

# NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

## TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

P.B.OX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 00251-11-6615779 FAX 00251-11-6625292 E-mail nmsa@ethionet.et

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### SUMMARY

During the first dekad of March 2006, there was shortage of moisture over most parts of Belg growing areas of the country, while central Tigray, northeastern SNNPR and parts of southeastern Oromya received normal to above normal rainfall. The observed moisture particularly over central Tigray could ease the dry situation that persisted during the preceding dekads. Besides it could have a positive impact for land preparation for long cycle crops like maize Sorghum and millet. Moreover the observed better moisture condition over some areas of southern Oromya could minimize the stress condition due to shortage of moisture together with high temperature to some extent. With regard to extreme maximum temperature Meiso, Dire Dawa, Methera, Semera, LimuGenet, Assayta, Gode, Dubti, Mankush, Metema and Gambela recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.2 - 42.3<sup>0</sup>C.

During the second dekad of March the observed above normal rainfall over most parts of the country could favor land preparation for long cycle crops, which are considered as Meher crops, and their contribution is about 35% of the total Meher production. Besides, it could help to start sowing activity of the above-mentioned crops in some pocket areas. However, some areas like Sodo, Sawula, Debre Ziet, Combolcha, Gelemso, Negelle, Nazret, Abomsa and Jinka exhibited heavy falls ranging from 32-53 mm which indicates that there was erratic rainfall distribution in some areas in terms of crop water requirement. Generally most parts of the country received falls in 5-7 rainy days, which can create suitable condition for crops in terms of their water requirements. Moreover the observed wet condition could favor the availability of pasture and drinking water in the lowlands of pastoral areas and also create favorable condition to perform land preparation in agro pastoral areas. Among the reporting stations, Sodo, Chira, Sawla, Debre Zeit, Combolcha, Gelemso, Negelle, Nazareth, Abomsa and Jinka received heavy rainfall 30.1,32.0,32.3,35.8,38.5,44.0,45.0, 47.0,53.0 and 54.2 in one rainy days respectively. With regard to extreme maximum temperature Metema, Pawe, Assayta Gode and Semera reported extreme maximum air temperature as high as 42.0,39.5,39.0,38.7,and 38.5<sup>0</sup>C respectively.

# 1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

## 1.1 March 11-20, 2006

### 1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Pocket areas of eastern Oromya and southern SNNPR received rainfall amount above 100mm. Pocket areas of southern Amhara, southern Oromya, northern Somali, some areas of western, central and eastern Oromya and SNNPR experienced rainfall amount 50-100mm. Pocket areas of northern Tigray, most parts south eastern Amhara, some areas of central, southern and eastern Oromya experienced rainfall amount 25-50mm, few areas of eastern Tigray western Amhara, western, eastern and south eastern Oromya received rainfall amount 5-25mm. There was little or no rain for the rest of the country.

