NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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

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SUMMARY

During the third dekad of June 2006, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of eastern half of Tigray, central and western Oromia, much of SNNPR, as well as Gambela had significant contribution for the ongoing season's agricultural activities. The observed heavy fall (33-68 in one rainy days) over some areas of western, northwestern, and central Ethiopia could have negative impact particularly over low–lying areas. Thus, this condition resulted in crop damage in some areas. In accordance with the crop phenological report Ziway reported Horticultural crop (Flower) damage due to heavy fall. On the contrary, the observed below normal rainfall over the northern parts of eastern Amhara, eastern Oromia, few areas of eastern parts of SNNPR and highlands of northern Somali, could have a negative impact on the water requirement of the existing growing crops. Among the reporting stations, Bihar Dar, Begi, Chira, Bedelle, Alge, Aira, Nekemte, Sekoru, Gimbi, Adis Ababa (Obs), Gore, Mankush and Arjo received rainfall 68.2, 53.1, 52.0, 50.0, 50.0, 49.2, 48.5, 47.7, 46.5, 42.6, 40.3, 39.5, and 31.6 mm in one rainy day, respectively. With regard to air temperature, Majete, Cheffa, Dire Dawa, Metehara, Elidar, Assayta, and Dubti recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 35.0, 36.5, 37.5, 39.0, 44.1, 45.0 and 45.5 ^{0}C respectively.

During the first dekad of July 2006, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most part of Oromia, Benshangul-Gumuze, Amhara, eastern and South Tigray including western margin of Tigray, most part of SNNPR, northern and southern margins of Afar could have significant contribution for the on going agricultural activities. Thus, as the crop phonological report indicates that the condition of crops was in a good shape over most part of the Meher growing areas. Nevertheless, some areas of central and western parts of Ethiopia exhibited heavy falls ranging from31.5-81.6 mm in one rainy day. Besides Debre Birhan, Gimbi, Shambu and Nekemt recorded heavy falls greater than 30mm for 2 - 4 days out of the ten days period. However no crop damage has been observed due to heavy fall from the reporting stations. On the other hand the observed deficient moisture condition over central Tigray, Gambela, southern parts of SNNPR, eastern half of Oromia and most part of northern Somali could have negative impact particularly over northern Somali and eastern half of Oromia in areas where there was deficient moisture condition during the preceding dekads.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 July 1 – 10, 2006

1.1.1 R AINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of western Oromia received 200-300mm of rainfall. Central, some areas of eastern and most part of southern Amhara, most part of eastern half of Benshangul-Gumuze, northern and western part of Oromia and northern tip part of SNNPR experienced 100-200mm of rainfall. Most part of Tigray, northern, western and eastern Amhara, northern and southwestern Benshangul-Gumuze, some areas of western and central Oromia and some areas of northern and eastern SNNPR exhibited 50-100mm of rainfall. Most part of Gambela, western and eastern part of SNNPR, some areas of Oromia, eastern Amhara and Tigray received 25-50mm of rainfall. Tip part of eastern Tigray, north and southwestern part of Afar, northern Somali, some areas of eastern and western SNNPR and western tip of Tigray experienced 5-25mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

