

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of September 2008 the decadal rainfall activity covered SNNPR, Gambella, most of Oromia and Amhara, eastern half of Tigray, northern Benshangul-Gumuz, southern and central Afar consequently received normal to above normal rainfall. The situation might have favored the growth and development of crops over Meher growing areas; on the other hand, it was conducive for availability of pasture and water.

During the first dekad of October 2008, normal to above normal rainfall was observed over much of Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, and adjoining areas of western and southern Oromia, Gambela, southern half of SNNPR, southern Oromia and southern Somali. The situation might have a positive impact on Meher crops that are at grain-filling stages and for general agricultural activities, pasture and drinking water availabilities. On the other hand, occasional heavy fall observed over some areas of Amhara, Tigray, Benshangul-Gumuz and Gambela. Among reporting stations: Ayekel, Assosa, Adele, Bahirdar, Hagermariam, Moyale and Sheraro recorded 51.7, 36.1, 30.3, 36.9, 68.3, 49.3 and 36.8 mm of rainfall in one rainy day respectively.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 October 1-10, 2008

1.1.1 Rainfall Amount (Fig 6)

Pocket area of southern Oromia received 100-200 mm rainfall. Gambela, parts of southern and western Oromia, southwestern SNNPR and pocket areas of western and eastern Benshangul-Gumuz exhibited 50-100 mm rainfall. Much of Benshangul-Gumuz, margin of southwestern SNNPR, parts of southern and western Oromia, and southwestern Somali and part of western and pocket areas of eastern Tigray received 25-50 mm rainfall. Much of Somali, parts of central, eastern and western Oromia, northern SNNPR, western and eastern Amhara and part of western and pocket area of central Tigray experienced 5-25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

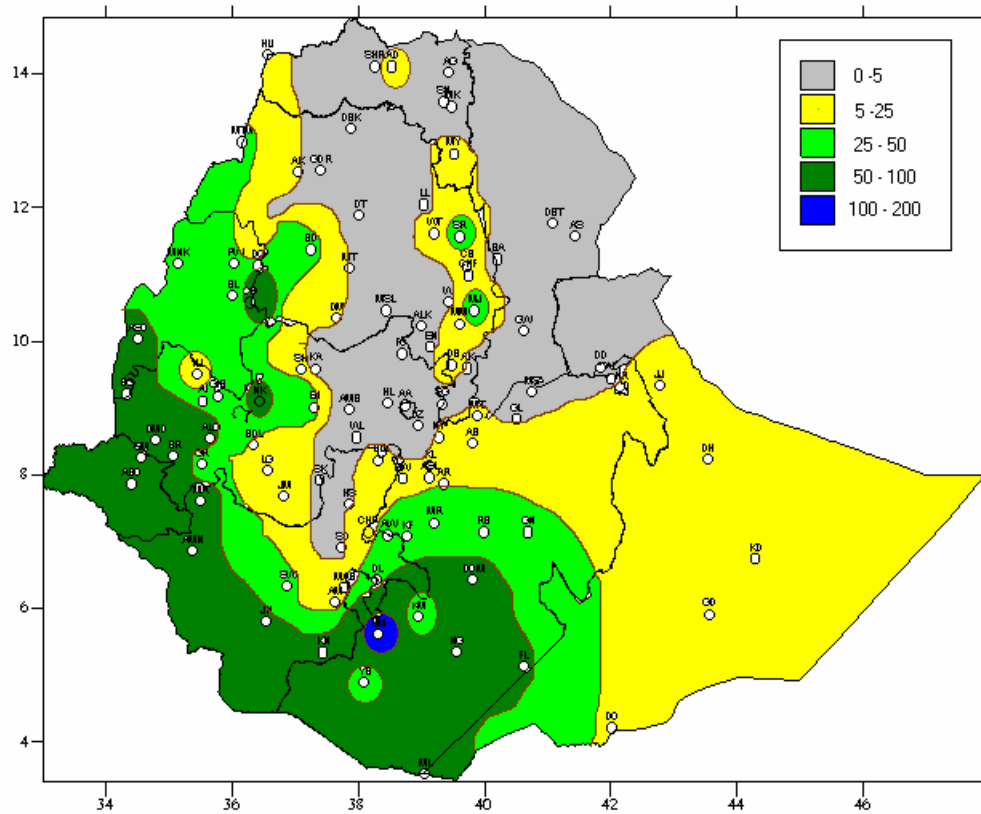


Fig. 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 October 2008)

