

SUMMARY

During the third decade of August 2014, rain bearing meteorological phenomena strengthened and result rain fall good in amount and even in distribution over most Kireimt rain benefiting areas of the country. Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, much of Oromia, SNNPR, Afar, Harari, DireDawa and northern Somali received light to heavy rainfall. The situation might have favored water requirement of perennial plants, different Meher crops, particularly late sown crops (Teff) because of dry spell prevailed at critical sowing time, agricultural activities, availability of pasture and drinking water over postural and agro pastoral parts of the country. In line with this, some stations; Alem ketema, Abomsa , Adawa, Aira, Alage, Arjo, Awassa, Adell, Bahir-Dar, Bedelle, Begi, Bullen, Chagin, Chira, DebreTabor,Fiche, Gimbi, Ginner, Nekemte, Axum, Aman, Burji, Gundomeskel, Golocha, Ebella Amdework, Chewaka, Kachisie, Limugenet, Maichew, Maji, Masha, Majete, Mankush, Nebelet, Quara, Shawura, Seru, Shire and Wereilu reported heavy falls ranging from 31.0 to 93.5 mm in one rainy day. This might have minor negative impact on seasonal agriculture and activities which might have caused flash and river over flow floods over low laying areas and also resulted water logging. Contrary to this, heavy falls experienced favored water harvesting where this practice is already inhabited.

During the first ten days of September 2014, Kiremt rain bearing meteorological phenomenon continued in similar strengthen of previous decade which result in rainfall widely cover most of kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. As a result of this, Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, SNNPR, much of Oromia, Harari, DireDawa, Afar and northern Somali received light to heavy rainfall. Besides this, the cessation of the season is regular and follow normal trend. Hence, the situation favored water requirement of crops particularly late sown (Teff) due to dry spell prevailed at critical time of sowing over some places and not fully attend normal growth phase, perennial plants, pasture and drinking water availability over pastoral and agro pastoral parts of the country. Moreover, sunny condition in interval of time is good for photosynthetic and weeding activities. The sunny condition in interval of time, is also supported convective cloud development that resulted in heavy falls ranging from 30.5 to 96.0 mm over Mieso,Bullen,Shaura,Bedelle,Matsyimier,Jijiga,Mash,Nedjo,Aman,Mankush,Ejaji,Limugent,Jim ma,Gambella,Harari,Bore,Mirab Abaya,Nefasmewucha,Kachisie,Enewary,Abomsa and Nura - Era. The heavy falls with thunder storm, hail and strong wind caused damage to sorghum crop in the field and property at Bati and Elidar as report received from stations indicated. In addition to this, flash and river over flow flood and water logging might have caused minor negative impact on seasonal agricultural activities and life of livestock. Contrary to these, heavy falls might have favored water harvesting and conservation in areas where this practice is inhabited.

