

SUMMARY

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

During the second dekad of October 2008, rainfall activity was observed over Bega rainfall benefiting areas parts of southern Ethiopia. As a result better rainfall was observed over parts of SNNPR, southern Oromia and southern half of Somali. Moreover, western Oromia, Gambela, Benshangul-Gumuz, and parts of western Amhara received better rainfall. Hence, 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, dry weather condition was observed over northeastern, central and eastern parts of the country. The condition might be favorable for Meher harvest activities. In addition, heavy falls were observed over some places of the country within the range of 30-68 mm rainfall in one rainy day.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 11-20 October 2008

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

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

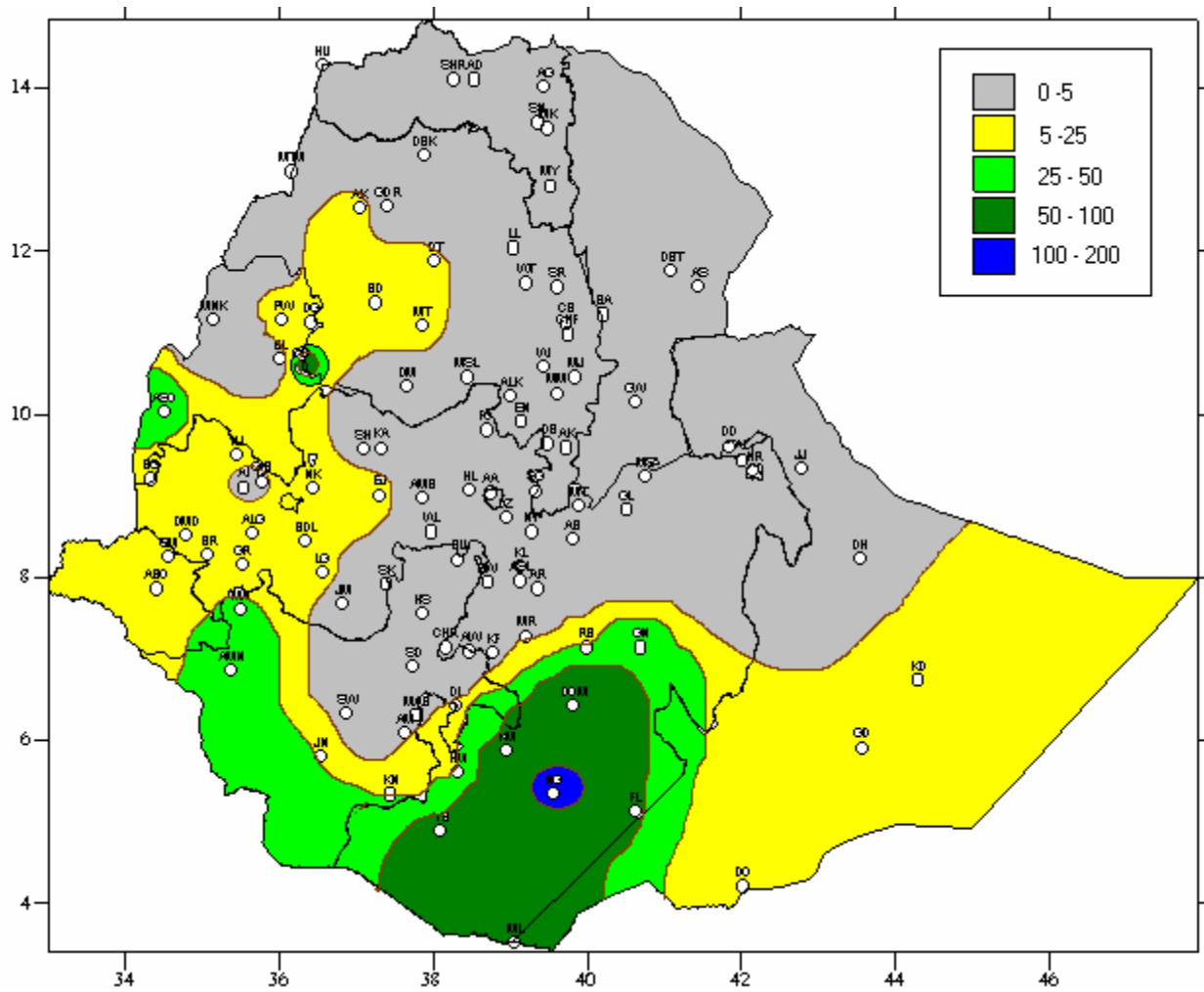


Fig1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 October 2008)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Parts of southern and western Oromia, southern SNNPR, and southern Benshangul-Gumuz received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below to much below normal rainfall.

