NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of July 2008, better rainfall distribution observed over most parts of seasonal rainfall benefiting areas. This situation could have a significant contribution for Meher agricultural activities and crops, which were at different phenological stages. Some areas of northwestern, western, central parts of Ethiopia exhibited heavy fall ranging from (30-73) mm in one rainy day. To mention some of them which recorded above 40 mm, Dilla, Gondar, Aykel, Bullen, Kibre Mengist, Dangla, Bui, and Gimbi exhibited 40.2, 41.0, 42.4, 43.2, 48.4, 48.8, 53.5 and 72.9 mm of rainfall respectively in one rainy day. Thus this condition resulted in crop damage in some areas. Shambu recorded damage on crop field of maize crops and onion due to heavy fall. Awassa and Gondar reported damage on trees and branch of trees due to heavy fall. And Ziway reported damage on livestock due to floods.

During the second dekad of July 2008, most of Meher growing of the country observed normal and above normal rainfall. The condition might have positive impact for the on going Meher agricultural activities, for availability of posture & drinking water over pastoral & agro-pastoral areas. On the other hand, the observed heavy fall over some areas of the country caused damage on properties and crops. Reportedly heavy fall to have caused crop damage over Chagni, Bedelle and Shire on July 16 and 17, 2008 on properties, maize and sorghum crops.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 11-20 July, 2008

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of western Oromia experienced 200-300 mm rainfall. Much of Gambela, parts of central and western Oromia, southern Amhara and western Benshangul-Gumuz received 100-200 mm rainfall. Much of Amhara and Benshangul-Gumuz, parts of western, central and eastern Oromia, southern Afar, northern Somali, northern SNNPR and northern Gambela and western half of Tigray exhibited 50-100 mm rainfall. Magrine of western half of Tigray, parts of northeastern Amhara, southern Afar, northern Somali, eastern and southern Oromia, most of northern half of SNNPR and pocket area of southern Benshangul-Gumuz experienced 25-50mm rainfall. Much of Afar, parts of eastern Tigray, northern Somali, eastern and southern Oromia and southern SNNPR and pocket area of southern Benshangul-Gumuz received 5-25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

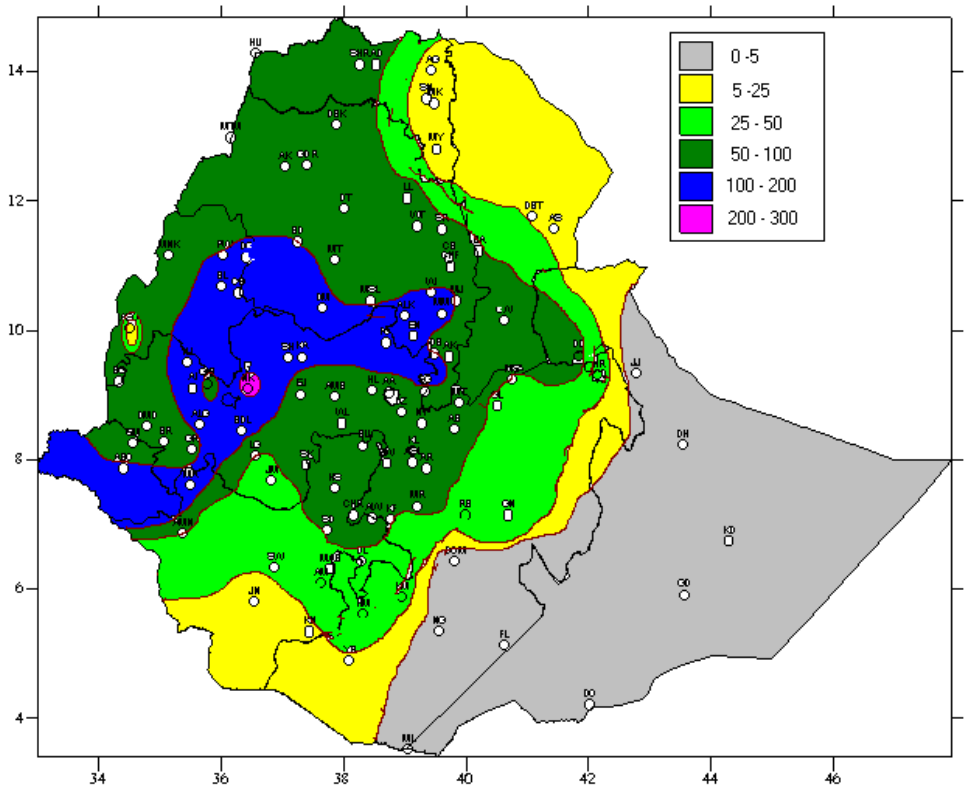

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 July 2008)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Much of Tigray, Afar and Somali, northern half of Amhara, parts of eastern and southern and pocket area of western Oromia and pocket area of central SNNPR received below normal to much below normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall

