

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of April 2009, the rainfall activities observed over much of Oromia, SNNPR, Gambela, Benishangul- Gumuz, Harari, Dire Dawa, and Somali with relative expansion further to the north-west as compared to the previous dekad. In addition heavy falls were observed over western and southwestern parts of the country. The situation might have favored perennial crops and Belg agricultural activities and might have used for conservation of water for pasture and water availability improvement over agro-pastoral areas

During the first dekad of May 2009, dry, sunny and hot weather condition were prevailed in most parts of the country, this saturation might have a water stress impact on perennial crops as well as Belg crops that are found at early vegetative stages and at different phenological stage and for pasture and drinking water availability. On the other hand, on the beginning and last days of the dekad rainfall observed over western, southwestern, southern, and pocket areas of northwestern, northeastern and eastern parts of the country. As result over SNNPR, western and southern Oromia, Bale highlands, Gambella, western and eastern Amhara, Diredawa, Benshangul- Gumuz and pocket area of southern Tigray receive rainfall. This situation favored for Belg agricultural activities, land preparation and sowing of long cycle crops, and perennial crops, as well as availability of drinking water and pasture.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1-10 May 2009

RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

*Gambela, pocket area of northern tip of SNNPR received 50 – 100mm rainfall.
Western and pocket areas of Oromia, western half of SNNPR received 25–50mm rainfall.
Benshangul-Gumuz, western margin and pocket area of northern Amhara, south eastern parts of SNNPR and most parts of southern Oromia received 5 – 25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.*

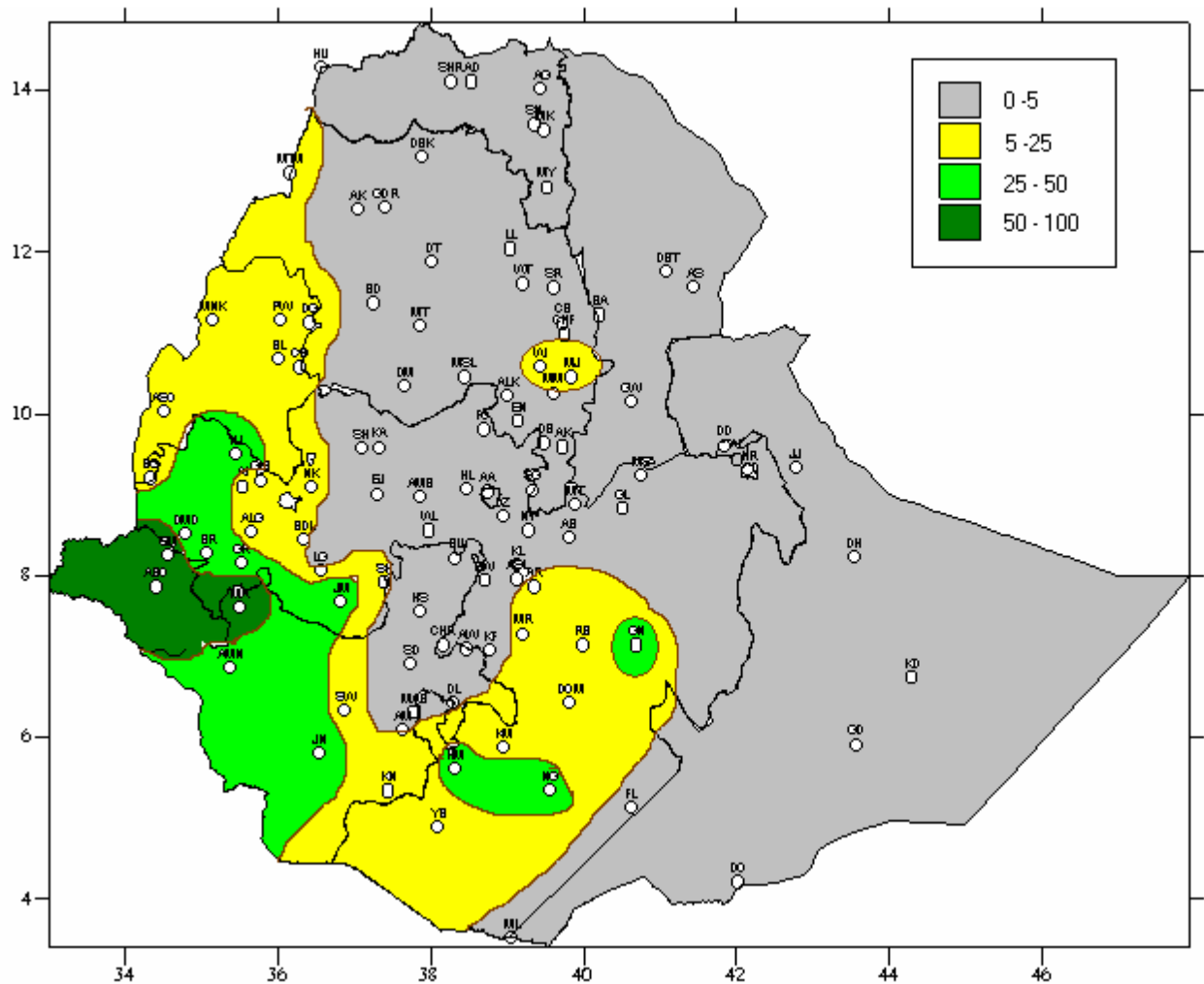


Fig 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 May 2009)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

