

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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1-10, May 2005 Volume 15 No. 13

Date of issue May 12, 2005

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of April 2005 with the exception of parts of central Amhara, parts of Benishangul Gumuz, southern SNNPR and southern Oromiya most parts of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall. As a result it is believed that the situation could favor the existing Belg crops as well as the recently sown long cycle crops like maize and sorghum. Besides it could also favour the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral areas. Nevertheless, due to the erratic nature of rainfall observed in some pocket areas flood damage has been observed in some areas like Jijiga, Arba Minch and Degeh Bur during the third dekad of April. Among the reporting stations Nekemte, Kulumsa, Negelle, Kachsie, Debre Zeit, Elidar, Methara, Awassa, Mirab Abaya, Robe, Kibre Mengist, Addis Ababa, Dolo Mena, Jijiga and Gelemso exhibited 31.5, 34.3, 35.7, 36.8, 37.0, 38.0, 40.7, 42.4, 49.0, 49.6, 50.0, 58.6, 60.7, 61.2 and 90.3 mm of heavy falls, respectively in one rainy day. Concerning the air temperature no significant anomaly of extreme maximum temperature has been observed over the lowlands due to the extended cloud cover over most areas.

During the first dekad of May 2005 normal to above normal rainfall has been observed over most parts of the country. As a result season's agricultural activities were in a good shape over most parts of Belg growing and Meher growing areas as well. Nevertheless some areas of central and southern Ethiopia exhibited heavy falls during the ten days period repeatedly. Thus some areas like Kibre Mengist, Hagere Mariam and Burji reported crop damage and livestock losses due to flood. Besides Arba Minch reported flood damage due to the over flow of rivers. Among the reporting stations Hosina, Konso, Dolo Mena, Negele, Kibre Mengist and Hagre Mariam experienced heavy falls reputedly (for 2-4 days) ranging from 34.9 - 74.2 mm. With regard to air temperature no significant air temperature anomaly has been observed due to the continuous cloud cover which persisted over the lowlands during the dekad under review.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Some mid-land areas of southern Oromiya including parts of eastern SNNPR experienced falls ranging from 200-300 mm. Pocket areas of central Oromiya and northeastern SNNPR received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Central, most parts of southern and parts of western Oromiya including most parts of SNNPR, pocket areas of central and eastern Amhara, Gambela and southwestern Somali received 50- 100 mm of rainfall. South Tigray, most parts of Amhar, Benishangul-Gumuz, and parts of western, central and eastern Oromiya, southern Afar and parts of southwestern Somali experienced 25 - 50 mm of rainfall. Few areas of eastern Tigray, northeastern Amhara and few areas of southern Somali received falls ranging from 5 - 25 mm. There was little or no rainfall for the rest of the country.

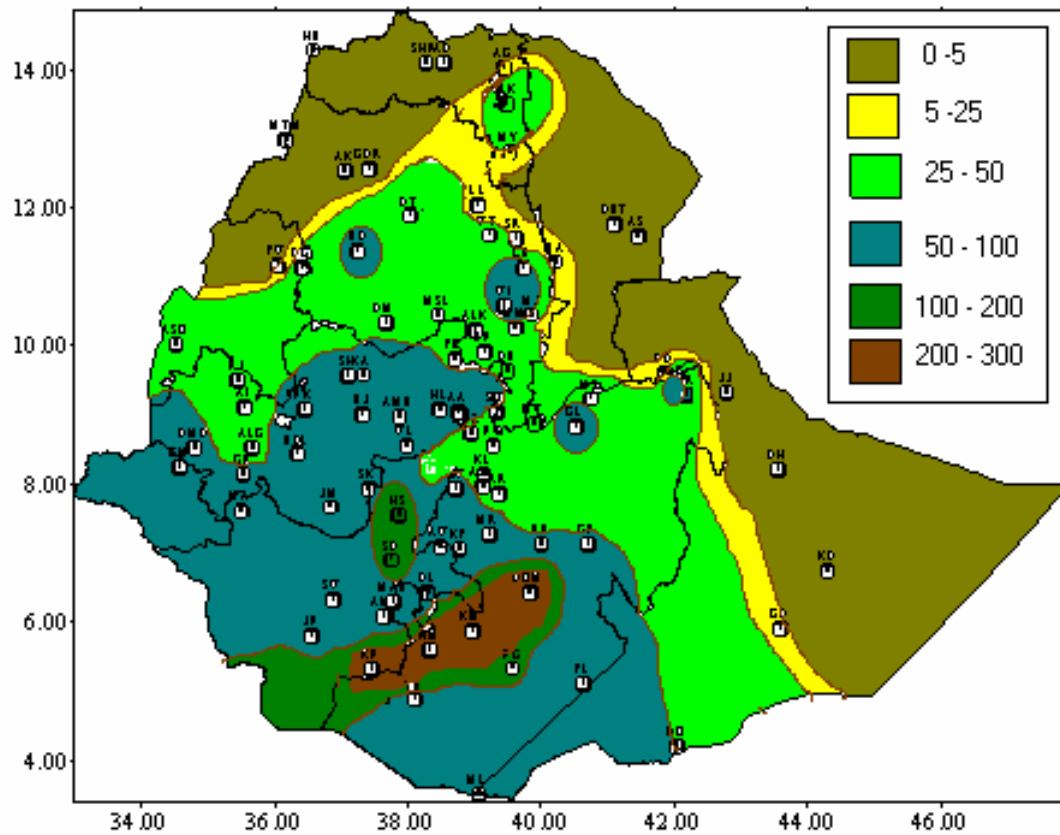


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 May, 2005)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

With the exception of most parts of Tigray, northwestern Amhara, northern Benishangul Gumuz, most parts of Afar and Somali the rest and most parts of the country exhibited normal to above normal rainfall.

