

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of October 2005 the observed normal to above normal rainfall over western Tigray, most parts of western half of Amhara, northern and eastern Benishangul Gumuz, western and central Oromiya, Gambela and southern Oromiya could favour crops which are at different phenological stages. Besides it could have significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral areas of southern Oromiya. However some pocket areas of western Oromiya and northwestern Amhara exhibited 30-54 mm of heavy rainfall in a rainy day. As a result some areas like Limu Genet reported plant damage due to heavy fall. On the other hand the dry spell observed over eastern Amhara, central Oromiya and northeastern SNNPR could favor harvest and post harvest activities in areas like Amba Mariam, Mehal Meda, Chefa, Were Ilu, Sirinka, Abomsa, Adama, Kulumsa, Kofele, Ziway and Hosaina where harvest and post harvest activities are under question. The observed below normal rainfall over southeastern and southern parts of Ethiopia could have negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water in the areas.

During the second dekad of October 2005 the observed below normal rainfall over most parts of the country could have negative impact particularly in south and southeastern parts of Ethiopia in areas where they are normally suppose to get seasonal rainfall at this time of the year. Besides, the deficient falls could have negative influence on cereal and pulse crops, which are at deferent phonological stags over northeastern (Wegel Tena, Chefa, Kombolcha), southern (Sidama, Gedio, Hadiya, Wolayita, Gamu Gofa, Silte, Sheka and Yirga Chefe) and eastern (Gelemso and Alemaya) to some extent. On the other hand the observed normal to above normal rainfall over northwestern and western Ethiopia could favor crops which were at flowering and early maturity stages. Nevertheless, the observed heavy falls (> 50 mm in a rainy day) in some pocket areas like Pawe, Chagni and Nekemte could affect harvest and post harvest activities. Pursuant to the crop phonological report harvest and post harvest activities has been going on in some areas of central and western parts of Ethiopia. Fore instance harvest of maize and beans was under way in Bedelle and Kulumsa, respectively during the dekad under review. With regard to crop damage due to adverse weather condition, Sambu reported slight hail damage on wheat crop; Dolo Mena and Fiche reported slight insect damage on teff and beans, respectively; Assossa reported slight diseases damage on teff and Nug crops; Limu Genet reported wilting of nug and millet due to water stress.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Western margin of Amhara, most parts of Benishangu-Gumuz, western margin of Oromiya and Gambela received falls greater than 50 mm. Few areas of western Ahrara, southeastern Benishangul Gumuz, western Oromiya, southern and western SNNPR most parts of Gambela and southern mid lands of Oromiya received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Parts of western Amhara, parts of central Oromya, parts of northern half of SNNPR, most parts of eastern and southern Oromiya and most parts of southern Somali received 5 – 25 mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest of the country.