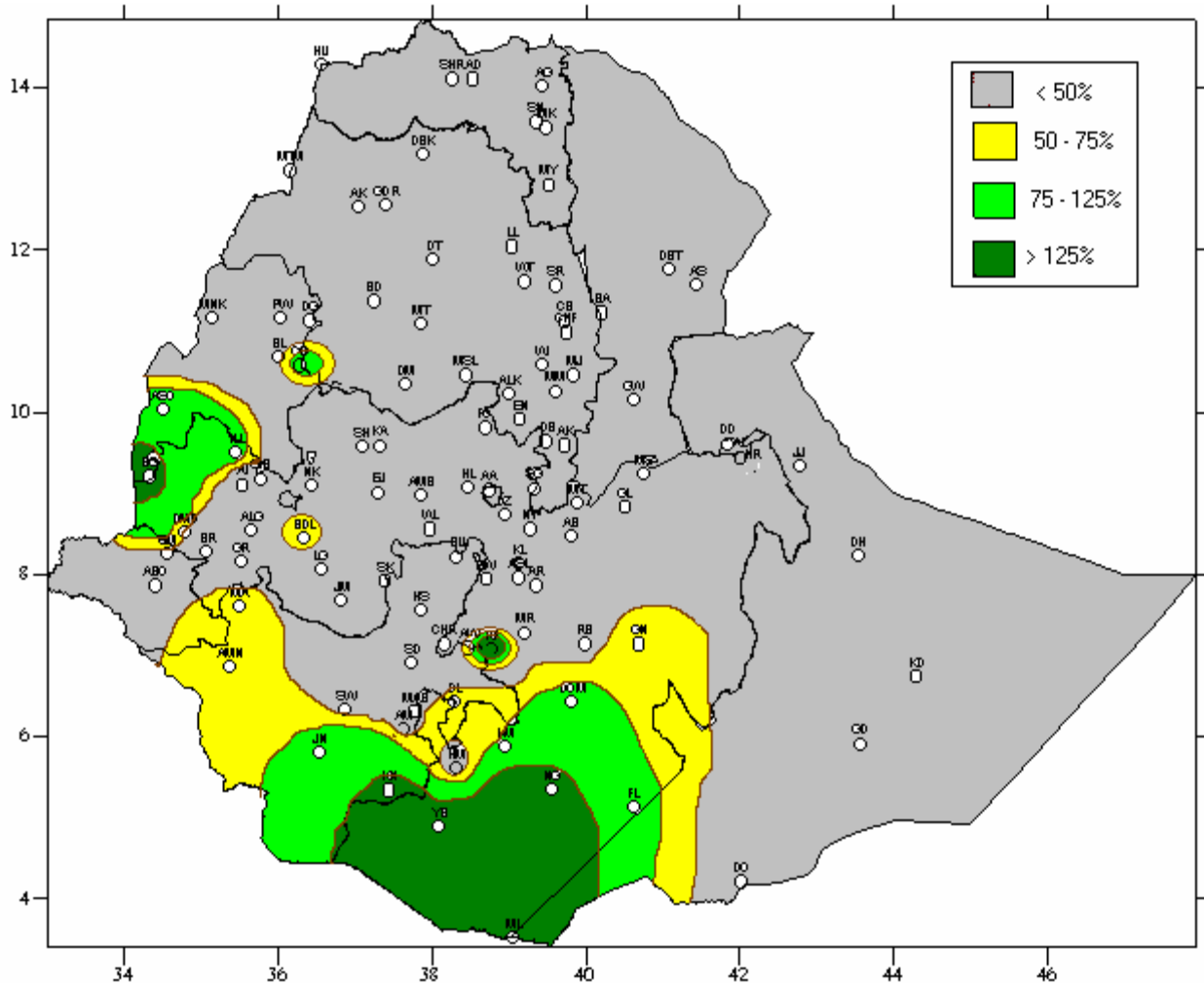


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 October 2008)

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

1.1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

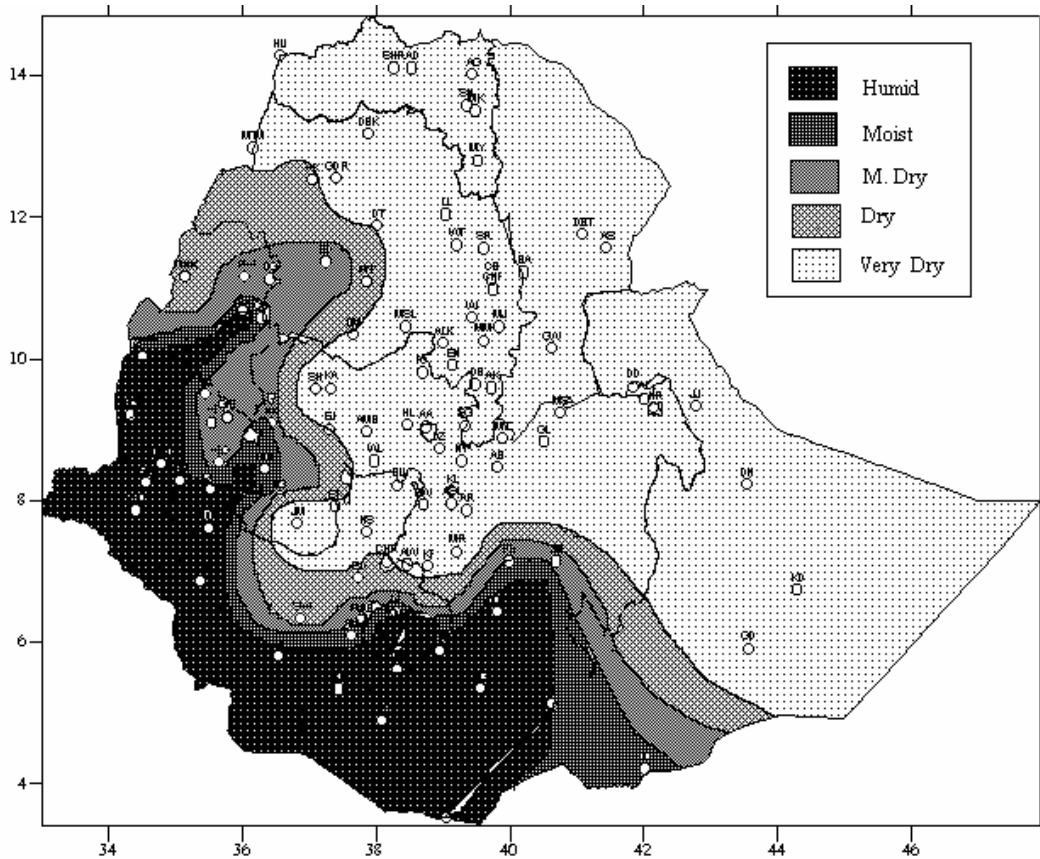
Some stations recorded extreme maximum temperature above 35 ° C for 4-10 consecutive days. Semera, Mille, Dubti, Assayta and Humera reported extreme maximum temperature as high as 37.8, 37.9, 38.32, 38.0, and 37.3 ° C respectively.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The rainfall activity was observed over Bega rainfall benefiting areas parts of southern Ethiopia. As a result better rainfall was observed over parts of SNNPR, southern Oromia and southern half of Somali. Moreover, western Oromia, Gambela, Benshangul-Gumuz, and parts of western Amhara received better rainfall. Hence, 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, dry weather condition was observed over northeastern, central and eastern parts of the country. The condition might be favorable for Meher harvest activities. In addition, heavy falls were observed over some places of the country within the range of 30-68 mm rainfall in one rainy day. **For crop phenological report please refer table1.**

