

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the third dekad of November 2005 most parts of the country exhibited dry and sunny Bega's weather condition. As a result harvest and post harvest activities were going on effectively in most parts of Meher growing areas of the country. With regard to air temperature most parts of the central like Addis Ababa (Bole), Debre Zeit, Bui, Debre Birhan and Fitcha; northeastern Ethiopia like Kombolcha, Amba Mariam, Chefa, Enewary, Mehal Meda and Wegel Tena; northern like Adigrat, Sinkata and Mychew; northwestern like Dangila, Debre Tabor and Mota including eastern highlands like Alemaya and Jijiga experienced extreme minimum temperature less than 5°C. Some areas like Adigrat, Alemaya, Amba Mariam, Dangila and Debre Birhan recorded extreme minimum temperature less than 5°C for 6-10 consecutive days. Besides, some areas like Debre Birhan and Alemaya recorded -2.6 and -3.5°C extreme minimum temperature respectively. Thus this condition could affect crops that are at early maturing stages there by negatively affecting the seed quality. It could also have negative impact on the normal growth and development of perennial crops.

During the first dekad of December 2005 the observed dry Bega weather condition over most parts of the country could have significant contribution on the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities. Pursuant to the crop phenological report harvest and post harvest activities were under way in most parts of Meher growing areas. On the other hand Cereals and oil crops were still in the field with different phenological stages like flowering earing, tasseling and early maturing stages in some areas like western Amhara (Chagni), midlands of southern Oromiya (Kibre Mengist), western and central Oromiya (Nedjo, Shambu, Aira and Kachice). With regard to air temperature, some areas of central like Addis Ababa, Debre Zeit, Bui, Fitcha, Kulumsa and Mehal Meda), western like Jimma, and Nedgo, northeastern like Kombolcha, northern like Adigrat and Michew as well as northwestern like Dangila, Mota and Debre Markos experienced extreme minimum temperature below 5°C. Moreover, Debre Brehan and Alemaya exhibited minimum temperature below 0°C lowering up to -2°C. Thus this condition could have negative impact on perennial crops and on crops, which were at early maturing stage as well.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

With the exception of few pocket areas of western and central Oromiya there was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

