

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
P.BOX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 512299 FAX 517066 E-mail nmsa@telecom.net.et

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of July 2005, most parts of Meher growing areas received normal to above normal rainfall. Thus, the situation was conducive for season's agricultural activities in most places. Nevertheless, some areas of western, northwestern, northeastern, central and eastern Ethiopia exhibited heavy falls ranging from 30-70 mm in one rainy day, which can result in water logging and flooding in sensitive areas. Besides some areas like Bedelle, Kachise, Pawe, Metema and Sinkata received heavy fall 2-3 days in the ten days period, which can induce excess moisture in crops field, that have already saturated due to the abundant falls observed during the preceding dekads.

During the second dekad of July 2005, the over all observed crop condition was in a good shape in most parts of Meher growing area due the favourable rainfall situation. However, crop damage was observed in some pocket areas due to the observed heavy falls (32 - 100 mm) in some areas of central, northeastern, northwestern, western and southwestern parts of the country. Among the reporting station Bahir Dar, Aira and Kachise exhibited 87.1, 92.0 and 100mm of heavy falls in one rainy day, which can result in flooding and water logging on crops field. For instance Shola Gebeya, Dangla and Fitcha reported cereal as well as pulse crops damage due to heavy fall accompanied with hailstorm. Pursuant to the crop phenological report sowing of maize, wheat, teff, beans, peas and pepper was under way in some areas of eastern Amhara like Bati and Wegel Tena, western Oromiya like Shambu, southern highlands of Oromiya like Chira and northern parts of Oromiya like Fitcha. Maize was at tassling and ninth leaf stage in some areas of western Oromiya (Aira, Dembi Dolo, Sekoru) while at flowering stage some areas of western Oromiya like Alge, Gimbi and Bedelle including north-western Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush). Moreover, it was at full ripeness stage southern highland and midlands of Oromiya like Chira and Dolo Mena and in some areas of northeastern SNNPR like Hossaina. Sorghum was at third leaf stage in some areas of south-western and north-western Benishangul-Gumuz (Assosa and Mankush) while shooting and tillering stages in some areas of western and southern highlands of Oromiya like Alge, Aira, Nedjo and Chira. Millet was at third leaf stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Nedjo and Aira. Wheat was at emergence stage in some areas of eastern Amhara Shola Gebeya and some areas of western Oromiya like Nedjo. Beans were at emergence stage in some areas of central Oromiya (Kulumsa) and eastern Amhara (Shola Gebeya) while at budding stage in northern Oromiya like Fitcha. Pepper was at emergence stage in some areas of northwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush). Gimbi and Fitcha reported medium field condition on sorghum and beans fields due to slight weed infestation and hail damage, respectively. Generally, the over all crop condition was in a good shape over most parts of the reporting stations.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Pocket areas of central Amhara exhibited above 300 mm of rainfall. Parts of central Amhara, parts of western and central Oromiya and eastern Benishangul Gumuz received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Most parts of central and western Oromiya, most parts of Amhara, western half of Benishangul-Gumuz and northwestern margin of SNNPR received 50- 100 mm of rainfall. Western half of Tigray, parts of northern half of SNNPR southern half of Afar, parts of central Oromiya, Gambela and parts of northern Somali experienced 25 - 50 mm of rainfall. Northern half of Afar, parts of northern Somali, parts of eastern Oromiya and parts of northern SNNPR received falls ranging from 5 - 25 mm. There was little or no rainfall for the rest of the country.

