

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

P.BOX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 512299 FAX 517066 E-mail nmsa@telecom.net.et

1 - 10, October 2004 Volume 14 No. 28

Date of issue: October 14, 2004

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of September 2004, eastern Benishangul-Gumuz, much of Oromiya, western Amhara, most parts of Afar, central and southwestern Somali, most parts SNNPR and Gambela experienced normal to above normal rainfall. This condition could favour crops which are not attaining maturity and the recently sown pulse crops in the areas. However some areas like Chagni, Mearab Abaya, Gelemso, Degeh Bur Alge, Nedjo, Kombolcha, Aira, Masha and Hosaina exhibited heavy falls ranging from 31 - 56 mm in one rainy day. As a result some areas like Bedele reported crop damage due to heavy falls. On the other hand Tigray, most parts of Amhara, western Benishangul Gumuz, central and parts of southern Oromiya, northern, southern and southeastern Somali exhibited below normal rainfall. Thus this condition could result in water stress particularly on crops which are at flowering stage at this time of a year which is a critical stage of crops in terms of crop water requirement in most crops.

During the first dekad of October 2004, most parts of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall. This condition favored crops which are at reproductive stage and the recently sown pulse crops in the areas. On the contrary some areas from the west (Aira, Alge, Bedele and Shambu), central (Addis Ababa), southwest (Jima and Sekoru), eastern (Gelemso and Mieso) and south (Kibre Mengist) exhibited heavy falls ranging from 32 - 46 mm. As a result some areas like Asosa reported crop damage and livestock loss due heavy fall with thunder storm. Pursuant the crop phenological report harvesting of root crops and cereals was under way in some areas of northeastern parts of the country. Medium field condition due to water stress has been observed in some areas of eastern Tigry and Amhara. Shambu and Arsi Robe reported severe weed infestation on beans and teff crops, respectively.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Few areas of western Oromia and northern margin of SNNPR received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Most parts of central and southwestern Amhara, eastern half of Benishangul - Gumuz, parts of western, central and eastern Oromiya, parts of northern SNNPR received falls in the range of 50 - 100mm. Eastern half and parts of southern Tigray, northern Amhara, western margin, central, southern and parts of eastern Oromiya, most parts of Gambela, parts of SNNPR and few areas of northern Somali experienced 25 -50 mm of rainfall. Parts of eastern Tigray, most parts of SNNPR, southern and parts of eastern Oromiya and most parts of Somali received 5-25 mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest of the country.

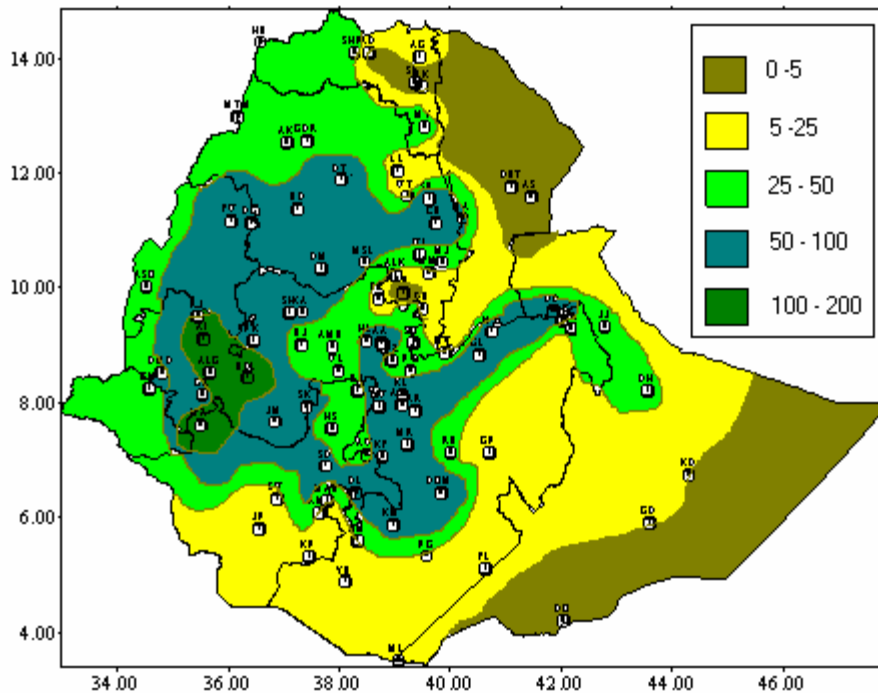


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10, October 2004)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

With the exception of lowlands of Ethiopia most parts of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall.

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

There was no significant temperature anomaly during the dekad under review.