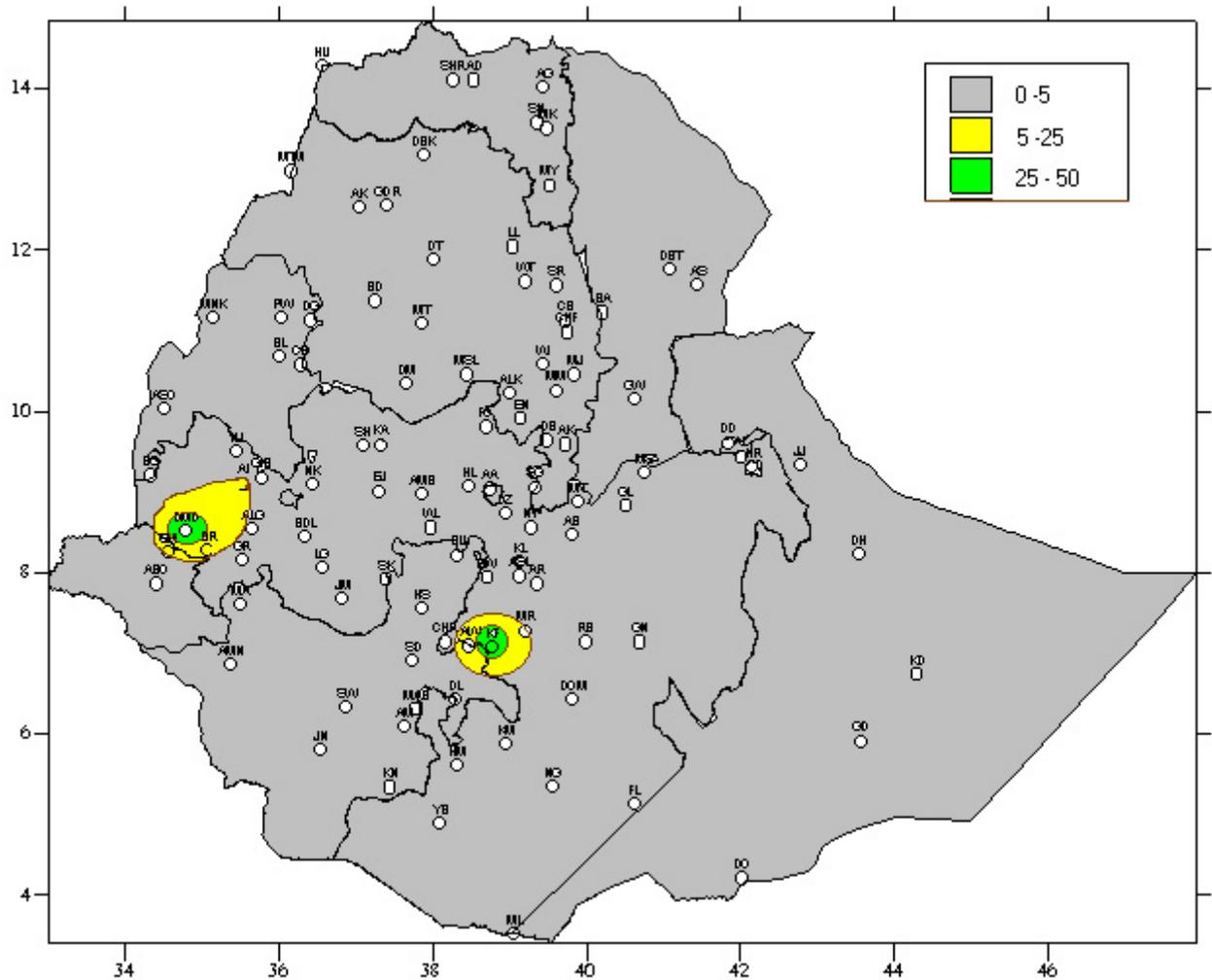


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1 – 10 December 2005)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Pocket areas of western and southern Ethiopia experienced normal to above normal rainfall distribution. Below to much below normal rainfall has been observed over most parts of the country.

