

# NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

## TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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### SUMMARY

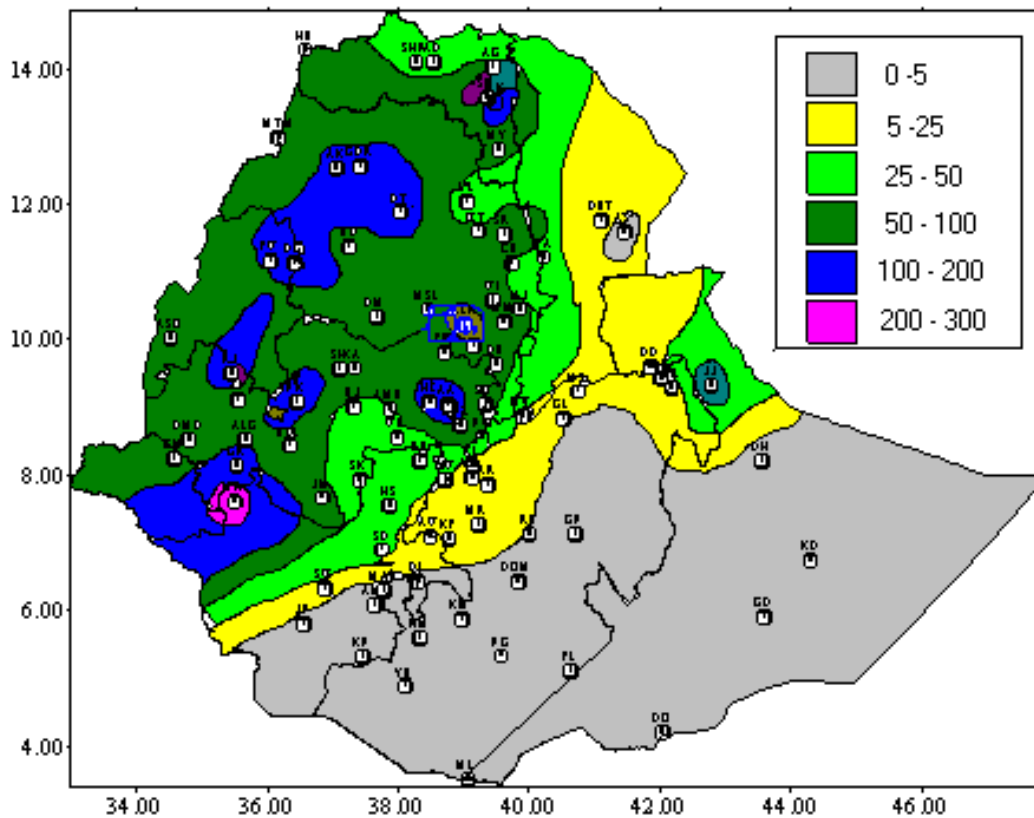
During the third dekad of July 2005, the observed widespread rainfall over most parts of Meher crop producing areas favoured season's agricultural activities. However, some areas of northeastern, northern parts of southern and western highlands exhibited heavy falls ranging from 30-100 mm in one rainy day. Besides some pocket areas like Sekoru, Sirinka, Wegel Tena, Bati and Debre Tabor received heavy falls repeatedly (2-3 days) during the ten days period. As the result Wegel Tena, Sodo, Sirinka, Dolo Mena, Harbu and Mehal Meda reported crop damage and livestock losses during the third dekad of July 2005.

