

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

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 of 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 pastoral 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.

During the second dekad of October 2006, the observed widespread rainfall condition over southern, southwestern and western parts of the country could favor crops, which are found at different phenological stage, and recently sown crops. Besides the observed good rainfall condition over southeastern parts of the country could have a positive contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over the lowlands of pastoral and agro postural areas. Nevertheless some areas like Jinka, Gelemso, Gambella, Assosa, Jijiga and Moyalle received heavy fall ranging from 30.7-120.8mm. With regard to air temperature Debre Birhan, Fitcha and Wegel Tena recorded extreme minimum temperature less than 5 °C.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 OCTOBER 11-20, 2006

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Some areas of western Benshangul-Gumuze and southern tip of Oromia received 100-200mm of rainfall. Pocket areas of western Oromia, some parts of SNNPR, most parts of eastern and south eastern Oromia and parts of western and southwestern Somali experienced 50-100mm of rainfall. Gambella, some areas of western, southern and eastern Oromia, much of SNNPR, some areas of western Benshangul-Gumuze and some parts of Somali received 25-50mm of rainfall. Western tip of Tigray, much of Amhara, much of Benshangul-Gumuze, some areas of Oromia and eastern and southeastern Somali experienced 5-25mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

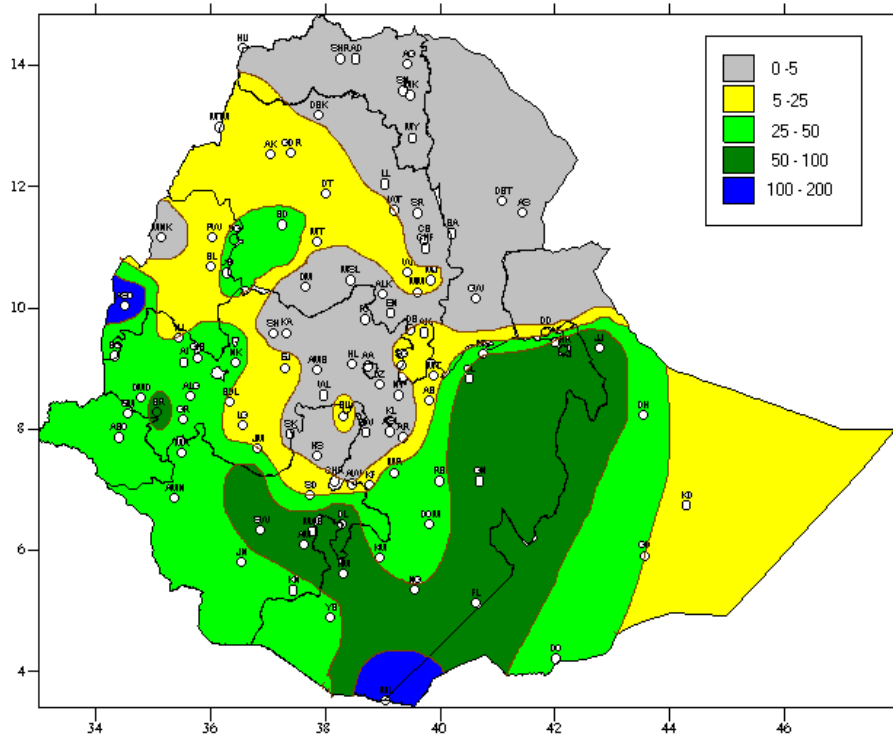


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 October, 2006)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Some areas of western and eastern Amhara, much of Benshangul-Gumuz, Gambela, SNNPR, much of Oromia and Somali exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. Below to much below normal rainfall has been observed over the rest parts of the country.

