NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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11 – 20 January 2007 Volume 17 No. 2 **Date of issue January 23, 2007**

SUMMARY

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 southwestern part of the country. With regard to air temperature, most parts of central like Addis Ababa (Bole), Shola Gebeya, Debre Zeiit, Enwari, Fitche, 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 5^0C for 2-8 consecutive days. Moreover DebreBrhan exhibited extreme minimum temperature below 0^0C lowering up to -3^0C.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.

During the second dekad of January 2007, the observed better moisture condition and cloud cover could favor early Belg season's agricultural activities such as land preparation, particularly in areas like South Tigray, northeastern Amhara including most parts of SNNPR where Beleg activities start earlier as compared to that of the rest parts of Belg growing areas. With regard to air temperature there was a significant improvement of extreme minimum temperature i.e. rise in amount in most parts of frost prone areas. Thus this condition could have positive impact on normal growth and development of plants.

WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Pocket areas of central SNNPR received 100-200mm rainfall. Few area of southern SNNPR exhibited 50-100mm rainfall. Some parts of western and southeastern SNNPR, southeastern Gambela, western and pocket area of central Oromia and eastern Amahra exhibited 5-25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the county received little or no rainfall.

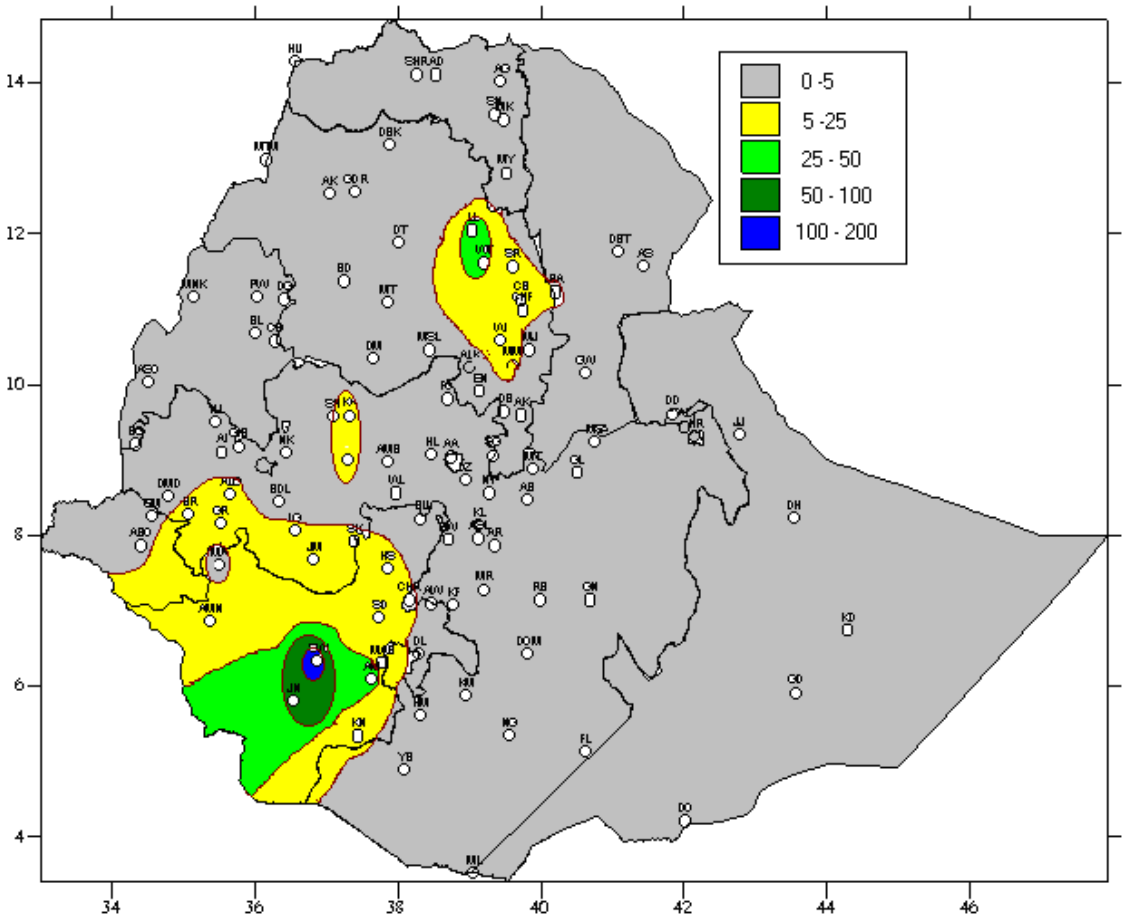

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 January, 2007)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of northern, western and southeastern SNNPR, western Oromia, southeastern and pockets areas of eastern Amahra, southeastern Gambela and pocket area of eastern Tigray received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country received below normal to much below normal rainfall.

