

1-10 January 2010 Vol.20 No.1 Date of issue January 12, 2010

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of December 2009, due to strengthening of rain bearing meteorological phenomenon i.e warming of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans and Arabian and Mediterranean Seas starting from the last dekad of November 2009. Un seasonal rainfall activities prevailed over the northeastern, western, southwestern central portions of the country and adjoining areas of rift valley. As a result, southern and eastern Tigray, southern and eastern Amhara ,western and southern Oromia including Bale and Arsi zones , SNNPR and eastern and central parts of the country received normal to above normal rainfall while, increasing cloud coverage and cloudy weather condition was dominated over much parts of southern half parts of the country. The situation had negative impact on ripped meher crops, harvest and post harvest activities based on specifications of given area, while, it favored perennial crops, late sown Meher crops, availability of pasture and drinking water particularly for pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. On the contrary, much of north western ,north eastern low lands and south eastern parts of the country were experienced dry weather condition which is conducive for meher crops harvest and post harvest activities.

During the first dekade of January, 2010 dry weather condition was observed due to the strengthened Bega weather systems. As a result, most of the country experienced dry and sunny weather condition. However SNNPR, Borena some parts of eastern and central Oromia eastern Amhara high lands receive rainfall. This situation would have a positive impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water over postural and agro pastoral area of Borena and SNNPR. On the contrary, the rainfall activities over areas of eastern Amhara and central Oromia might have caused a negative impact on Meher harvest and post harvest activities. On the other hand, the dominated dry and windy weather condition over most parts of the country might have a positive impact for meher harvest and post harvest activities.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 January 2010

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of southern SNNPR received 25-50 mm rainfall. Parts of southern SNNPR and southern Oromia received 5-25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

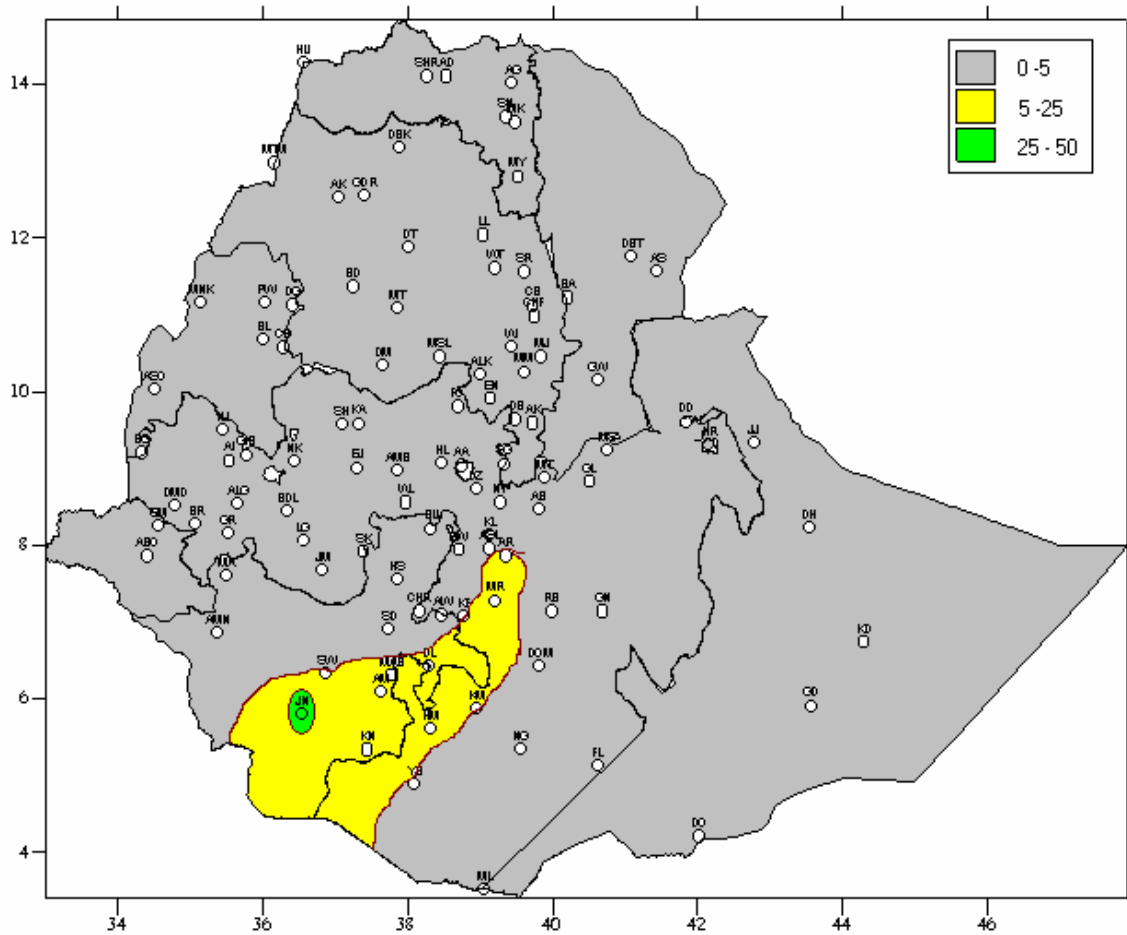


Fig 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 January 2010)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Parts of southern SNNPR and Oromia exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below normal to much below normal rainfall.

