

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of August 2007, the Kiremt normal rainfall distributions have been decreased in northern northeastern and eastern parts of the country but in southern part of the country, there has been an increase. In general this rainfall situation has positive contribution in northern and northeastern parts of the country for Meher Agricultural activities areas especially for the crops, which are at maturing stage. However, this rainfall situation may have negative impact for pastoral and Agro pastoral areas for water availability in eastern part of the country. However, In western, central and north western parts of the country there have been heavy fall which might have negative impact for Meher agricultural activities for crops in the clay soil areas. Some station reported heavy fall within the range of 30-63mm in one rainy day where the heavy fall cause damage on maize and sorghum crops.

During the first dekad of September 2007, however, the Kiremt rainfall distribution was decreased over Afar areas the rainfall activity was strengthened over eastern portions of Ethiopia. The situation might have negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Afar. In contrast the rainfall activities over eastern parts of Ethiopia favored the on going Meher agricultural activities, availability of pasture and drinking water. On the other hand, the seasonal rainfall activity strengthened over most Kiremt rain-benefiting areas of the country as result favored the Meher agricultural activities. Some of the reporting stations recorded heavy fall within the range of 30-61.6 mm in one rainy day. Cropland damaged over Bullen due to heavy fall and crop damage over Sinkata due to hailstorm.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 September 1-10, 2007

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Parts of western and pocket areas of northern, central and eastern Oromia, parts of northern Tigray and pocket areas of central, southern and eastern and tip of western Amhara received 100 – 200 mm rainfall. Gambela, most of Beshangul-Gumuz, Amhara, SNNPR and Tigray, most of central, northern, parts of western and eastern Oromia and parts of northern Somali received 50–100 mm rainfall. Parts of southern and eastern Oromia, southern and northern SNNPR, northeastern Amhara, western and southern Afar, southern Somali and parts eastern half of Tigray and pocket area of western Beshangul-Gumuz exhibited 25-50 mm rainfall. Parts of southern SNNPR, southern and eastern Oromia, northwestern Somali and pocket area of eastern Afar received 5-25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