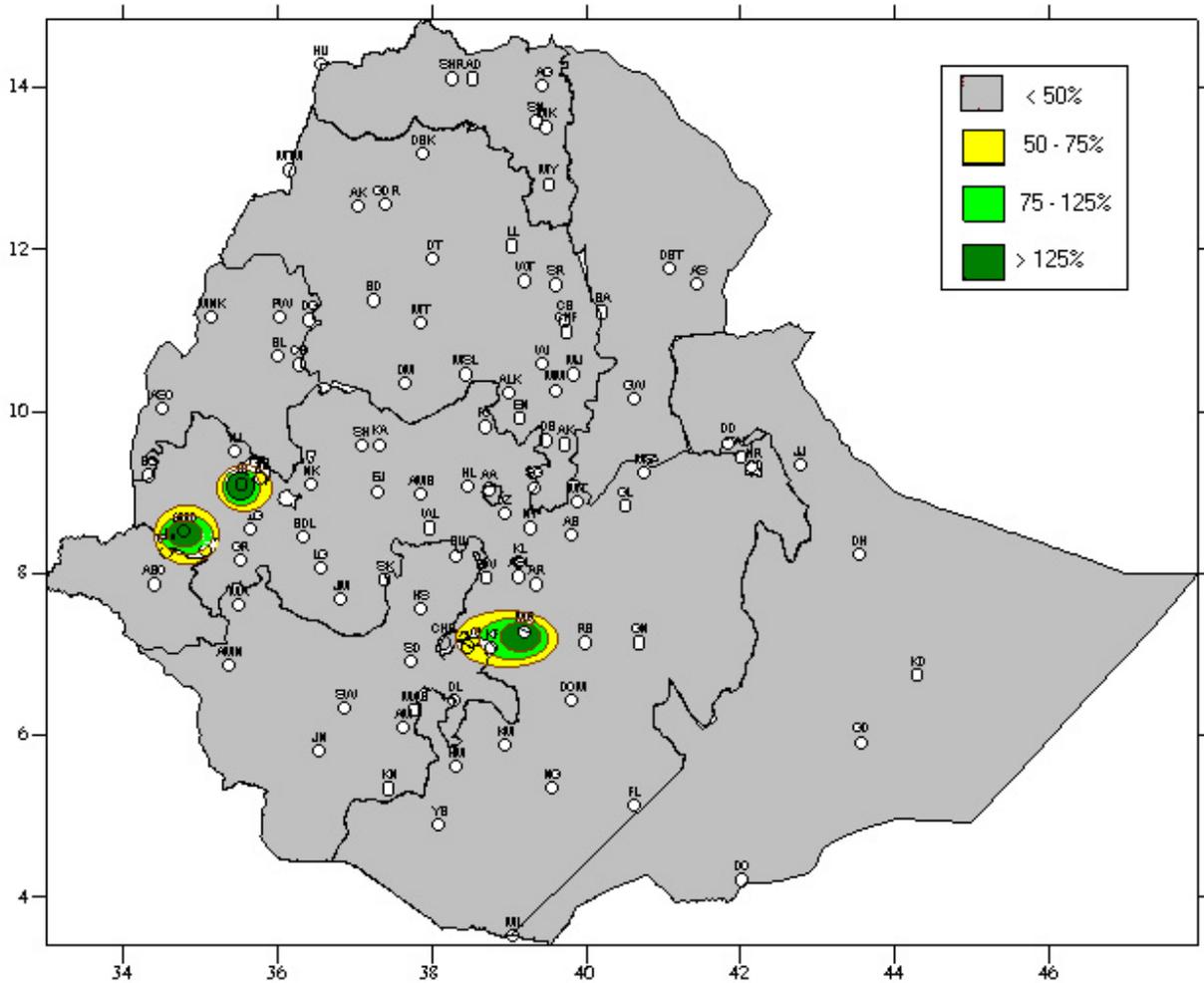


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1 – 10 December 2005)

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

1.2 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas of central (Addis Ababa, Debrezeit, Bui, Fitcha, Kulumsa and Mehal Meda), western (Jimma and Nedgo), northeastern (Kombolcha), northern (Adigrat and Michew) as well as northwestern (Dangla, Mota and Debremarkos) experienced minimum temperature below 5⁰C. Moreover, Debrebrehan and Alemaya exhibited minimum temperature below 0⁰C lowering up to -2⁰C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF DECEMBER 2005

For the coming ten day's the Beg's dry and windy condition are expected to dominate much portion of the country. As a result various parts of the country will experience chilly weather conditions especially during nighttime and early mornings. However, with the presence of relative moist air there will be increase in cloud coverage across southwestern and southern region, few areas of western and southern Oromya, SNNPR and Gambella will get light rain showers.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed dry Bega weather condition over most parts of the country could have significant contribution on the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities. Pursuant to the crop phonological report harvest and post harvest activities were under way in most parts of Meher growing areas. On the other hand cereals and oil crops were still in the field with different phonological stages like flowering earing, tasseling and early maturing stages in some areas like western Amhara (Chagni), midlands of southern Oromiya (Kibre Mengist), western and central Oromiya (Nedjo, Shambu, Aira and Kachice). With regard to air temperature, some areas of central like Addis Ababa, Debre Zeit, Bui, Fitcha, Kulumsa and Mehal Meda, western like Jimma, and Nedgo, northeastern like Kombolcha, northern like Adigrat and Michew as well as northwestern like Dangla, Mota and Debre Markos experienced extreme minimum temperature below 5°C . Moreover, Debre Brehan and Alemaya exhibited minimum temperature below 0°C lowering up to -2°C . Thus this condition could have negative impact on perennial crops and on crops, which were at early maturing stage as well.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated dry Bega weather condition over Tigrai, Amhara, and Benshangul – Gumuz much of Oromya, western parts of SNNPR and Somali may have positive influence for the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities. However, the expected extreme minimum temperature would have negative impacts on some perennial crops like coffee, chat, inset, vegetables and fruit crops including bush trees. Thus proper protection measures should be under taken judiciously in order to avoid unnecessary risks.