

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN-DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of July 2013, better rainfall distribution observed over most parts of seasonal rainfall benefiting areas of the country. As a result, most of Oromia, Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, Gambella, eastern Tigray, SNNPR, and southern Afar, Dire Dawa, Harari and pocket area of northern Somali received slight to heavy rainfall. This situation might have a significant contribution for Meher agricultural activities for early planted long cycle crops, cereals & pulses which were found at different phenological stages. Moreover, the extended rainfall activity over eastern and northeastern parts of the country could have a positive impact on Meher agricultural activities and availabilities of pasture and drinking water. On the other hand, some areas of southwestern, southern, northwestern and central parts of the country exhibited heavy fall ranging from 37.0 – 122.0 mm in one rainy day.

During the second dekad of July 2013, much of Amhara, central and eastern Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, northern SNNPR, western, central and eastern Oromia, central and southern Afar, Dire Dawa and Harari received their normal decadal rainfall. The situation might have favored land preparation and sowing activities of different Meher crops, satisfying the water demand of long cycle Meher crops that were found at different phases of growth and development, perennial crops, pasture and drinking water availability in pastoral agro pastoral areas. However, heavy fall accompanied by hailstorm and strong wind within the range of 45.0 to 101.0 mm was reported from some of the stations resulted in flooding that caused damage on crops and properties.

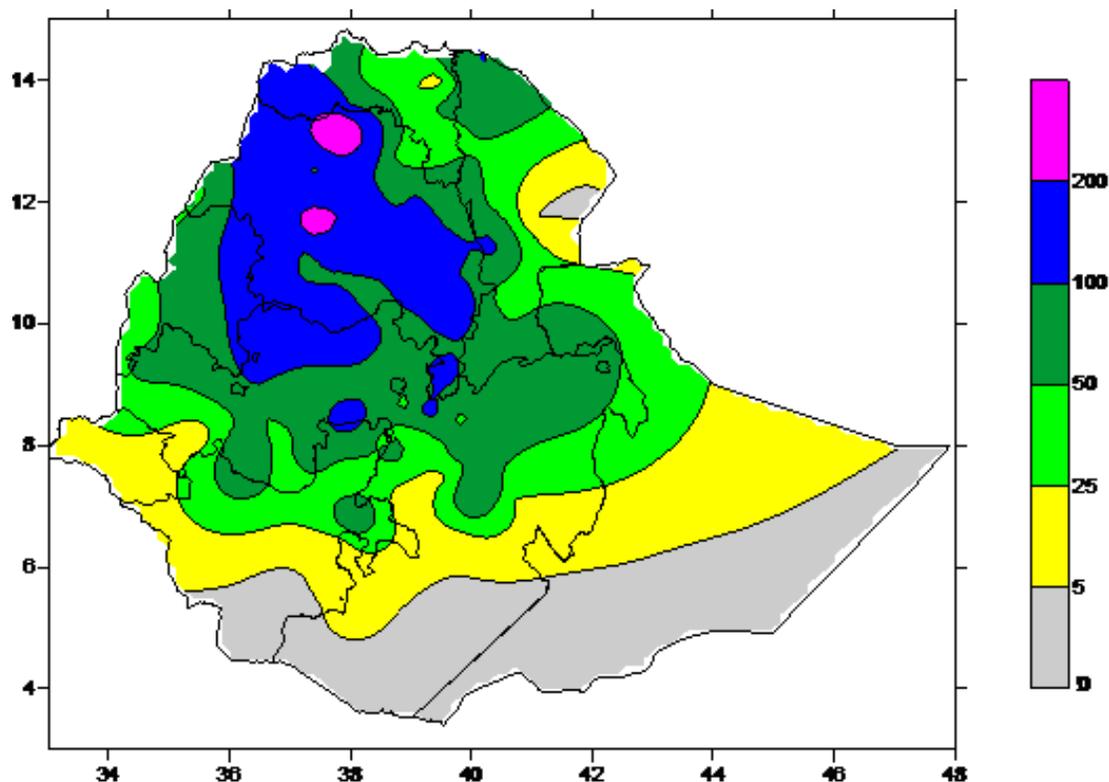


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 July 2013)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

