

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of December 2007, the observed dry weather condition over most parts of the country could have a positive impact for Meher harvest and post harvest activities. On the other hand the observed sunny and dry weather condition created night and morning cold air weather condition. The situation might have a negative impact on harvest and post harvest activities of frost prone areas like southern and central Amhara and high land areas of central and eastern Oromia. Nevertheless, the observed light rainfall over north eastern and southwestern parts of the country could have a positive impact for land preparation of Belg growing areas.

During the first dekad of January 2008, moist weather situation in association with increased cloud coverage was observed over some areas of southeastern Amhara and western Oromia, however, most parts of the country experienced dry & sunny weather condition. The situation over the aforementioned areas might have improved midnight and early morning cold weather condition.

On the other hand, the dry condition minimized harvest and post harvest losses; moreover, the situation might have favored Meher post harvest activities in the country.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 January 2008

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of western Oromia received 5-25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

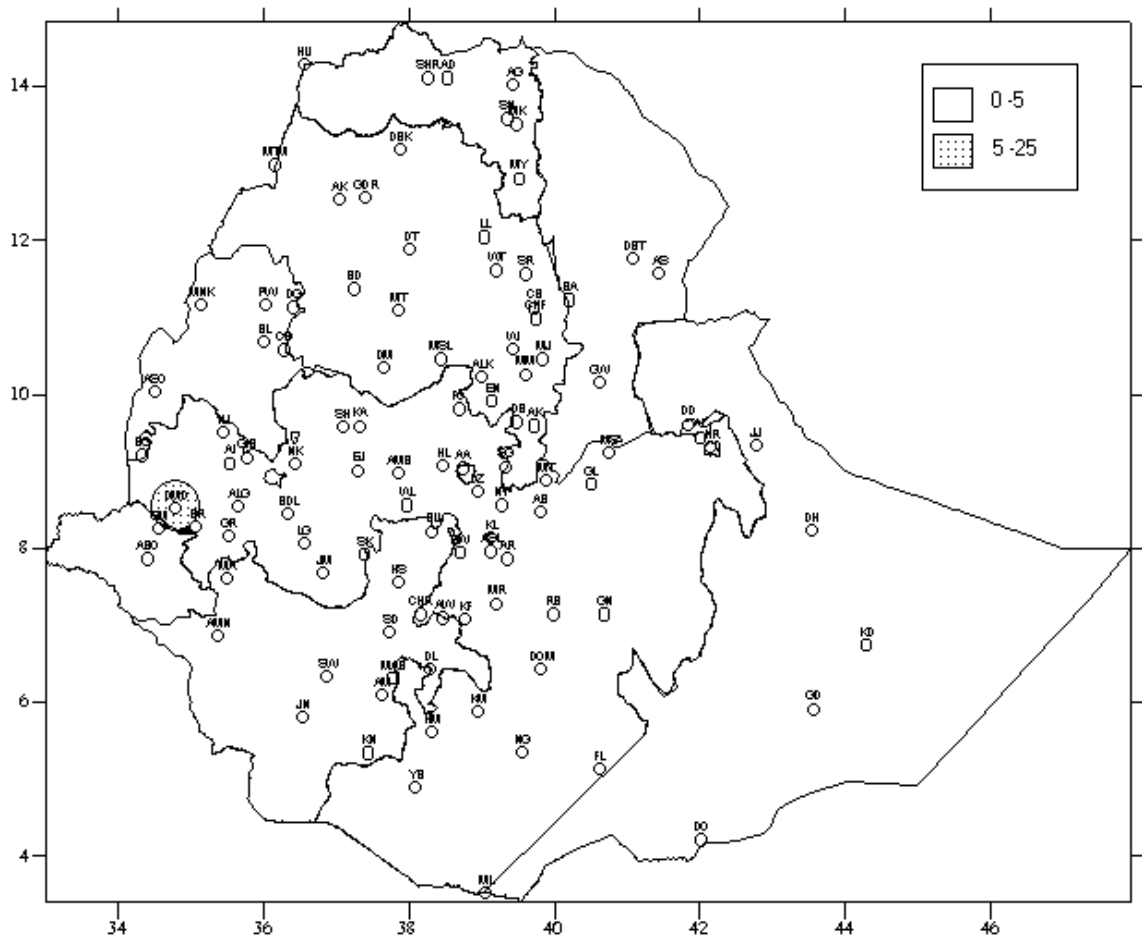


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 January 2008)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Pocket area of western Oromia received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below normal to much below normal rainfall.