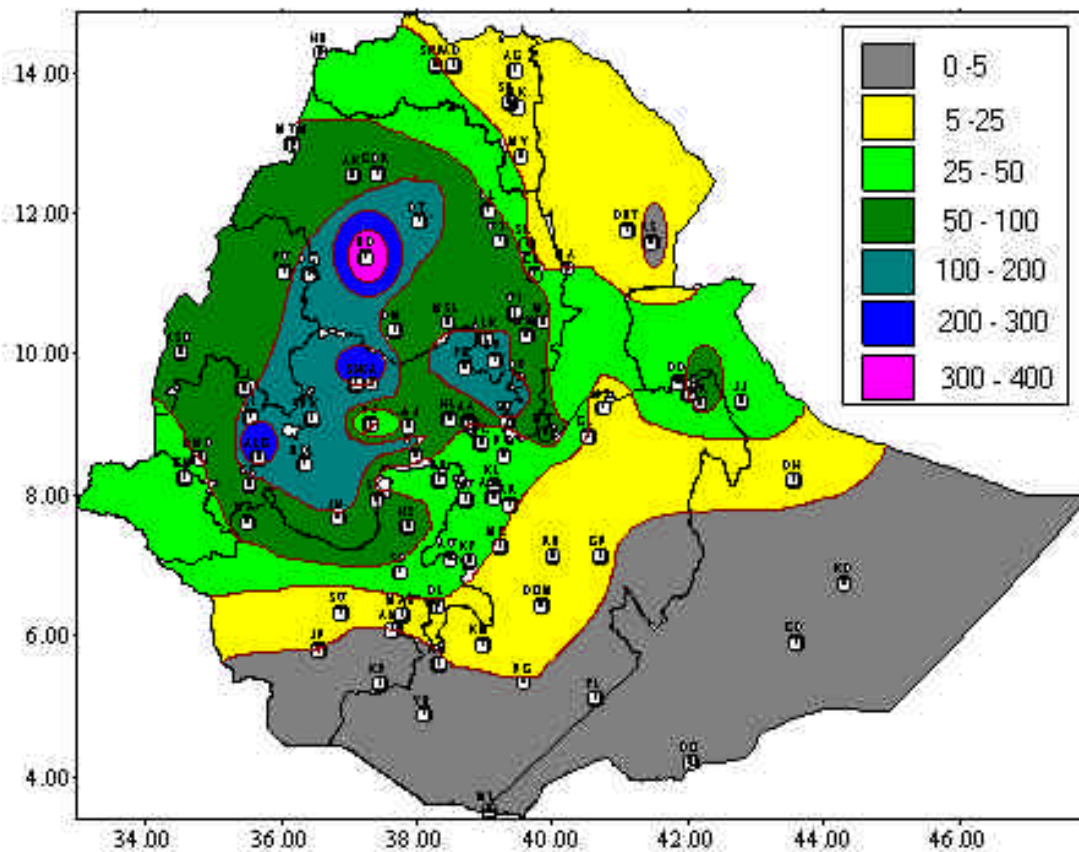


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 July, 2005)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

With the exception of most parts of Tigray, northern Afar, parts of southern half of SNNPR and parts of eastern Oromiya most parts of Meher producing areas received normal to above normal rainfall.

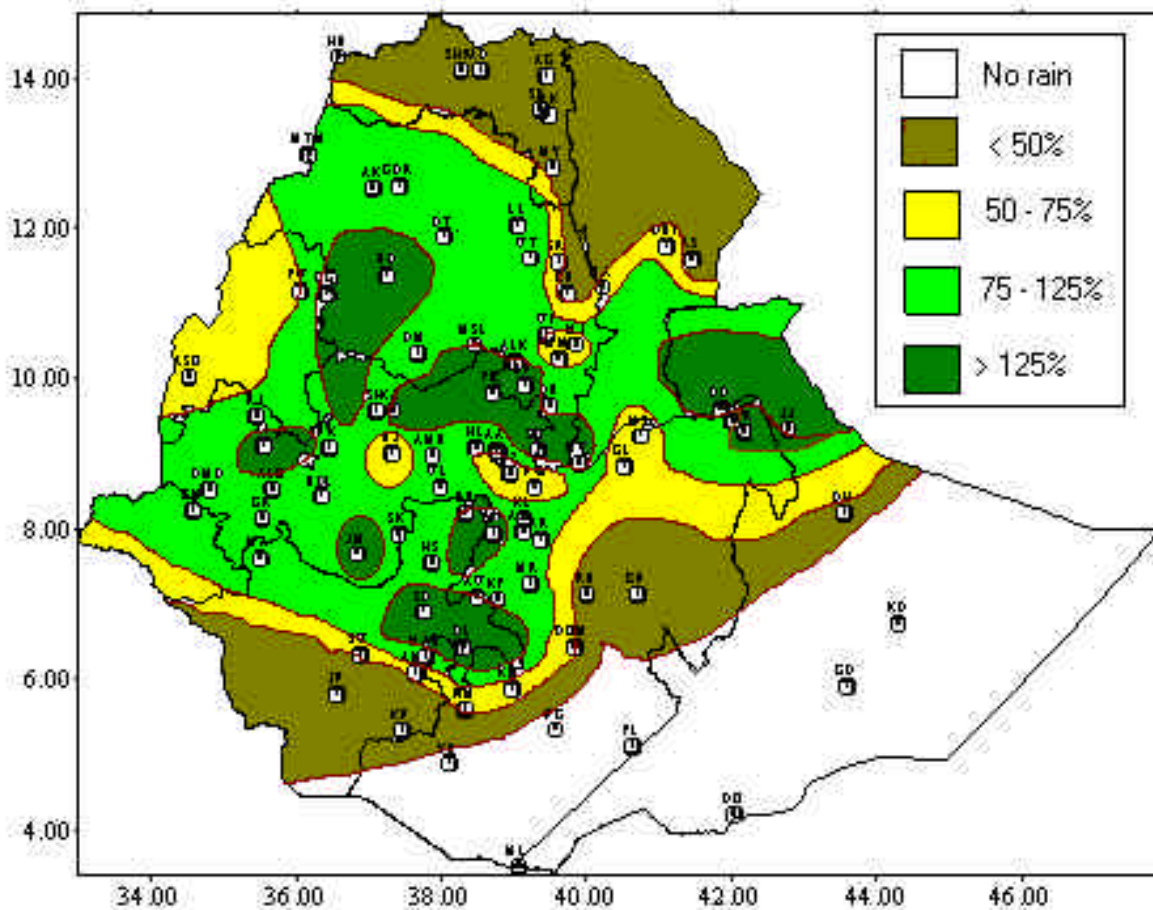


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 July 2005)