1.12 Rainfall Anomaly (Fig 2)

Gambella, southern half of SNNPR, western half of Tigray, parts of western and southern Oromia western Benshangul-Gumuz, and southwestern Somali and part of western and pocket areas of eastern Amhara, received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below normal to much below normal rainfall.

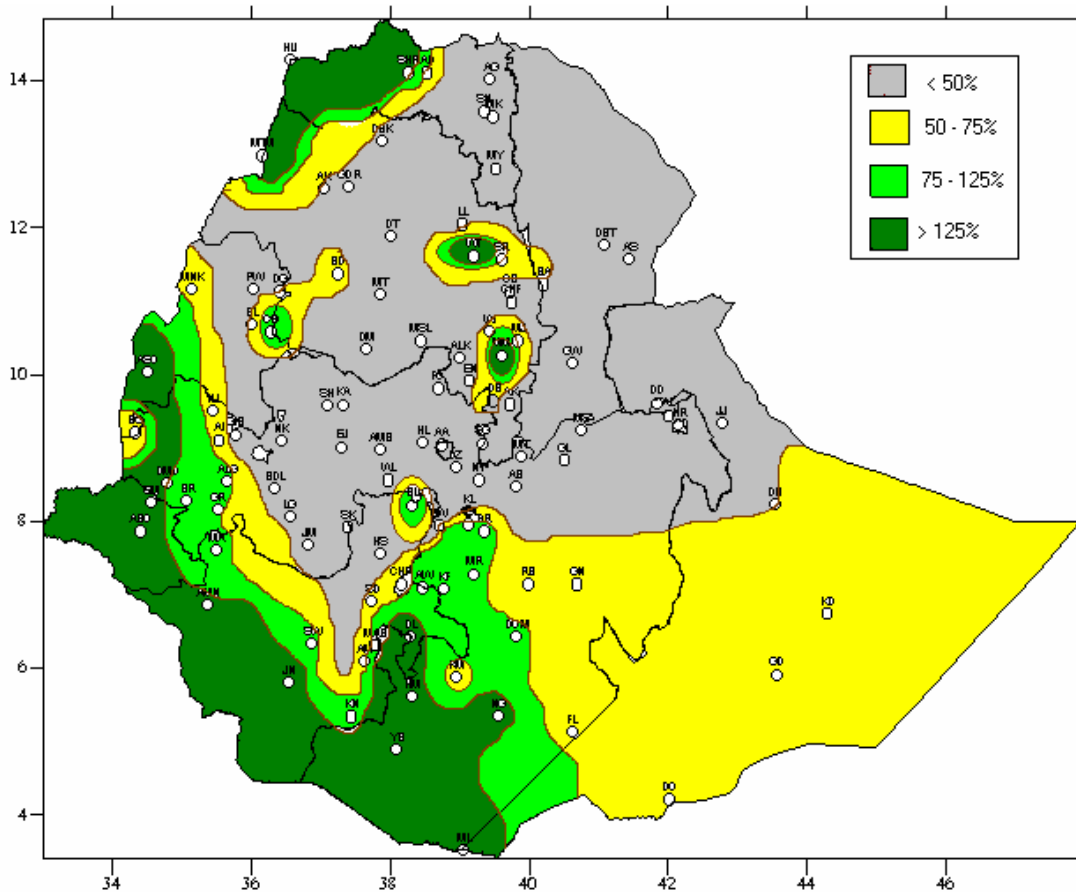


Fig. 2 Percent of normal (1-10 October 2008)

Explanatory notes for the Legend:

- < 50-Much below normal
- 50-75%-Below normal
- 75-125%- Normal
- > 125% - Above normal

1.1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations recorded extreme maximum temperature 35° C and above during the season. Assayta, Dubti, Gode, Mille, Semera, Diradawa, Methehara, Gambela, Humera, and Sheraro recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 40.0, 40.0, 37.4, 39.5, 40.0, 35.2, 36.0, 36.0, 38.5, and 36.5 ° C respectively.