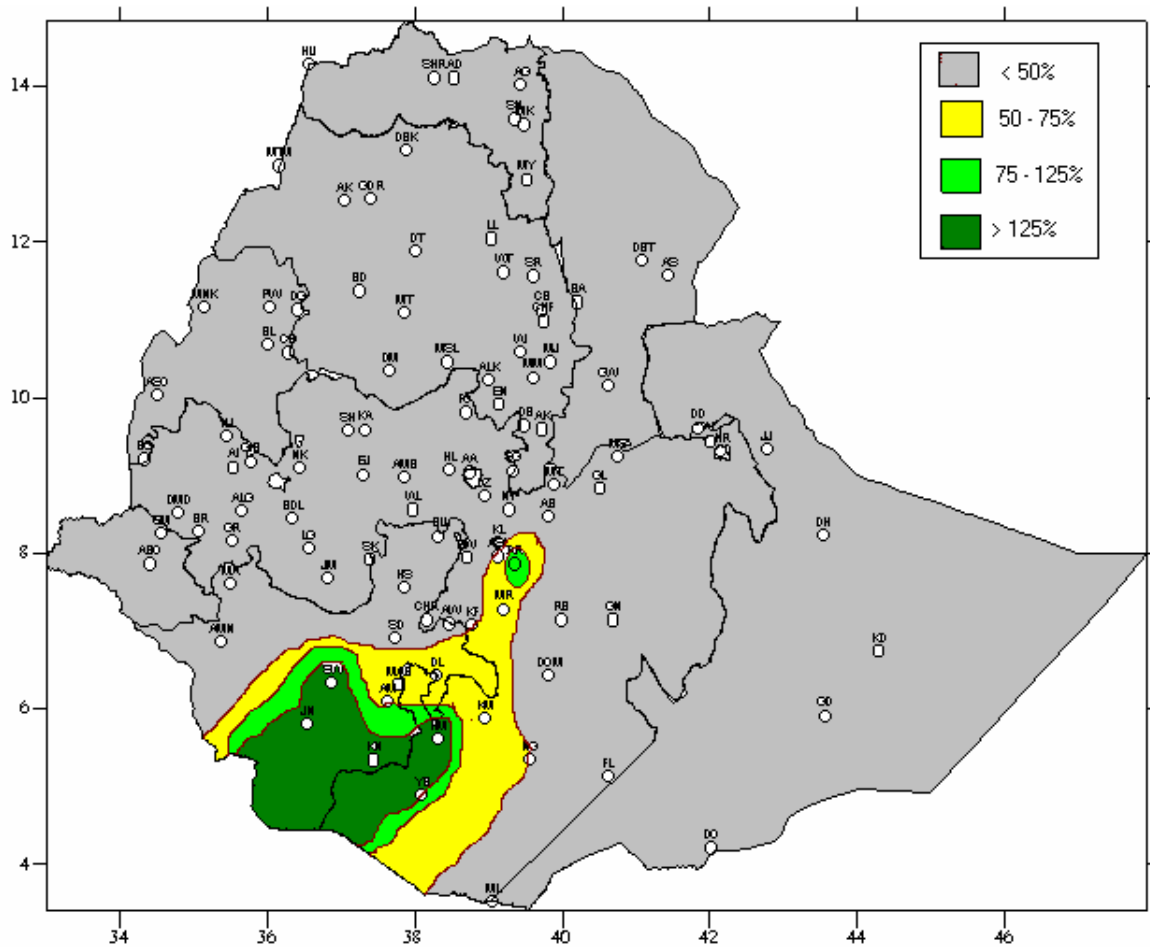


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 January 2010)

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. Gode, Gambella, Humera, Mankush, reported 36.6, 41.0, 38.5 and 37.5 35°C, respectively, while some stations reported minimum temperature as low as 5°C. Bahir Dar, Robe, Adet, Alamaya, Atsbi, Chagni, Dbere Brehan, Debre work, Fitcha, Jijiga, Koffele, Kulumsa, Mehal meda, Mota and Emedeber recorded 3.5, 4.1, 4.5, 0.5, 4.0, 4.5, 1.0, 2.5, 3.3, 4.0, 3.0, 3.0, 4.0, 2.8, 2.5 and 3.5°C, respectively. The situation might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and livestock.

