

# NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

## TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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### SUMMARY

During the third decade of September 2006, with the exception the observed below normal rainfall condition over eastern and some parts of central Tigray, Gambela, most part of SNNPR, south western Oromia including northern and southeastern Oromia, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over the rest season's rainfall benefiting areas of the country could have a positive contribution for crops which are found at different phenological stages and crops which were recently sown over some areas. Besides it could favor the availability of pasture and drinking water in some areas of southern half of Oromia and southwestern Somali. Nevertheless, some pocket areas of northwestern, western and southern part of Ethiopia received heavy falls ranging from 30-64mm. Thus, this condition could have a negative impact in areas like Gimbi where the crops are ready for harvest. In general with the exception of few areas like Assossa, Shambu and Wegel Tena and Anba Mariam areas that suffered from excess moisture condition crops were in a good shape in most parts of the country.

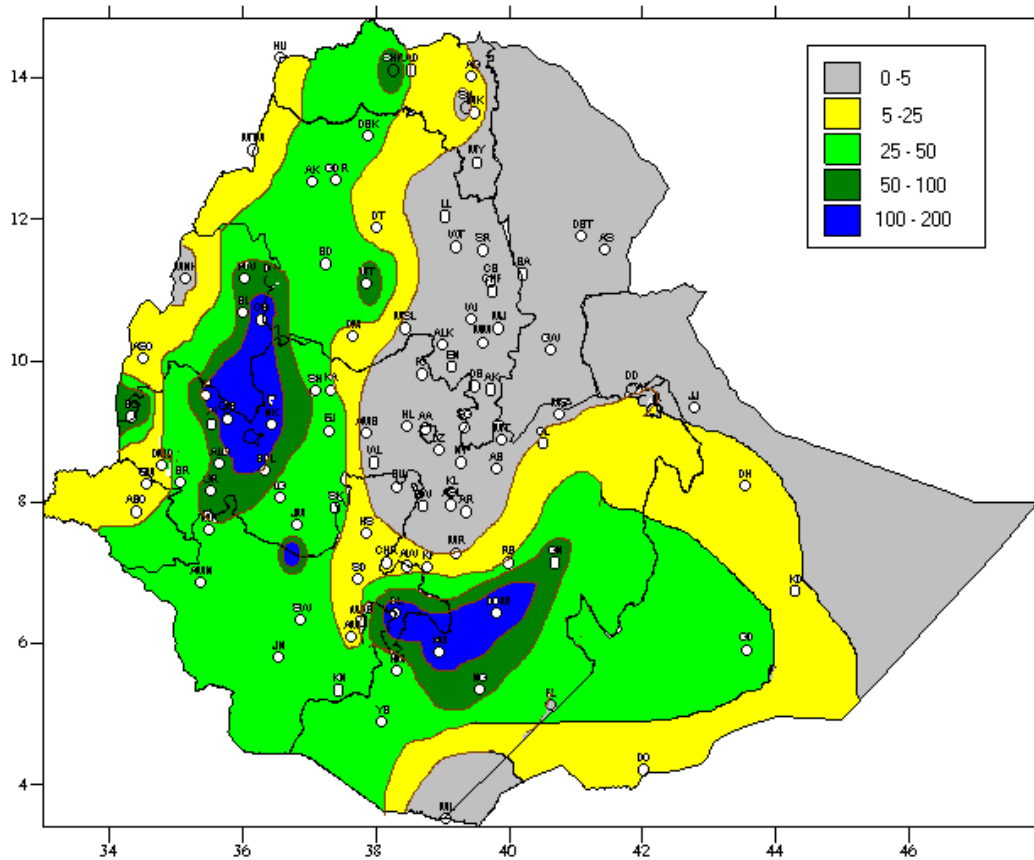
During the first dekad of October 2006 the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most part of Tigray, North and Western Amhara, Benshangul Gumuz, western Oromia including southern high lands of Oromia and most parts SNNPR could favor crops which are found at different crop phenological stages and at early vegetative stage in case of recently sown crops. Besides the observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern SNNPR and southern half of Somali including southern half of Oromia could have positive contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over the lowlands of pastoral and agro postural areas of the aforementioned areas. Nevertheless the observed heavy falls in some pocket areas resulted in crop damage. Fore instance Bilate reported perennial crop damage (trees) due to heavy fall during the dekad under review.