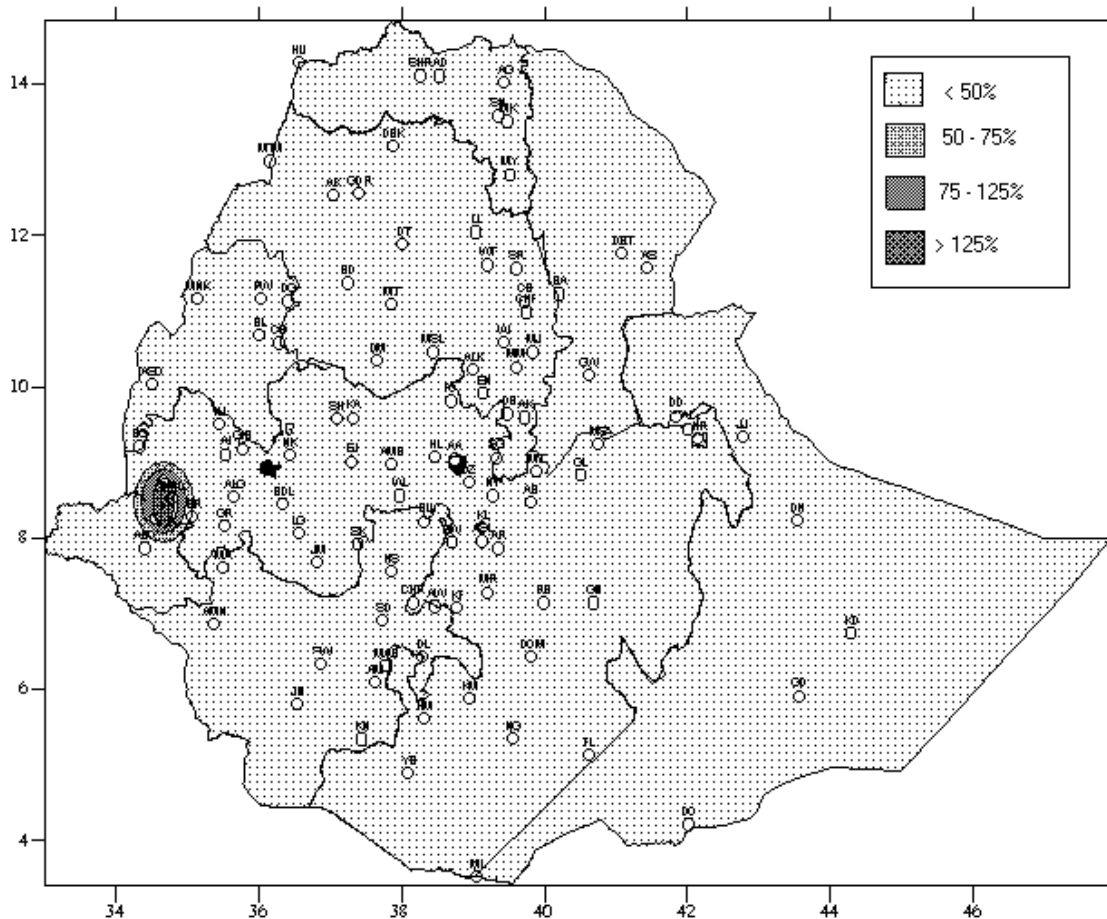


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 January 2008)

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 minimum temperature below 5° C for 3-7 days. Alemaya, Debre Birhan, Jimma, Fiche, Kofelle, Wegel Tena, Mehal Meda, Arsi Robe, Debre Zeit and Desse recorded extreme minimum temperature as low as -2.5, -2.0, 1.0, 1.7, 2.0, 2.4, 2.5 and 3.5 ° C respectively. The situation might slightly affect the post Meher harvest activities over the aforementioned areas.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF JANUARY 2008

In the coming ten days, even though, the current dry and sunny weather condition is expected to continue, moist air is likely to incur over parts of the country. For this reason, western and southwestern Ethiopia will get rain showers at some places. Besides, northeastern, eastern and central highlands will have patches of clouds from which there will be chances of light rain at few places.

