

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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1 – 10 January 2007 Volume 17 No. 1

Date of issue January 12, 2007

SUMMARY

During the Third Dekad of December 2006, with the exception of southwestern and pocket areas of Amhara, little or no rainfall has been observed over most parts of the country. Thus this situation could have positive contribution particularly for post harvest agricultural activities. Regarding air temperature, Wegel Tena reported extreme minimum temperature below 5°C lowering up to 3.2°C . In general, there was no significant damage due to adverse weather situation reported during the dekad. Generally During the month of December 2006, normal to above normal rainfall has been observed over most parts of the country. This situation would have a positive contribution on annual crops, which are not attaining their maturity at some pocket areas and for perennial plants as well. On the other hand, it could have a negative impact on harvest and post harvest agricultural activities in some pocket areas. Pursuant to phenological report, the observed heavy fall accompanied with strong wind particularly during the first half of the second dekad of the month resulted in crop damage in some pocket areas. For instance, Bedelle reported coffee and crop damage due to heavy fall with strong wind; Ginager reported crop damage and Blate reported perennial crop damage including irrigated tobacco damage due to hailstorm accompanied with strong wind.

During the First dekad of January 2007, the dry Bega's weather condition had been observed over most parts of the country. However, rainfall up to 32 mm and little moisture has been observed over some areas of northeastern parts of the country and over western half of SNNPR respectively. This moisture condition would have a positive contribution for the coming Belg agricultural activities like land preparation. Moreover it would create conducive situation for perennial crops, which are found in southeastern part of the country. With regard to air temperature, most parts of central like Addis Ababa (Bole), Shola Gebeya, Debre Zeyit, Enwari, Fitcha, Mehal Meda, Koffele, Kulumsa, and Debre Birhan eastern highlands like Alemya and Jijiga, north eastern like Combolcha, Wegel Tena and Werielu experienced extreme minimum temperature less than 5°C for 2-8 consecutive days. Moreover Debre Birhan exhibited extreme minimum temperature below 0°C lowering up to -3°C . This situation could have negative impact for perennial crops and vegetables including pulse crops, which are not attaining maturity in some pocket areas of central Ethiopia.

WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Only pocket area of western SNNPR received 50-100mm rainfall. Pocket areas of western SNNPR and of eastern Amhara exhibited 25-50mm rainfall. Most part of western SNNPR and Pocket areas of southern Oromia and eastern Amhara and parts of southeastern Gambela received 5-25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country received little or no rainfall.