The analysis of moisture status (the relation ship between dekadal rainfall and the dekadal total reference evapotranspiration) as indicated in fig3. Better moisture condition was observed over southern, southwestern and western parts of the country. The situation had significant contribution for Meher crops that are at grain-filling stages. Moreover, it would have a positive impact for perennial crops and for the availability of pasture and drinking water as well. However, dry to very dry moisture condition was observed over the rest parts of the country.



(Fig 3) Moisture status Map for 11-20 October 2008

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

Currently rain bearing clouds from northern Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea are moving towards our territory anticipated to bring moisture in the coming days. As result the condition will benefit Meher crops that are not yet attained full maturity, general agricultural activities, availability of pasture and water. On the other hand, the situation might cause to increase cloud coverage as a result the condition may cause unseasonal rain over eastern Oromia, Somali, eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray and parts of Afar, the situation will have a negative impact on Meher harvest activities; however, will have a positive impact for Meher crops that are not yet at full maturity.

Table1. Crop Phenological report for 11-20 October 2008

<i>Station name</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Woreda</i>	<i>Three Major Crops of given area</i>			<i>Growth Phases</i>		
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Dangila</i>	<i>B.shangul</i>	<i>Awi</i>	<i>Dangla</i>	<i>Maize</i>	<i>Teff</i>	-	<i>Wr</i>	<i>Ta</i>	-
<i>Dolomena</i>	<i>Oromia</i>			<i>Maize</i>	<i>Seaseme</i>	-	<i>Em</i>	<i>Em</i>	-
<i>Hossaina</i>				<i>Maize</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	-	<i>Fr</i>	<i>Fl</i>	-
<i>Kachisie</i>	<i>Oromia</i>	<i>Mirab.Shoa</i>		<i>Teff</i>	-	-	<i>Fl</i>	-	-
<i>Limugent</i>	<i>Oromia</i>	<i>Jimma</i>	<i>Limu-kosa</i>	<i>Teff</i>	-	-	<i>Fr</i>	-	-
<i>Meh. Meda</i>	<i>Amahara</i>	<i>Semen Shoa</i>	<i>Gira mider</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Barely</i>	<i>Beans</i>	<i>Fl</i>	<i>Fl</i>	-
<i>Nedjo</i>	<i>Oromia</i>	<i>Mb wellega</i>	<i>Nedjo</i>	<i>Maize</i>	<i>Sorghum</i>	<i>Millet</i>	<i>Fr</i>	<i>Fl</i>	<i>Fl</i>
<i>Shambu</i>	<i>Oromia</i>	<i>HoroWolleg</i>	<i>Horo</i>						
<i>WegelTena</i>	<i>Amhara</i>	<i>Semen Woll</i>	<i>Delenta</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Barely</i>	<i>Beans</i>	<i>Ti</i>	<i>Sh</i>	<i>Fl</i>
<i>Ziway</i>	<i>Oromia</i>	<i>Mis. shwa</i>	<i>Jidombolch</i>	<i>Maize</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	-	<i>Fr</i>	<i>Wr</i>	-

Key

P/S= Plant/Sow
 Em=emerge
 Tl=Third 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
 Yr= Yellow ripen
 Fr= Full ripeness
 H =Harvested
 -- data not available