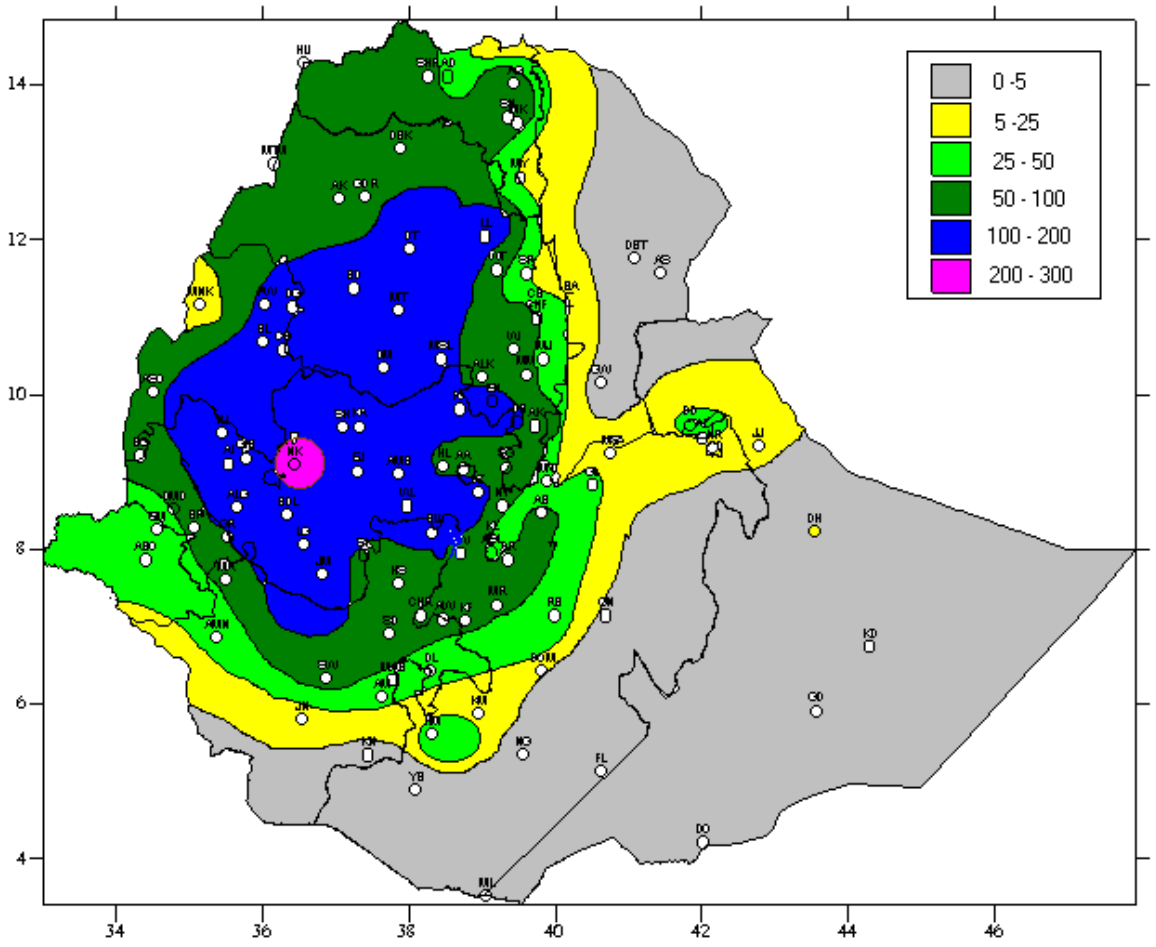

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1 – 10 July, 2006)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Benshangul-Gumuz, most part of Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, most part of northern half of SNNPR experienced normal to above normal rainfall while the rest part of the country exhibited below to much below normal rainfall. Normally no rainfall for southern Oromia and southern and southeastern Somali.