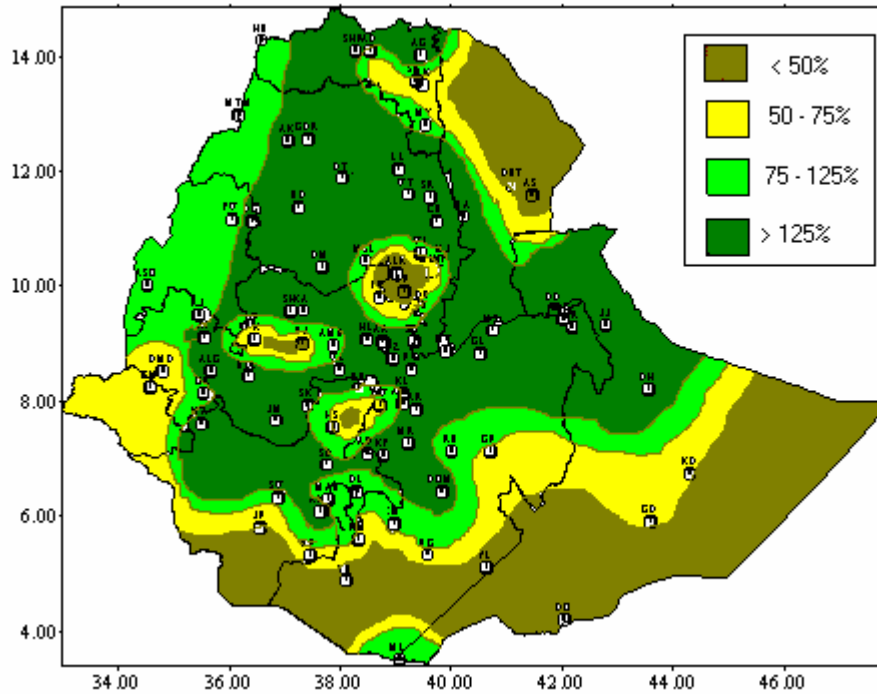


Fig. 2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10, October 2004)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF OCTOBER 2004

In the coming ten days, the western and southwestern parts of the country will continue to receive rain. Besides, a relative increase in the rainfall activity is anticipated over southern and southeastern Ethiopia.

In general, in the coming dekad normal to above normal rain is anticipated over Somali, southern, western and eastern Oromiya, northern SNNPR, Benishabgul-Gumuz and Gambela, while western Amhara, southern SNNPR, central Oromiya and southern margins of afar will receive near normal rainfall. On the other hand, Tigray, central and eastern Amhara and much of Afar will have higher chances of receiving below normal rain fall.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed rainfall condition favored season's agricultural activities in most parts of the country. As a result crops were in a good shape in most crop phenological reporting stations. In accordance to the aforementioned report harvesting of root crops and cereals was under way in some areas of northeastern parts of the country. Medium field condition due to water stress has been observed in some areas of eastern Tigray and Amhara. Shambu and Arsi Robe reported severe weed infestation on beans and teff crop fields, respectively. Millet was at ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Shambu while at flowering and tasseling stage in some areas of western Amhara like Bullen and Chagni including western Oromiya (Limu Genet). Maize was at full ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromiya (Aira, Alge, Limu Genet and Nedjo), central Oromiya (Weliso and Kulumsa) and eastern Oromiya (Gelemso). It was at flowering stage in some areas of western Amhara (Bahir Dar and Dangila) and southern highlands of Oromiya (Dolo Mena). Sorghum was at flowering and tasseling stages in eastern (Mieso), central (Bui) and western Oromiya (Dembi Dolo). Teff was at full ripeness stage in some areas of northern SNNPR(Sodo), central Oromiya (Nazerate) and eastern Tigray (Mekele) while at flowering stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Kombolcha), western(Shambu) and northern parts of central Oromiya (Kachse). Barley and wheat were at full ripeness stage in northern Oromiya (Fitcha), eastern Tigray (Mekele), central (Kulumsa) and western Oromiya (Limu Genet) while at flowering stage in eastern Amhara (Kombolcha). Nug was at flowering stage in some areas of northern parts of central Oromiya (Kachse) and western Oromiya (Asosa) while at dark ripeness stage in central Oromiya (Woliso). Flax was at yellow green ripeness stage in central (Meraro) and western (Limu Genet). Pulse crops were at full ripeness stage in northern SNNPR (Sodo) and in some areas of northern Oromiya (Fitcha).

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall distribution over northern parts of SNNPR, southwestern Ethiopia, Benishangul Gumz, eastern Oromiya and Gambela would have positive impact for annual crops which are at different phenological stages at this time of a year and perennial crops as well. Besides, the expected normal and near normal rainfall over Somali, southern parts of SNNPR and Afar would favor the availability of pasture and drinking water. On the other hand the expected sunny condition over Tigray, central and eastern Amhara would favor harvest and post harvest activities in areas where the activities are under question.