

11-20 April, 2009 Vol. 18 No.11

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of April, 2009 Belg rain benefiting areas of SNNPR, much of Oromiya, eastern and southern Tigray, much of Amhara, Afar, Gambela and northern Somali received Belg rain that might have benefited Belg agricultural activities, sowing of long cycle crops and pulses. The condition might have positive impact on availability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Moreover, north western portions of the county which were dry also received rainfall which also favored perennial crops and planting of long cycle crops. On the other hand heavy fall was reported over some areas of eastern Amhara, western and southern Oromiya and northern SNNPR. Among reporting stations Gore, Bati, Bilate, Ginir, Hossaina and Moyale recorded 38.0, 48.0, 42.6, 37.0, 33.3 and 37.5 mm in one rainy day respectively.

During the second dekad of April, 2009 Belg rain were observed over most parts of belg benefiting areas and also heavy fall observed over some places hence, this situation could have favored for Belg agricultural activities such as land preparation for long cycle crops and pulses, perennial crops, availability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas over much of Oromiya, SNNPR, Somali, Harare, Gambela, central and eastern Tigray, and Amhara. On the other hand over western Amhara, western Tigray, Benshangul- Gumuz and Afar observed dry condition. This could have a negative impact on general agricultural activities and availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Among the reporting stations Gore, Addis Ababa Obs, Arjo, Bedelle and Jinka recoded 60.0, 54.7, 73.2, 52.0 and 68.4 mm of rainfall in one rainy day respectively.

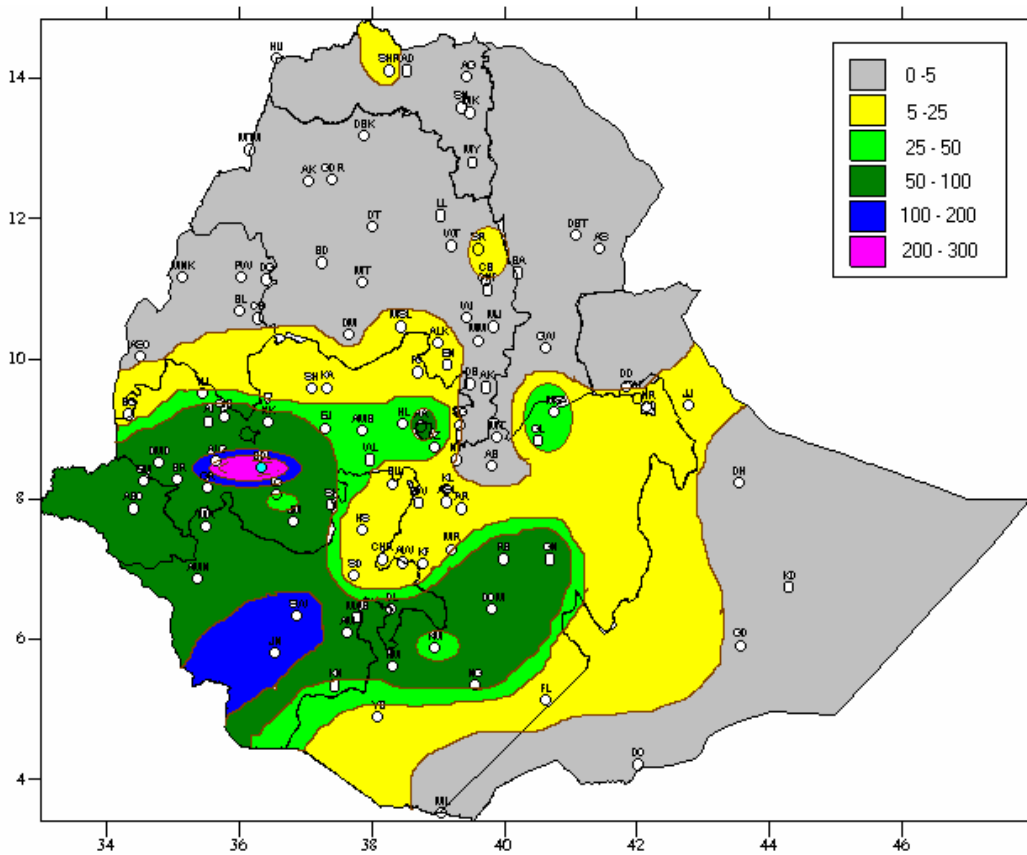
1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 11-20 April 2009

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of western Oromiia received 200-300mm rainfall. Southern parts of SNNPR and pocket area of western Oromia received 100-200mm rainfall. Gambela, western and southern parts of Oromia, most parts of SNNPR received 50-100mm rainfall. Some parts of central and southern Oromia and pocket area of eastern SNNPR received 25-50mm rainfall. Eastern, some parts of central and southern Oromia, southern parts of Benshangul Gumuze and pocket area of eastern Amhara received 5-25mm rainfall. the rest parts of the country receive below 5mm or no rainfall.