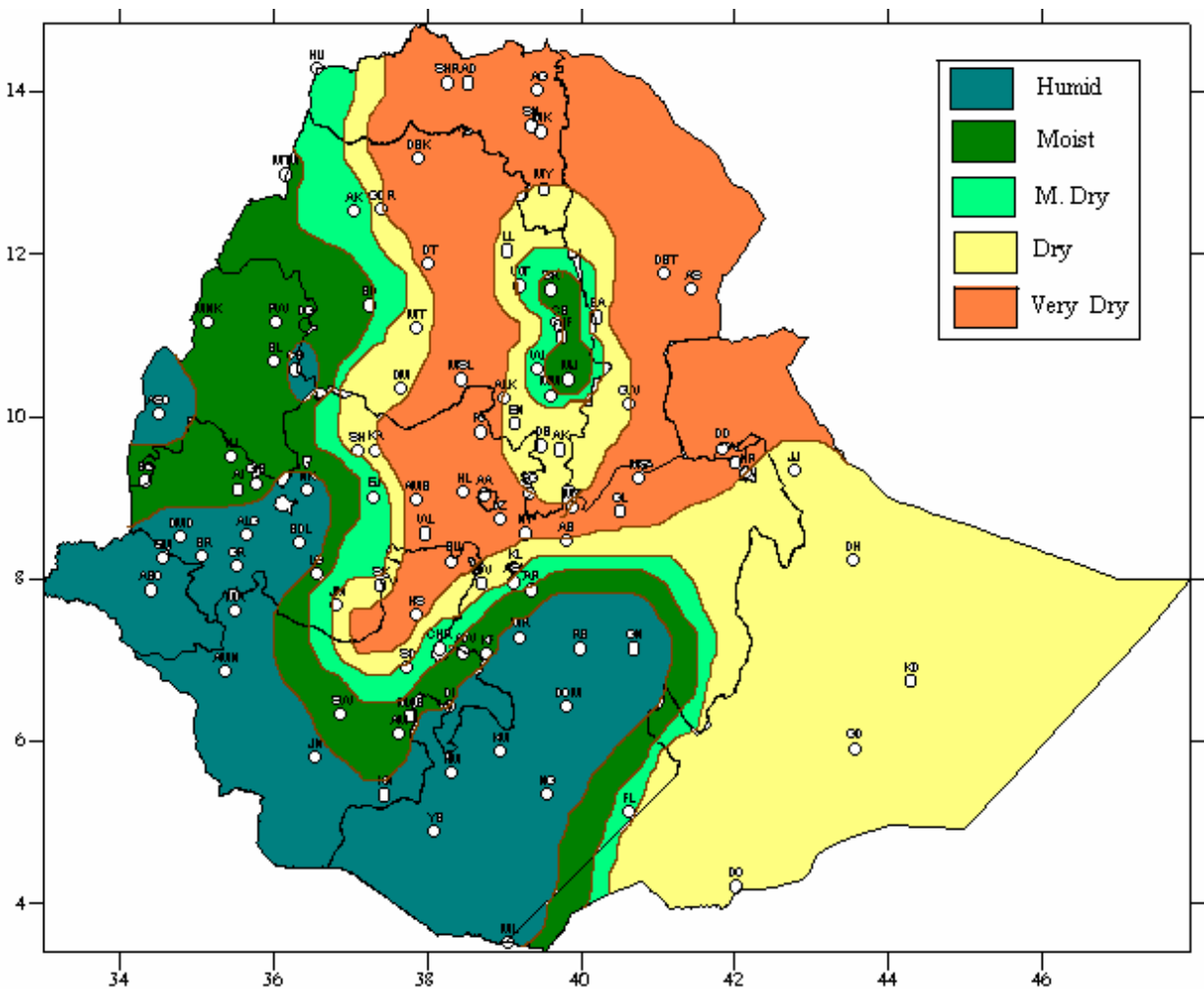
2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

During the first decade of October 2008 the moisture condition over Meher growing areas were conducive in fulfilling the water requirements of Meher crops that are found at different phenological phases and the general agricultural activities over western, central & southern Oromia, SNNPR, Benishangul-gumuz, Gambela, western and eastern parts of Amhara.

