NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

PO .BOX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 512299 FAX 517066 E-mail nmsa@ethionet.et

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of January 2006, the observed Bega's dry and sunny condition over most parts of the country could have a positive contribution for the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities. On the other hand, the observed below normal rainfall particularly over some areas of northeastern and western highlands, could have negative impact in areas where land preparation is the main practice at this time of the year. Moreover, it could also have negative impact on perennial crops and other plants to some extent. Concerning air temperature even though, no station recorded extreme minimum temperature below 0^0C, some station like DebreZeit, Kulumsa, Arsi Robe, WegelTena, Almaya, Dangla and Adigrat which were experienced frost during the preceding dekads exhibited the extreme minimum temperature below 5^0C for 6-9 consecutive days in the dekad under consideration. This situation indicated the influence of frost on the normal growth and development of plants to some extent.

During the second dekad of January 2006, the observed below normal rainfall activities over those areas which are normally start sowing activities at the beginning of January like southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, SNNPR, as well as southern Oromya could have negative impact on the early season's agricultural activities. Regarding air temperature the observed rise in extreme minimum temperature in most parts of frost prone areas could alleviate the stressful condition of plants that was observed due to frost occurrence.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 January 11-20, 2006

1.1.1 Rain fall Amount (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of southern and western Oromya Southern and northeastern SNNPR received rainfall amount ranging from 5-25 mm while the rest parts of the country recorded little or no rainfall.

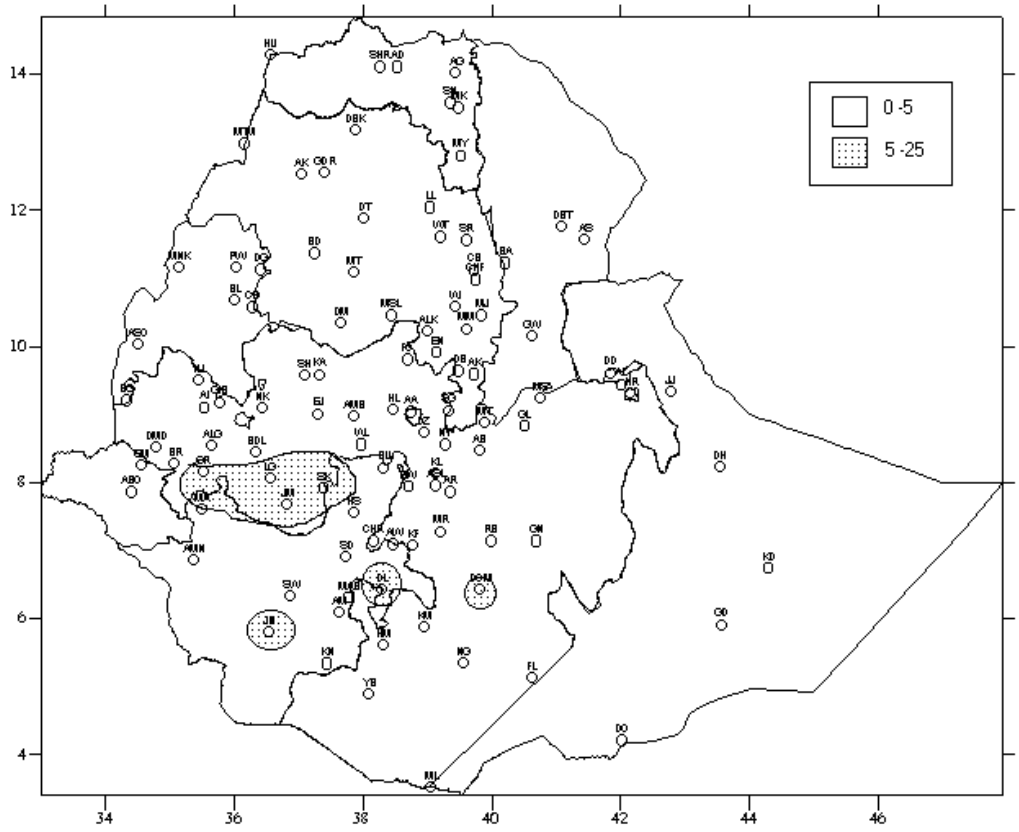

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20, January 2006)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Pocket areas of eastern SNNPR, southern and western Oromya, experienced normal to above normal rainfall distribution below to much below normal rainfall was observed over most parts of the country.