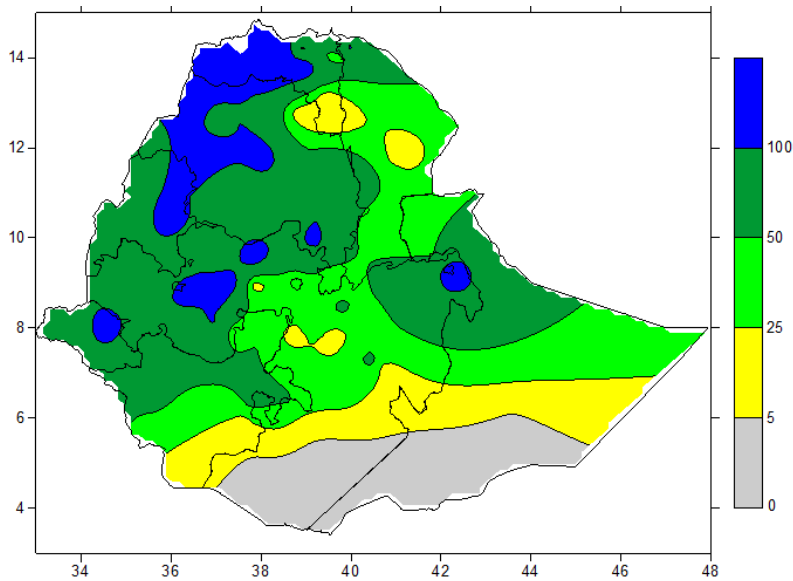


Fig. 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 September 2014)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Western half of Tigray, parts of western Amhara, northeastern Benshangul-Gumuze, some parts of western, northern and eastern Oromia and northeastern Gambella received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Eastern Tigray, most parts of Amhara, parts of northern, western and eastern Oromia, northern Somali and western and central SNNPR received 50-100 mm of rainfall. Most of Afar, central Somali, eastern, central and northern SNNPR and central parts of the country received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Southern Tigray, pocket area of Afar, southern and pocket areas of central Oromia, central Somali and parts of southern SNNPR exhibited 5-25mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced little or no rainfall

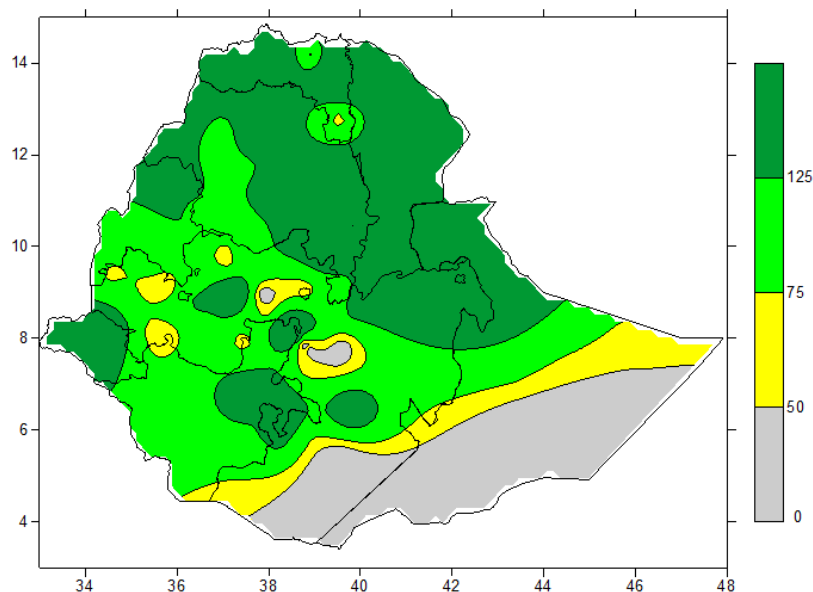


Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1-10 September 2014)

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, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Gambella, SNNPR and north Somali exhibited normal to above normal rainfall, while pocket areas of western, northern and central Oromia and the rest parts of the country experienced below normal to much below normal.

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations in the low lands of the country reported extreme maximum temperature greater than 35°C. Among the reporting stations: Dubti, Gode, Awash Arba, Elidar, Gewane, Metehara, Semera and Nura-Era recorded 40.5, 37.0, 36.0, 41.2, 39.0, 35.0, 40.1 and 37.0 °C respectively, while only Adigrat, Senkata and Hagaré mariam reported extreme minimum temperature below 5 of 3.0, 5.0 and 5.0 °C consequentially. The situation might have a minor negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and caused heat stress that reduce feed intake and yield of livestock products.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

