

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of April 2005 there was little or no rainfall over most parts of the country. This situation could exacerbate the persisted dry condition observed in most parts of the country during the preceding dekad, thereby negatively affecting the crop water requirements of Belg crops and the normal sowing activities of long cycle crops in areas where sowing activities were under question like Arsi Robe, Kulumsa, Ziway, Kibre Mengist, Robe, Limu Genet, Aman, Tepi, Sekoru, Wenago, Yirga Chefe, Kochere, Bule and Sirinka. Pursuant to the crop phenological report some areas of northern SNNPR (Hosaina), western Oromiya (Alge) and eastern Amhara (Majete) reported medium field condition due to water stress. Maize was at ninth leaf stage in some areas of northern SNNPR and western Oromiya. Sorghum was at third leaf stage in some areas of western Oromiya. Barley and pulse crops were at emergence stage in some areas of eastern Amhara and north-eastern SNNPR, respectively. Potato was at budding stage in some areas of northern SNNPR. With regard to maximum air temperatures, there was a rise in extreme maximum temperature over Assayta, Gode, Metehara, Arba Minch, Dere Dawa and Dubti by 3.9, 4.1, 4.2, 4.9, 6.3 and 6.4°C, respectively during the dekad under review. Thus this condition could increase evapo transpiration in the areas.

During the second dekad of April 2005 the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Belg growing areas including lowlands of southern Oromiya and Somali, Afar and northern Tigray could favour the existing Belg crops and it could also create conducive atmosphere for the sowing activities of maize and sorghum. Besides, it could have significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral areas and could favour sowing activities in agro pastoral areas of south and south-eastern lowlands as well. However, some areas of northern and north-eastern like Adwa and Bati received 46.9 and 32.7 mm of heavy falls respectively; highlands of south Ethiopia like Hosaina recorded 38.1 and lowlands of southern and south-eastern Ethiopia like Negele and Gode exhibited 41.8 and 30 mm of heavy falls in one rainy day, respectively. Thus these conditions indicate that the erratic nature of rainfall in some pocket areas. With regard to air temperature Gode, Methara, Assaita, Pawe, Dubti, Mankush and Metema recorded 38.2, 38.2, 40.0, 40.7, 41.0, 43.0 and 44.0°C extreme maximum air temperatures during the dekad under review. A rise in extreme maximum air temperatures has been observed by 3.6-4.7°C over some lowland areas like Dubti, Awassa, Methara and Asossa.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Parts of eastern SNNPR and some areas of southern Oromiya received falls greater than 100mm. Few areas of eastern Amhara and western Afar, most parts of SNNPR and most parts of southern Oromiya experienced falls ranging from 50 - 100 mm. Most parts of eastern Amhara, most parts of South and few areas of northern Tigray, most parts of southern half of Afar, parts of central and eastern Oromiya, and western margin of SNNPR received 25 - 50 mm of rainfall. Most parts of eastern, parts of central and western Tigray, central Amhara, parts of western and eastern margin of Oromiya, most parts of Gambela, northern half of Afar received 5-25 mm of rainfall. There was little or no rain for the rest of the country.

