

**NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY**  
**TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN**  
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**SUMMARY**

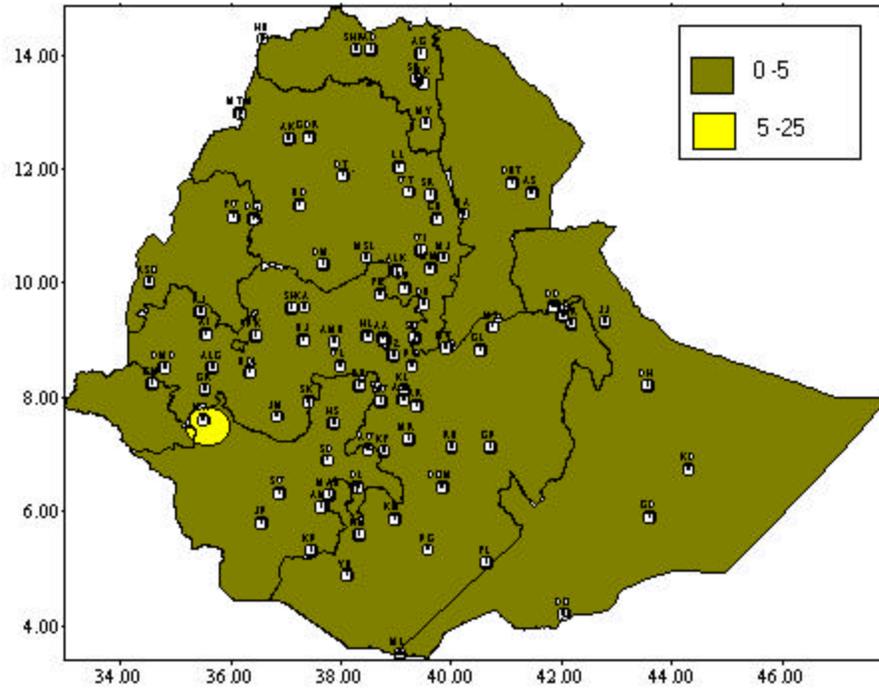
During the third dekad of January 2005, much of SNNPR, parts of southern, central and eastern Oromiya, southern Amhara and parts of northern Somali experienced normal to above normal rainfall distribution. This better rainfall situation, compared to that of the previous dekad have indispensable contribution to field preparation and recently sown Belg crops over southern Tigray and the adjoining Belg growing areas of northeastern Amhara. It also has positive impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water. Regarding air temperature the highlands of southern Tigray (Adigrat) and western Amhara (Dangila) recorded extreme air temperature below 5°C as low as 3.0 and 1.5°C for two to five consecutive days, respectively. Besides, the lowlands of Somali (Gode), western Amhara (Metema) and eastern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush) experienced extreme maximum air temperature above 35°C ranging from 37-38°C for five to nine consecutive days.

During the first dekad of February 2005, with the exception of pocket areas of northwestern SNNPR, the rest portions of the country were under below normal rainfall. This below normal rainfall condition over Belg growing areas like southern Tigray and southeastern Amhara negatively affected field preparation for the coming season's and crop water requirements on the recently sown Belg crops over the above mentioned areas. Regarding air temperature, the highlands of central Oromiya (Debre Zeit, Fitch, and Kulumsa), western Oromiya (Jimma) and eastern Oromiya (Alamaya) and Bale highlands (Robe), southern Amhara (Debre Birhan and Mehal Meda) and northeast Amhara (Wegel Tena), southern Tigray (Adigrat) and northern Somali (Jijiga) as well as Addis Ababa reported extreme air temperature below 5°C for two to five consecutive days. Particularly, Debre Birhan and Alamaya experienced below 0°C as low as -2.4 and -1.0°C, respectively. This situation could have negatively affected the availability of pasture and the normal growth and development of perennial and horticulture plants. Besides, the low lands of Somali (Gode), Afar (Assaita and Dubti), eastern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush) and northern Amhara (Humera) registered extreme air temperature above 35°C for three to ten consecutive days. Among the reporting station Assaita, Dubti, Gode, Metema and Mankush recorded extreme air temperature above 35°C as high as 35.6, 36, 36.8, 39.5 and 40.2°C respectively.