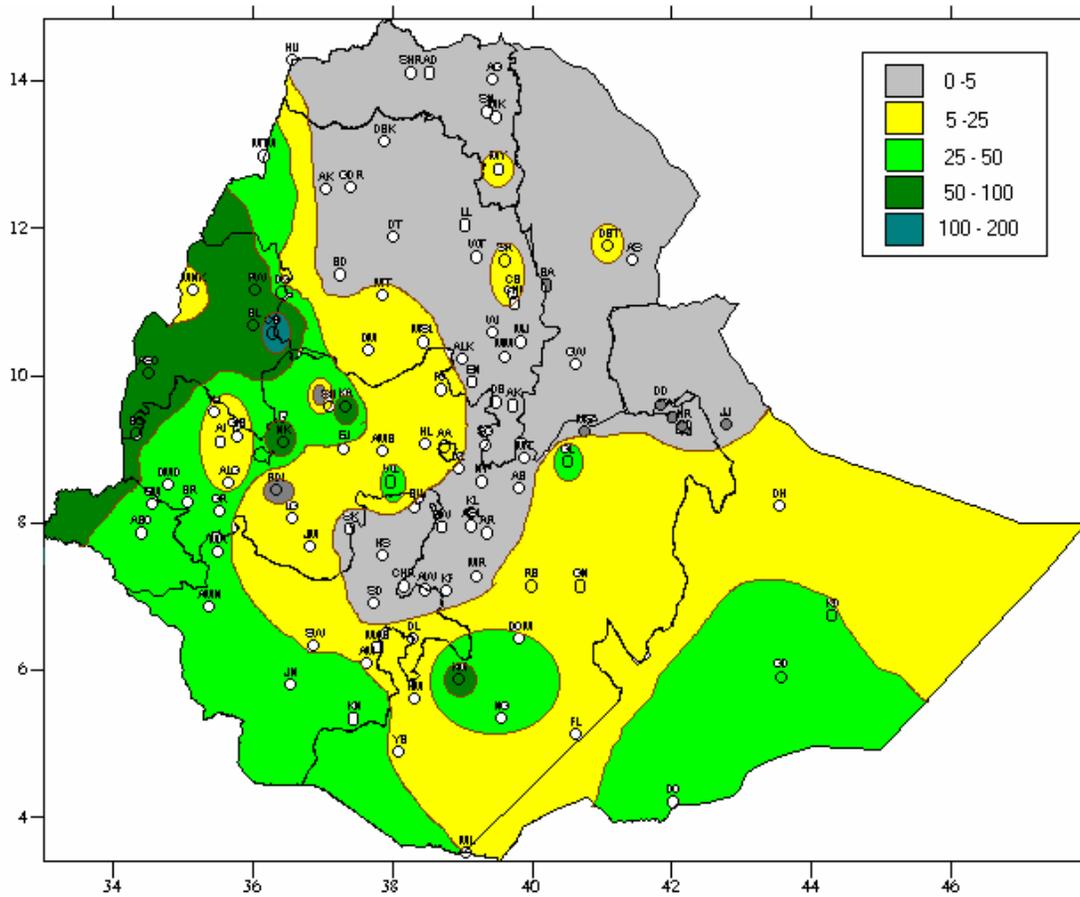


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 October, 2005)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

With the exception of western Amhar, most parts of Benishangul Gumuz, pocket areas of western Oromiya, central and southern SNNPR and few areas of southern Somali the rest of the country exhibited below normal rainfall.

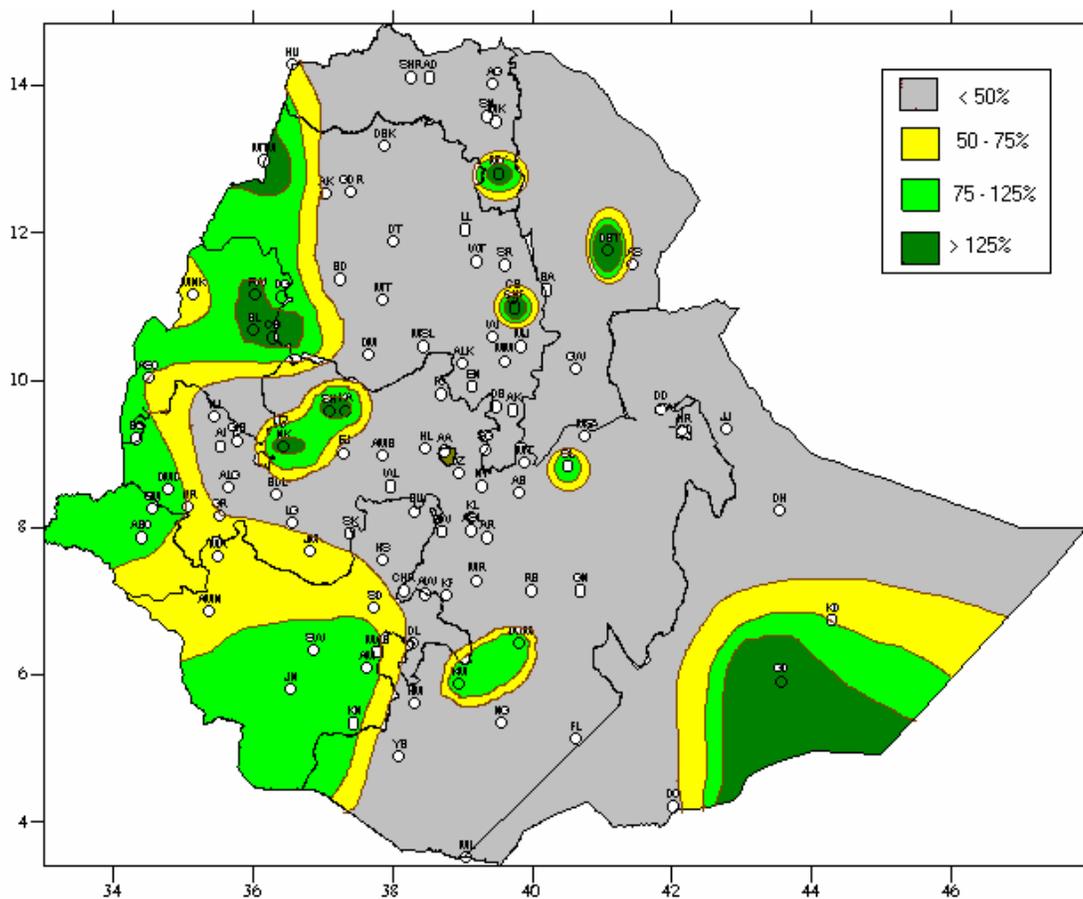


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 October 2005)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