Explanatory notes for the legend:
<50 -- Much below normal
50—75% -- below normal
75—125% --- Normal
> 125% ---- Above normal

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

No significant air temperature anomaly was observed over most parts of the country.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF JULY 2005

In the coming dekad Binishangul-Gumuz, Amhara, Tigray, western and central Oromiya, northern portion of eastern Oromiya, northern half of SNNPR and Gambela are anticipated to get normal to above normal rainfall. Besides, Afar, much of Somali, southern parts of eastern Oromiya, Borena Zone and southern portion of SNNPR are mostly expected to have below normal rainfall, however, close to normal rainfall is expected in some places. Moreover, heavy falls, which can cause flash flooding is expected over some places of western half of the country including central Ethiopia. Partly cloudy conditions will dominate over southern and southeastern parts of the country.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The over all crop condition was in a good shape in most parts of Meher growing area due the favourable rainfall situation observed during the dekad under review. However, crop damage was observed in some pocket areas due to the observed heavy falls (32 - 100 mm) in some areas of central, northeastern, northwestern, western and southwestern parts of the country. Among the reporting station Bahir Dar, Aira and Kachise exhibited 87.1, 92.0 and 100mm of heavy falls in one rainy day which can result in flooding and water logging on crops field. For instance Sola Gebeya, Dangla and Fitcha reported cereal as well as pulse crops damage due to heavy fall accompanied with hailstorm. Pursuant to the crop phenological report sowing of maize, wheat, teff, beans peas and pepper was under way in some areas of eastern Amhara like Bati and Wegel Tena, western Oromiya like Shambu, southern highlands of Oromiya like Chira and northern parts of Oromiya like Fitcha. Maize was at tassling and ninth leaf stage in some areas of western Oromiya (Aira, Dembi Dolo, Sekoru) while at flowering stage some areas of western Oromiya like Alge, Gimbi and Bedelle including north-western Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush). Moreover, it was at full ripeness stage southern highland and midlands of Oromiya like Chira and Dolo Mena and in some areas of northeastern SNNPR like Hossaina. Sorghum was at third leaf stage in some areas of south-western and north-western Benishangul-Gumuz (Assosa and Mankush) while shooting and tillering stages in some areas of western and southern highlands of Oromiya like Alge, Aira, Nedjo and Chira. Millet was at third leaf stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Nedjo and Aira. Wheat was at emergence stage in some areas of eastern Amhara Shola Gebeya and some areas of western Oromiya like Nedjo. Beans were at emergence stage in some areas of central Oromiya (Kulumsa) and eastern Amhara (Shola Gebeya) while at budding stage in northern Oromiya like Fitcha. Pepper was at emergence stage in some areas of northwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush). Gimbi and Fitcha reported medium field condition on sorghum and beans fields due to slight weed infestation and hail damage, respectively. Generally, the over all crop condition was in a good shape over most parts of the reporting stations.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over Benishangul-Gumuz, Amhara, Tigray, western and central Oromiya, northern parts of eastern Oromiya and northern parts of SNNPR would favour season's agricultural activities. Besides it would have significant contribution in areas where sowing activity is under question like western and central Oromiya (Shanbu, Nekemte, Gimbi, Assosa, Robe, Abomsa, Adama, Bui, Ambo and Woliso) and in some areas of western eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena, Chefa,

Mekane Selam, Enewari, Nura Era, Were Ilu, Lalibela, Sirinka, Shola Gebeya, Kombolcha and Dangila). In addition to that, it would favour the existing crops, which are at deferent, crop phenological stages in most areas. However proper precaution is important to mitigate the effect of heavy falls in some pocket areas where normal to above normal rainfall is expected in the coming dekad. Besides the expected wet condition would negatively affect crops fields, which are found in low-lying areas and near riverbanks by causing flooding and water logging. Thus, proper attention should be given for those sensitive areas to minimize the adverse effect due to excess moisture. On the other hand the expected below normal rainfall over most parts of Afar and eastern Oromiya would exacerbate deficient condition persisted in some pocket areas of the above mention areas. Therefore, proper water harvesting activities should be under taken in order to minimize the adverse effect due moisture stress.