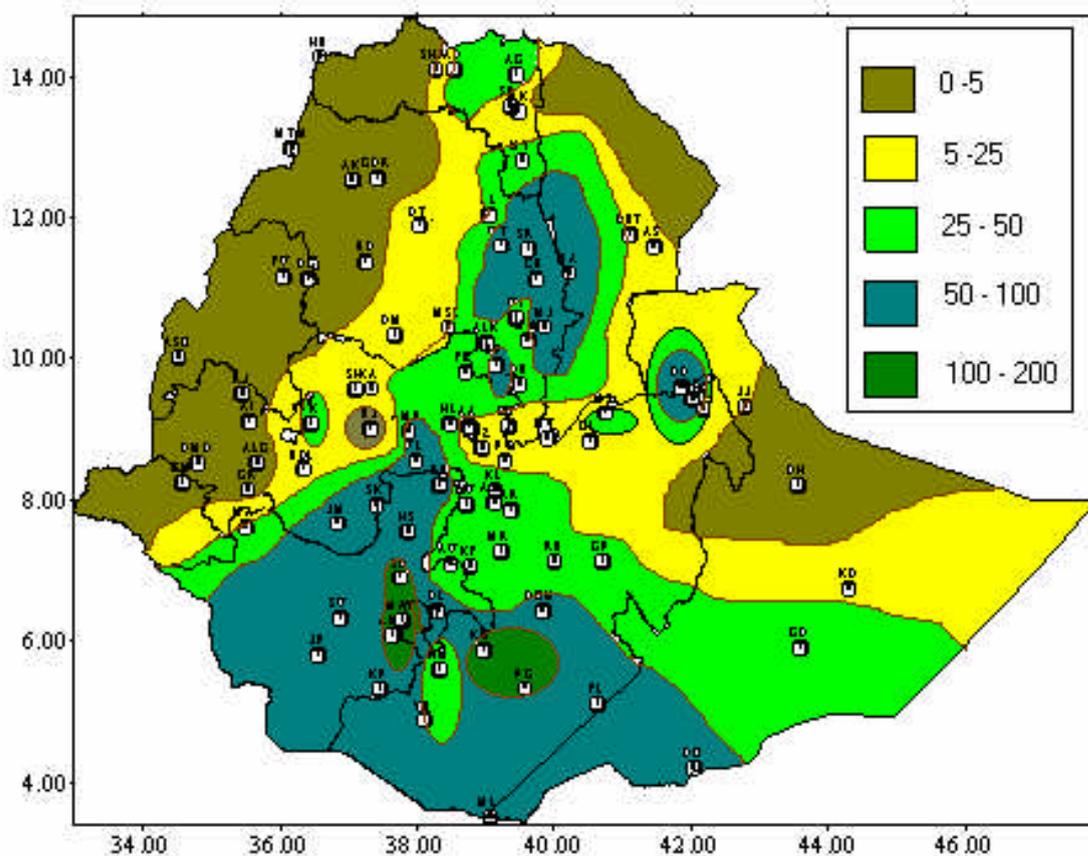


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 April, 2005)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of Belg growing areas including lowlands of southern Oromiya and Somali, Afar and northern Tigray exhibited normal to above normal rainfall.