## 1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

### 1.1 OCTOBER 1-10, 2006

#### 1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (FIG1)

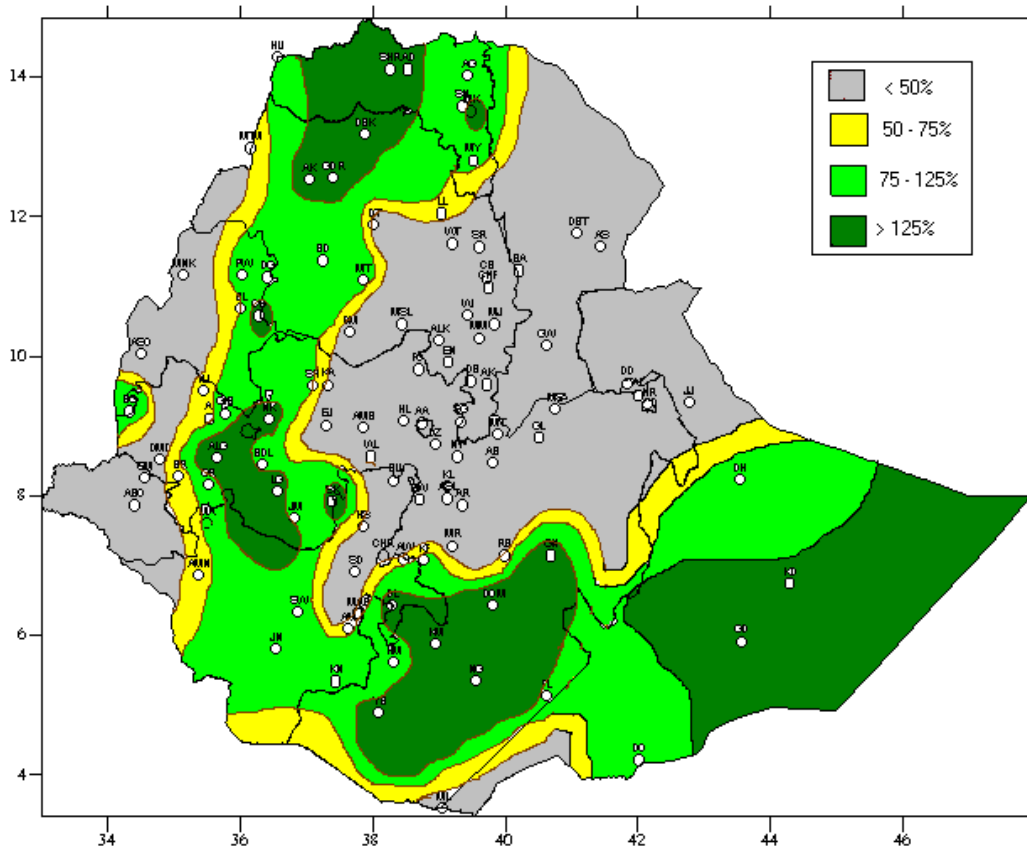
Some areas of western and southern Oromia and southeastern Bensahngul-Gumuz experienced 100-200mm of rainfall. Parts of eastern half of Benshangul-Gumuz, western and southern Oromia received 50-100mm of rainfall. Most parts of western Tigray and Amhara, some Parts of western Oromia, eastern Benshangul-Gumuz, most parts of SNNPR, southern Gambela, some areas of eastern and southern Oromia experienced including southern Oromia 25-50mm of rainfall. Parts of eastern and western tip of Tigray, western tip and eastern half of Amhara, western tip of Bensahngul-Gumuz and Gambella, parts of northern SNNPR, eastern and southern Oromia received 5-25mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.



**Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1 – 10 October, 2006)**

### 1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Much of Tigray, western Amhara, parts of eastern half of Bensahngul-Gumuz, western Oromia, much of SNNPR and southern Oromia exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. Below to much below normal rainfall has been observed over the rest parts of the country.



**Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1 - 10 October, 2006)**

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 highlands like Debre Birhan exhibited extreme minimum temperature less than 5°C.

## 2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF OCTOBER 2006

For the coming ten days, western and southern Oromia, Gambela, SNNPR and southern half of Somali will get normal to above normal rainfall. Besides, Benshangul Gumuze as well as western portions of Amhara and Tigray are anticipated to get close to normal rainfall. The rainfall, which is expected over central and eastern Ethiopia are likely to be close normal. On the other hand, partly cloudy conditions will dominate over eastern Tigray, central and eastern Amhara and Afar.

