1-10 December 2007 Vol. 17 No. 34 **Date of issue December 11, 2007**

SUMMARY

During the thirds dekad of November 2007, the Bega's dry, sunny & windy weather condition prevailed over most parts of the country, thus the situation might have favored harvest and post harvest activities over Meher growing areas. However, rain bearing meteorological phenomenon favored light to heavy amount of rainfall over southwest portion of the country, also light rains were exhibited over parts of SNNPR, southern Oromiya and pocket areas of Tigray and Amhara the situation might have favored crops at developing stages and perennial crops, however harvest and post harvest activities might have been hampered over the aforementioned areas. On the other hand, in line with the dry, sunny and windy weather condition over Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, much of central and eastern Oromia, Somali and eastern parts of SNNPR the observed midnight and morning cold weather condition might have caused crop damage on cereals and pulses that have not yet attained full maturity over the aforementioned frost prone areas.

During the first dekad of December 2007, except few pocket areas of western Oromia the rest of the country received below to much below normal dekadal rainfall. The wet condition over pocket areas of western Oromia & SNNPR might have favored crops at developing stages, perennial crops and availability of pasture and drinking water. On the other hand, the dry condition minimized the expected damage on fully matured crops and harvest and post harvest losses as result of moisture; moreover, the situation favored Meher harvest and post harvest acuities in the country. However, the prevailed dry condition might have a negative impact on crops that have not attained full maturity. The observed midnight and morning cold weather condition might have caused crop damage on cereals and pulses that have not yet attained full maturity over the highlands of southern & central Amhara, central and eastern Oromia frost prone areas.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 December 2007

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Part of northwestern SNNPR received 5-25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

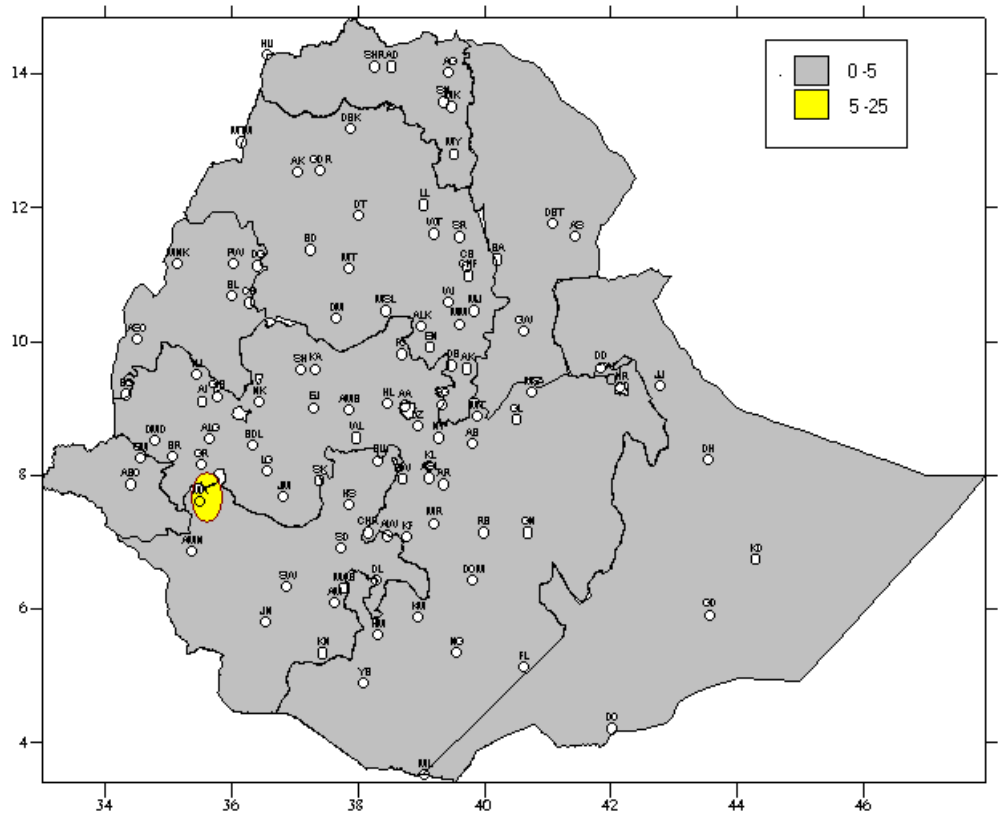

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 December 2007)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

All parts of the country experienced below to much below normal rainfall.