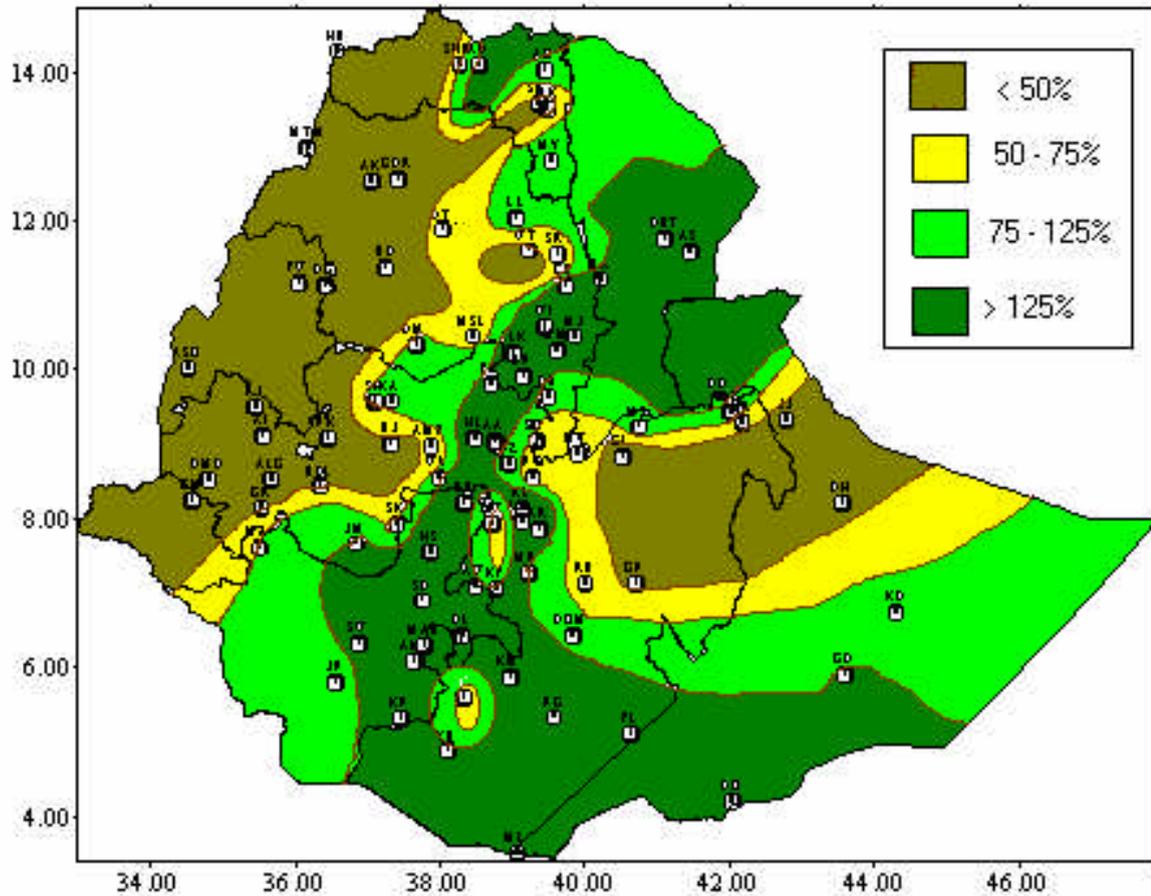


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 April, 2005)

Explanatory notes for the legend:
<50 – Much below normal
50—75% – below normal
75—125% --- Normal
> 125% ---- Above normal

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

A rise in extreme maximum air temperatures has been observed by 3.6-4.7°C over some lowland areas like Dubti, Awassa, Methara and Asossa.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF APRIL 2005

In the coming dekad Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray, Amhara, Gambela, Oromiya, northern portion of SNNPR as well as Somali are anticipated to have normal to above normal rains with a chance of heavy falls at places. Near normal rainfall is expected over Afar, southern half of SNNPR and Borena.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Belg growing areas including lowlands of southern Oromiya and Somali, Afar and northern Tigray could favour the existing Belg crops and it could also create conducive atmosphere for the sowing activities of maize and sorghum. Besides, it could have significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral areas and could favour sowing activities in agro pastoral areas of south and south-eastern lowlands as well. However, some areas of northern and north-eastern like Adwa and Bati received 46.9 and 32.7 mm of heavy falls respectively; highlands of south Ethiopia like Hosaina recorded 38.1 and lowlands of southern and south-eastern Ethiopia like Negele and Gode exhibited 41.8 and 30 mm of heavy falls in one rainy day, respectively. Thus these conditions indicate that the erratic nature of rainfall in some pocket areas. With regard to air temperature Gode, Methara, Assaita, Pawe, Dubti, Mankush and Metema recorded 38.2, 38.2, 40.0, 40.7, 41.0, 43.0 and 44.0°C extreme maximum air temperatures during the dekad under review. A rise in extreme maximum air temperatures has been observed by 3.6-4.7°C over some lowland areas like Dubti, Awassa, Methara and Asossa.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray, Amhara, Gambela, Oromiya, northern SNNPR including Somali would have significant contribution in areas where sowing activity is under question like eastern highlands (Mieso, Gelemso, Jijiga and Alemaya), north-eastern highlands(Alemketema, Majete, Chefa and Bati), central Ethiopia (Nazareth, Cofele, Ziway, Bui, Weliso, Ejaji, Kachise and Meraro), midlands of southern Ethiopia(Kibre Mengist) including agro pastoral areas of Yabelo, Mega and Moyale. Besides, it would favour the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral areas. However the expected heavy falls over pocket areas of the aforementioned areas would have negative impact in low lying areas and near river banks. Therefore, proper precaution should be practiced over sensitive areas ahead of time. The expected near normal rainfall over Afar, southern half of SNNPR and Borena would be helpful for land preparation. Besides, it would have considerable contribution for irrigated farms around Afar areas and it would also be helpful for the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral areas of Afar and Borena. Thus, proper attention should be given to manage the expected moisture judiciously.