During the decade under review of the first ten days of September 2014, Kiremt rain bearing meteorological phenomenon continued in similar strengthen of previous decade which result in rainfall widely cover most of kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. As a result of this, Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul- Gumuz, Gambella, SNNPR, much of Oromia, Harari, DireDawa, Afar and northern Somali received light to heavy rainfall. Besides this, the cessation of the season is regular and follow normal trend. Hence, the situation favored water requirement of crops particularly late sown (Teff) due to dry spell prevailed at critical time of sowing over some places and not fully attend normal growth phase, perennial plants, pasture and drinking water availability over pastoral and agro pastoral parts of the country. Moreover, sunny condition in interval of time is good for photosynthetic and weeding activities. The sunny condition in interval of time, is also supported convective cloud development that resulted in heavy falls ranging from 30.5 to 96.0 mm over Mieso, Bullen, Shaura, Bedelle, Matsyimier, Jijiga, Mash, Nedjo, Aman, Mankush, Ejaji, Limugent, Jimma, Gambella, Harari, Bore, Mirab Abaya, Nefasmewucha, Kachisie, Enewary, Abomsa and Nura -Era. The heavy falls with thunder storm, hail and strong wind caused damage to sorghum crop in the field and property at Bati and Elidar as report received from stations indicated. In addition to this, flash and river over flow flood and water logging might have caused minor negative impact on seasonal agricultural activities and life of livestock. Contrary to these, heavy falls might have favored water harvesting and conservation in areas where this practice is inhabited.

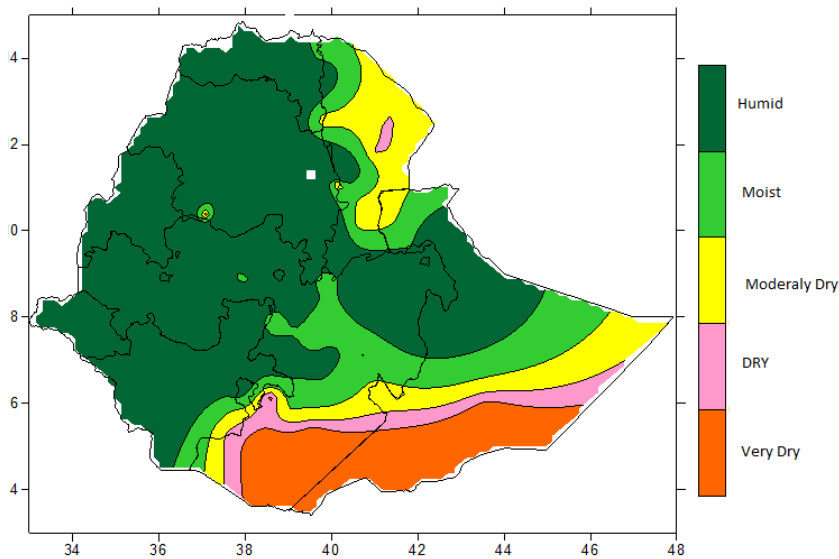


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 September 2014)

As moisture status map above indicated, moist to humid moisture condition experienced over much of Tigray, Amhara, Benshagul- Gumuz, Oromia, northern Somalia, SNNPR and Gambella, while north eastern Afar, and southern Oromia, and northern tip and southern Somalia exhibited moderately dry moisture condition. The rest parts of the country exhibited dry to very dry moisture statuses.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

Under normal condition, during second decade of September rainfall activity gradual start ceasing from eastern parts of the country. This year the rain fall activity more or less follow normal trend will expect to prevail over most of kiremt rain benefitting parts of the country. But the rainfall activity will expect to continue up to the last week of the month particularly over eastern, central, with better strengthen over western half and southwestern. Hence, western Tigray, western Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, western and including southern high lands of Oromia, SNNPR will expect to receive normal to above normal rainfall. Eastern Tigray, Eastern Amhara eastern and central Oromia eastern SNNPR, Afar, Harari, Dire Dawa and northern Somali will expect to exhibit near normal rainfall. In addition, southern and south eastern low lands will expect light rain as it time of start getting the second short rain season. The situation will expect to favor ongoing seasonal agricultural activities fulfill water requirement of Meher crops, perennial plants, improve pasture and drinking water availability in postural agro pastoral areas of the country. Moreover, normal sunny condition at this time support convective cloud development which may result heavy falls over some places which may have cause flash flood that result in water logging over plain farm land and may damage crops in the farm field. In order to reduce excessive moisture effect, farmers are advised, make and clean channel, furrow and strengthen terracing. In some cases, early planted and matured crops may give chance of double cropping where temperature is favorable for double cropping and farmers are advised to use this chance.