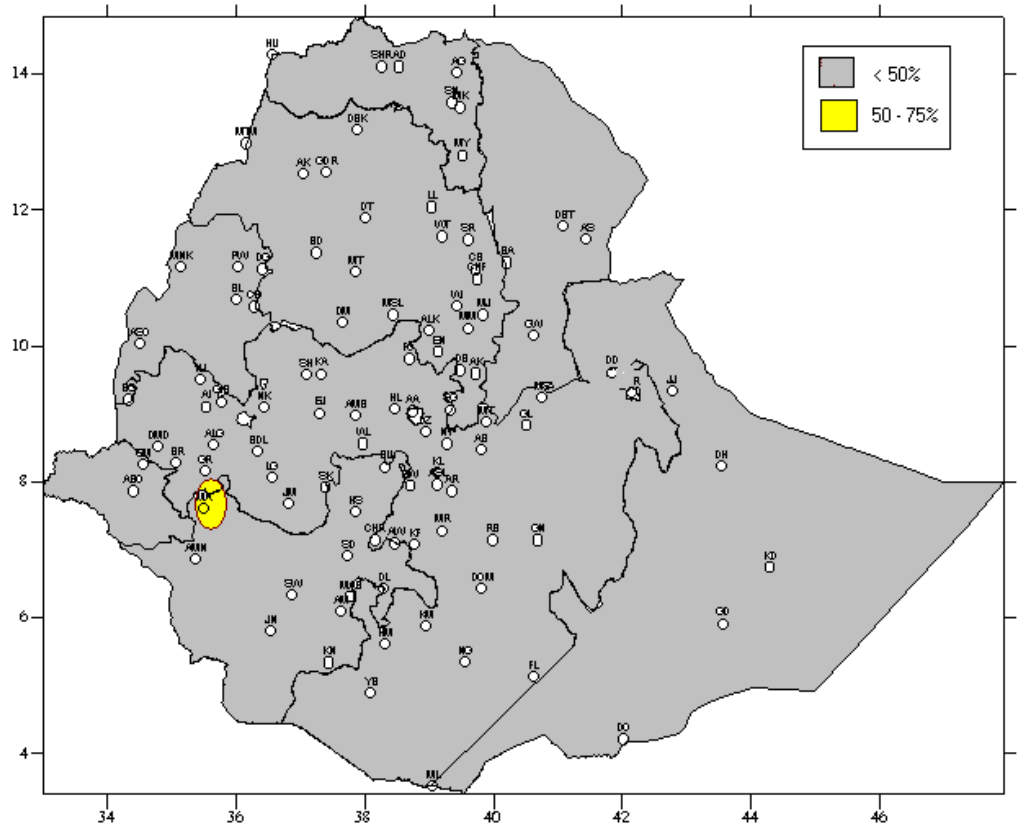

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 December 2007)

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

1.1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations recorded extreme minimum temperature below 5^{o} C for 4-10 days. Adele, Adigrat, Adwa, Alemaya, Amba Mariam, Arsi Robe, Dangla, Debre Birhan, Enewary, Fiche, Jijiga, Kofelle, Maichew, Mehal Meda and Wegel Tena recorded extreme minimum temperature as low as 3.6, 2.4, 3.0, -1.8, 3.6, 1.4, 3.0, 0.5, 4.0, 2.0, 2.0, 1.5, 3.0, 3.0 and 0.0 ^{o} C respectively. The situation might slightly affect the normal growth and development of the crop over the aforementioned areas.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE FIRST DEKAD OF DECEMBER 2007

