

11-20 May 2013 Vol. 24 No.14

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of May 2013, on the beginning of the first half of the dekad rain bearing meteorological system was strengthened over southern, eastern and central as well as western and south western parts of the country. In line with this most of southern half of the country, central and eastern Oromia, some parts of Benshangul- Gumuze received 50-217 mm of rainfall (observed in 4-9 rainy days). Besides, Tigray, Amhara, Afar and eastern Somali exhibited 5- 50 mm. The situation might have favored Belg crops that were found at different phonological stages, water requirement for perennial plants and recently sown long cycle crops like Sorghum and Maize and availability of pasture and drinking water over southern and south eastern pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Some stations recorded heavy falls ranging from 43.3-75.8 mm in one rainy day, the situation might have caused flash flood in some pocket areas which might have caused slight damage on Belg crops over the aforementioned areas. On the other hand, some lowlands of northeastern, northwestern and western portions of the country experienced daily maximum temperature greater than 35°C, which might have led to moisture stress for perennial plants and negative impacts on the availability of pasture and drinking water.

During the first half of the second decade of May 2013, the rainfall activities were strengthened in amount and distribution over all Belg rain benefiting areas of the country. Thus, the situation might have favored the ongoing Belg agricultural activities, water requirement of Belg cops that found at different phonological phases, perennial plants, land preparation and sowing of long cycle Meher crops such Maize, millet and Sorghum and availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. After the second half of the decade, the rainfall activities extended to western half of the country which will benefit Meher agricultural activities such as land preparation and sowing of long cycle Meher crops. Whereas some station from the western parts of the country reported heavy rainfall ranging 31.3-111.9 mm in one rainy day which my cause negative impact on the on going agricultural activities.