*Most parts of Gambela, pocket areas of western and southern Oromia
 And pocket area of western tip of Amhara Received normal to above normal rainfall. The
 rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall*

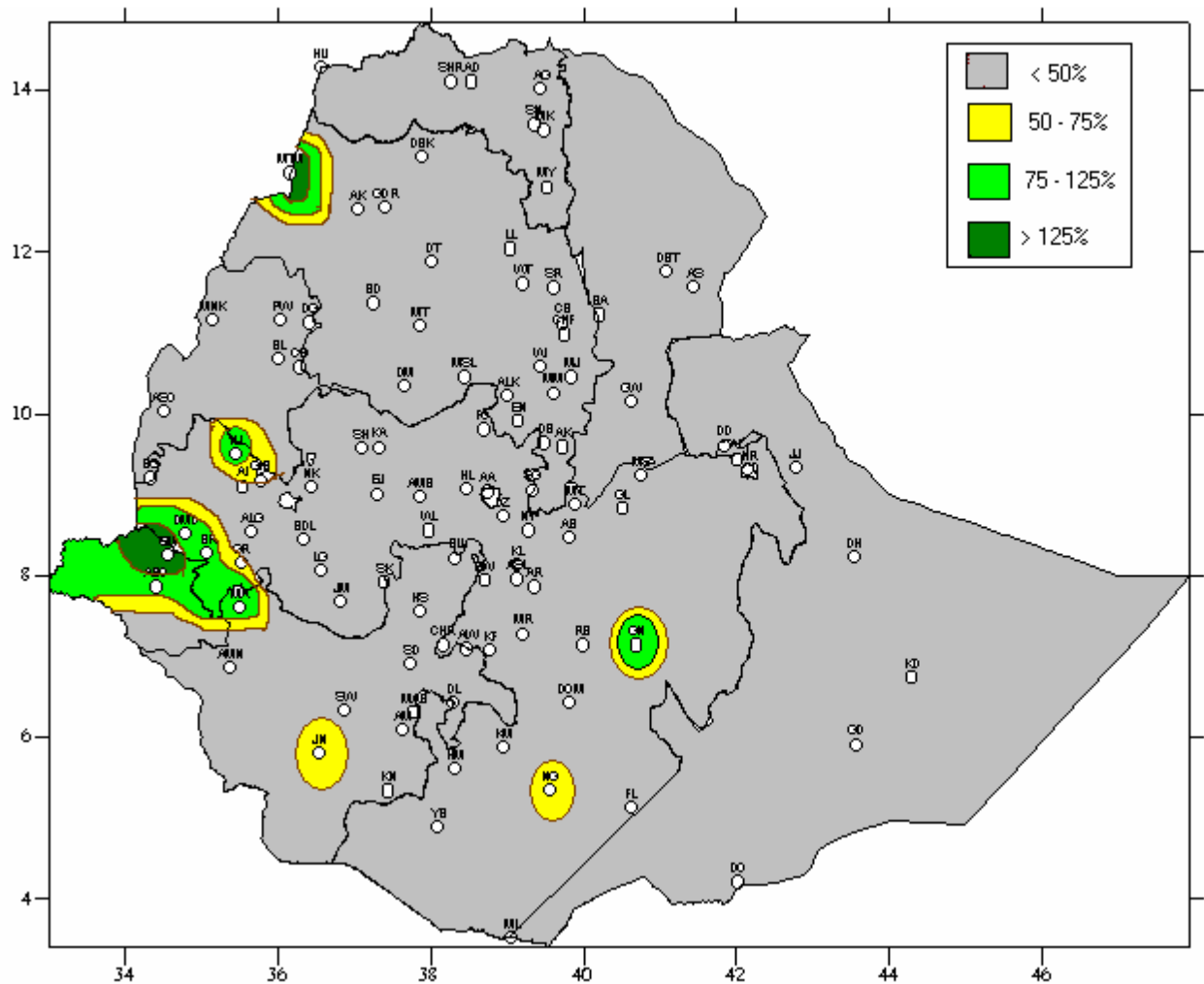


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 May 2009)

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^o C, to mention some of them Dire dawa, Humera, Gambela, Metema, Mankush, Gode, Semera, Pawe, Sirba Abaya., Dubti, Metehara, Mille, Mytsemria, Assiyta, Mieso and, Blate reported 38.0, 45.0, 39.5, 42.5, 40.0, 38.2, 42.0, 40, 39.4, 42.5, 38.5. 42.5, 38.5, 42.0, 35.0 and 35.5^o C, respectively. On the other hand, the stations reported minimum temperature below 5^oC. Kofelle exhibited extreme minimum temperature as low as 3.0^o C. This situation might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and livestock.

