NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of February 2006, with the exception of Gambela, western Oromya and few areas of northwestern and southern Afar most parts of the country exhibited below normal rainfall distribution. Besides some lowland areas of southeastern, northwestern and central Ethiopia exhibited extreme maximum temperature ranging from 36-42.6°C that could aggravate the stress condition on plants by increasing potential evapotranspiratin. Moreover the deficient condition could affect early season's agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities in areas where Belg activities are started earlier. Among the reporting stations Semera, Metehara, Gode, Pawe, Mankush, Gambela, and Metema recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 36.3, 37.0, 37.2, 38.5, 39.6, 41.5 and 42.6 ^{0}C respectively.

During the second dekad of February 2006, though the observed rainfall has covered most parts of Belg growing areas it was intensive (2-3 rainy days in most places) in terms of distribution. As a result some areas like Sirinka, Jimma, Methera, Jinka, Arba Minch and Nazareth recorded heavy rainfall ranging from 35.1 – 62.8 mm in one rainy day. However the observed rainfall particularly over central, southwestern, southern and eastern highlands could have significant contribution for the ongoing early season's agricultural activities in the areas. On the contrary, the pronounced dry spell over southern Tigray and parts of eastern Amhara could have negative impact on Belg agricultural activities. With regard to air temperature, Arba Minch, Gode, Methera, Asayta, Blate, Gambela, Mankush, Metema, Mirab Abya, Pawe and Semera recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.1^{0}C – 41.5^{0}C.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 February 11-20, 2006

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Most parts of SNNPR and pocket areas of central Oromya received rainfall amount 50 –100mm. Pocket areas of central, eastern Oromya and Amhara received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Some areas of western and most parts of northeastern SNNPR, eastern half of Gambela, pocket areas of eastern and southern parts of Amhara and much of Oromya exhibited 5-25 mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

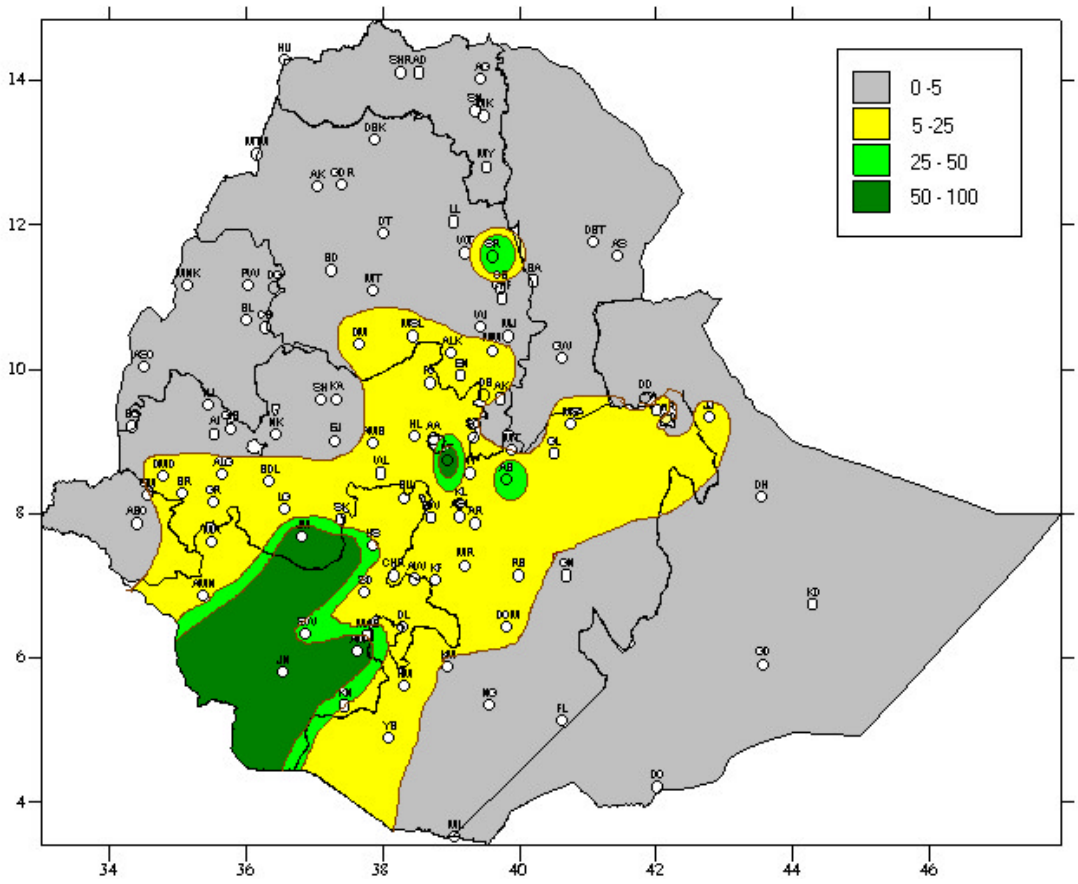

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20, February 2006)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of SNNPR and Oromya including pocket areas of eastern Amhara exhibited normal to above normal rainfall distribution. The rest parts of the country experienced below to much below normal rainfall.