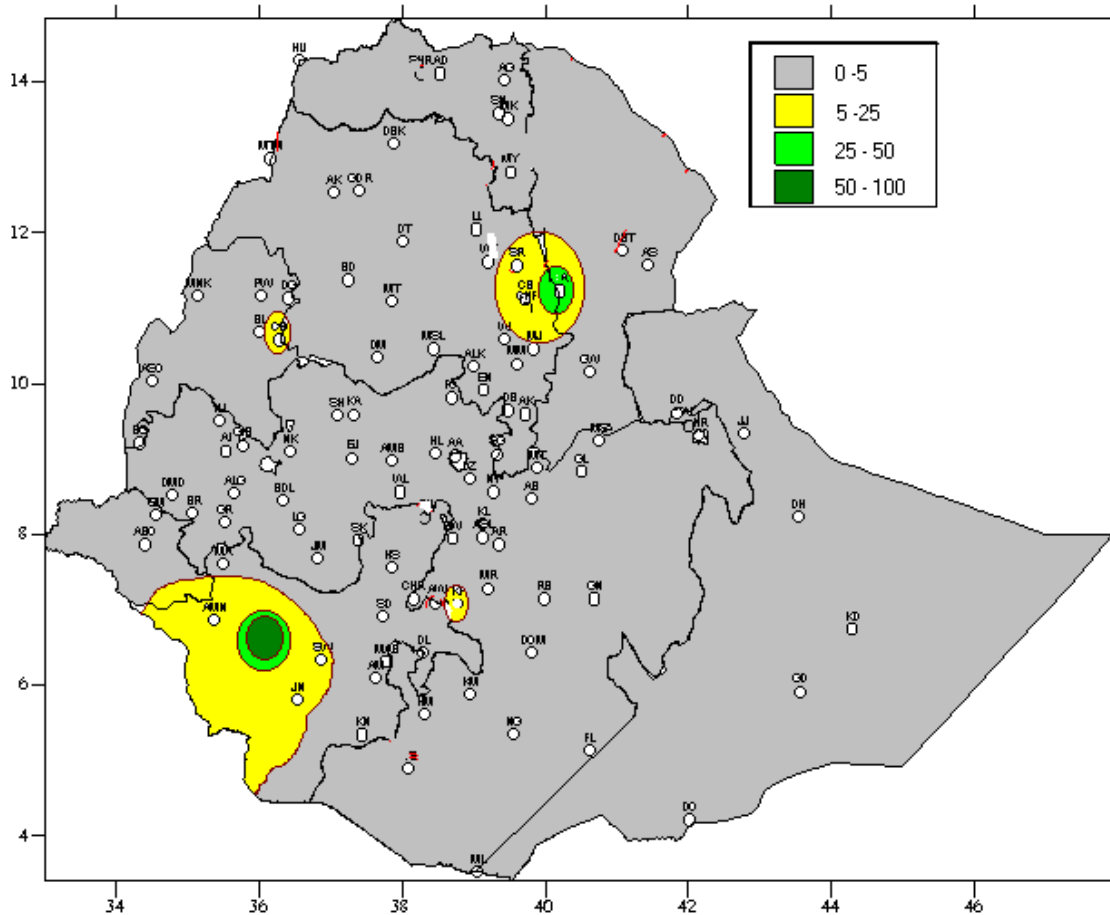


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 January, 2007)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of eastern and western SNNPR, pocket areas of western and northern Oromia, western and eastern Amhara and some areas of Afar received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below to much below normal rainfall.