During the first dekad of August 2005 a decrease in rainfall amount was observed in most parts of the country relatively as compared to that of the preceding dekad however the distribution was in a good shape in terms of crop water requirement. Besides there was satisfactory stored moisture in most places due to the observed abundant fall during the preceding dekad. As a result crops were in good condition in most parts of Meher crop producing areas. Nevertheless some areas of central, northeastern, eastern, western and northwestern parts of the country exhibited heavy falls ranging from 30-67 mm. Among the reporting stations Alem Ketema, Fitcha, Addis Ababa Obs, Masha, Kachse, Adigrat, Nekemte, Jijiga and Gore received 41.5, 42.8, 46.8, 49.3, 49.5, 50.7, 52.0, 65.0 and 67.0 mm of rainfall in one rainy day. Moreover some stations like Gonder, Nekemt and Mankush reported heavy falls greater than 30 mm for 2, 2 and 4 days in the ten days period, respectively. Thus some areas like Fitcha reported crop damage due to heavy falls during the dekad under review. Pursuant to the crop phenological report sowing of teff, maize, millet, peas and Nug was under way in some areas of eastern Amhara like Sirinka, western Oromiya like Shambu and western Amhara Chagni. Maize was at tassling and ninth leaf stage in some areas of western Oromiya (Nedjo) and western Amhara Chagni while at flowering stage over some area of western Oromiya like Dembi Dolo, Sekoru and Aira. Moreover, it was at wax and full ripeness stage over some southern highlands of Oromiya like Chira, northwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush) in some areas of northeastern SNNPR like Hossaina. Sorghum was at early vegetative stage in some areas of western and southern highlands of Oromiya like Dembi Dolo, Nedjo, and Chira including southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz like Assosa. It was also at tasseling stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Gimbi. Millet was at tillering stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Nedjo and Aira while at shooting stage in some areas of eastern Oromiya like Gelemso. Wheat was at early vegetative stage in some areas of western and central Oromiya like Shambu and Kulumsa including northern SNNPR like Hosaina, in some areas of northern Oromiya (Fitcha) and southeastern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). Beans were at budding stage in some areas of northern Oromiya (Fitcha) and southeastern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). Pepper was at flowering stage in some areas of northwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush). Fitcha and Gimbi reported hail damage and weed infestation respectively during the dekad under review.

# 1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

## 1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

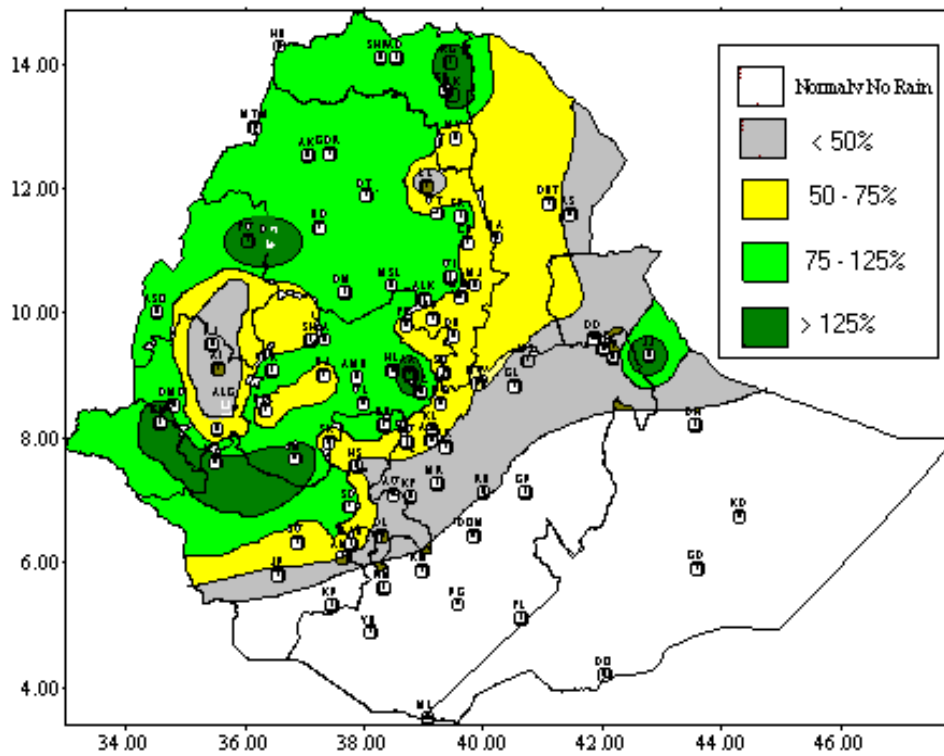
Central and parts of western Amhara, eastern half of Gambela, few areas of western and central Oromiya received falls greater than 100 mm. Most parts of Tigrai, few areas of northern Somali Amhara western Oromiya, western half of Gambela and northwestern SNNPR received 50 – 100 mm of rainfall. The rest of the country received below 50 mm of rainfall. Little or no rainfall over south and southeastern lowlands as per normal condition



**Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 August, 2005)**

## 1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of western half of the country exhibited normal to above normal rainfall the reverse was true for the eastern half.



**Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 August 2005)**

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

> 125% ---- Above normal

## 1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

No significant air temperature anomaly was observed over most parts of the country.

## **2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF AUGUST 2005**

In the coming dekad, central and western parts of Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, western and central parts of Oromiya as well as northern half of Benishangul-Gumuz are expected to get normal to above normal rainfall. Hence, heavy fall, which is accompanied by hailstorm, can cause flash flooding at places. On the other hand despite less rainfall are anticipated over Afar, eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, eastern and southern Oromiya as well as southern parts of SNNPR and Somali, some places will have close to normal rainfall.

## **3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

### **3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

A decrease in rainfall amount was observed in most parts of the country relatively as compared to that of the preceding dekad however the distribution was in a good shape in terms of crop water requirement. Besides there was satisfactory stored moisture in most places due to the observed abundant fall during the preceding dekad. As a result crops were in good condition in most parts of Meher crop producing areas. Nevertheless some areas of central, northeastern, eastern, western and northwestern parts of the country exhibited heavy falls ranging from 30-67 mm. Among the reporting stations Alem Ketema, Fitcha, Addis Ababa Obs, Masha, Kachse, Adigrat, Nekemte, Jijiga and Gore received 41.5, 42.8, 46.8, 49.3, 49.5, 50.7, 52.0, 65.0 and 67.0 mm of rainfall in one rainy day. Moreover some stations like Gonder, Nekemt and Mankush reported heavy falls greater than 30 mm for 2, 2 and 4 days in the ten days period, respectively. Thus some areas like Fitcha reported crop damage due to heavy falls during the dekad under review. Pursuant to the crop phenological report sowing of teff, maize, millet, peas and Nug was under way in some areas of eastern Amhara like Sirinka, western Oromiya like Shambu and western Amhara Chagni. Maize was at tassling and ninth leaf stage in some areas of western Oromiya (Nedjo) and western Amhara Chagni while at flowering stage some area of western Oromiya like Dembi Dolo, Sekoru and Aira. Moreover, it was at wax and full ripeness stage southern highland of Oromiya like Chira, northwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush) in some areas of northeastern SNNPR like Hossaina. Sorghum was at early vegetative stage in some areas of western and southern highlands of Oromiya like Dembi Dolo, Nedjo, and Chira including southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz like Assosa. It was also at tasseling stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Gimbi. Millet was at tillering stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Nedjo and Aira while at shooting stage in some areas of eastern Oromiya like Gelemso. Wheat was at early vegetative stage in some areas of western and central Oromiya like Shambu and Kulumsa including northern SNNPR like Hosaina, in some areas of northern Oromiya (Fitcha) and southeastern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). Beans were at budding stage in some areas of northern Oromiya (Fitcha) and southeastern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). Pepper was at flowering stage in some areas of northwestern Benishangul-Gumuz (Mankush). Fitcha and Gimbi reported hail damage and weed infestation respectively during the dekad under review.

### **3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD**

The anticipated increased in rainfall activity over most parts of the country would favor crop production as well as the availability of pasture and drinking water over eastern and northeastern pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Particularly the expected better rainfall activities would have significant contributions in area where sowing activities of teff, barley and wheat are under question during the second half of the month. However, the expected flash flood in some pocket areas of central and western half of the country would result in crop damage. Thus proper attention should be given for flood prone areas in order to minimize the effect. On the other hand the expected erratic rainfall in some pocket areas of eastern half of the country would create favorable condition for the outbreak of pests. Therefore proper precaution should be undertake ahead of time to take control measures below economic threshold level which is important to avoid unnecessary expense.