Pursuant to crop phenological report, please see table1 for detailed information.

Fig. 3 Moisture status for October1-10, 2008)



2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

During the first deked of October 2008 the moisture condition (fig.3) over Meher growing areas were conducive in fulfilling the water requirements of Meher crops that are found at different phenological phases and the general agricultural activities over western, central & southern Oromia, SNNPR, Benishangul-gumuz, Gambela, western and eastern parts of Amhara. Pursuant to crop phenological report, please see table1 for detailed information.

Table1. Crop Phenological report for 1-10 Oct, 2008

| Station name | Region | Zone | Woreda | Three Major Crops of given area | | | Growth Phases | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Aykel | | | | - | Teff | - | - | Sh | - |
| A/Ketema | | | | Teff | - | - | Ta | - | - |
| Arsi Robe | | | | Teff | Wheat | Barely | Sh | Em | Sh |
| Chagni | Amhara | Awi | Gungnua | Maize | Millet | Nug | Wr | Ti | El |
| Chira | Oromia | Jimma | Gera | - | Teff | - | - | Ta | - |
| Beti | | | | | | | | | |
| Dangila | B.shangul | Awi | Dangla | Maize | Teff | - | Fl | Sh | - |
| D. Brhan | Amhara | Semen Shoa | | Barely | - | - | H | - | - |
| Dolomena | | | | Maize | Seaseme | - | Em | Em | - |
| Dilla | | | | Coffee | - | - | Bh | - | - |
| Fitche | Oromia | Semen.Shoa | Girar Jarso | Teff | Wheat | Beans | Sh | Ea | Fl |
| Lalibela | | | | Barely | - | Sunflower | Fr | - | Fl |
| Kachisie | | | | Teff | - | - | Ta | - | - |
| Majete | | | | Teff | - | Maize | Fr | - | Wr |
| Meh. Meda | Amahara | Semen Shoa | Gira mider | Wheat | Barely | Beans | Sh | Ea | - |
| M/Selam | | | | Wheat | Teff | Beans | Ea | Ta | Fr |
| Nedjo | Oromia | Mb wellega | Nedjo | Maize | Sorghum | Millet | Fr | Fl | Fl |
| Shambu | Oromia | HoroWolleg | Horo | | | | | | |
| Pawe | Beni.Shan | | | Maize | Sorghum | - | Fr | - | - |
| Shahura | | | | Maize | Teff | - | Wr | Ta | - |
| Shiraro | | | | Seaseme | Sorghum | Millet | Fr | Fl | Fl |
| Sirinka | Amahara | Sem wello | Habru | Teff | Maize | Millet | Ta | Fl | Ta |
| WegelTena | Amhara | Semen Woll | Delenta | Wheat | Barely | Beans | Ti | Sh | Fl |
| Sokoru | Oromia | Jimma | Sokoru | Maize | Teff | - | Wr | Sh | - |
| Ziway | Oromia | Mis. shwa | Jidombolch | Maize | Wheat | - | Wr | Fl | |

Key:

P/S= Plant/Sow
 Em=emerge
 Tl=Third leaf
 Fl=Fifth leaf
 Sl=Seventh leaf
 Yr=Yellow ripe
 Nl= Ninth leaf
 El= Elongation

Ta = Tassel
 Ti=Tiller
 Sh=shoot
 Bs= Berry soft
 Bh= Berry hard
 Ph= Pin heading
 Ea= Earing
 He= Heading
 Bu= budding
 Fl=Flower

R = ripeness
 Cr= Consumer ripeness
 Gr= Green ripeness
 Wr= Wax ripeness
 Yg r= yellow green ripeness
 Lgr =light green ripeness
 Dr= dark ripeness
 Fr= Full ripeness
 H =Harvested
 - = Data not available