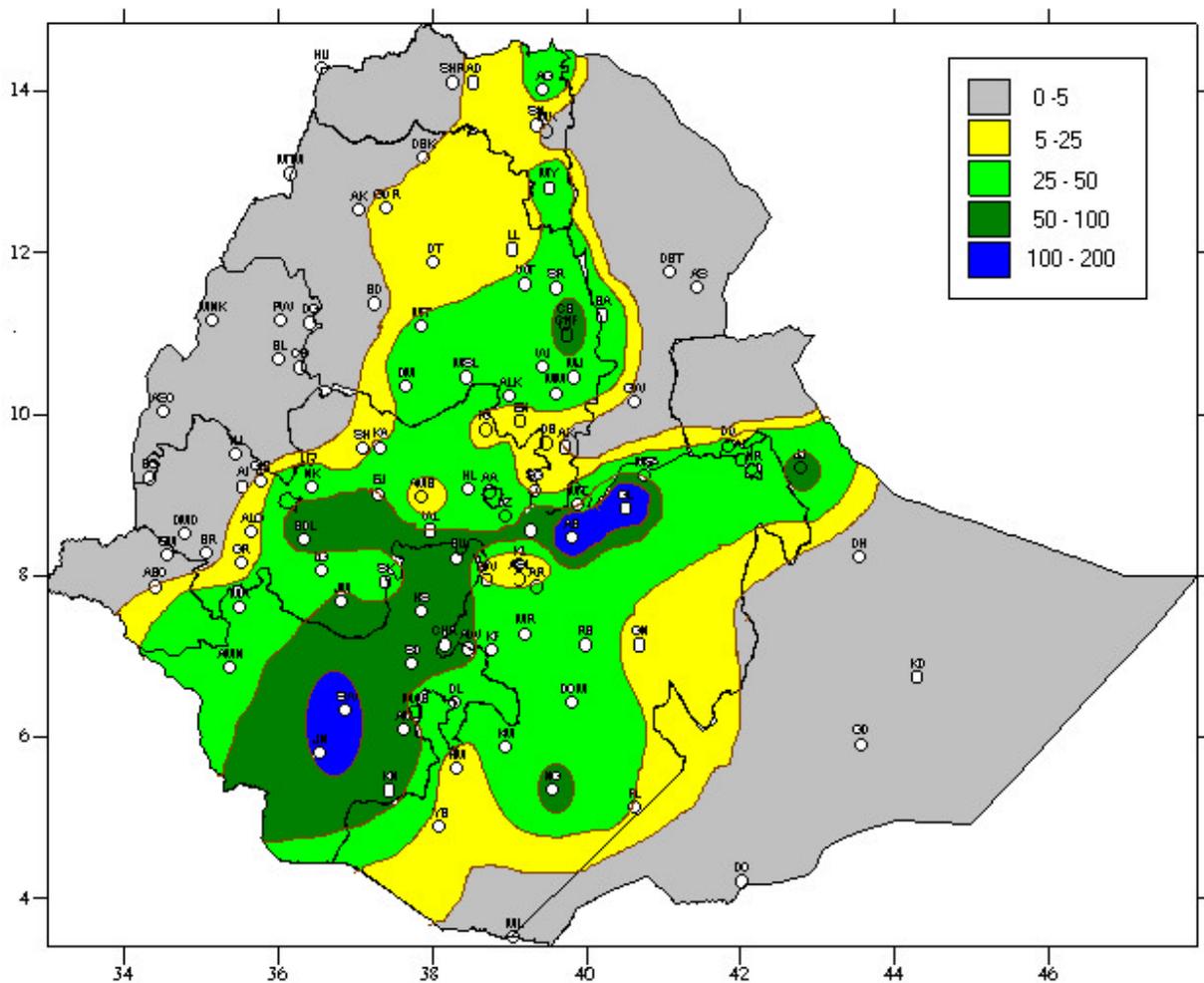
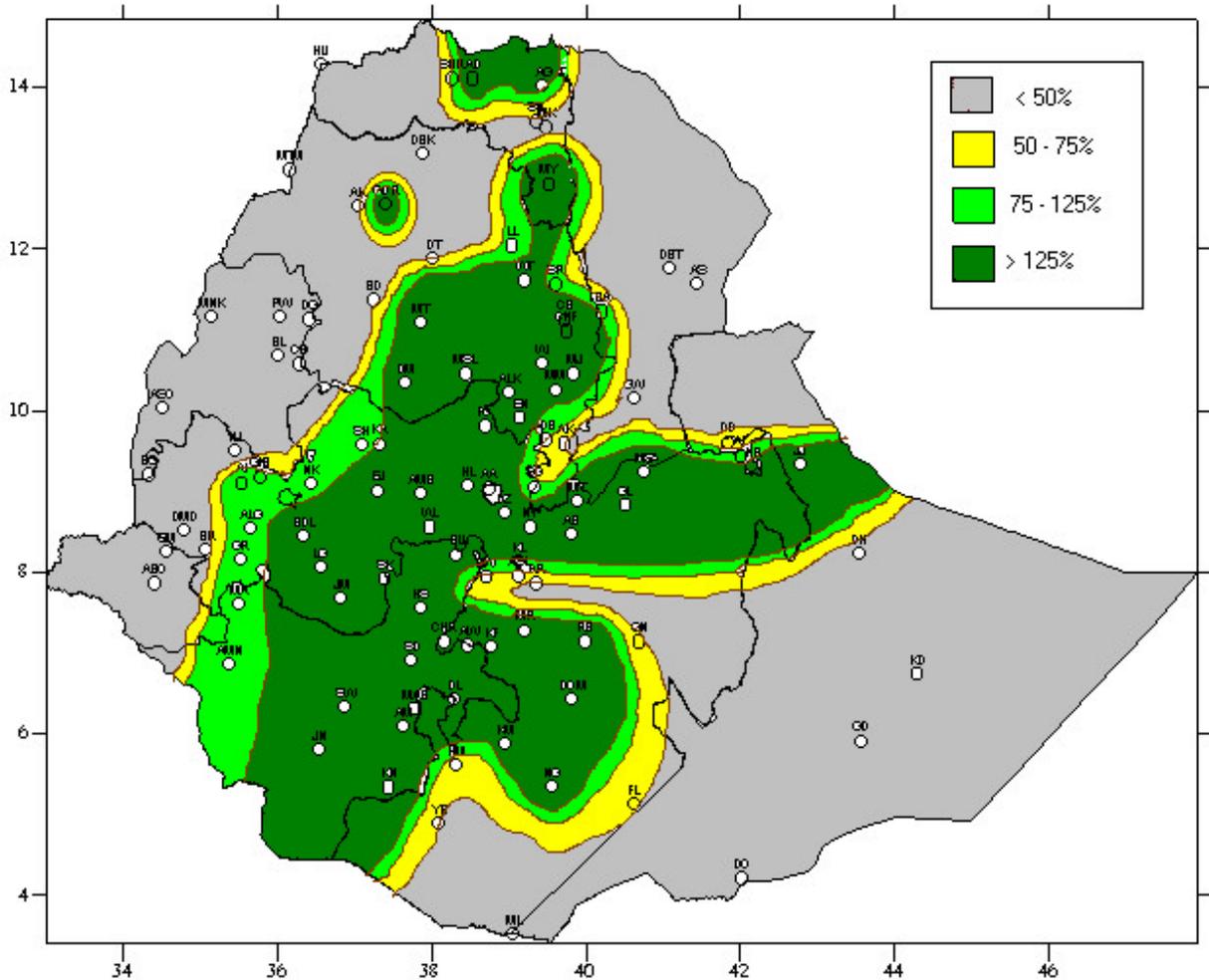