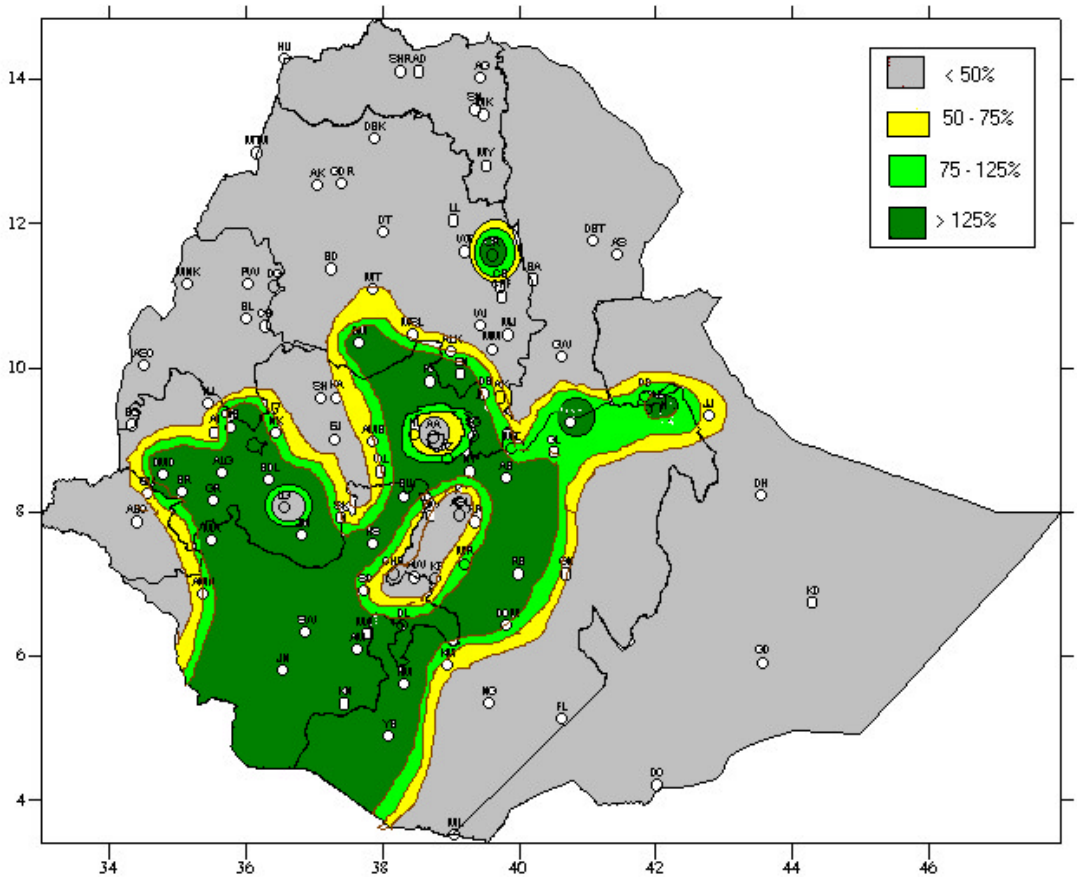

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 February, 2006)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal
50—75% -- below normal
75—125% --- Normal
> 125% ---- Above normal

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Arba Minch, Gode, Methera, Asayta, Blate, Gambela Mankush Metema Mirab Abaya and Semera exhibited extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.1 – 41.5 ^{0}C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF FEBRUARY 2006

For the coming ten days, the rain –bearing systems to continue in similar manner over northeast, rift valley and adjoining areas, central Ethiopia and SNNPR regions. In general, eastern and central Oromya, SNNPR, northern Somali and Borena zone will have a probability of getting above normal rainfall. Moreover, eastern Amhara, Southern Afar, Gambela as well as western Oromya are expected to get nearly normal rainfall. However, Tigray, central and western Amhara, northern Afar and southern Somali will have below normal rainfall with dry and warm weather condition.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

During the second dekad of February 2006, though the observed rainfall has covered most parts of Belg growing areas it was intensive (2-3 rainy days in most places) in terms of distribution. As a result some areas like Sirinka, Jimma, Methera, Jinka, Arba Minch and Nazareth recorded heavy rainfall ranging from 35.1 – 62.8 mm in one rainy day. However the observed rainfall particularly over central, southwestern, southern and eastern highlands could have significant contribution for the ongoing early season's agricultural activities in the areas. On the contrary, the pronounced dry spell over southern Tigray and parts of eastern Amhara could have negative impact on Belg agricultural activities. With regard to air temperature, Arba Minch, Gode, Methera, Asayta, Blate, Gambela, Mankush, Metema, Mirab Abya, Pawe and Semera recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.1^0C – 41.5^0C.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated dry weather situation as well as below normal rainfall distribution over southern Tigray, eastern half of Amhara, would aggravate deficient moisture condition persisted during the preceding dekad. Thus, proper attention should be given for appropriate water harvesting and conservation techniques. In addition to these alternate actions like variety of seed selection should be considers in terms of the expected water shortage. On the other hand, the anticipated normal to above normal rainfall condition over central and eastern Oromya as well as northern SNNPR, northern Somali and Borena would have a positive impact on land preparation in most areas and have significant contribution over central, and eastern Oromya as well as SNNPR in areas where sowing activities are under question at the end of February. Even though the near normal rainfall condition is expected over Gambela and western Oromya, there would be a possibility of shortage of moisture in some cases. Thus farmers are advised to give spatial consideration for appropriate water-harvesting techniques in the aforementioned areas.