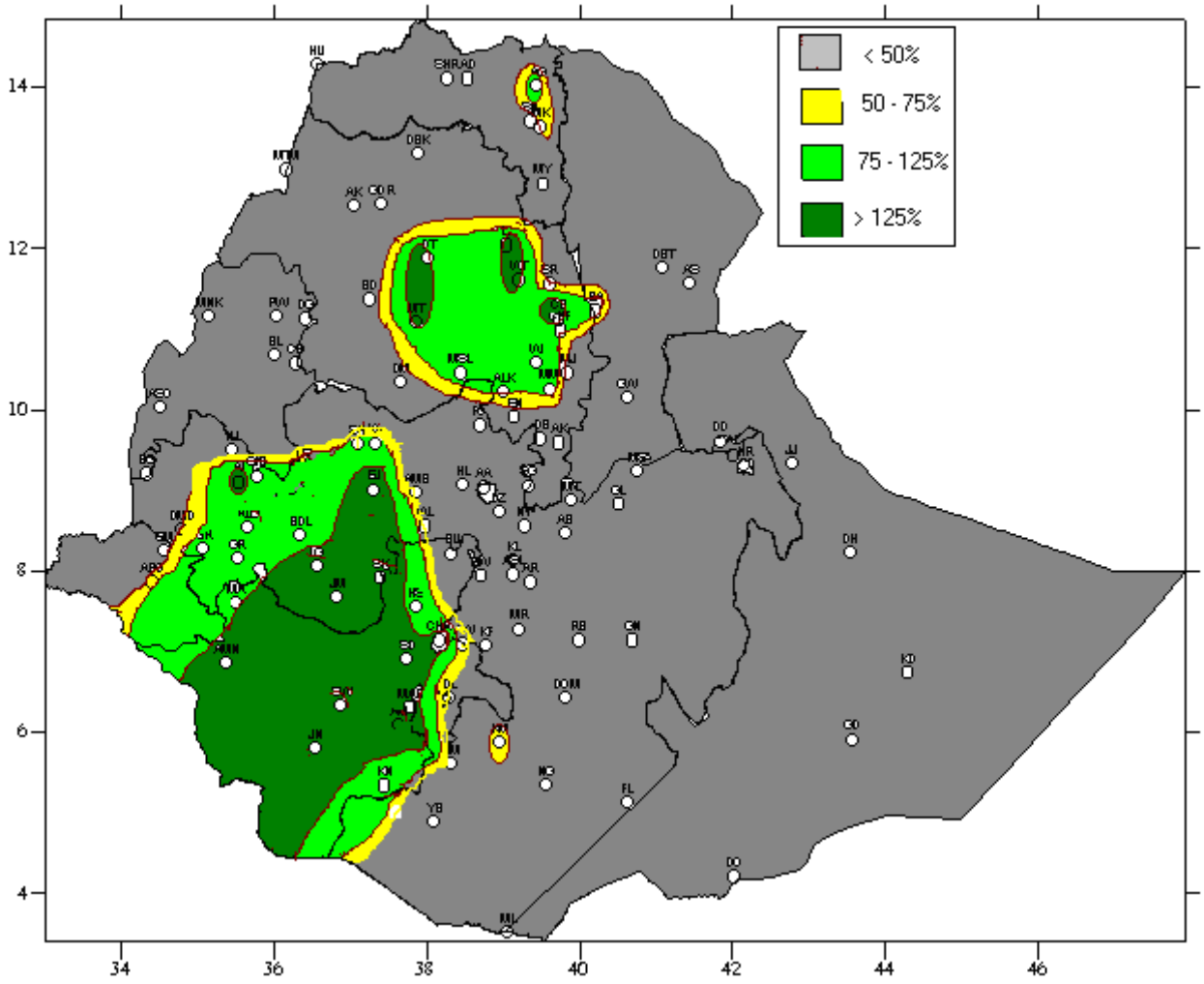

Fig 2 Percent of Normal rainfall distribution (11-20 January, 2007)

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 highlands (Debre Birhan, Koffele, Mehal Meda) and eastern highlands (Alemaya) exhibited extreme minimum temperature less than 5°C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF JANUARY 2007

During the coming ten days, the Bega's dry and sunny weather condition will dominate most parts of the country. However, due to the development of some cloud bands, southwestern, central and northeastern Ethiopia are likely to get light rain showers at few places. Particularly, during the last days of the upcoming ten days, the wet weather activity will increase across the southern half, central and eastern Ethiopia.

In general, in the next ten days, SNNPR, western Oromia and Gambela will get rain showers at few places. Like wise, central Ethiopia, eastern Amhara and Tigray as well as southern Oromia will receive light rain from the developing clouds at pocket places. On the other hand, Tigray and Amhara, Benshngul-Gumz, eastern Oromia and Somali are expected to be under dry and sunny weather condition.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed better moisture condition and cloud cover could favor early Belg season's agricultural activities such as land preparation, particularly in areas like South Tigray, northeastern Amhara including most parts of SNNPR where Beleg activities start earlier as compared to that of the rest parts of Belg growing areas. With regard to air temperature there was a significant improvement of extreme minimum temperature i.e. rise in amount in most parts of frost prone areas. Thus this condition could have positive impact on normal growth and development of plants.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated light rainfall related to the expected increased cloud cover over southwestern, central and northeastern parts of the country would favor land preparation particularly over southwestern and northeastern parts of the country. Therefore farmers are advised to exploit the expected favorable condition exhaustively. On the other hand the expected dominant dry and sunny Bega weather condition over most parts of Tigray and Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, eastern Oromia and Somali would have negative impact on the early Belg season's agricultural activities particularly over South Tigray and northeastern Amhara in areas where early Belg agricultural activities are the normal practices during the period under review.