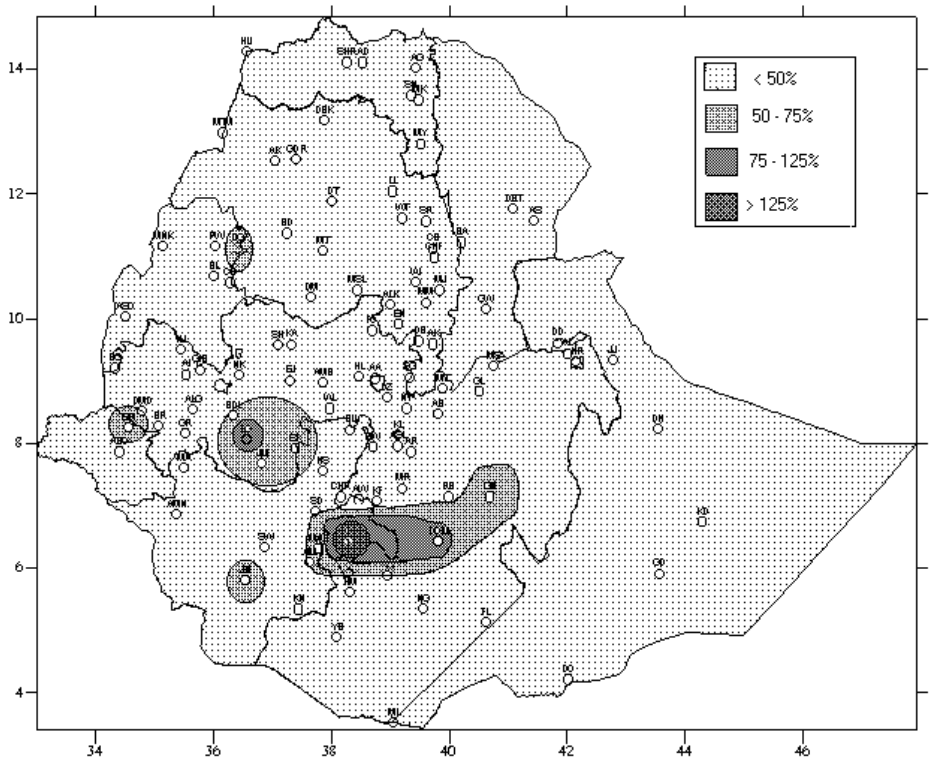

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11- 20 January 2006)

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

1.2 TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES

DebreBrhan, Adigrat, Fitche and WegelTena recorded extreme minimum temperature below 5^0C for 2-4 days and Wegel Tena exhibited extreme minimum temperature as low as -0.5^0C. On the other hand, Gambella, Metema, Mankush, Gode, Methara and Pawe recorded 41.5, 39.3, 37.5, 37.0, 36.0 and 35.8^0C of extreme maximum temperature, respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF JANUARY 2006

In the beginning of the coming ten days, most parts of central and western Oromya, northern half of Somali, Harari, DireDawa, Afar, eastern Amhara and southern Tigray are expected to get light to moderate rain showers. However, the amount and distribution of the rainfall is going to be weakened at the aforementioned areas and are highly likely to be limited to southern, southwestern Ethiopia. Hence SNNPR as well as western and southern Oromya will have better rainy days than the other areas of the country. In contrast after mid of the ten days, the remaining portion of the country will be under the dry weather condition

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed below normal rainfall activities over those areas which are normally start sowing activities at the beginning of January like southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, SNNPR, as well as southern Oromya during the month of January 2006 could have negative impact on the early season's agricultural activities. Regarding air temperature the observed rise in extreme minimum temperature in most parts of frost prone areas could alleviate the stressful condition of plants that was observed due to frost occurrence.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The expected near normal rainfall distribution at the beginning of the ten days over most parts of central and eastern Oromya, eastern Amhara and western Tigray would have positive contribution for land preparation to some extent. Nevertheless, the anticipated weak rainfall activity towards the second half of the coming decade would negatively affect land preparation and sowing activities which are the major practices at this time of the year in some areas under normal circumstances. Therefore the concerned personnel should start thinking to design appropriate alternative strategies to minimize the risk of water stress due to erratic rainfall distribution to some extent. On the other hand, the expected better rainfall distribution over SNNPR, western and southwestern Oromya would have positive contribution for land preparation which is the main practices for most parts of Belg growing areas. Moreover, it would facilitate sowing activities in some areas where better rainfall is expected.