In the coming dekad the Bega's dry, windy and sunny weather condition mostly will dominate much of the country. In line with this, the highland sectors of northeast, central, east and southeast Ethiopia will experience cold weather conditions during night and early mornings. In contrast, isolated patches of clouds are likely to develop over the southern margins and southwest sectors, which induce light rain showers at few places. Generally, most parts of the country will experience dry weather condition; with below normal rains will be prevailing elsewhere.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Dry weather condition dominated most of Meher growing areas except few pocket areas of western Oromia. The wet condition over pocket areas of western Oromia & SNNPR might have favored crops at developing stages, perennial crops and availability of pasture and drinking water. On the other hand, the dry condition minimized the expected damage on fully matured crops and harvest and post harvest losses as result of moisture; moreover, the situation favored Meher harvest and post harvest activities in the country. However, the prevailed dry condition might have a negative impact on crops that have not attained full maturity. The observed midnight and morning cold weather condition might have caused crop damage on cereals and pulses that have not yet attained full maturity over the highlands of southern & central Amhara, central and eastern Oromia frost prone areas. Pursuant to crop phenological report, please refer table1 in the next page.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

Cool and dry weather from northern hemisphere will enhance the lowering of midnight and morning temperatures as result expected crop damage on cereals and pulses that have not yet attained full maturity over frost prone areas of the highlands of southern & central Amhara, central and eastern Oromia. However, the dry condition will have a positive impact in minimizing the expected damage on fully matured crops, harvest and post harvest losses. Moreover, the situation will favor Meher harvest and post harvest activities in the country.

On the other hand, the expected occasional little rains over few places of southern and southwestern Ethiopia will favor crops at developing stages, perennial crops and availability of pasture and drinking water.

Table 1. Crop Phenological Report for the fist dekad of December 2007

Station name	Region	Zone	Woreda	Major Crops			Phases		
				1	2	3	1	2	3
Aris Robe	Oromia	Mirab Arsi	Robe	Teff	Wheat	-	Fl	Sh	-
Alemkema	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Alemkema	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assosa	Benishagul	Assosa	Assosa	Sorguhum-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayehu	Amahara	Mirab Gojam	Ankosha	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedelle	Oromia	Illubabor	Bedlle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bullen	Benishagul	Metekel	Bullen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bui	SNNPR	Guarage	Sodo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chagni	Amahara	Awi	Guagnua	-	Millet	Nug	-	-	Ygr
Chira	Oromia	Jimma	Gera	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dangila	Benishagul	Awi	Dangila	Millet	-	-	Ta	-	-
Debre Tabor	Amahara	Dabub Gonder	Debre Tabor	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dolomana	Oromia	Bale	Mena	Maize	Seaseme	-	Fl	--	-
Enewary	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Mortenajiru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fitche	Oromia	Semen Shoa	Girarjarso	Teff	-	-	R	-	-
Gelemeso	Oromia	Mira Haraghe	Habro	-	-	Teff	-	-	-
Hossaina	SNNPR	SNNPR	Lemu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kachise	Oromia	Mirab Shoa	Gindeberet	-	Teff	-	-	-R	-
Lalibela	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Lasta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Limugent	Oromia	Jimma	Limukosa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Majate	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Mizan antakiya	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mehal Meda	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Gira mider	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nedjo	Oromia	Mira Wollega	Nedjo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pawe	Benishagul	Metekele	Pawe liyu	-	Sorghum	-	-	-	-
Shaura	Amahara	SemenGonder	ALEF.T	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shambu	Oromia	HoroWollega	Horo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shire	Tigiray	Mirab Tigray	Endasilasie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sirinka	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Habru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sokoru	Oromia	Jimma	Sokoru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shola gebeya	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Hagaramariam	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wagel Tena	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Delanta	Wheat	-	-	Wr	-	-
Waliso	Oromia	D.Mirab Shoa	Waliso	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ziway	Oromia	Misrak Shoa	Jidocombolcha	-	-	-	-	-	-

Key :

P/S= Plant/Sow
Em=emerge
Tl=Third leaf
Fl=Fifth leaf
Sl=Seventh leaf
Yr=Yellow ripe
Nl= Ninth leaf
El= Elongation
Ta = Tassel
Ti=Tiller
Sh=shoot
Bs= Berry soft
Bh= Berry hard
Ph= Pin heading
Ea= Earing

He= Heading
Bu= budding
Fl=Flower
R = ripeness
Cr= Consumer ripeness
Gr= Green ripeness
Wr= Wax ripeness
Yg r= yellow green ripeness
Lgr =light green ripeness
Dr= dark ripeness
Fr= Full ripeness
H =Harvested
-Data not available