## 3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

### 3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above over most part of Tigray, North and Western Amhara, Benshangul Gomez, western Oromia including southern high lands of Oromia and most parts SNNPR during the dekad under review could favor crops which are found at different crop phenological stages and at early vegetative stage in case of recently sown crops. Besides the observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern SNNPR and southern half of Somali including southern half of Oromia could have

positive contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over the lowlands of pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the aforementioned areas. Nevertheless the observed heavy falls in some pocket areas resulted in crop damage. For instance Bilate reported perennial crop damage (trees) due to heavy fall during the dekad under review. Pursuant to crop phenological report, sowing of peas was under way in some areas of northern SNNPR (Bui). It was at flowering stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena). Teff was at third leaf stage in some areas of northern Oromia (Fitcha) and western Oromia (Shambu). It was at tasseling and flowering stage in some areas of eastern Oromia (Mota, Gelemso), southern Amhara (Enewary, Alem Ketema), northern SNNPR (Bui), eastern Amhara (Bati, Cheffa, Combolcha, Sirinka), eastern Benshangul Gumuz (Dangila), southeastern Amhara (Were Ilu), western Oromia (Limu Gent) and southwestern Benshangul Gumuz (Assosa). Moreover it was at ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Chira), southeastern Amhara (Majete) and southwestern Benshangul Gumuz (Assosa). Maize was at emergence stage in some areas of southern Oromia (Dolo Mena) while it was at tasseling and flowering stage in some areas of eastern Benshangul Gumuz (Dangila) and eastern Amhara (Bati, Combolcha). Moreover it was at wax and full ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Beddele, Aira, Gimbi, Nedjo), southeastern Amhara (Majete). Wheat was at tillering and shooting stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Enewary, Shola Gebeya), western Oromia (Gimbi) and eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) while it was at earing and flowering stage in some areas of northern Oromia (Fitcha), northern SNNPR (Bui, Hossaina), southeastern Amhara (Wereilu) and southern Amhara (Debre Brehane). Moreover it was at wax and full ripeness stage in some areas of central Oromia (Ziway). Sorghum was at tasseling and flowering stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Bati, Cheffa, Combolcha), western Oromia (Aira, Nedjo), southwestern Benshangul Gumuz (Assosa). Barley was at shooting stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). It was at earing and flowering stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Debre Birhane). Millet was at flowering stage in some areas of western Oromia (Chira) and eastern Benshangul Gumuz (Bullen). Bean was at emergence stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) while it was at flowering and ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Chira), southern Amhara (Enewary, Shola Gebeya), northern Oromia (Fitcha) and southeastern Amhara (Were Ilu). Nug was at budding and flowering stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Alem Ketema), eastern and southwestern Benshangul Gumuz (Bullen, Assosa). Flax was at green ripeness stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Debre Biran).

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

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over western and southern Oromia, Gambella SNNPR including southern half of Somali would have significant contribution particularly over some areas of southern Somali which exhibited deficient falls during the preceding dekads which are supposed to have seasonal rainfall since the second half of September 2006. Besides the expected good rainfall would favor the availability of pasture and drinking water. It would also have large contribution for trees, bushes and other vegetation in the areas for the browsers. The expected extended moisture condition over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of southern Oromia and SNNPR would have positive impact for season's agricultural activities. In addition to this the expected wet condition over the highlands of crop growing areas would favor the water requirements of crops, which are not attaining maturity, and perennial crops as well. Nevertheless the anticipated wet condition would have negative impact in areas where harvest and post harvest activities are under question. Thus, farmers are advised to exploit any dry and sunny outbreak to collect their crops that are ready to harvest. The expected near normal rainfall over Benshangul - Gumuz, western Amhara and Tigray would favor for the remaining season's agricultural activities. Although near normal rainfall is expected over some area of central and eastern Ethiopia the expected dominant below normal condition in the areas would have negative impact on the existing crops, which are at different crop phenological stages. The expected little moisture together with sunny outbreak would favor the outbreak of pest and diseases. Hence attention should be given for sensitive areas in order to avoid unnecessary losses ahead of time.