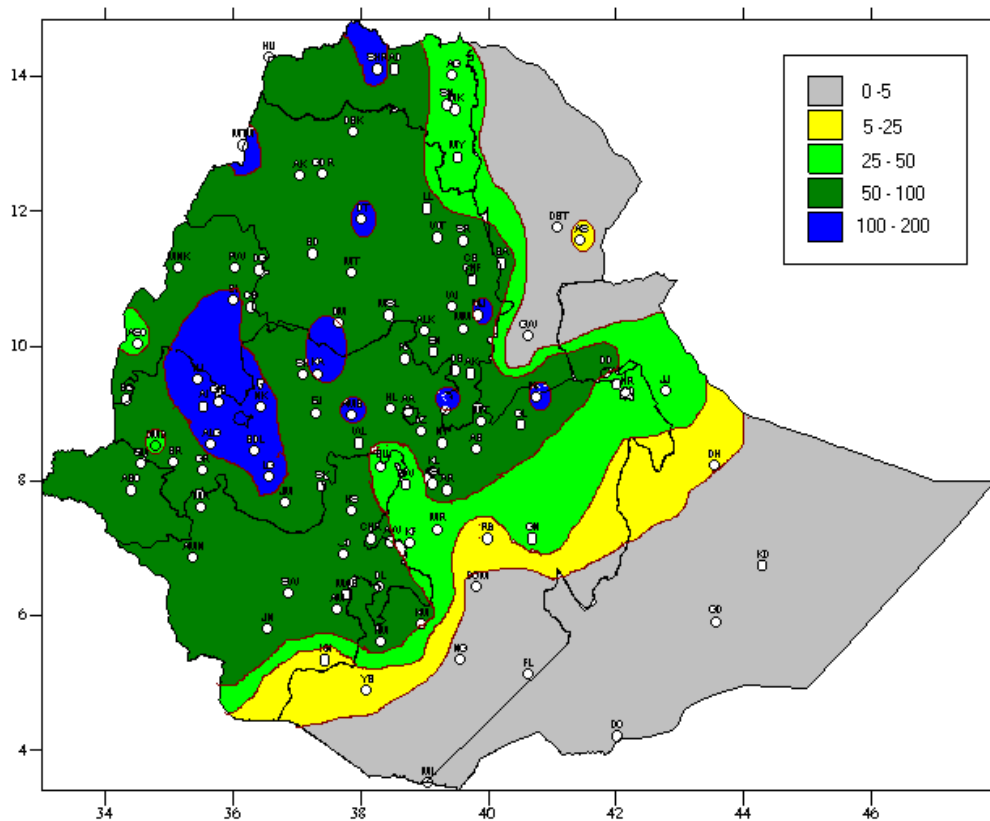


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1- 10 September, 2007)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of Afar and Somali, some parts of southern and eastern Oromia, pocket areas of western Tigray, pocket areas of southwestern Beshangul-Gumuz and northern Amhara received below normal to much below normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited normal to above normal rainfall.

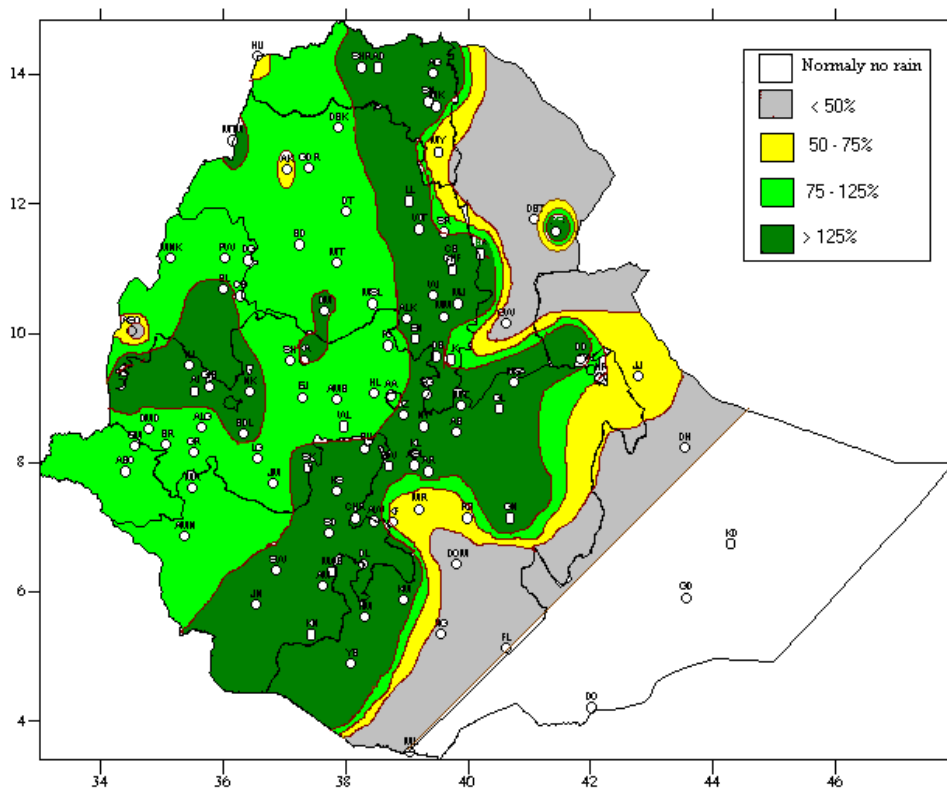


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1- 10 September, 2007)

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

1.1 .3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations recorded extreme maximum temperature 35° C and above for 2-8 consecutive days. Dire Dawa, Gambella, Assayta, Gode and Elidar recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 35.0, 38.5, 40.2, 40.0, 38.5° C respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF SEPTEMBER 2007

