

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of January 2008, moist weather situation in association with increased cloud coverage was observed over some areas of southeastern Amhara and western Oromia, however, most parts of the country experienced dry & sunny weather condition. The situation over the aforementioned areas might have improved midnight and early morning cold weather condition.

On the other hand, the dry condition minimized harvest and post harvest losses; moreover, the situation might have favored Meher post harvest activities in the country.

During the second dekad of January 2008, better rainfall distribution has been observed over most parts of northeastern and south western parts of the country. Moreover, little rainfall distribution observed over some areas of western and southern Ethiopia. Besides, heavy fall observed over some areas of north eastern and southwestern parts of the country. In addition to this, the observed better cloud coverage over northwestern, north eastern and central Ethiopia could mitigate the fall in temperature during day and night. This situation would have a significant contribution for post harvest agricultural activities. Thus , during the previous ten days, below normal and normal to above normal rainfall observed over much of southern half of the country and over Gambela, Benshangul-Gumuz, Afar, much of Amhara, northwestern SNNPR and eastern Oromia respectively. Besides, little rainfall observed, over some areas of northeastern and south western parts of the country, eastern Tigray and Amhara and central and eastern Oromia highlands due to the observed better cloud coverage. This weather condition could have a significant contribution for perennial crops, land preparation and the availability of pasture and drinking water. Besides the observed dry weather situation would have a positive impact for some areas where post harvest activities have not been completed.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 11-20 January 2008

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of western Oromia and western Afar received 50-100mm rainfall. Parts of western Oromia and pocket areas of central and western Amhara, western Afar and northern Tigray and tip of northern and pocket area of eastern SNNPR exhibited 25-50 mm rainfall. Gambela, most of SNNPR and Afar, parts of western, southern and eastern Oromia, northern Somali and pocket areas of central and western Amhara experienced 5-25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

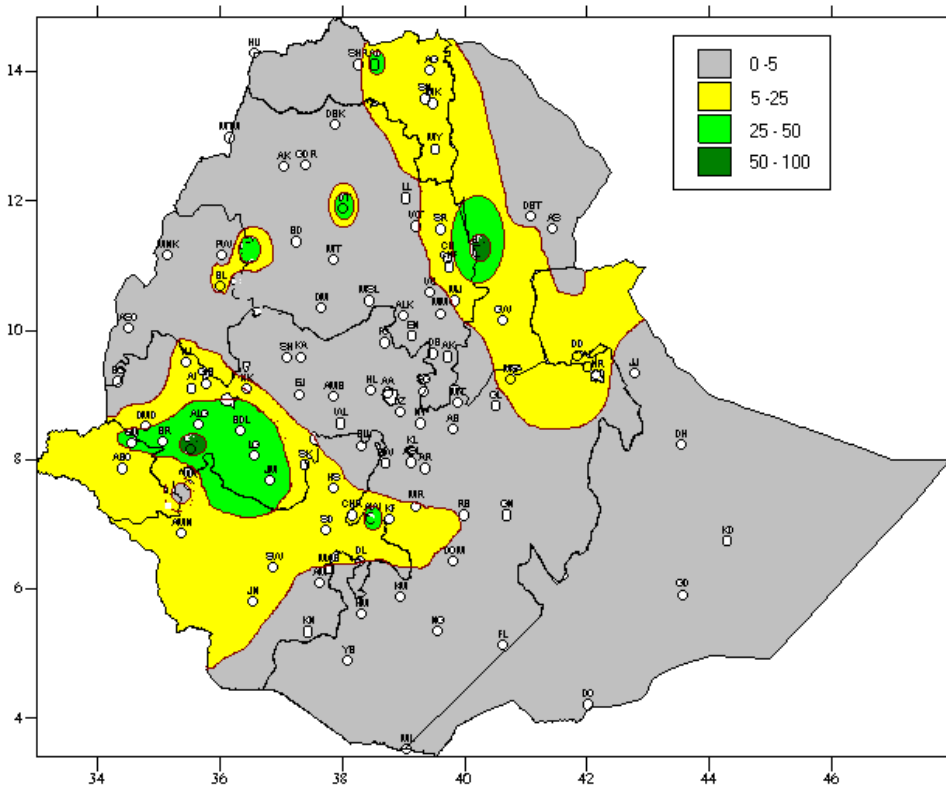


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 January 2008)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most part of Somali, eastern half of Oromia, parts of southern and western Amhara and southeastern SNNPR, western half of Tigray and tip of northwestern Benshangul-Gumuz received below to much below normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited normal to above normal rainfall