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20, March 2006)

### 1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Normal to above normal rainfall distribution was experienced over few areas of northern Tigray, some areas of eastern and most parts of southeastern Amhara, some areas of central, eastern, southeastern Oromya and SNNPR. The rest parts of the country exhibited below to much below normal rainfall distribution.



**Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 March, 2006)**

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

### 1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas of northeastern Amhara (Metema) Afar (Assayta and Semera) western Oromya (Begi), Somali (Gode), central Oromya (Methara) and Benhangul-Gumuz (Pawe) exhibited extreme maximum temperature ranging from 38.5 - 42.0<sup>0</sup>C.

## **2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF MARCH 2006**

For the coming ten days the Belg rain-producing system are expected to strengthen over northeastern, central, eastern and southern parts of the country. In general, central and eastern Oromya, eastern Tigray and Amhara, southern Afar, DireDawa, Harari, central Somali, southern Oromya as well as SNNPR regions are likely to get normal to above normal rainfall. Moreover, western Oromya and adjoining areas of Gambella, Bensahngul-Gumuz and southern Amhara some places will have close to normal rainfall, whereas, southern half of Somali is expected to receive light rain showers at places. However, it will have less probability of getting normal rainfall.

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

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

The observed above normal rainfall over most parts of the country could favor land preparation for long cycle crops, which are considered as Meher crops, and their contribution is about 35% of the total Meher production. Besides, it could help to start sowing activity of the above-mentioned crops in some pocket areas. However, some areas like Sodo, Sawula, Debre Ziet, Combolcha, Gelemso, Negelle, Nazret, Abomsa and Jinka exhibited heavy falls ranging from 32-53 mm which indicates that there was erratic rainfall distribution in some areas in terms of crop water requirement. Generally most parts of the country received falls in 5-7 rainy days, which can create suitable condition for crops in terms of their water requirements. Moreover the observed wet condition could favor the availability of pasture and drinking water in the lowlands of pastoral areas and also create favorable condition to perform land preparation in agro pastoral areas.

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

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over most Belg rain benefiting areas would favor season's agricultural activities. Besides, it would favor land preparation and sowing activities in areas where the activities are under question like Ziway, Bui, Weliso, Meiso, Gelemso, Jijiga, Alemaya, Alem Ketema, Majete, Chefa, Bati, Nazerate and Meraro. The expected near normal rainfall over western Oromiya and adjoining areas of Gambela, Benishangul Gumuz and southern Amhara would favor land preparation mainly. On the other hand the expected below normal rainfall with light rain showers over some areas of Somali would have negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water. Thus, the concerned personnel should give proper attention to exploit the expected limited moisture.