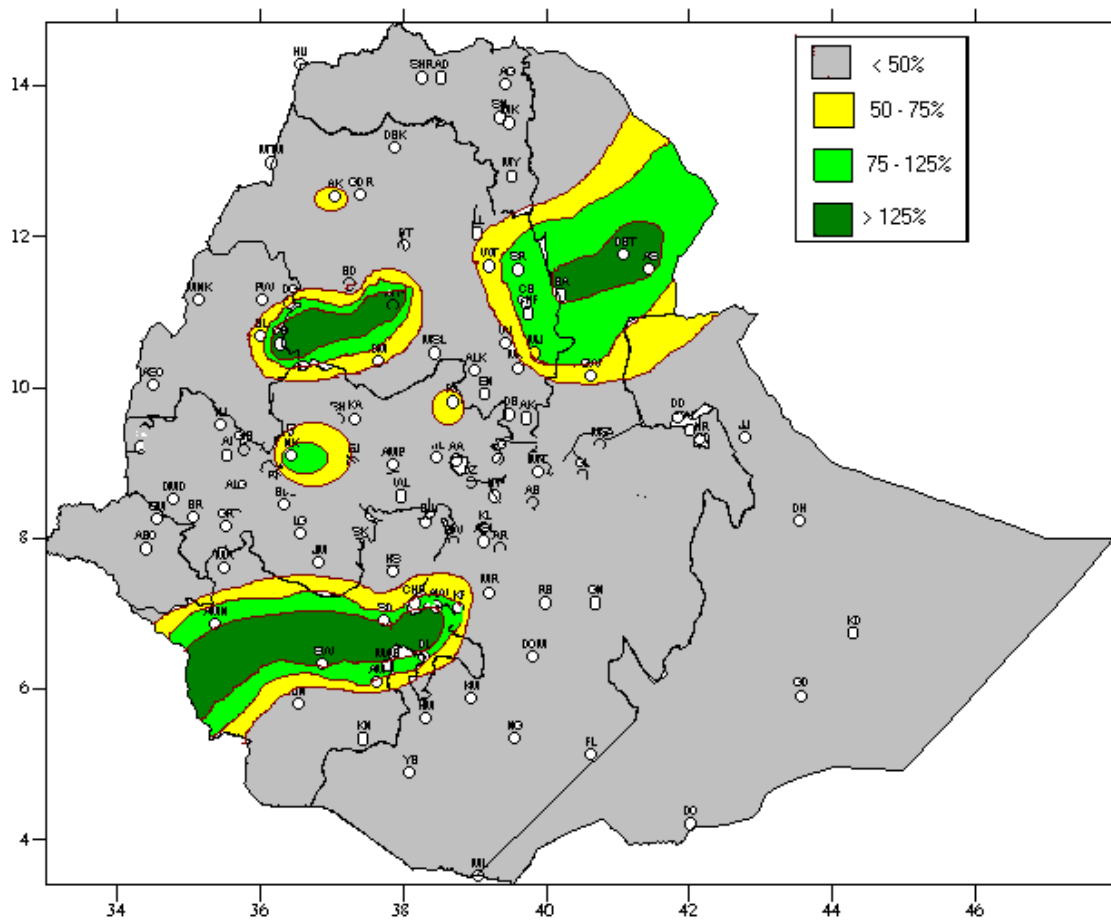


Fig 2 Percent of Normal rainfall distribution for the month of January (1-10)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas of central (Debre Zeit, Fitcha, Mehal Meda, Debre Brhan, Koffele, A.A Bole, Amba Mariam, Shola Gebeya, Kulumsa, Enwari), eastern (Alemya Jijiga,) north-eastern (Combolcha, Wegel Tena, Wereilu) exhibited extreme minimum temperature below 5⁰ C for 2-8 consecutive days. Moreover Debre Birhan exhibited minimum temperature below 0⁰ C lowering up to -3.0⁰ C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF JANUARY 2007

For the coming ten day's Bega's dry and sunny weather condition will continue more or less in similar manner over major portion of the country. In line with this early morning and night time temperature will decrease across northeastern, central as well as eastern sections of the nation. In general, western and central Oromia, SNNPR, Gambella, eastern Tigray and Amhara, eastern Ormia and northern Somali will receive light rain over few places. On the other hand, much of Tigray and Amhara, Afar, Benishangul- Gumuz as well as much of Somali will be under dry and sunny weather condition.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The dry Bega's weather condition had been observed over most parts of the country. However, rainfall up to 32 mm and little moisture has been observed over some areas of northeastern parts of the country and over western half of SNNPR respectively. This moisture condition would have a positive contribution for the coming Belg agricultural activities like land preparation. Moreover it would create conducive situation for perennial crops, which are found in southeastern part of the country. With regard to air temperature, most parts of central like Addis Ababa (Bole), Shola Gebeya, Debre Zeiit, Enwari, Fitcha, Mehal Meda, Koffele, Kulumsa, and Debre Birhan eastern highlands like Alemya and Jijiga, north eastern like Combolcha, Wegel Tena and Werielu experienced extreme minimum temperature less than 5⁰C for 2-8 consecutive days. Moreover DebreBrhan exhibited extreme minimum temperature below 0⁰C lowering up to -3⁰C. This situation could have negative impact for perennial crops and vegetables including pulse crops, which are not attaining maturity in some pocket areas of central Ethiopia.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated better cloud coverage over, southwestern, central north eastern and most parts of the county, due to the incursion of moisture towards our area would create conducive condition for early Belg season's agricultural activities over areas of northeastern and southwestern parts of the country. Moreover the expected better cloud coverage during the beginning and end of the ten days period would ease the stressful condition due to the persisted extreme minimum temperature in the areas of central, northeastern and eastern parts of the country during the preceding dekad. Nevertheless, due to the expected dry and sunny weather condition during the daytime the nighttime and morning temperature will be colder as the preceding dekads in some frost prone areas. This condition would affect some sensitive perennial crops and pulse crops, which are at early maturity stages in some pocket areas. Thus farmers are advised to take proper precaution and existing frost protection measure on crops particularly, which are grown at the backyard like inset, chat, and other vegetable and fruit crops as well.