NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the third dekad of February 2007, with the exception of most parts of Gambela, some areas of western Oromia and pocket areas of eastern SNNPR, it has been a dry spell over most parts of the country. Thus this situation could have negative impact on Belg crops in areas where sowing activity has beenperformed earlier. Besides it could have significant negative effect on early season's Belg agricultural activities particularly in areas like central and eastern Oromia including eastern parts of SNNP where the deficient moisture condition persisted during the preceding dekad.

During the first deked of March 2007, dry, sunny and below normal rainfall condition has been observed over most part of the country during the dekad under review. This condition could have a negative impact on land preparation and sowing activities particularly over those Belg growing areas, which start their activities at the beginning of this month. Moreover it has a negative impact on the water requirement of the crops, which are found at early vegetative stage in some areas where sowing activity was performed during the month of January and the first half of the month of February.

WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

With the exception of pocket areas of southern Oromia (received 5-25mm rainfall) there was little or no rainfall over most parts of Belg rain benefiting areas.

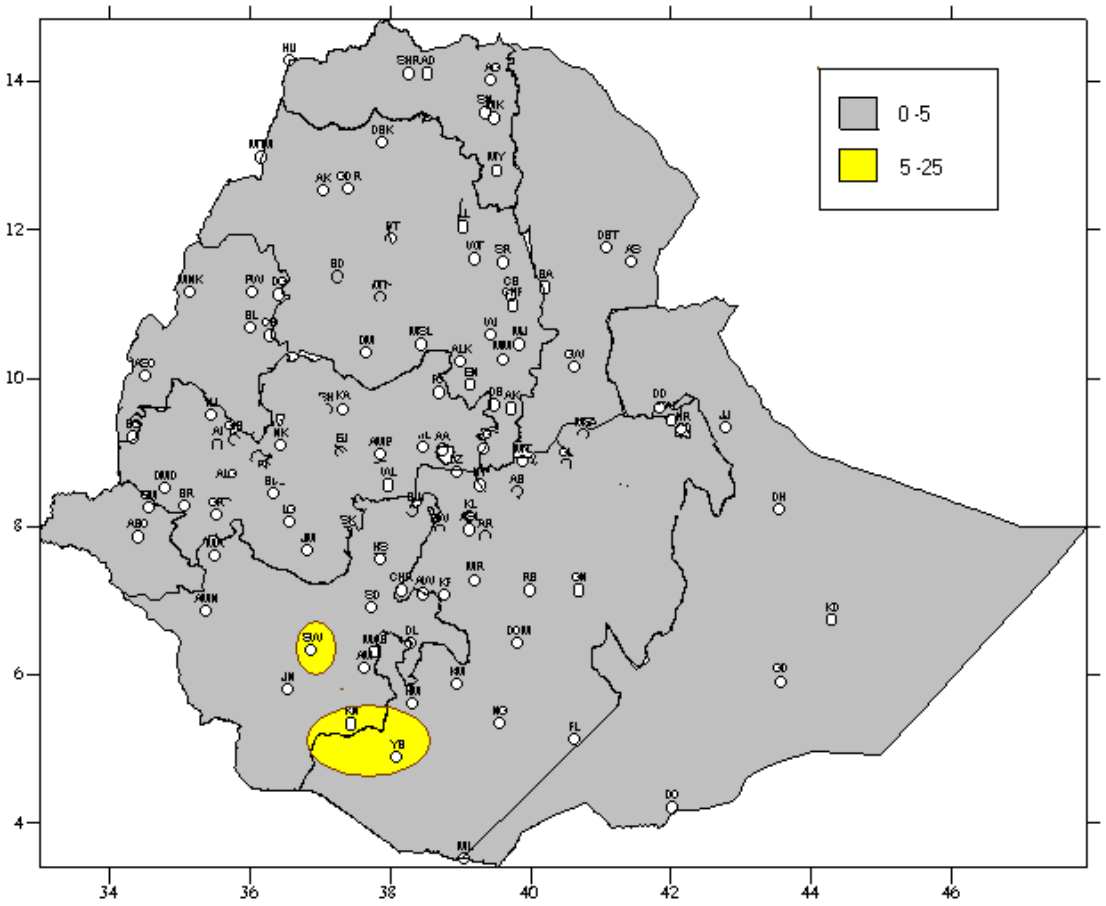

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 March, 2007)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Much below normal rainfall has been observed over most parts of Belg growing areas.

