NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMARY

During the third dekad of July 2006, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern half of Tigray, most part of Amhara, south Afar, most part of Oromia, Benshangul-Gumuze, Gambela and northern part of SNNPR including some areas of northern Somali could have significant contribution for sowing activities of Teff, Wheat and Barley over some areas like central (Arsi Robe, Kulumsa, Koffele and Bui), northern part of SNNPR (Hossaina), northeastern (Fiche, Enwary, M/Selam, Majete, Ejaji, Woreilu, Lalibela and Sirinka) and northern (Adwa) parts of the country. Moreover it has favored Meher crops, which are found at different crop phenological stages in most parts of Meher growing areas as per the crop phenological report. On the other hand the observed dry weather condition in some days over northeastern (Sirinka), central (Merraro), SNNPR (Sidama, Hadia, Wolaita, Sheka) could have positive impact for harvesting Belg crops including some root crops like Potato. Among the reporting stations Addis Ababa, Woliso, Majete, Kulumsa, Bui, Fiche, Gimbi, Limu Genet, Bati, Enwary, Gore, Debre Birhane, Arjo, Dangla, Alem Ketema, Debre Tabore, Bahir Dar, Nekemte, Pawe, Combolcha, Gonder, Chagni and Gambela received heavy fall ranging from 33-81mm in one rainy day and the crop phenological report indicates that there was crop damage in Pawe due to heavy fall together with strong wind. With regard to air temperature, Semera, Dubti, Elidar, Assayta, Dire Dawa, and Metehara recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 42.8, 42.6, 42.5, 42.2, 36.7 and 35.5 ^{O}C respectively.

During the first dekad of August 2006, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over Kiremt benefiting areas generated the overflow of rivers and flash floods. This situation resulted in crop damage, which were attaining at different phenological stages; the situation is more severe on crop fields particularly over low-lying areas and riverbanks. On the other hand, the observed seasonal rainfall over Meher growing areas could have a positive impact to fulfill crop water requirements crops the existing crops in the field. However, the pronounced widespread and intensified rainfall over some pocket areas of the country might result in crop damage; where the soil type is clay and this situation can affect negatively the ongoing season's agricultural activities. According to the reporting station, some areas exhibited heavy rainfall ranging from 30-75.4mm, in one rainy day. To mention some of them, Jinka, Gonder, Dangla, Pawe, Maichew, BahirDar, Alemya, Gambela, Kibre Mengist and Hosaina received 75.4, 70.5, 61.0, 55.0, 53.6, 52.4, 52.3, 46.2, 45.0, and 44.8 mm of heavy rainfall in one rainy day respectively.

1.WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 August 1-10, 2006

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Most parts of southern and some areas of western Tigray, much of Amhara, most parts of eastern Bensahgul-Gumuz, few areas of cental and western Oromia, pocket areas of northern and southern SNNPR received 100-200mm of rainfall. Some areas of northern and northwestern Tigray, north western Bensahgul-Gumuz, north western and south western Afar, some areas of eastern, western and southern Oromia, much of Gambela and SNNPR, and some areas of northern Somali experienced 50-100mm of rainfall. Parts of eastern Afar, parts of northern Tip of Benshangul-Gumuz, western Tip of Oromia and few areas of central Oromia, parts of eastern SNNPR, eastern and south eastern Oromia received 25-50mm of rainfall. Parts of eastern Afar, eastern and southern Oromia exhibited 5-25mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