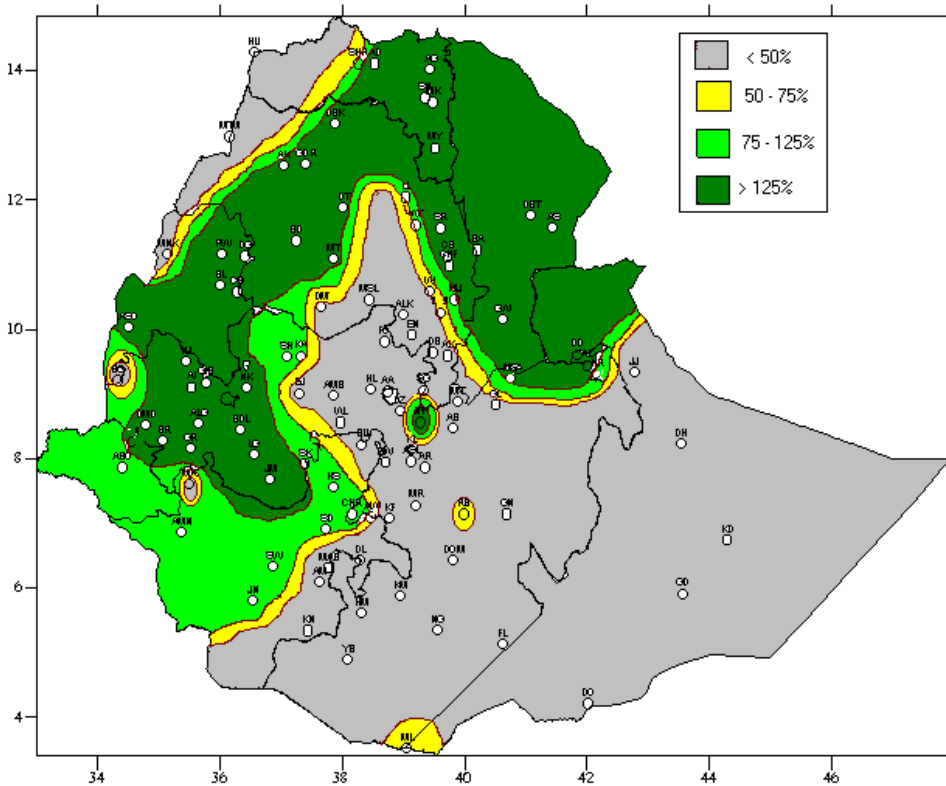


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 January 2008)

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 minimum temperature below and equal to 5° C for 2-6 consecutive days. Woreilu, Kofelle, Bore, Alemya, Arsi robe recorded extreme minimum temperature as low as 0.0, 2.8, 3.0, 4.0, 4.2 and 5.° C respectively. The above mentioned rise in extreme minimum temperature in most parts of frost prone areas could alleviate the stress condition that was observed due to the frost occurrence on plants.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF JANUARY 2008

In the coming ten days, the Bega's dry and windy weather condition will prevail across the major portion of the country. However, light rains will fall over south and southwest Ethiopia. As a result, pocket places of SNNPR, south and west Oromia, Gambela and south Bensahngul-Gumuz are expected to get near normal rains. Moreover, patches of cloud will prevail across northern and south eastern regions. Nevertheless, below normal rains will be the rule over the substantial sectors of the country.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Better rainfall distribution has been observed over most parts of northeastern and south western parts of the country. Moreover, little rainfall distribution observed over some areas of western and southern Ethiopia. Besides, heavy fall observed over some areas of north eastern and southwestern parts of the country. In addition to this, the observed better cloud coverage over northwestern, north eastern and central Ethiopia could mitigate the fall in temperature during day and night. This situation would have a significant contribution for post harvest agricultural activities. Thus , during the previous ten days, below normal and normal to above normal rainfall observed over much of southern half of the country and over Gambela,Benshangul-Gumuz , Afar, much of Amhara, northwestern SNNPR and eastern Oromia respectively. Besides, little rainfall observed, over some areas of northeastern and south western parts of the country, eastern Tigray and Amhara and central and eastern Oromia highlands due to the observed better cloud coverage. This weather condition could have a significant contribution for perennial crops, land preparation and the availability of pasture and drinking water. Besides the observed dry weather situation would have a positive impact for some areas where post harvest activities have not been completed... Pursuant to crop phenological report, please refer table1 in the next page.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated dry Bega weather condition dominated over most parts of the country. Thus the expected little rainfall over western and southwestern parts of the country and the anticipated little rainfall over northeastern, central and eastern highlands would have a post rive impact for land preparation of Belg season and the availability of pasture and drinking water.

Based in the above situation, for the next ten days some areas of western and south Oromia, SNNPR, Gambela and Benshangul-Gumuz will have near normal rainfall. This situation will have a positive contribution for perennial crops, for land preparation of Belg season and pasture. On the other hand, the expected Bega's sunny and windy weather condition dominated over most parts of the country, moreover, the fall in day and night temperature will be strong. This situation hinders the Belg agricultural activities.