11-20 July, 2013

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of northern and south western Amhara received 200- 300 mm of rainfall. Most parts of Amhara, eastern margin of Benshangul-Gumuz, parts of western Oromia, and pocket area of western Afar received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Parts of central Tigray, northern tip and western margin of Afar, parts of northeastern and southern Amhara, parts of western central and eastern Oromia, western half of Benshangul-Gumuz and pocket area of northern SNNPR received 50-100 mm of rainfall. Eastern half of Tigray, parts of Afar, northern Somali, northern half of SNNPR received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Most of Gambela and parts of SNNPR, southern Oromia and Somali received 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced little or no rainfall.

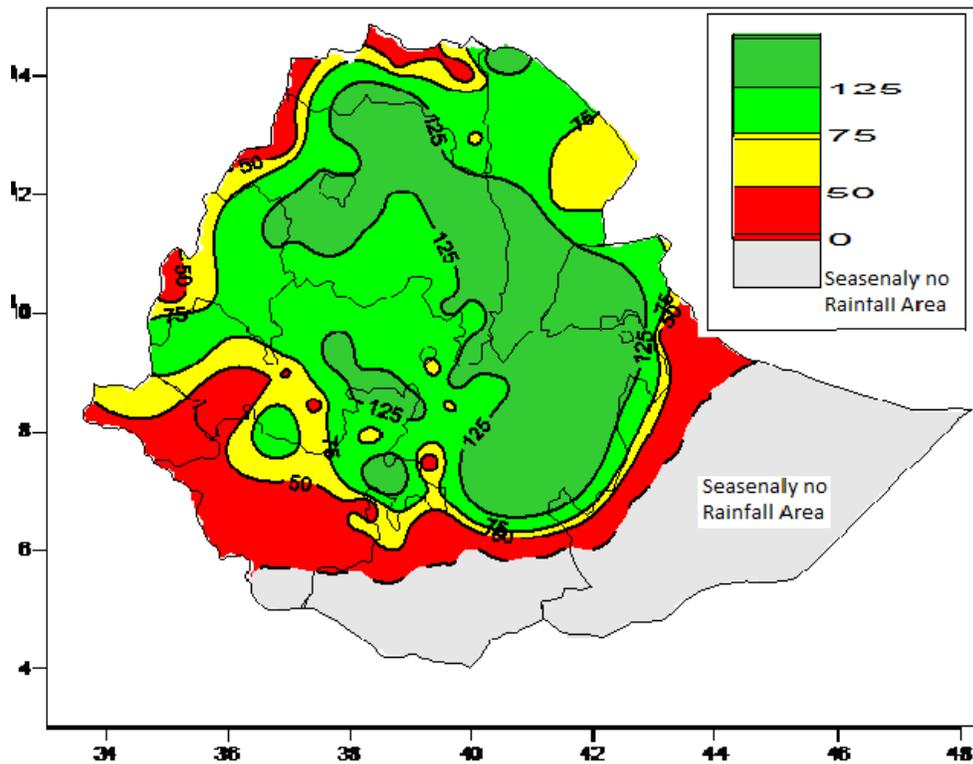


Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11-20 July, 2013)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.2. RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most of Amhara, southern half of Tigray, most of Afar, most parts of central and eastern and parts of western and southern Oromia and eastern half of Benshangul-Gumuz, some parts of northern SNNPR and Somali exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced much below to below normal rainfall.

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations found in the north eastern parts of the country reported extreme maximum temperature greater than 35°C. Among the reporting stations: Awash Arba, Chifra, Dubti, Elidar, Error, Gewane, Mille, Semera and Dire Dawa recorded 36.0, 38.0, 43.0, 42.7, 37.5, 41.0, 42.0, 42.0 and 36.0°C respectively. The situation might have a negative impact on the physiological activities, the normal growth and development of plants and livestock.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

In dekad under review, of the second dekad of July 2013, much of Amhara, central and eastern Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, northern SNNPR, western, central and eastern Oromia, central and southern Afar, Dire Dawa and Harari received their normal decadal rainfall. The situation might have favored land preparation and sowing activities of different Meher crops, satisfying the water demand of long cycle Meher crops that were found at different phases of growth and development, perennial crops, pasture and drinking water availability in pastoral agro pastoral areas. However, heavy fall accompanied by hailstorm and strong wind within the range of 45.0 to 101.0 mm was reported from some of the stations resulted in flooding that caused damage on crops and properties.