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 April, 2009)



1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of western and southern Oromia, and all parts of Gambela and SNNPR received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

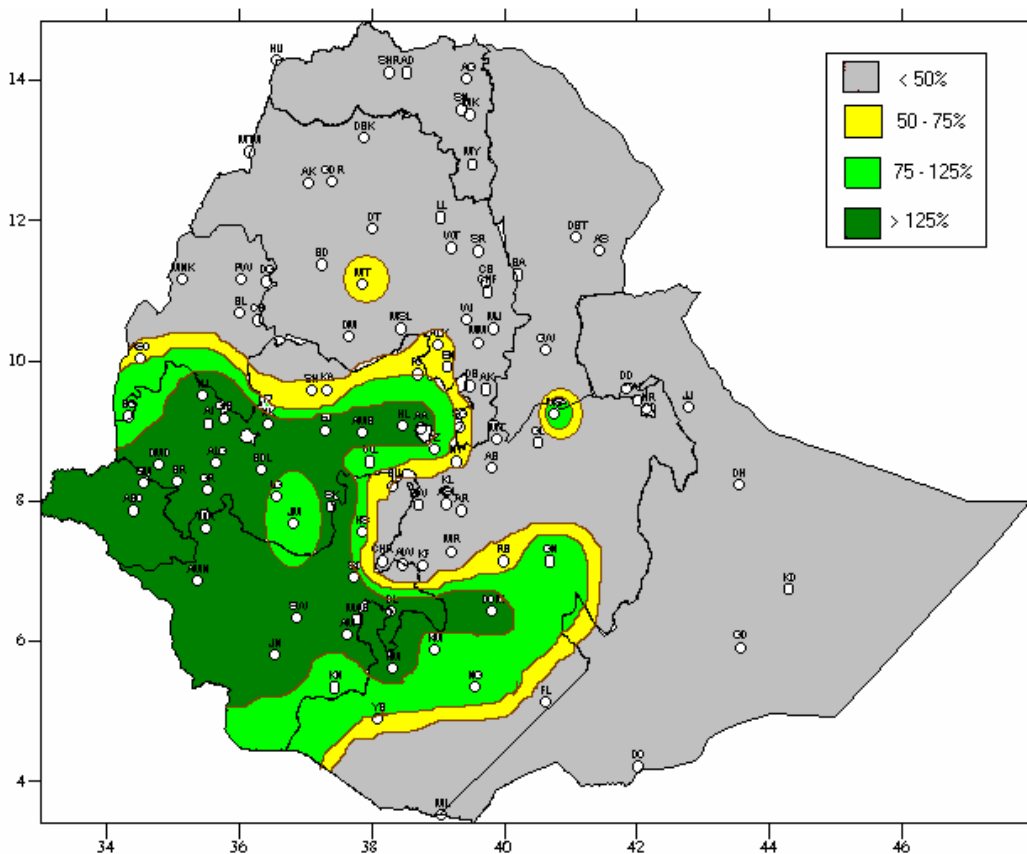


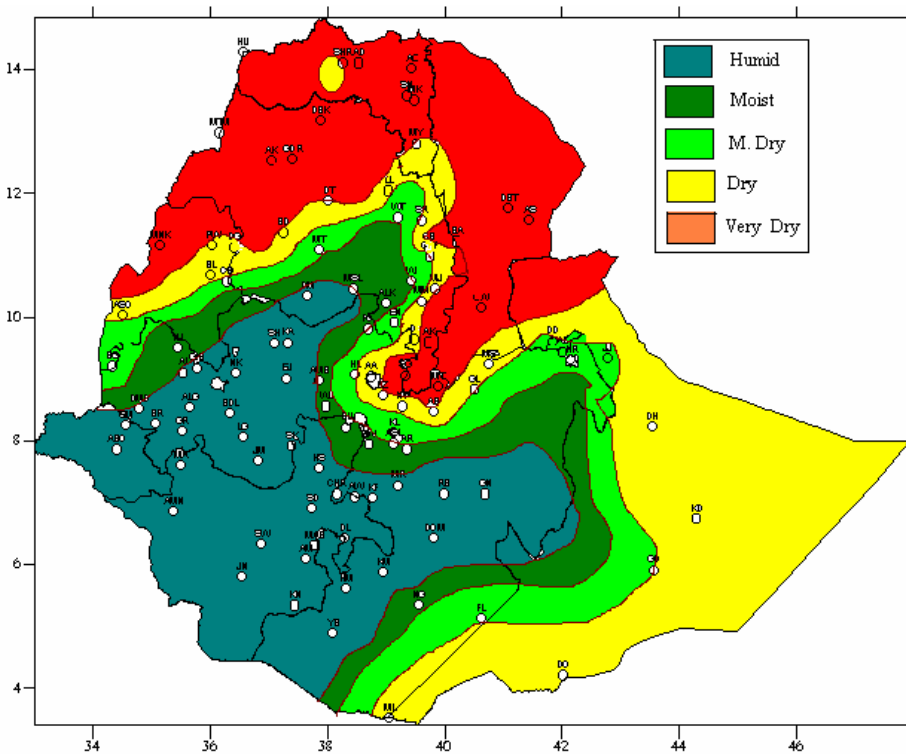
Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11-20 April, 2009)