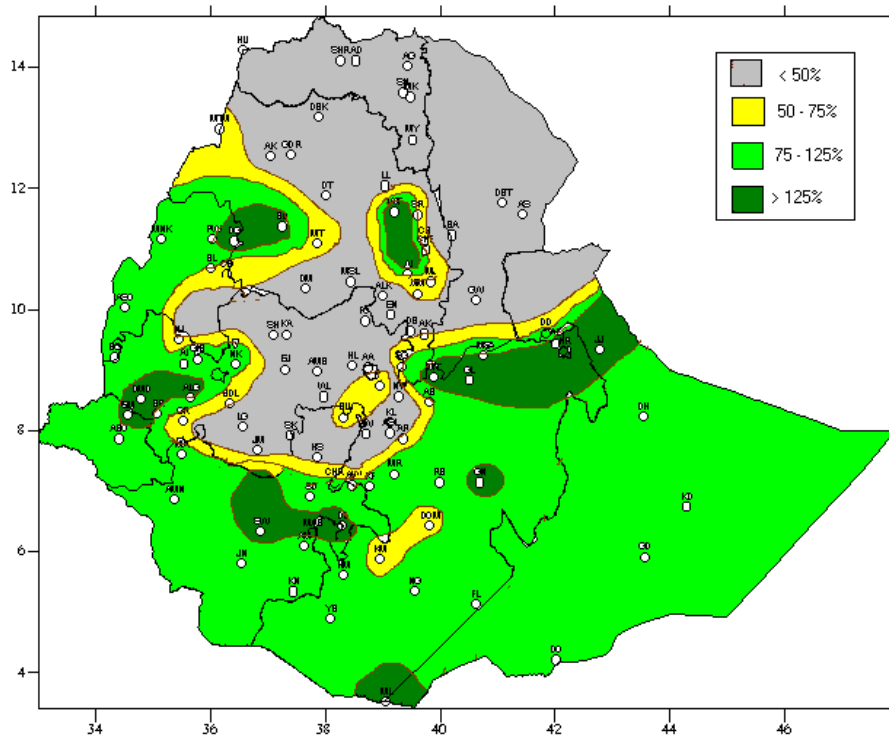


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 October, 2006)

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

1.2 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Debre Birhan, Fitcha and Wegel Tena recorded extreme minimum temperature less than 5 °C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF OCTOBER 2006

For the coming ten days, much of Oromia, Gambella, SNNPR and Southern parts of Somali will have normal to above normal Rainfall. Whereas Benshangul- Gumuz, western Amhara and highlands of eastern Ethiopia (eastern Oromia, Central Somali and Harari) will get Close to normal rain over most places. On the contrary, most parts of Tigray, eastern Amhara and some places of central Ethiopia as well as Afar are likely to get near normal rainfall in association with the unseasonal rain that is expected in the coming ten days.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed widespread rainfall condition over southern, southwestern and western parts of the country could favor crops, which are found at different phenological stage, and recently sown crops. Besides the observed good rainfall condition over southeastern parts of the country could have a positive contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over the lowlands of pastoral and agro postural areas. Pursuant to crop phenological report sowing of teff was underway in some areas of western Oromia (Shambu). It was at shooting stage in some areas of western Oromia (Sekoru) while it was at tasseling and flowering stage in some areas of central Oromia (Arsi Robe), southern Amhara (Enewary, Alem Ketema), northern SNNPR (Bui), eastern Benshangul-Gumuze (Dangila), south eastern Amhara (Wereilu), eastern Oromia (Gelemso), eastern Amhara (Bati), western Oromia (Gimbi) and western Oromia (Mota). Moreover it was at ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Chira, Limu Genet). Wheat was at tillering and shooting stage in some areas of central Oromia (Arsi Robe), northern SNNPR (Bui), eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) and south Amhara (Shola Gebeya) while it was at earing and flowering stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Enewary), western Oromia (Gimbi), south eastern Amhara (Wereilu), central Oromia (Kulumsa) and northern SNNPR (Hossaina). Maize was at flowering and full ripeness stage in some areas of eastern Benshangul-Gumuze (Dangila), western Oromia (Sekoru, Gimbi ,Aira). Barely was at earing stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). Millet was at flowering stage in some areas of western Oromia (Limu Gent, Aira). Sorghum was at flowering stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Bati) and western Oromia (Aira). Beans were at flowering and ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Chira), southern Amhara (Enewary, Shola Gebeya), eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena), southeastern Amhara (Wereillu) and central Oromia (Kulumsa). Sowing of peas was underway in some areas of western Oromia (Shambu) and it was at flowering stage in some areas of eastern Oromia (Wegel Tena). Nug was at flowering stage in some areas of southern Amhara (AlemKetema).

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Oromia, Gambella, SNNPR and southern half of Somali would have a positive contribution for the existing crops which are found at different phenological stage and late sown crops over flood affected areas where replanting of crops had been going on recently. Besides the expected good rainfall condition would favor the availability of pasture and drinking water in the lowlands of pastoral and agro postural areas. Moreover the expected near normal rainfall over Benshangul-Gumuze, western Amhara and high lands of eastern parts of the country like eastern Oromia, central Somali and Harar would have a significant contribution for the water requirement of crops, which are not attaining maturity, perennial crops and bushes which are grown in the areas. Nevertheless the expected unseasonable rainfall over most parts of Tigray, Afar, eastern Amhara and some parts of central Ethiopia would have a negative contribution for harvest and post harvest activities where the activities are under question. Therefore farmers are advised to use any dry and sunny occasions to collect their crops that are ready to harvest. Moreover the harvested crops should be properly placed in the barn in order to minimize unnecessary loses. Besides the expected unseasonable rainfall would favor crop pests and post harvest pests. Therefore proper attention should be given for sensitive areas ahead of time in order to reduce harvest and post harvest loses.