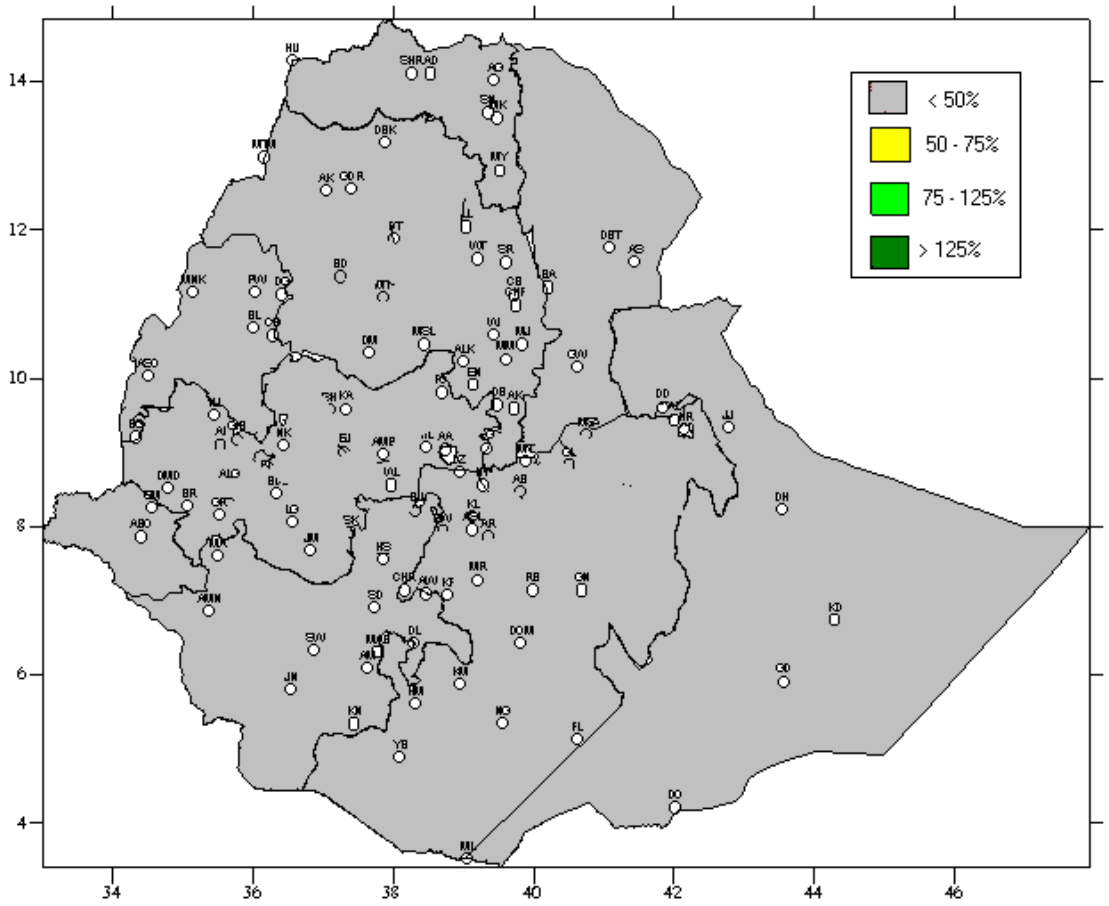

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1-10 March, 2007)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

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

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Arba Minch, Bilate, Mirab Abaya, Metehara, Asayta, Semera, Elidar, Gode, Dubti, Gambela and Metema exhibited extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.5 to 42.2°C.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF MARCH 2007

For the up coming ten days, a better moisture intrusion is anticipated to wards various portions of the country. In line with this there will be an increment of cloud coverage across much of the country. As a result the existing hot, dry and sunny weather condition is likely improve over different section of the nation.

In general SNPPR, southern and western Oromiya, central Ethioia, eastern Tigray and Amhara will have light to moderate rain showers, it will be normal to above normal rainfall. Besides. Gamblla, eastern Oromiya, northern Somali will receive close to normal rainfall. On the other hands the remaining parts of the country dominated by dry weather condition

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Dry, sunny and below normal rainfall condition has been observed over most part of the country during the dekad under review. This condition could have a negative impact on land preparation and sowing activities particularly over those Belg growing areas, which start their activities at the beginning of this month. Moreover it has a negative impact on the water requirement of the crops, which are found at early vegetative stage in some areas where sowing activity was performed during the month of January and the first half of the month of February.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated better moisture condition particular towards the second half of the coming dekad over SNNPR, western and southern Oromia, central Ethiopia, eastern Amhara and eastern Tigray would ease the moisture stress which persisted during the preceding dekads. Besides, it would have a positive contribution for those areas which start their sowing activates at mid march like Bore, Kibre Mengist, Mega western (Limu genet, Sekoru and Tepi), northeastern (Sirinka), eastern (Almaya, Gelemso and Meiso) central (Kulumsa and Arsi Robe). On the other hand even though near normal rainfall is expected over eastern Oromia and northern Somali the contribution would not be significant in terms of sowing activities due to the prolonged dry spell which persisted during the preceding dekads, however, the expected cloud cover would have a positive contribution to minimize evapotranspiration. Thus proper attention should be given for water harvesting techniques in order to avoid wastage to some extent. Moreover appropriate strategies should be designed in terms of seed selection and proper cultural practices in drought prone areas.