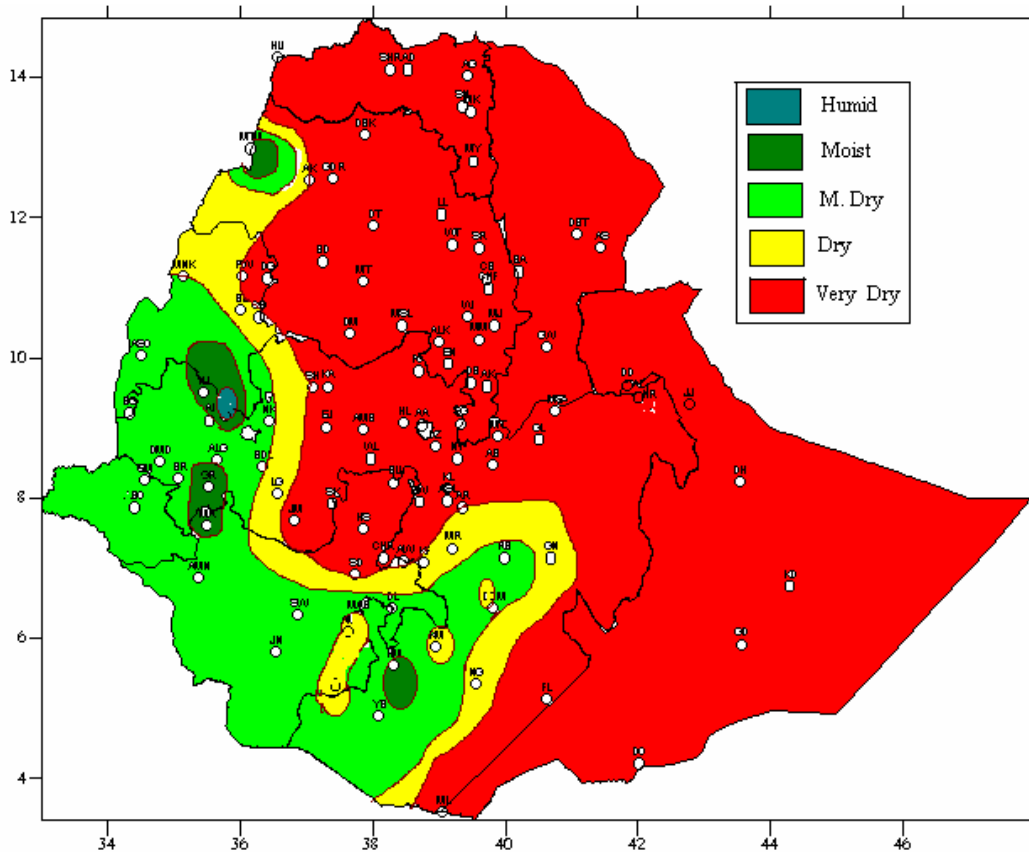
2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Dry, sunny and hot weather condition were prevailed in most parts of the country, this satiation might have a water stress impact on perennial crops as well as Belg crops that are found at early vegetative stages and at different phonological stage and for pasture and drinking water availability. On the other hand, on the beginning and last days of the dekad rainfall observed over western, southwestern, southern, and pocket areas of northwestern, northeastern and eastern parts of the country. As result over SNNPR, western and southern Oromia, Bale highlands, Gambella, western and eastern Amhara, Diredawa, Benshangul-Gumuz and pocket area of southern Tigray receive rainfall. This situation favored for Belg agricultural activities, land preparation and sowing of long cycle crops, and perennial crops, as well as availability of drinking water and pasture.

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 May 2009)

As indicated on the moisture map below, most parts of western Oromia, Gambela and western and northwestern SNNPRs and western and southwestern Benshangul-Gumuz and pocket areas of eastern Amahara exhibited humid to moist condition, while pocket areas of southern Benshangul- Gumuz, southern SNNPR, central Oromia, northern Tigray and eastern Amhara would receive moderately dry condition, thus, the situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities as well as availability of drinking water and pastors 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 near normal rainfall will expect over Benshangul-Gumuz, Gambela, western and southern Oromia, SNNPR and western Amhara. The situation will favor for Belg crops which are at different phenological stages, land preparation and sowing of long cycle crops and for perennial crops as well as pastoral and agro pastoral activities for drinking water and pasture. In addition most of Tigray, eastern Amhara, central and eastern Ethiopia and central and southern Somali will expect below normal and in some place near normal rainfall. The situation will have a positive impact for general agricultural activities and for pastor and drinking water availability. On the other hand, dry weather condition will be expected over Afar and its neighboring lowland. Situation will have a negative impact for pastoral and agro pastoral activities.