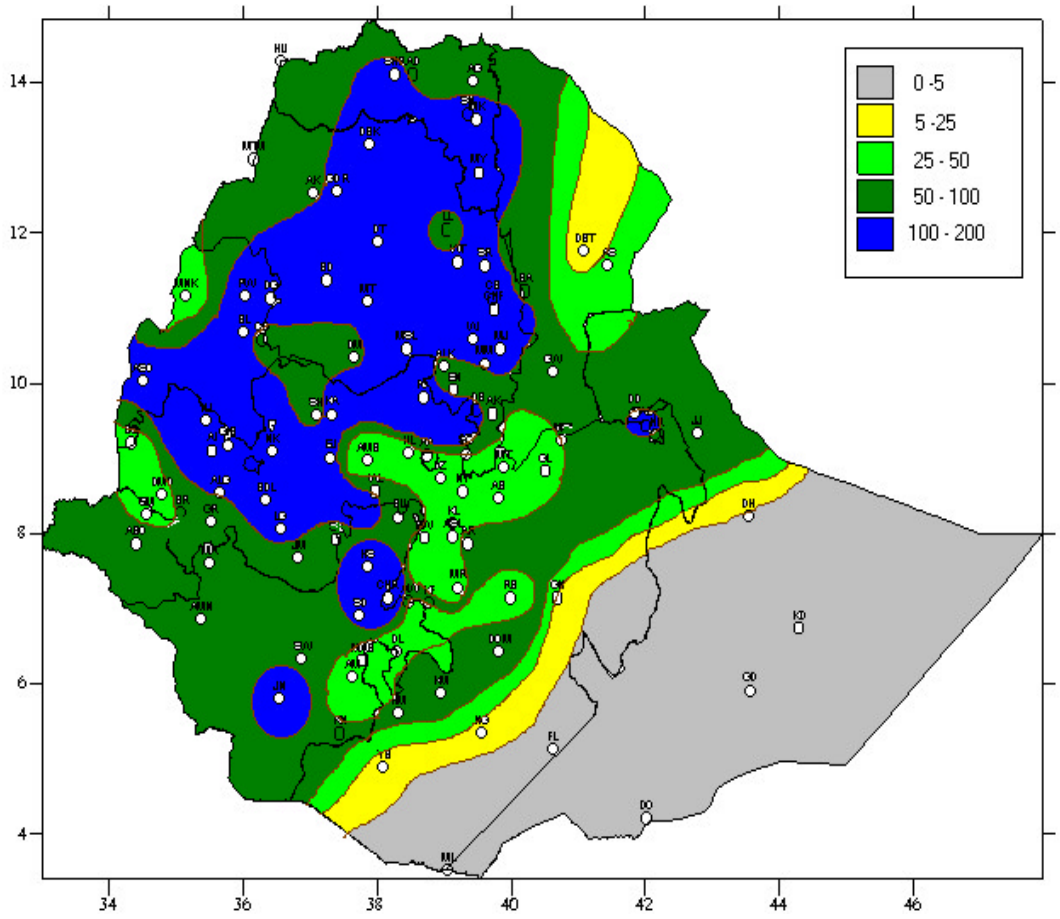

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1- 10 August, 2006)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

With the exception of pocket areas of southwestern tip of Amhara, western tip of Oromia, eastern and southern Oromia, the rest portion of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall. Normally Kiremt is not a rainy season for southern Oromia and southern and southeastern Somali.

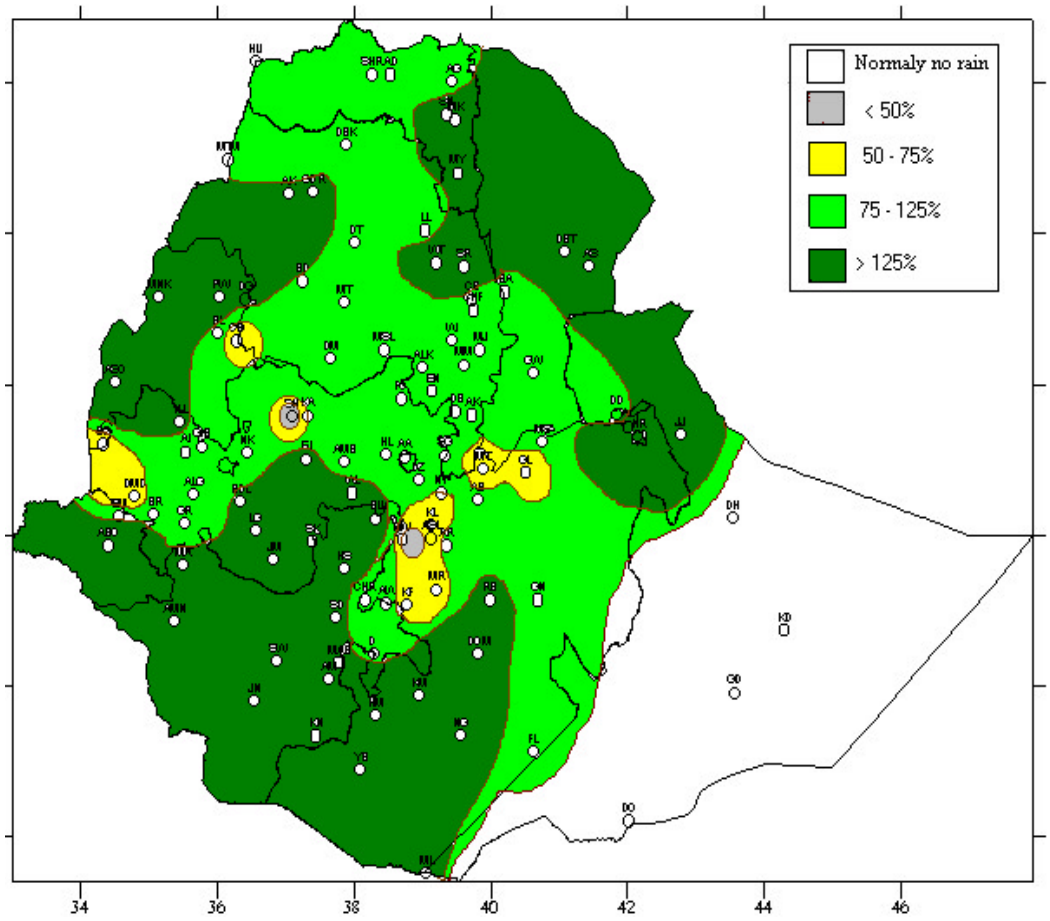

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 August, 2006)

