

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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1-10 May 2007 Vol. 17 No.13

Date of issue May 14, 2007

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of April 2007, below normal rainfall has been observed over most parts of Belg growing areas of central, northern SNNPR, eastern Amhara, as well as central parts of the country. However, pocket areas of northeastern Amhara, and Bale zone (Ginir) observed normal to above normal rainfall. Thus this situation had significant contribution for crops, which are found at different phenological stages in terms of water requirement. Moreover the observed normal to above normal rainfall distribution over northeastern, western and southwestern parts of the country could have a positive impact for meher agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities for long cycle crops (Maize, Sorghum). According to the reporting stations, northeastern (Cheffa), Bale Zone (Ginir), western (Nejo Nekemte, Shambu, Bullen, Aira and Begi) 36.2, 40.1, 50.0, 42.8 38.5, 35.4, 30.5 and 30.5 recorded heavy fall respectively in one rainy day. Moreover Shambu reported potato vegetable damage due to heavy fall.

During the first dekad of May 2007, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over western Tigray, western Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuze, western Oromia, eastern parts of SNNPR, southern Oromia and Bale high lands could favor Belg growing areas particularly crops which are sown in eastern parts of SNNPR and Bale highland areas for the up coming growing stage. Besides it could have also favor for areas, which start Meher agricultural activities like most parts of western half of the country for their land preparation and sowing time. In addition to this long cycle crops (Maize, Sorghum) of the areas had benefited. Moreover it could have significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral areas of southern Oromia. Nevertheless some areas reported heavy fall greater than 30mm. Among the reporting station Arsi Robe, Chera, Arjo, Bullen, Majete and Nedjo recorded 62.2, 44.4, 40.0, 39.7, 39.2, 33.7 and 32.3mm of heavy fall in one rainy day. As a result of this, some areas like Chera and Aykel reported crop damage on Sorghum, trees and crop damage due to hail formation in crop fields respectively. Regarding extreme maximum air temperature Meiso, Cheffa, Shewa Robit, Gode, DireDawa, Myshemary, Pawe, Mankush, Metehara, Metema, Gambela, Assaita, Dubti and Semera exhibited extreme maximum air temperature ranging from 35-43 °c.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 May 1-10, 2007

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Only pocket area of northern SNNPR exhibited 100-200mm rainfall. Some parts southern Oromia, pocket areas of northern SNNPR, eastern and western Benshangul-Gumuz and western Amhara and tip of western Somali received 50-100mm rainfall. All parts of Gambela, most parts of Beshangul-Gumuz and western Oromia, Some parts of western and southern Amhara, northwestern, western and southern SNNPR, eastern and southern Oromia and western Somali and pocket areas of southern Amhara and eastern Tigray exhibited 25-50mm rainfall. Some parts of central, eastern, northern and southern Oromia, western, southern and pocket area of eastern Amhara, some parts of western and southern Somali, northern and eastern SNNPR and pocket area of northern and eastern Tigray experienced 5-25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country received little or no rainfall.

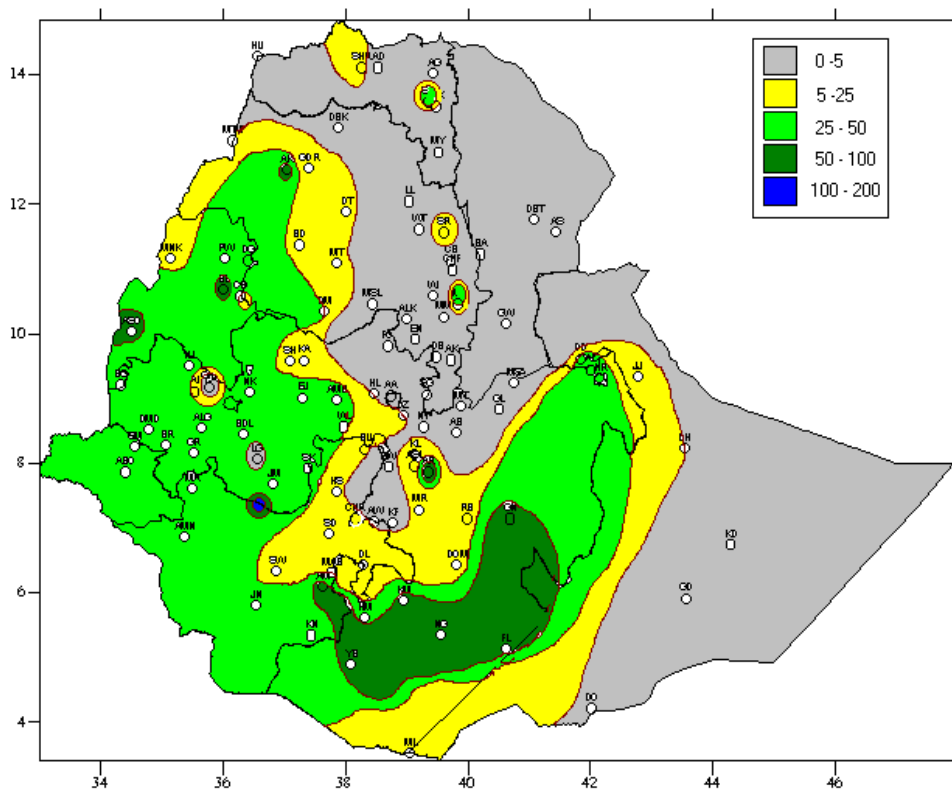


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1- 10 May, 2007)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