The rain producing systems are expected to increasing the likelihood of occurrence of Kiremt normal to above normal rains over the Kiremt rain-benefiting sectors of the country. Whereas, there will be a slight weakening of the rain-producing systems though it will not be as significant to affect the overall performance of the seasonal rains across the country. In line with, central and western Tigray, Amhara, much of Oromiya, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and SNNPR will get normal to above normal rains. Besides, the incidence of heavy rains that could be accompanied by thunder and hailstorms are likely to prevail at some places of western, central, southern, eastern highlands and north Ethiopia occasionally. In contrast, stormy clouds are expected to produce near normal rains over eastern as well as Southern Ethiopia. As the rain bearing systems are tending to weakened from the north-east regions, some places of northeast lowlands will apparently get low rainfall amounts towards the end of the dekad.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The season's Kiremt rainfall over central and western Tigray, Amhara, much of Oromiya, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and SNNPR might have a positive contribution for the ongoing meher agricultural activities. However, heavy rainfall has been exhibited over northwestern, western, northeastern and northern parts of the country. According to the reporting stations, some of them recorded heavy falls within the range of (30-73.5) mm of rainfall in one rainy day. Pursuant to crop phenological report, Teff is at emergence stage in SNNPR (Bui), eastern Oromiya (Gelemso) and central Oromiya (Arsi Robe), at third leaf stage in western Oromiya (Sokoru), northern Oromiya (Fiche), at shooting stage in western Oromiya (Chira), northern Amhara (Sirinka) and central Oromiya (Wolliso), at tasseling stage in southern Amhara (Majete), central Amhara (Debre Tabor) and southern Amhara (Alem Ketema). Maize is at tasseling stage in northern Amhara (Sirinka), at flowering in southern Amhara (Majete), Benishangul-Gumuz (Pawe, Chagni & Bullen), and in Tigray (Shire), at wax ripening stage over western Oromiya (Bedelle & Sokoru) and at full ripening stage in eastern Oromiya (Gelemso), central Oromiya (Wolliso), western Oromiya (Nejo) and northern Amhara (Ayehu). Wheat is at third leaf stage in SNNPR (Bui) and northeastern Amhara (Wegel Tena), at tillering stage in southern Amhara (Enewary & Shola Gebeya), at shooting stage in northern Oromiya (Fiche) and at flowering stage in central Amhara (Debre Tabor). Millet is at emergence in central Amhara (Dangila), at tillering stage in Benshangul-Gumuz (Chagni) and tasseling stage in northern Amhara (Sirinka & Wegel Tena) and western Oromia (Nejo). Sorghum is at third leaf stage in SNNPR (Bui), at shooting stage in Benshangul-Gumuz (Assosa & Pawe), at tasseling stage in western Oromiya (Nejo) and flowering stage in western Oromiya (Chira). Sorghum is at tillering stage in south Amhara (Mehal Meda), at shooting stage in northern Amhara (Lalibela) and at ripening stage in central Amhara (Debre Tabor). Beans are at budding stages in southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya) and flowering stage in Amhara (Wegel Tena, Mehal Meda & Fiche). Nug is at elongation and budding stages in Benishangul-Gumuz (Chagni and Bullen) respectively, and yellow ripening stage in central Oromiya (Wolliso). Oats are at tillering stages in Amhara (Ayehu & Wegel Tena). Sesame is at flowering stage in Benishangul-Gumuz (Pawe) and Pepper is at flowering stage in northern Amhara (Ayehu). Heavy falls caused water logging on Teff and Barley crops over Arsi Robe and Debre Tabor, respectively. Weed infestation on Barley over Mehal Meda, slight damage on sorghum crop over Assosa and severe crop disease on barley caused persistent wilting as reported from Lalibela.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over central Tigray, western half of Amhara, most of Oromiya, Benshangul-Gumuz, Gambella and SNNPR will create favorable condition for Meher agricultural activities. Besides, it will favor crops, which are at different phonological stages for their water demands. Moreover, the expected near normal rains over eastern regions: eastern Oromiya, Dire Dawa, Harari and Somali could have a positive impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. On the other hand, the expected near normal rains over southern Oromiya, southern half of SNNPR will have a significant contribution for perennial crops and the general agricultural activities.