> 125% ---- Above normal

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas of central (Fitcha, Debre Zeit and Mehal Meda), eastern (Alemaya) and north-eastern (Wegel Tena) highlands exhibited extreme minimum temperature less than 5°C

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF OCTOBER 2005

The Bega's dry weather condition is expected to prevail across many portions of the country. However, southwest, south and southeast Ethiopia will have occasional rain showers that is likely full fill near normal patterns over some localities. Besides, few places of western, northern, central and eastern parts of Ethiopia will receive light rain showers. The remaining portion of the country will experience dry weather conditions.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed below normal rainfall during the second dekad of October 2005 over most parts of the country could have negative impact particularly over south and southeastern parts of Ethiopia in areas where they are normally suppose to get seasonal rainfall at this time of the year. Besides, the deficient falls could have negative influence on cereal and pulse crops, which are at deferent phonological stags over northeastern (Wegel Tena, Chefa, Kombolcha), southern (Sidama, Gedio, Hadiya, Wolayita, Gamu Gofa, Silte, Sheka and Yirga Chefe) and eastern (Gelemso and Alemaya) to some extent. On the other hand the observed normal to above normal rainfall over northwestern and western Ethiopia could favor crops which were at flowering and early maturity stages. Nevertheless, the observed heavy falls (> 50 mm in a rainy day) in some pocket areas like Pawe, Chagni and Nekemte could affect harvest and post harvest activities. Pursuant to the crop phonological report harvest and post harvest activities has been going on in some areas of central and western parts of Ethiopia. Fore instance harvest of maize and beans was under way in Bedelle and Kulumsa, respectively during the dekad under review. With regard to crop damage due to adverse weather condition, Shambu reported slight hail damage on wheat crop; Dolo Mena and Fiche reported slight insect damage on teff and beans, respectively; Assossa reported slight diseases damage on teff and nug; Limu Genet reported wilting of nug and millet due to water stress. Maize was at emergence stage in some midland areas of Oromiya like Dolo Mena while at flowering and tasseling stages in some areas of western Amhara (Dangila). It was at full ripeness stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Chefa), western Amhara (Chagni) and western Welega (Nedjo, Aira and Dembi Dolo). Sorghum was at flowering stage in western Oromiya (Nedjo, Gimbi, Aira, Dembi Dolo and Alge), southwestern Benishangul-Gumz (Assossa), southern midlands of Oromiya (Chira) and eastern. Wheat at emergence in some areas western Oromiya (Shambu) and midlands of Oromiya (Kibre Mengist) while at shooting stage in eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) and reproductive (earing and flowering stages) stage over western Oromiya (Gimbi and Dembi Dolo), northeastern SNNPR (Hossaina) and eastern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). It was at ripeness stage over northern Oromiya (Fiche). Teff was at late vegetative stage in midlands of Oromiya (Kibre Mengist and Dolo Mena) and eastern Benishangul Gumuz (Bullen) while at tasseling and flowering stages over some areas of Amhara like Chefa and Dangila, some areas of Oromiya like Kachisse, Chira, Gelemso and Fiche and Benishangul Gumuz like Assossa. It was at ripeness stage in some areas of eastern Amhara like Sirinka and Majete and western Oromiya like Bedelle. Beans and peas were at flowering stage in some areas of eastern Amhara like Wegel Tena and western Oromiya like Shambu while beans were at ripeness stage in some areas of northern Oromiya like Fitch and southeastern Amhara like Shola Gebeya. Millet was at tasseling and flowering stages in western Oromiya like Nedjo, Aira and Limu Genet and over western Anhara like Chagni. Nug was at flowering stage in some areas of Benishangul Gumuz like Bullen and Assossa and western Oromiya like Limu Genet.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The expected normal rainfall over some areas of southern half of Somali, southwestern Oromiya, southern parts of SNNPR and Gambela would ease the deficient moisture condition persisted over southern and parts of southeastern lowlands of Ethiopia during the preceding ten days. On the other hand the expected deficient fall in some areas of the above mentioned areas would affect the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Thus attention should be given for those areas and water-harvesting techniques should be strengthened in order to exploit the expected limited available moisture condition over the areas. The anticipated near normal rainfall over few areas of Benishangul Gumuz and western Amhar including the expected little shower over central, northeastern and eastern parts of the country would have some contribution for crops which are not attaining their maturity. However, little moisture together with warm condition would create favorable condition for the outbreak of pest and disease. Therefore the concerned personnel should take proper precaution ahead of time to take appropriate control measures. The dry and windy Bega weather situation would create favorable condition for the outbreak and spread of fire. Hence, proper precaution should be needed at the time of using fire near the dried crops, which are ready to harvest, and around the barn. The expected occasional falls would result in crop damage and post harvest losses. Therefore, proper action should be taken in areas where harvest and post harvest activities are under question.