In general, Gambella, western Oromia and much of SNNPR will receive isolated to scattered rains with nearly normal rainfall amount. Similarly eastern Tigray and Amhara, central and eastern Oromia high grounds are likely to have cloud coverage, which might bring light rain at few places. On the other hand, sunny and dry weather dominate the remaining portions of the country.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Dry weather condition dominated most of Meher growing areas, however, moist weather situation in association with increased cloud coverage was observed over some areas of southeastern Amhara and western Oromia. The situation over the aforementioned areas might have improved midnight and early morning cold weather condition.

On the other hand, the dry condition minimized harvest and post harvest losses; moreover, the situation might have favored Meher post harvest activities in the country. Pursuant to crop phenological report, please refer table1 in the next page.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

Cool and dry weather anticipated to dominate most parts of the country, however, in line with the increased cloud cover coupled with moist air will improve the midnight and early morning temperatures as a result post harvest activities could be enhanced. Moreover, the dry condition will have a positive impact in minimizing harvest and post harvest losses.

In the coming dekad, some areas of Gambella, western Oromia and most parts of SNNPR expected to have below normal rainfall. In addition the highlands of eastern Tigray and Amhara, central and eastern Oromia in line with cloud coverage increment there will be little rain at some places. The situation will favor perennial crops and availability of pasture and it also benefit Belg land preparation.

Table 1. Crop Phenological Report for the first dekad of January 2008

Station name	Region	Zone	Woreda	Major Crops			Phases		
				1	2	3	1	2	3
Aris Robe	Oromia	Mirab Arsi	Robe	Teff	Wheat	-	Fl	Sh	-
Alemkema	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Alemkema	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assosa	Benishagul	Assosa	Assosa	Sorghum-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayehu	Amahara	Mirab Gojam	Ankossa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedelle	Oromia	Illubabor	Bedlle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bullen	Benishagul	Metekel	Bullen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bui	SNNPR	Guarage	Sodo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chagni	Amahara	Awi	Guagnua	-	Millet	Nug	-	-	Ygr
Chira	Oromia	Jimma	Gera	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dangila	Benishagul	Awi	Dangila	Millet	-	-	Ta	-	-
Debre Tabor	Amahara	Dabub Gonder	Debre Tabor	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dolomana	Oromia	Bale	Mena	Maize	Seaseme	-	Fl	--	-
Enewary	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Mortenajiru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fitche	Oromia	Semen Shoa	Girarjarso	Teff	-	-	R	-	-
Gelemeso	Oromia	Mira Haraghe	Habro	-	-	Teff	-	-	-
Hossaina	SNNPR	SNNPR	Lemu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kachise	Oromia	Mirab Shoa	Gindeberet	-	Teff	-	-	-R	-
Lalibela	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Lasta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Limugent	Oromia	Jimma	Limukosa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Majate	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Mizan antakiya	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mehal Meda	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Gira mider	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nedjo	Oromia	Mira Wollega	Nedjo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pawe	Benishagul	Metekele	Pawe liyu	-	Sorghum	-	-	-	-
Shaura	Amahara	SemenGonder	ALEF.T	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shambu	Oromia	HoroWollega	Horo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shire	Tigray	Mirab Tigray	Endasilasie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sirinka	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Habru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sokoru	Oromia	Jimma	Sokoru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shola gebeya	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Hagaramariam	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wagel Tena	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Delanta	Wheat	-	-	Wr	-	-
Waliso	Oromia	D.Mirab Shoa	Waliso	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ziway	Oromia	Misrak Shoa	Jidocombolcha	-	-	-	-	-	-

Key :

P/S= Plant/Sow
 Em=emerge
 Tl=Third leaf
 Fl=Fifth leaf
 Sl=Seventh leaf
 Yr=Yellow ripe
 Nl= Ninth leaf
 El= Elongation
 Ta = Tassel
 Ti=Tiller

Sh=shoot
 Bs= Berry soft
 Bh= Berry hard
 Ph= Pin heading
 Ea= Earing
 He= Heading
 Bu= budding
 Fl=Flower
 R = ripeness
 Cr= Consumer ripeness

Gr= Green ripeness
 Wr= Wax ripeness
 Yg r= yellow green ripeness
 Lgr =light green ripeness
 Dr= dark ripeness
 Fr= Full ripeness
 H =Harvested
 -Data not available