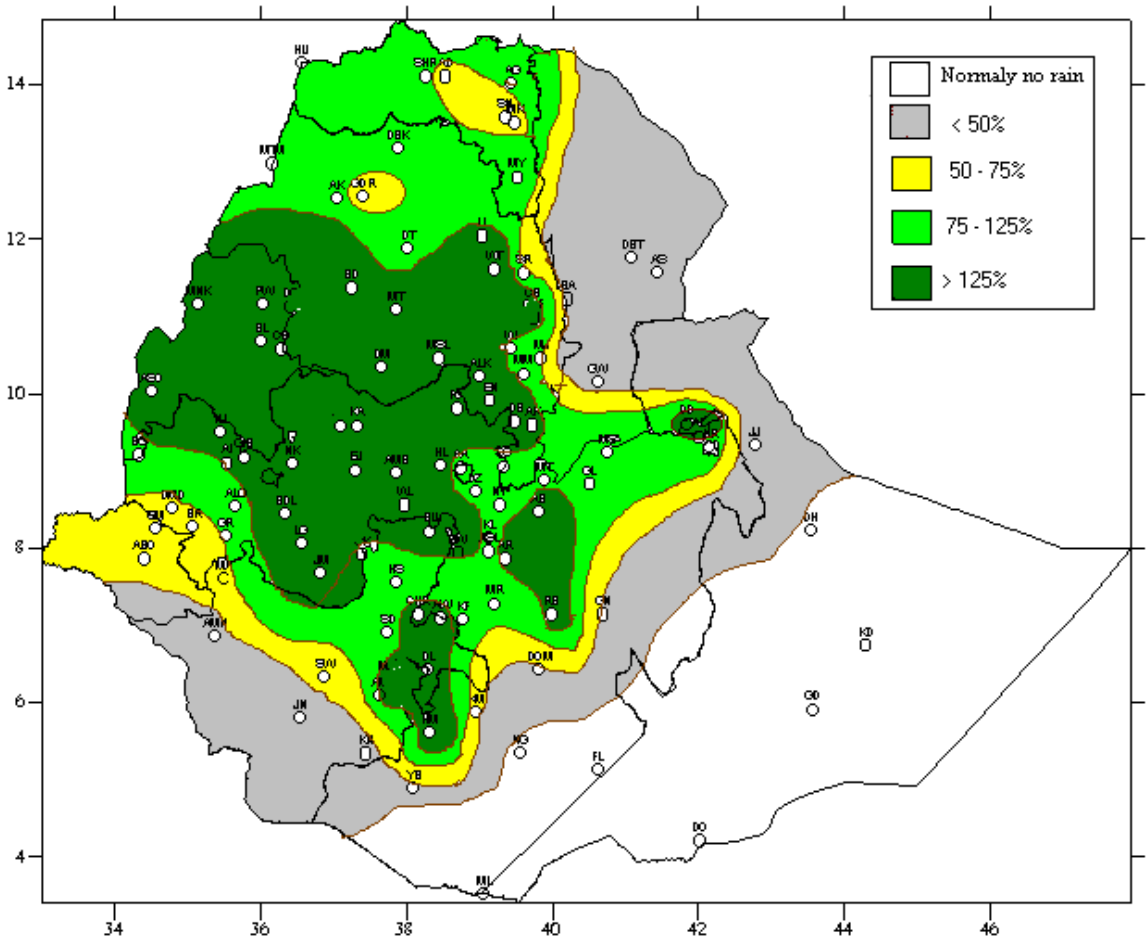

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1 – 10 July, 2006)

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

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Gambela, ShewaRobit, Cheffa, Dire Dawa, Metehara, Semera, Asaita and Dubti recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 35.5, 36.1, 36.2, 37.0, 38.5, 44.0, 44.0 and 45.0 ^{O}C respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF JULY 2006

For the coming ten days, the seasonal rainfall spatial and temporal distributions are expected to advance over the kiremt rain benefiting areas. In general, much of Tigray and Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, Gambela, western and central Oromia and SNNPR regions will get normal to above normal rainfall with heavy fall accompanied with hail and thunder at some places. More over, eastern Tigray and Amhara, Afar, eastern Oromia, northern Somali, Harari and southern SNNPR are anticipated to have below normal rainfall. However, some places will get close to normal rainfall. Dry weather conditions will dominate over southern Somali and Borena zone.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over most part of Oromia, Benshangul-Gumuze, Amhara, eastern and South Tigray including western margin of Tigray, most part of SNNPR, northern and southern margins of Afar could have significant contribution for the on going agricultural activities. Thus, as the crop phonological report indicates that the condition of crops was in a good shape over most part of the Meher growing areas. Nevertheless, some areas of central and western parts of Ethiopia exhibited heavy falls ranging from31.5-81.6 mm in one rainy day. Besides Debre Birhan, Gimbi, Shambu and Nekemt recorded heavy falls greater than 30mm for 2 - 4 days out of the ten days period. However no crop damage has been observed due to heavy fall from the reporting stations. On the other hand the observed deficient moisture condition over central Tigray, Gambela, southern parts of SNNPR, eastern half of Oromia and most part of northern Somali could have negative impact particularly over northern Somali and eastern half of Oromia in areas where there was deficient moisture condition during the preceding dekads. Sowing of maize and wheat was under way in same areas of central and northern Oromia (Kulumsa, Shola Gebeya) and eastern SNNPR (M/Abaya), respectively. Maize was at emergence stage in some areas of central Roomier and western Amphora (Sway and Dangle) while at teaseling and flowering stage in some areas of western Roomier (Gambit, Aria) including western Benching Gauze (Mankush), central Oromia (Ziway), eastern Oromia (Gelemso), southern Oromia (K/Mengist) and western Oromia (Bedele). Moreover it was at full ripeness stage in some areas of southern Oromia (Dolo Mena) and western Oromia (Chira). Sorghum was at emergence and third leaf stages in some areas of southern and eastern Amhara (Alem Ketema and Bati), respectively. It was at tillering and shooting stage in some areas of western Benshangul-Gumuze (Assosa and Mankush). Millet was at emergence and third leaf stage in some areas of western and eastern Benshangul Gumuze (Assosa, Mankush and Bullen) including western Oromia (Limu Genet). Beans was at budding stage in some areas of northern Oromia (Fitche).

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall condition over most part of Tigray, Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuze, Gambela, western and central Oromia and northern part of SNNPR would create favorable condition for sowing of cereal (teff and wheat) and pulse crops in areas like central (Adama, Arsi Robe, Bui, Woliso, Ambo, Robe and Fitche), western (Aossa and Shambu), northeastern (Shoal Gebeya, Majete, Chefa, M/Selam, Were Ilu, Lalibela and Kombolcha. Besides, it would have positive contribution for the water requirement of the existing growing crops. Nevertheless, the expected heavy falls together with hailstorm over some areas of the aforementioned areas would have negative impact on crop fields particularly over low-lying areas and near the riverbanks. Thus proper attention should be under taken to minimize the risk that would happen due to the expected excess moisture condition. On the country, the expected below normal rainfall distribution over some areas of eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Afar, eastern Oromia, northern Somali, Harari and SNNPR would exacerbate the persisted deficient condition during the preceding dekads particularly over eastern part of Oromia, northern Somali, Harari and southern part of SNNPR. Besides it would also have negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of Afar and northern Somali. Therefore, proper water harvesting techniques should be designed to minimize the risk due to the expected deficient moisture condition.