NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of December 2006 the observed normal to above normal rainfall over eastern Tigray, most part of Amhara, Benshangul -Gumuz, most part of Oromia, Gambela, SNNPR and Somali could have a positive contribution for crops which are found at different phenological stage at this time of the year. Nevertheless this rainfall condition could have a negative impact on crops, which are ready to harvest. On the other hand some areas like western Oromia (Gore, Arjo, Bedele, and Nekemte), northeastern Oromia (Showa Robi), SNNPR (Konso), eastern high lands (Jijiga), midlands and southern Oromia (Ginir, Borena and Bilate) recorded heavy fall ranging from 30-73.2 mm in one rainy day. Due to this heavy fall Bedelle reported crop damage on teff and coffee, Ginager and Bilate reported damage on crops, which were ready to harvest, and perennial trees respectively. Regarding minimum air temperature, Debre Birhan, Fitche and Koffele recorded extreme minimum temperature below 5 ^{0}C. Besides Debre Birhan recorded extreme minimum temperature below 0 ^{0}C lowering up to -0.8 ^{0}C. This condition could have a negative impact on normal growth and development of the plants.

During the second dekad of December 2006, sunny and windy weather condition had been observed over most parts of the country. This situation would create positive contribution for the ongoing post harvest activities over most parts of the country and harvest activities over some areas of the country where harvest activities are under question. However, in accordance with crop phenological report, crops that were at different crop phenological stages are still in the field in some areas like Dolo Mena, Assosa, Wegel Tena, Chagni, Enwari and Fitche. With regard to extreme minimum temperature, some areas of central (Kulumsa, Kofelle, Debre Brhan, Fitche), some areas of northeastern (Enwari, Mehal Meda, Wegel Tena) and some areas of eastern (Alemya) recorded extreme minimum temperature below 5^{0}C. Besides, Mehal Meda recorded extreme minimum temperature below 0^{0}C lowering up to -0.4^{0}C. This condition could have a negative contribution for normal growth and development of plants.

WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Few areas of southwestern SNNPR experienced 50-100mm of rainfall. Some parts of southern and southwestern parts of SNNPR, pocket areas of western Oromia received 25-50mm of rainfall. Few parts of southwestern SNNPR and pocket areas of Oromia exhibited 5-25mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

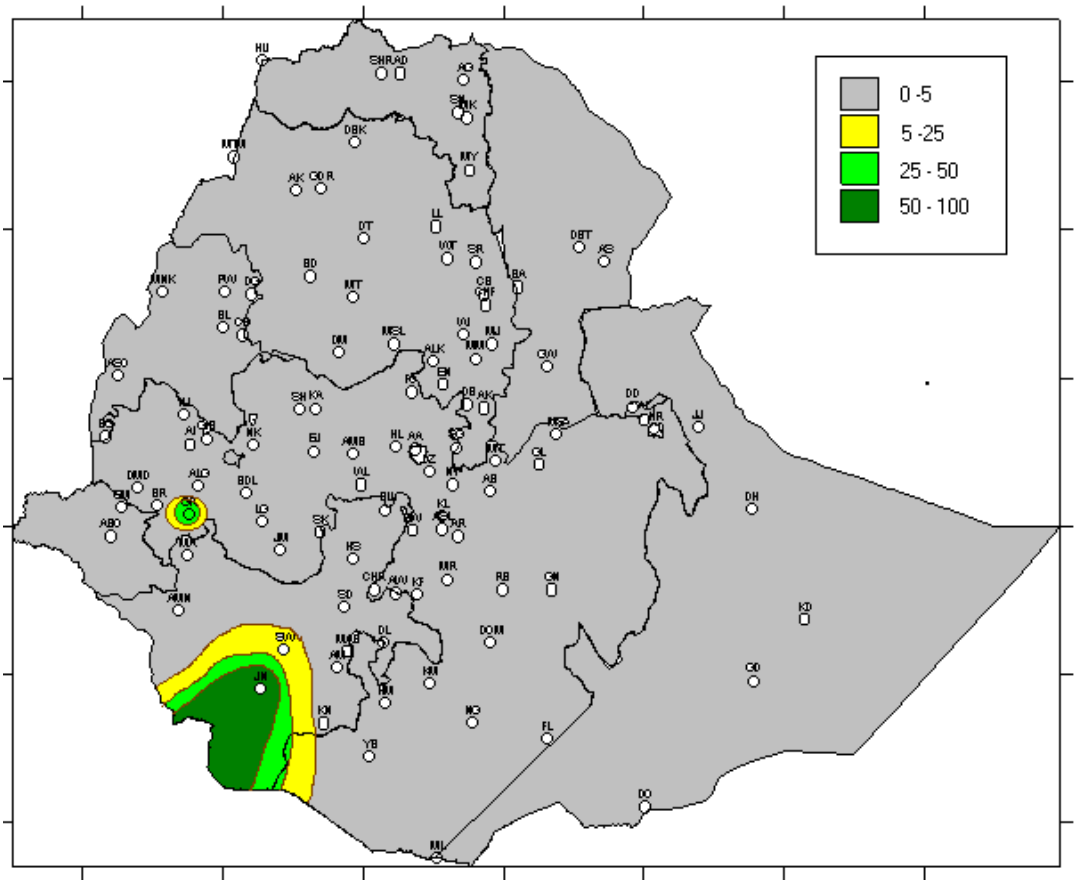

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 December, 2006)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Some parts of southwestern SNNPR and pocket areas of western Oromia received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below to much below normal rainfall.