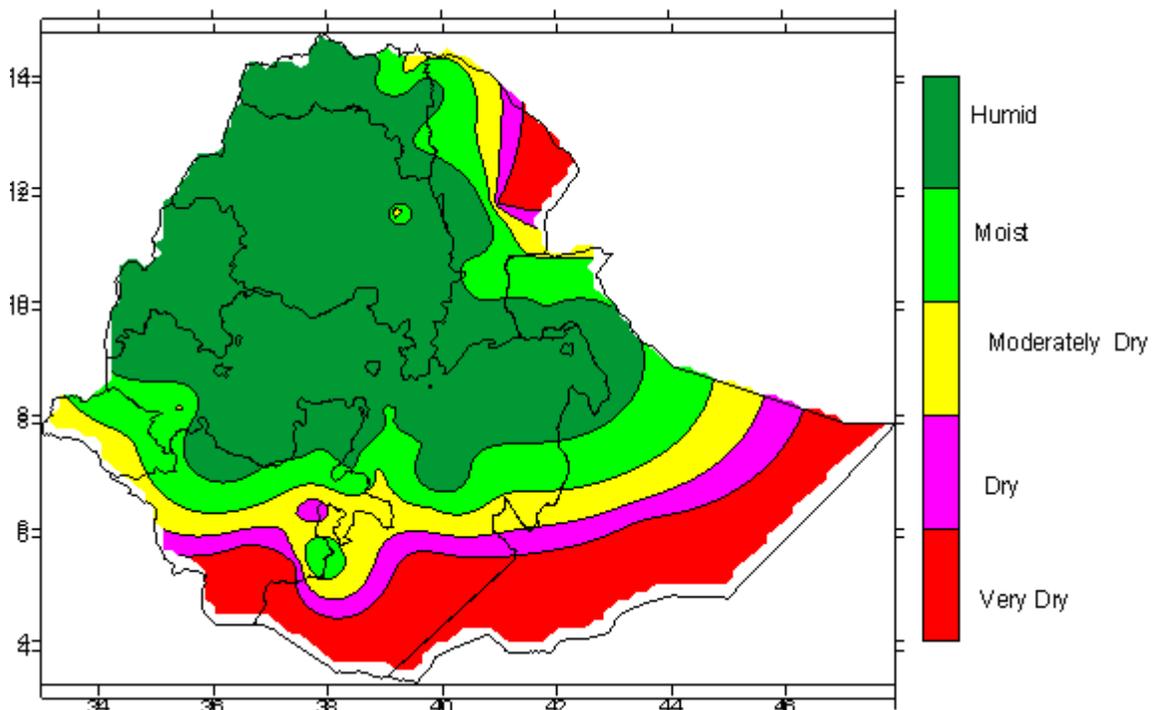


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 July 2013)

As indicated on the moisture status map above, most of Kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country experienced moist to humid moisture condition, which might have favored the ongoing seasons agricultural activities, water requirement of perennial plants, availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. While, southern half of Gambella and most parts of SNNPR and southern Oromia exhibited moderately dry to very dry condition, which might have a negatively effect on the season's agricultural activities.

2.1 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming third dekad of July 2013, normal to above normal rainfall will be expected over Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, western and central Oromia and SNNPR while near normal rainfall will be expected over Afar, eastern Oromia , Hariri, Dire Dawa, northern Somali and much of Tigray. The situation expected to favor, the ongoing seasonal agricultural activities and proper use of agricultural inputs as well. In addition to these, the expected heavy falls accompanied by hailstorm over areas may cause flood and flash floods over flood prone and steep slope areas. Moreover, also there may be, water logging problems in areas of heavy soil with poor drainage system and where soils already saturated. Hence, we would like to advice farmers and concerned bodies to take care and follow proper farming methods and precautions and appropriate measures.