western and central Oromiya, northern SNNPR (Aria, Nejo, Alge, Bedelle, Woliso and Bui). Moreover, it was at flowering and tasseling stage in western and central Oromiya (Gimbi, Sekoru and Zeway) as well as western, eastern and southern Amhara (Chagni, Sirinka and Dangila) while at 9th leaf stage in eastern Amhara (Bati). Sorghum was at flowering stage in western Oromiya (Gimbi) and eastern Amhara (Combolcha), it was at tasseling stage in eastern and central Oromiya (Gelemso and Woliso), northern SNNPR (Bui) and while at shooting stage in western Oromiya (Aira, Nejo and Alge). Wheat was at 3rd leaf stage in western Oromiya (Dembi Dolo and Shambu) and at tillering and shooting stage in central Oromiya (Kachessei, Zeway and Fitché) while near flowering stage in eastern Amhara (Combolcha). Teff was at tasseling stage in western and central Oromiya (Gimbi and Zeway) and southern Amhara (Majete) and at shooting stage in western, eastern central Oromiya (Bedelle, Fitché and Gelemso), western and eastern Amhara (Dangila, Sirinka and Combolcha). Beans and peas were at flowering stage in central Oromiya (Shambu and Fitché) and northeastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) while sowing was underway in northeastern SNNPR (Sodo). In addition to this, oil crops like nug and flax were at early vegetative stage in central Oromiya (Kachessei), western Amhara, eastern and southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Assosa and Bulen).

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD

The expected normal rainfall distribution over much of central and western Tigray, central and western Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, central and western Oromiya, Gambela and northern half of SNNPR will have positive impact on crops that are attaining flowering and near flowering stages as well as perennial plants. However, the anticipated heavy falls associated with hailstorms might be generating crop damage, sudden flood and the over flow of rivers towards crop fields over some of the aforementioned low-lying areas. Thus, precaution had better take ahead of the time to minimize such adverse condition. On the other hand, the anticipated below normal rainfall over eastern Tigray, eastern Oromiya, northern Somali, Dire Dawa and Harari will aggravate the persisted moisture deficit on long and short cycle crops, particularly over eastern half of the country. Mean while, the expected below normal rainfall over southern half of SNNPR, Borena, Bale and southern Somali indicates the beginning of second rainy season over those areas, will have significant contributions for the availability of pasture and drinking water.