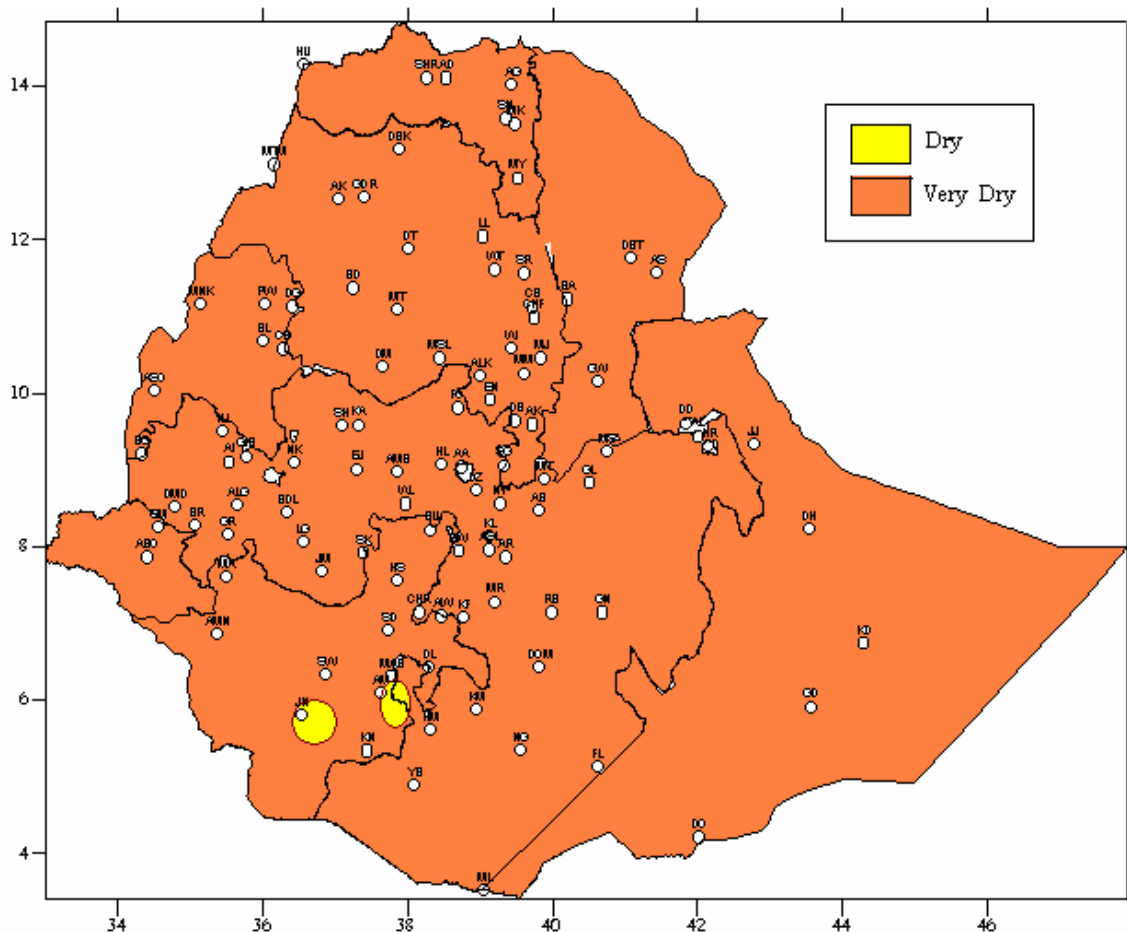
2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Dry weather condition was observed due to the strengthened Bega weather systems. As a result, most of the country experienced dry and sunny weather condition. However SNNPR, Borena some parts of eastern and central Oromia eastern Amhara high lands receive rainfall. This situation would have a positive impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water over postural and agro pastoral area of Borena and SNNPR. On the contrary, the rainfall activities over areas of eastern Amhara and central Oromia might have caused a negative impact on Meher harvest and post harvest activities. On the other hand, the dominated dry and windy weather condition over most parts of the country might have a positive impact for meher harvest and post harvest activities.

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 January, 2010)

The moisture map below indicates, pocket area of western SNNPR observed dry moisture condition while the rest parts of the country observed very dry situation. The situation might have favored harvest and post harvest activities of meher crops.



2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days the Bega's dry and sunny weather condition will intensify over the country. As a result, early morning and mid night coldness will be expected over most highlands of the country. Moreover, Tigray, Amhara, most parts of Oromia Benshangul-Gumuze, Gambela Afar and Somali will expect dry condition. The situation will have a positive impact for Meher harvest and post harvest activities. On the other hand, the analysed and forecasted meteorological parameter indicates that conducive weather phenomena expected to occur at the end of the dekad. Due to this fact parts of the adjoining area of Rift valley expected little rainfall. Hence, the situation will favor the general agricultural activities, pasture and drinking water availabilities over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. Contrary, unseasonal rainfall activities expected to cause Meher harvest and post harvest activities losses.