# 1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

## 1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

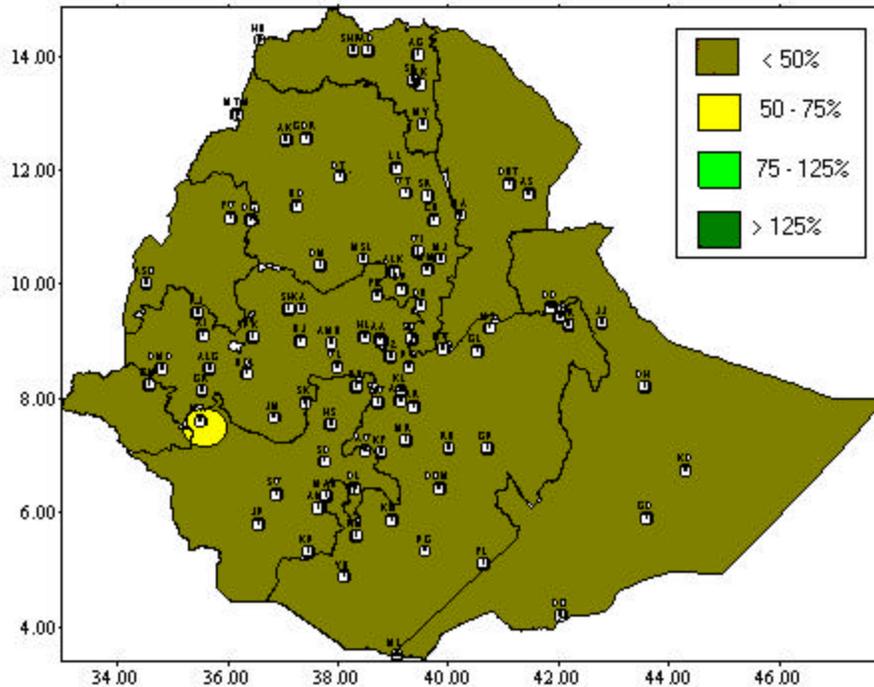
Pocket areas of northwestern SNNPR received falls ranging from 5-25 mm while the rest portions of the country received little or no rainfall.



**Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10, February 2005)**

## 1.1 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

With the exception of pocket areas of northwestern SNNPR, the rest portions of the country were under below normal rainfall.



**Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10, February 2005)**

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 – Much below normal

50—75% – below normal

75—125% --- Normal

> 125% ---- Above normal

## 1.2 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

The highlands of central Oromiya (Debre Zeit, Fitcha, and Kulumsa), western Oromiya (Jimma) and eastern Oromiya (Alamaya) and Bale highlands (Robe), southern Amhara (Debre Birhan and Mehal Meda) and northeast Amhara (Wegel Tena), southern Tigray (Adigrat) and northern Somali (Jijiga) as well as Addis Ababa reported extreme air temperature below 5°C for two to five consecutive days. Particularly, Debre Birhan and Alamaya experienced below 0°C as low as -2.4 and -1.0°C, respectively. Among the reporting station Assaita, Dubti, Gode, Metema and Mankush recorded extreme air temperature above 35°C as high as 35.6, 36, 36.8, 39.5 and 40.2°C respectively.

## **2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF FEBRUARY 2005**

In the coming ten days, eastern Tigray and Amhara as well as the adjoining areas of Afar regions are expected to get near normal rainfall. Besides, SNNPR and its adjoining areas of Gambela and western Oromiya as well as central Oromiya will have a chance of getting below normal rainfall in most places. On the other hand, dry and sunny weather condition will be dominant over central and western parts of Amhara and Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, eastern and southern Oromiya, Somali as well as most parts of Afar, Gambela and western Oromiya.

## **3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

### **3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

The observed below normal rainfall condition over Belg growing areas like southern Tigray and southeastern Amhara negatively affected field preparation for the coming season's and led to moisture stress on the recently sown Belg crops over the above mentioned areas. Regarding air temperature, the highlands of central Oromiya (Debre Zeit, Fitch, and Kulumsa), western Oromiya (Jimma) and eastern Oromiya (Alamaya) and Bale highlands (Robe), southern Amhara (Debre Birhan and Mehal Meda) and northeast Amhara (Wegel Tena), southern Tigray (Adigrat) and northern Somali (Jijiga) as well as Addis Ababa reported extreme air temperature below 5°C for two to five consecutive days. Particularly, Debre Birhan and Alamaya experienced below 0°C as low as -2.4 and -1.0°C, respectively. This situation could have negatively affected the availability of pasture and the normal growth and development of perennials and horticulture plants. Besides, the low lands of Somali (Gode), Afar (Assaita and Dubti), eastern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush) and northern Amhara (Humera) registered extreme air temperature above 35°C for three to ten consecutive days. Among the reporting station Assaita, Dubti, Gode, Metema and Mankush recorded extreme air temperature above 35°C as high as 35.6, 36, 36.8, 39.5 and 40.2°C, respectively.

### **3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD**

Even though the normal onset of Bega is mid February the rainfall conditions during the month of January and first half of February has paramount importance in areas where their Belg agricultural activities start earlier like South Tigray and eastern Amhara. Thus, the prolonged dry spell observed during the first dekad of February could have negative impact over the aforementioned areas.

The anticipated near normal rainfall over eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara and the adjoining areas of Afar would favor the early season's agricultural activities. Therefore, farmers are advised to exploit the expected wet conditions to perform their early season agricultural activities.