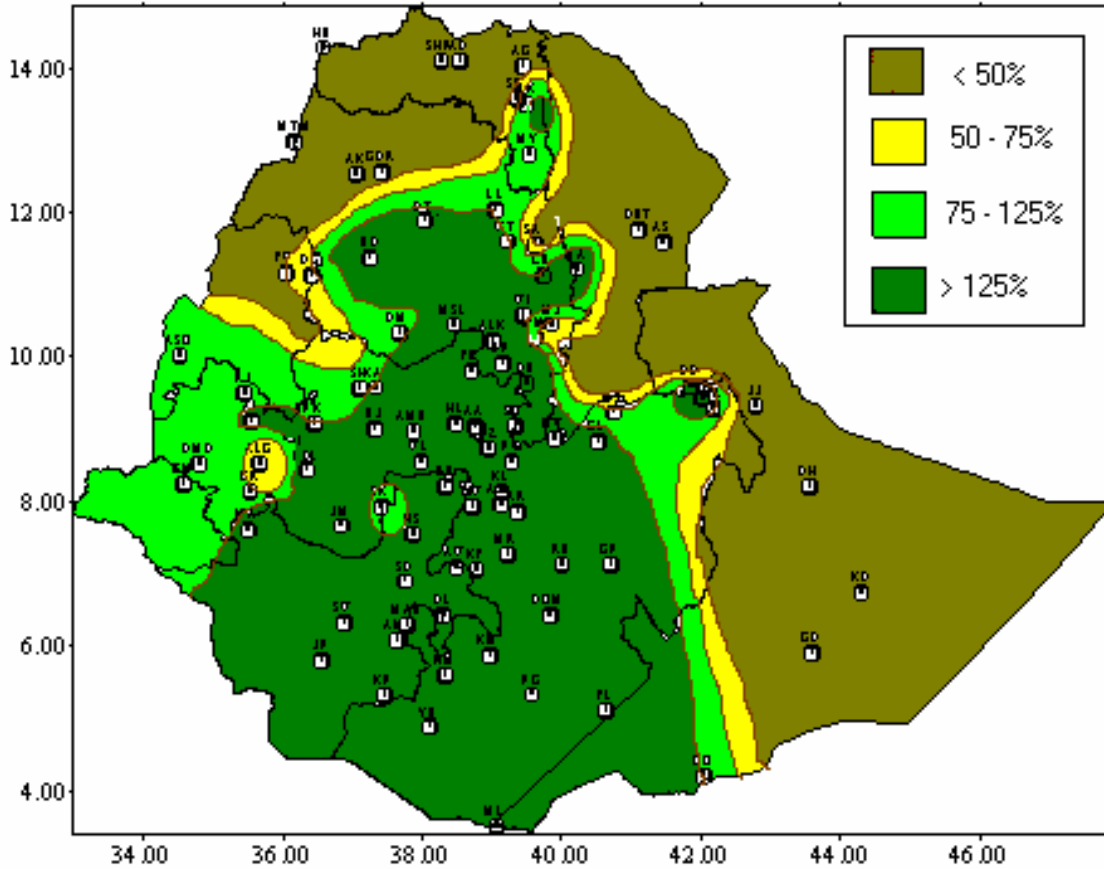


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 May, 2005)

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

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

No significant air temperature anomaly has been observed over the lowlands during the dekad under review.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF MAY 2005

For the coming ten days the rain bearing systems are expected to strengthen relatively over western and southwestern portions of the country. However, they are expected to have a gradual weakening over northeastern Ethiopia. In general, western Tigray and Amhara, western Oromya northern SNNPR, Gambella as well as Bensangul-Gumuz will have normal to above normal rains. Besides, central Ethiopia, eastern Amhara and Tigray, eastern and southern Oromya and Somali region will have near normal rains, however, below normal rains are anticipated over Afar area.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Season's agricultural activities were in a good shape over most parts of Belg growing and Meher growing areas as well due to the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of the country. Nevertheless some areas of central and southern Ethiopia exhibited heavy falls during the ten days period repeatedly. Thus some areas like Kibre Mengist, Hagera Mariam and Burji reported crop damage and livestock losses due to flood. Besides Arba Minch reported flood damage due to the over flow of rivers. Among the reporting stations Hosina, Konso, Dolo Mena, Negele, Kibre Mengist and Hagera Mariam experienced heavy falls reputedly (for 2-4 days) ranging from 34.9 - 74.2 mm. With regard to air temperature no significant air temperature anomaly has been observed due to the continuous cloud cover which persisted over the lowlands during the dekad under review.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over western Tigray and Amhara, eastern Oromya, northern SNNPR, Gambella as well as Bensangul-Gumuz would favour early Meher season's agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities over the areas. Moreover, the expected near normal rainfall over central Ethiopia, eastern Amhara and Tigray, eastern and southern Oromya and Somali region would favour both Belg and Meher agricultural activities over the areas. However, proper precaution should be under taken over the low lying areas and near the river banks in order to minimize the risk due to the expected heavy falls at places.