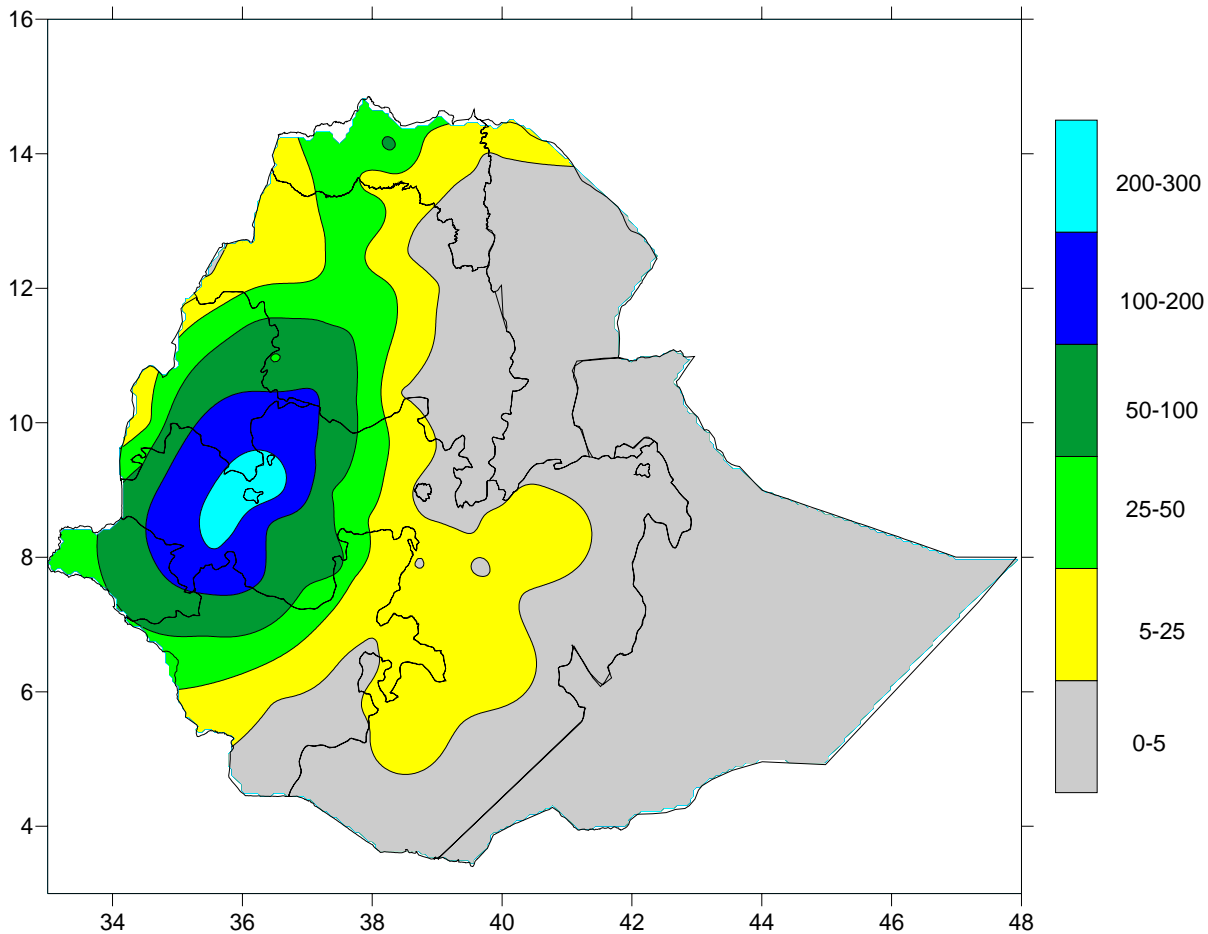


Fig. 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 May 2013)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of western Oromia and adjacent areas of Benishangul-Gumuz received 200-300 mm of rainfall. Parts of western Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz, and eastern margin of Gambella, northern tip of SNNPR, southern margin of Amhara received 100-200mm of rainfall. Much of Gambella, eastern Benishangul-Gumuz southern Amhara, western Oromia and northern portion of SNNPR exhibited 50-100 mm of rainfall. Much of central Amhara and Tigray, parts of western half of Benishangul-Gumuz, western Gambella, central SNNPR and Oromia received 25-50mm of rainfall. Parts of southern, eastern and central Oromia, eastern and southern SNNPR western and central Amhara, western and eastern Tigray and northern tip of Afar experienced 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

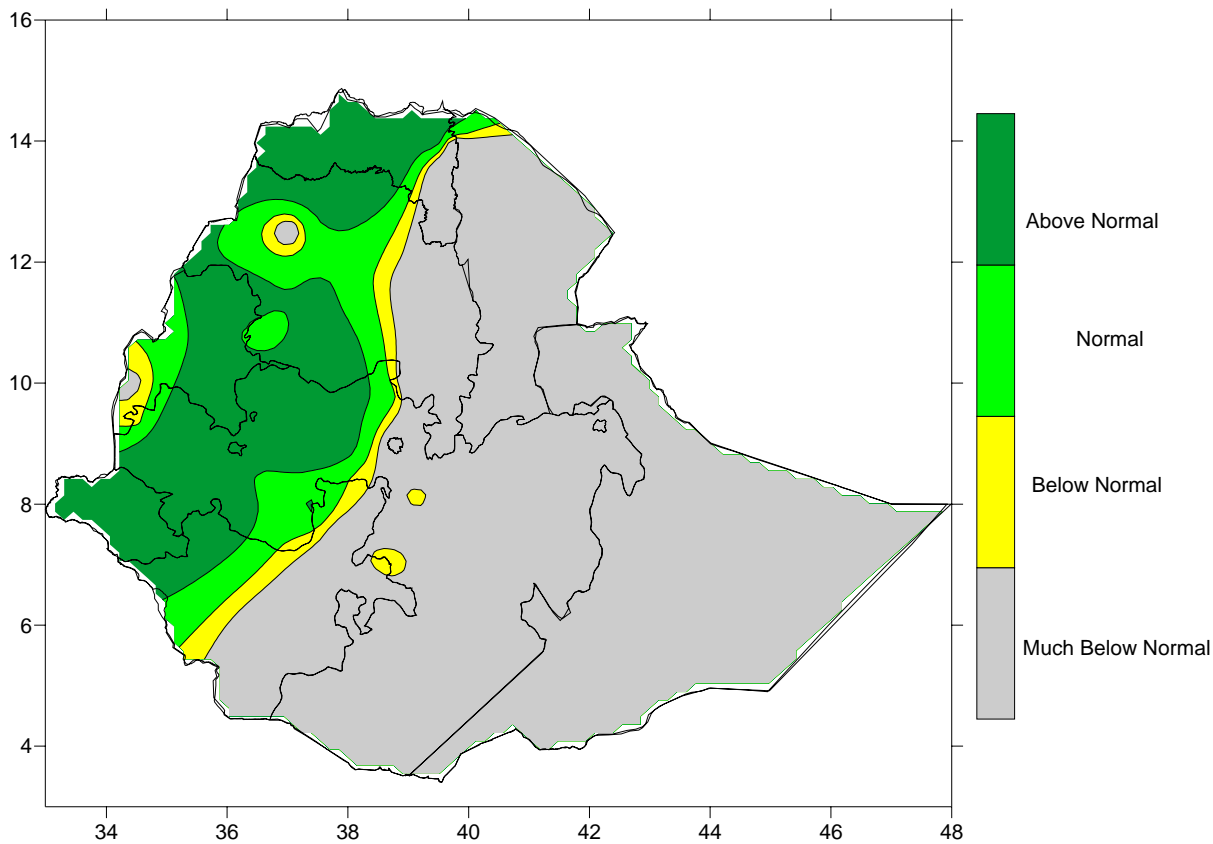


Fig.2.

Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11-20 May 2013)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

- < 50 -- Much below normal**
- 50—75% -- below normal**
- 75—125% --- Normal**
- >125% ---- Above normal**

1.2 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.2)

Much of Tigray, Amhara and western Oromia, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country received below normal to much below normal rainfall.

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations in the low lands of the country reported extreme maximum temperature greater than 35°C. Among the reporting station: Dire Dawa, Gode, Metehara, Abobo, Awash Arba, Dubti, Elidar, Error, Gewane, , Mieso, Mytseberi, Nura Era Qara, Semera, and Tsitsika recorded 35.3.to 43.5 °C. 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

During the first half of the second decade of May 2013, the rainfall activities were strengthened in amount and distribution over all Belg rain benefiting areas of the country. Thus, the situation might have favored the ongoing Belg agricultural activities, water requirement of Belg crops that found at different phenological phases, perennial plants, land preparation and sowing of long cycle Meher crops such as Maize, millet and Sorghum and availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. After the second half of the decade, the rainfall activities extended to western half of the country which will benefit Meher agricultural activities such as land preparation and sowing of long cycle Meher crops. Whereas some station from the western parts of the country reported heavy rainfall ranging 31.3-111.9 mm in one rainy day which may cause negative impact on the ongoing agricultural activities.

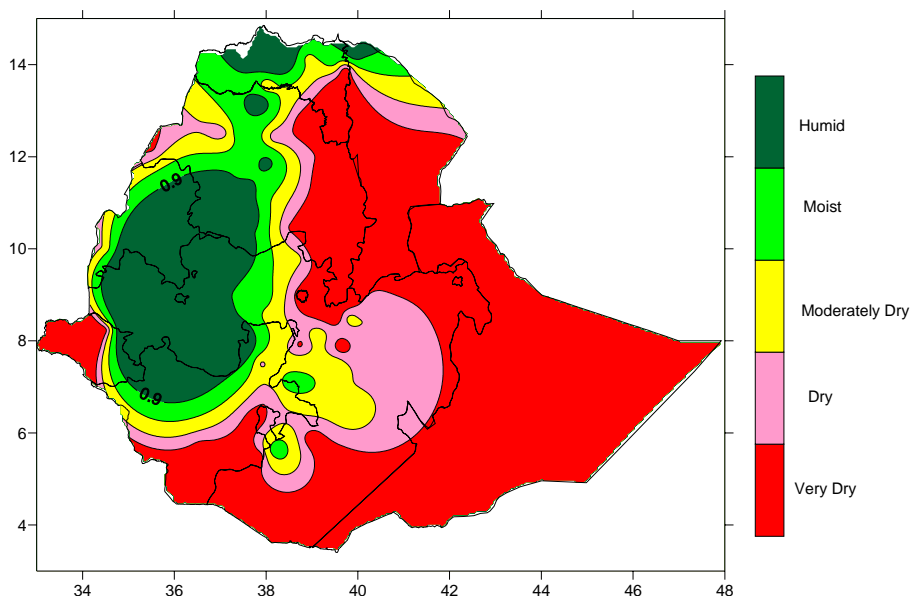


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-21 May 2013)

As indicated the moisture status map above, most of Tigray, northern and central Amhara, northern tip of Afar, Benshangul-Gumuz, southwestern Oromia, western SNNPR and eastern Gambela, experienced moist to humid moisture condition. While, pocket areas of eastern Tigray, western and eastern Amhara, western Benshangul-Gumuz, southeastern and southwestern Oromia, northwestern SNNPR and northern Afar exhibited moderately dry moisture condition, which might have favored water availability of perennial plants and drinking water and pasture over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. The rest parts of the country experienced dry to very dry moisture condition.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the last decade of the month of may 2013 rainfall activities will expect to expanded farther to the southern, eastern and central parts of the county in line with this SNNPR, Gambela, western Oromia, western Amhara, Benshangulu- Gumuz, will expect to benefit normal to above normal rainfall while Tigray, high lands of southern, central and eastern Oromia will expect near normal rainfall. Thus the situation might have favor water requirement for perennial plants, Belg crops that were found at different phonological phase, Meher agricultural activities such as land preparation and sowing of long cycle Meher crops and improvement of drinking water and pasture over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country.