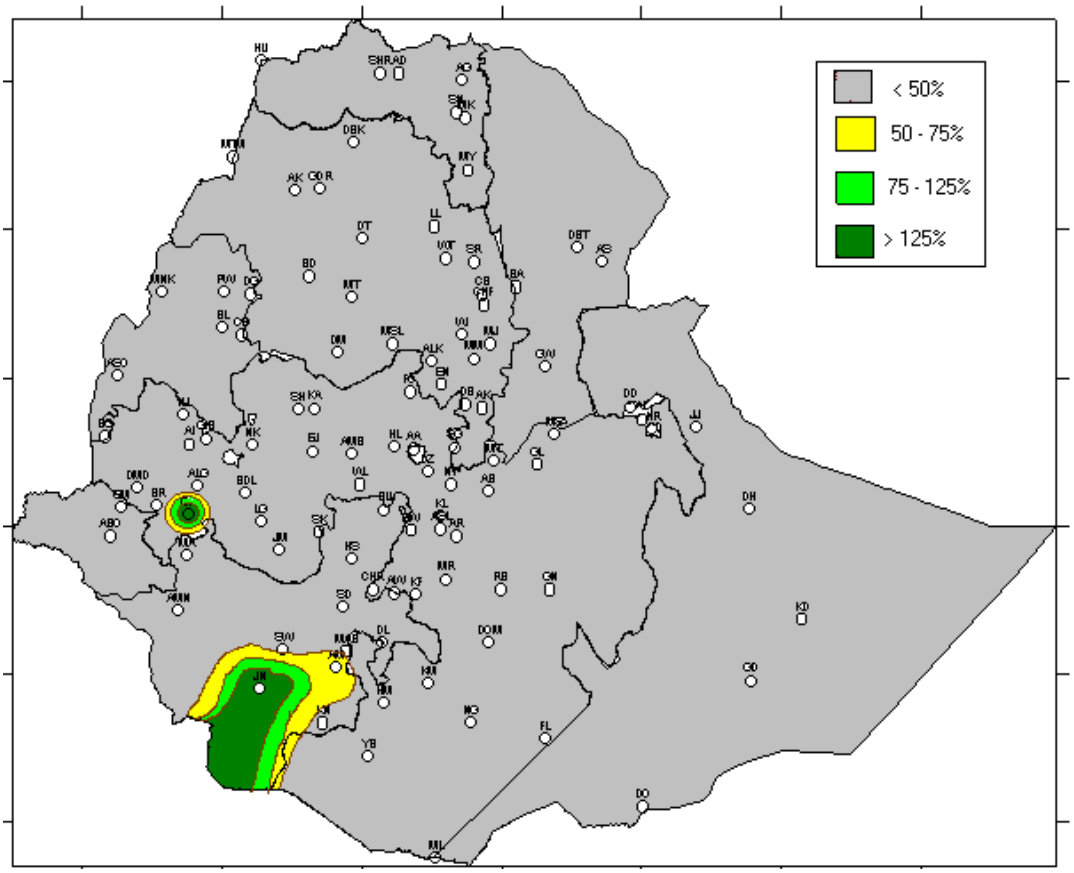

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 December, 2006)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas of central (DebreZeit, Fitche Mehal Meda, Debre Brahn Koffele), eastern (Alemya), Northern (Mekele) and north-eastern (Wegel Tena) exhibited extreme minimum temperature below 5^0 C. Moreover Mehal Meda exhibited minimum temperature below 0^0 C lowering up to -0.4^0 C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF DECEMBER 2006

For the upcoming ten days the Bega's dry and sunny weather condition expected to continue in similar manner over various portion of the country. Hence, western and southern Oromia, SNNPR, southern Somali and Gambela will get close to normal rainfall. Besides, central Ethiopia, eastern Amhara as well as eastern Oromia high grounds from their cloud coverage will receive under seasonal light rain over few places. On the other hand, Tigray, Afar, central and western Amhara and Benshangul-Gumuz will be under dry weather condition. Some Amhara and Tigray highlands, central and southern Oromia as well as central Ethiopia high grounds will have early morning and nighttime coldness.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Sunny and windy weather condition had been observed over most parts of the country. This situation would create positive contribution for the ongoing post harvest activities over most parts of the country and harvest activities over some areas of the country where harvest activities are under question. However, in accordance with crop phenological report, crops that were at different crop phonelogical stages are still in the field in some areas like Dolo Mena, Assosa, Wegel Tena, Chagni Enwari and Fitche. With regard to extreme minimum temperature, some areas of central (Kulumsa, Kofelle, Debre Brhan, Fitche), some areas of northeastern (Enwari, Mehal Meda, Wegel Tena) and some areas of eastern (Alemya) recorded extreme minimum temperature below 5^0C. Besides, Mehal Meda recorded extreme minimum temperature below 0^0C lowering up to -0.4^0C. This condition could have a negative contribution for normal growth and development of plants.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated unseasonable little rainfall over highlands of central Ethiopia, eastern Amhara and eastern Oromia would have a negative impact on harvest and post harvest agricultural activities. Thus crops that are attaining full maturity stage should be harvested on time. Besides, appropriate care should be undertaken at the time of post harvest activities like collecting, trashing and putting at a barn in order to avoid unnecessary losses due the occurrence of post harvest pests. On the other hand, the expected dry sunny and windy weather condition over Tigry, Afar, central and western Amhara as well as Bensahgul-Gumuz would aggravate fire hazards, due dry foliage and bushes which are conducive for the out break of fire. Thus, farmers should take proper precaution at the time of using fire around crops, which are attaining maturity, near the collected grain and around the barn.