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

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Dubti, Elidar, Semera, Assayta and Dire Dawa received extreme maximum temperature as high as 42.3, 42.2, 41.2 41.0 and 35.0 ^{0}C respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD O F AUGUST, 2006

In the upcoming ten days, the seasonal rain-bearing systems are expected to continue in similar manner over various portions of the country. As a result, much of Tigray, Amhara, Benshngul-Gumuz, Gambela, western and central Oromia and northern SNNPR regions will receive normal to above normal rainfall. Some of the aforementioned places will have heavy falls, which can resulted flash flooding at places. Besides, Afar, eastern Oromia, DireDawa, Harari, northern half of Somil as well as southern SNNPR are likely to have normal rainfall. However, in some places it will be below normal rainfall. Moreover, southern Oromia and adjoining areas of southern SNNPR occasionally will get light rain shower, it will be close to normal rainfall. Southern Somali will be under dry weather condition.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over Kiremt benefiting areas generated the overflow of rivers and flash floods. This situation resulted in crop damage, which were attaining at different phenological stages; the situation is more severe on crop fields particularly over low-lying areas and riverbanks. On the other hand, the observed seasonal rainfall over Meher growing areas could have a positive impact to fulfill crop water requirements crops the existing crops in the field. However, the pronounced widespread and intensified rainfall over some pocket areas of the country might result in crop damage; where the soil type is clay and this situation can affect negatively the ongoing season's agricultural activities. According to the reporting station, some areas exhibited heavy rainfall ranging from 30-75.4mm, in one rainy day. To mention some of them, Jinka, Gonder, Dangla, Pawe, Maichew, BahirDar, Alemya, Gambela, Kibre Mengist and Hosaina received 75.4, 70.5, 61.0, 55.0, 53.6, 52.4, 52.3, 46.2, 45.0, and 44.8 mm of heavy rainfall in one rainy day respectively. Pursuant to the crop phenological report, sowing of Teff was under way in some areas of western Oromia (Shambu), eastern Amhara (Bati), eastern Oromia (Gelemso) and eastern Amhara (Sirinka). It was at emergence stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wereilu), western Amhara (Motta), western Oromia (Sekoru), while it was at third leaf and shooting stage in some areas of western Oromia (Chira, Gimbi, Woliso), eastern Benshangul- Gumuz (Dangla), southeastern Amhara (Alem Ketema) and central Oromia (Ziway) respectively. Sowing of Wheat was under way in some areas of western Oromia (Gimbi) it was at emergence stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wereilu), northern SNNPR (Bui), while it was at third leaf and tillering stage in some areas of south Amhara (Debre Berhan, Shola Gebeya) and central Oromia (Kulumsa, Ziway) respectively. Barley was at emergence, third leaf and tillering stage in some areas of eastern and southern Amhara (Wereilu, Shola Gebeya, D/ Berhan). Maize was at emergence stage in some areas of south Amhara (Majete, Shola Gebeya) and eastern Benshangul Gumuz (Dangla). It was at ninth leaf and tasseling stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Bati, Sirinka) and western Oromia (Nedjo), It was at flowering stage in some areas of central Oromia (Ziway), western Oromia (Aira, Gimibi, Sekoru) while it was at waxy and ful ripness stage in some areas of western Benhangul-Gumuz (Mankush), eastern Oromia (Gelemso) and western and southern Oromia (Chira, Kibre Mengist) respectively. Sorghum was at tillering and shooting stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Bati), western Oromia (Aira, Nedjo), western Benshagul-Gumuz (Assosa), central Oromia (Weliso). Millet was at third leaf and tillering stage in some areas of western and eastern Benhangul-Gumuz (Chagni, Bullen), western Oromia (Aira, Limu Genet, Nedjo). Sowing of bean was underway in some areas of eastern Amhara (WegelTena) while it was at emergence and budding stage in some areas of central and western Oromia (Kulumsa, Shambu). Pea was at emergence stage in some areas of western Oromia (Shambu), eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena), and

central Oromia (Bui). Flax was at budding stage in some areas of south Amhata (Debre Brhan). Sowing of nug was underway in some areas of western Benhangul-Gumz (Assosa) while it was at elongation and budding stage in some areas of eastern Bensahngul-Gumuz (Bullen), southeastern Amhara (Alem Ketema) and central Oromia (Weliso) respectively.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Tigray, Benshagul-Gumuz, Gambela, western and central Oromia, and northern parts of SNNPR would have a positive contribution for water requirement of crops. It would also have a positive impact on crops, which are at different phenological stages and sowing activities in terms of crop water requirement. On the other hand, the anticipated heavy falls over some areas and places may result in flash floods over low-lying areas. Therefore appropriate measures should be under taken according to the objective reality of the areas in order to minimize the effect of the expected excess moisture condition. Moreover, the continuous heavy fall might result in landslide in some sensitive areas. Thus attention and close monitoring should be given to minimize the possible risk ahead of time. The expected normal rainfall over some areas of Afar, eastern Oromia, Dire Dawa, and SNNPR as well as agro pastoral areas would have a positive impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water, and also for the season’s agricultural activities over the abovementioned areas.