All parts of Beshangul-Gumuz, most parts of northwestern Tigray, some parts of southern SNNPR, northern and western Amhara, some parts of southern and pocket area of western, central and southern Oromia and southern Amhara received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

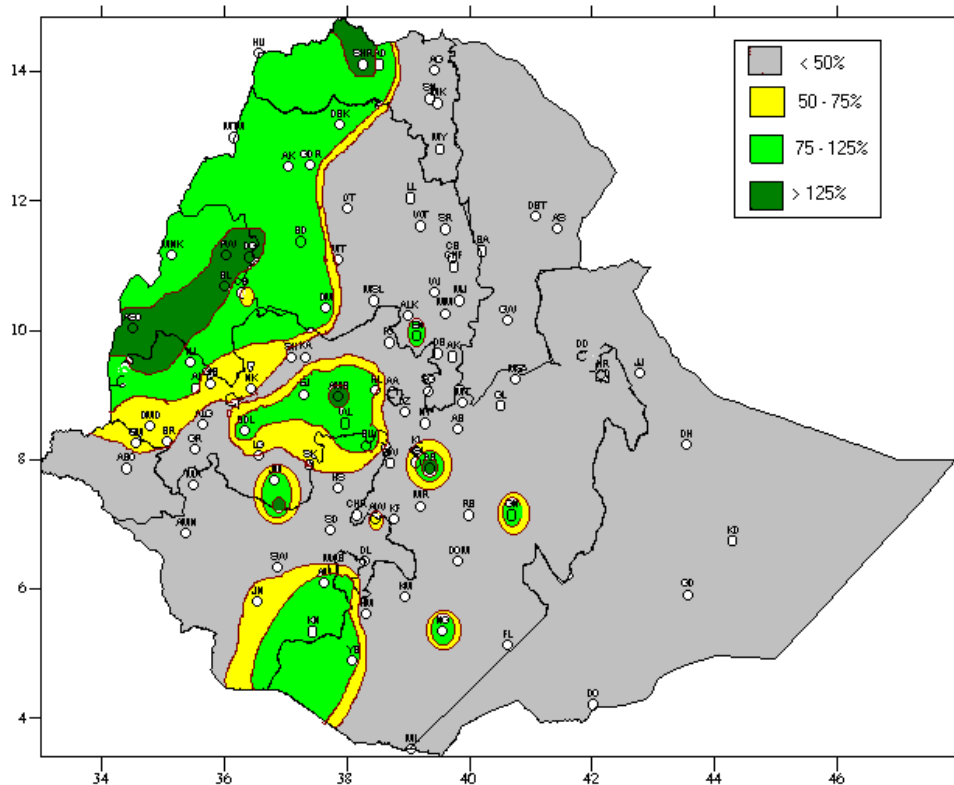


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1- 10 May 2007)

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

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Meiso, Cheffa, Shewa Robit, Gode, DireDawa, Myshemary, Pawe, Mankush Metehara, Metema, Gambela, Assaita, Dubti and Semera exhibited extreme maximum air temperature ranging from 35-43^oc.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF MAY 2007

For the up coming ten days, the seasonal rain-bearing systems are expected to have better strength over western and southwestern portions of the nations. In addition to that central, south and western high lands will have an increment of wet weather activity.

In general, Benshangul – Gumuz, Gambella, western Oromiya, Western SNNPR and Western Amhara are likely to get normal rainfall. Similarly, central, eastern Oromiya , Tigray and easatern Amhara as wall as eastern SNNPR and southern Somali will have near normal rainfall over some places. However, it will be below normal in some area. On the other hand, Afar and adjoining areas will be under the dry weather conditions.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over western Tigray, western Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuze, western Oromia, eastern parts of SNNPR, southern Oromia and Bale high lands could favor Belg growing areas particularly crops which are sown in eastern parts of SNNPR and Bale highland areas for the up coming growing stage. Besides it could have also favor for areas, which start Meher agricultural activities like most parts of western half of the country for their land preparation and sowing time. In addition to this long cycle crops (Maize, Sorghum) of the areas had benefited. Moreover it could have significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral areas of southern Oromia. Nevertheless some areas reported heavy fall greater than 30mm. Among the reporting station Arsi Robe, Chera, Arjo, Bullen, Majete and Nedjo recorded 62.2, 44.4, 40.0, 39.7, 39.2, 33.7 and 32.3mm of heavy fall in one rainy day. As a result of this some areas like Chera and Aykel reported crop damage on Sorghum, trees and crop damage due to hail formation in crop fields respectively.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated near normal and in some areas above normal rainfall over Benshangul Gumuz, Gambela, western parts of SNNPR and western Amhara would have a positive contribution for Meher agricultural activities. For instance from Benshangul- Gumuze Assosa (Sorghum) and from SNNPR Awassa (sowabean and Potato) are the sowing time for the areas, there fore it would have a significant contribution for this activities. Besides, the expected near normal rainfall over some areas of central, eastern Oromia, Tigray, southern Oromia, southern SNNPR, central and southern Somali would favor crops which is time for sowing at this time of the year. For example from central Oromia like Abomsa (Maize, Sorghum), Arsi Robe (Seasame, Nug), Kulumsa (cereals), eastern Oromia like Nedjo (Maize, Sorghum) and Alemaya (Potato, Sweet Potato) are sowing time. Nevertheless the expected below normal rainfall over some areas of the above aforementioned areas would have a negative impact in the availability of pasture and drinking water particularly central and southern Somali of pastoral and agro pastoral areas. There fore those areas should properly use the moisture what they get at that time.