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 in the low lands and western border of the country recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35 °C, to mention some of them Dire Dawa, Gode, Metehara, Aisha, Assayita, Dubti, Elidar, Gambela, Humera, Mankush, Metema, Mille, Maytsemria, Pawe and Semera recorded 37.0, 39.0, 39.0, 41.0, 37.0, 42.0, 38.9, 40.0, 44.2, 40.8, 40.8, 41.0 38.5, 38.5 and 41.5 °C, respectively. On the other hand Koffele recorded minimum temperature 4.8 °C. The situation might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and livestock.



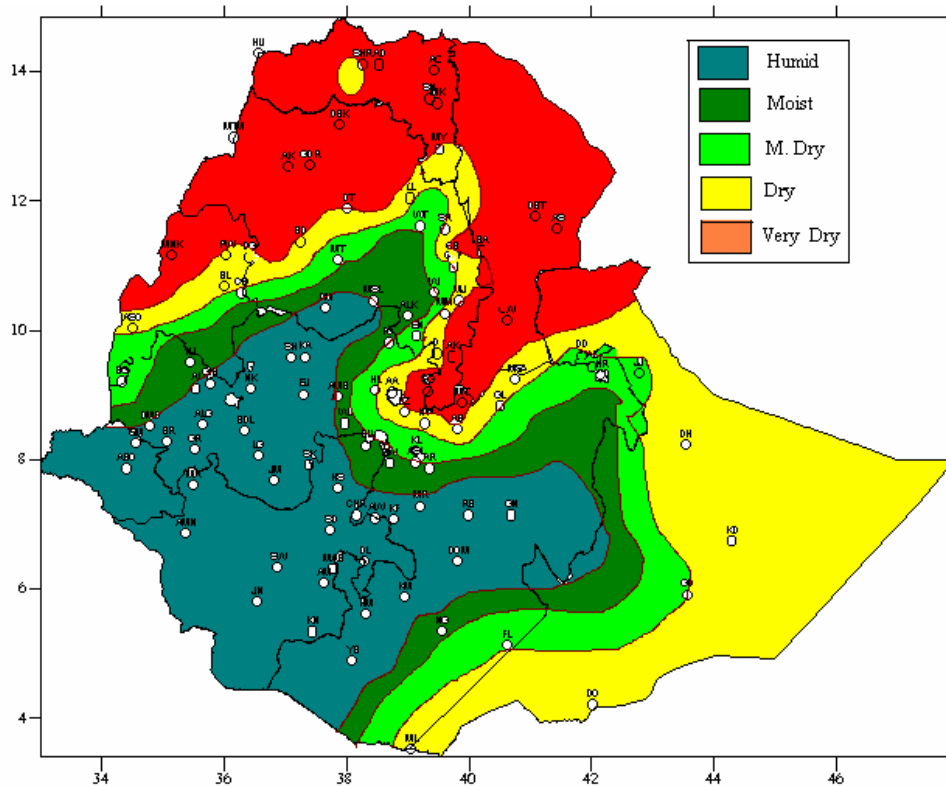
AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Belg rain were observed over most parts of belg benefiting areas and also heavy fall was observed over some places hence, this situation could have favored for Belg agricultural activities such as land preparation for long cycle crops and pulses, perennial crops, availability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas over much of Oromiya, SNNPR, Somali, Harar, Gambela, central and eastern Tigray, and Amhara. On the other hand over western Amhara, western Tigray, Benshangul- Gumuz and Afar observed dry condition. This could have a negative impact for general agricultural activities and availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas.

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 April, 2009)

As indicated on the moisture map below, most parts of SNNPR, Gambela, southeastern, southwestern and western Oromiya, southern and southwestern Benshangul-Gumuz exhibited humid to moist condition, while some areas of southern and southwestern somali, southwestern Benshangul- Gumuz, central and southwest Oromiya and pocket areas of southeastern Amhara would receive moderately dry condition, thus, the situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities as well as availability of drinking water and pasture and perennial crops, while the rest parts of the country observed dry to very dry condition which could have a negative impacts for Belg agricultural activities and availability of drinking water and pastors.



3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days normal Belg rainfall will be expected to continue over most Belg rain benefiting areas of the country. As a result over SNNPR, most Oromiya, Dire Dawa, Hararia, Somali and Gambela will expect normal to above normal rainfall and heavy fall over some place. While eastern Tigray, western and eastern Amahra, Benshangul- Gumuz and Afar will expect near normal condition. This situation will have positive impact for Belg crops which were at different growing stage, perennial crops and pasture and drinking water availability.