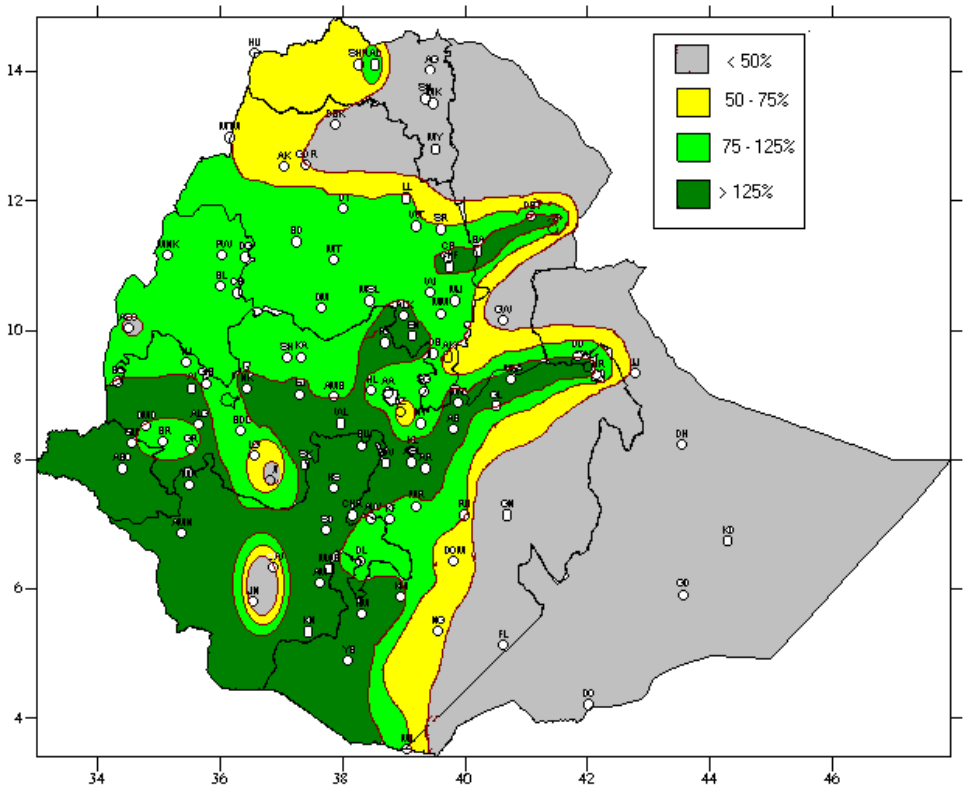

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 July 2008)

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 maximum temperature greater than 35^{o} C for 6 -11 days. Elidar, Dubti, Semera, Assayita, Mille, Humera, Ayish and Humera recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 43.0, 42.8, 42.6, 42.5, 42.0, 38.8, and 36.0 ^{o} C respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF JULY 2008

For the coming ten days, in association with the strengething of the kiremt rain bearing systems much of the seasonal rain benefiting areas of the country will have awidespread rainfall. Hence, western and centeral Amahara,parts of Tigray, Oromia ,BenishangulGumuz and SNNPR are anticipated to get normal to above normal rainfall with highily likely of heavy rain at some places. Besides,eastern portions of Tigray,Amahara andOromia,Afar,Diredawa,Harari,northen part of Somali,southern parts of SNNPR and high lands of Oromia will get close to normal rainfall despite below normal rainfall at some pocket areas.Moreover,Southern portions of oromia and Somali low lands will remain under dry weather conditions.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Better rainfall distribution observed over most parts of seasonal rainfall benefiting areas. most of Meher growing of the country observed normal and above normal rainfall. The condition might have positive impact for the on going Meher agricultural activities, for availability of posture & drinking water over pastoral & agro-pastoral areas. On the other hand, the observed heavy fall over some areas of the country caused damage on properties and crops. Reportedly heavy fall to have caused crop damage over Chagni, Bedelle and Shire on July 16 and 17, 2008 on properties, maize and sorghum crops. For **crop phenological report please refer table1.**

The analysis of moisture status (the relation ship between dekadal rainfall and the dekadal total reference evapotranspiration) as indicated in fig3. Most of Meher growing areas experienced conducive situation in terms of fulfilment of crops water requirement at different growth stages. Much of western half of the country as well as central exhibited moist to humid moisture condition. This condition favors the ongoing Meher agricultural activities.

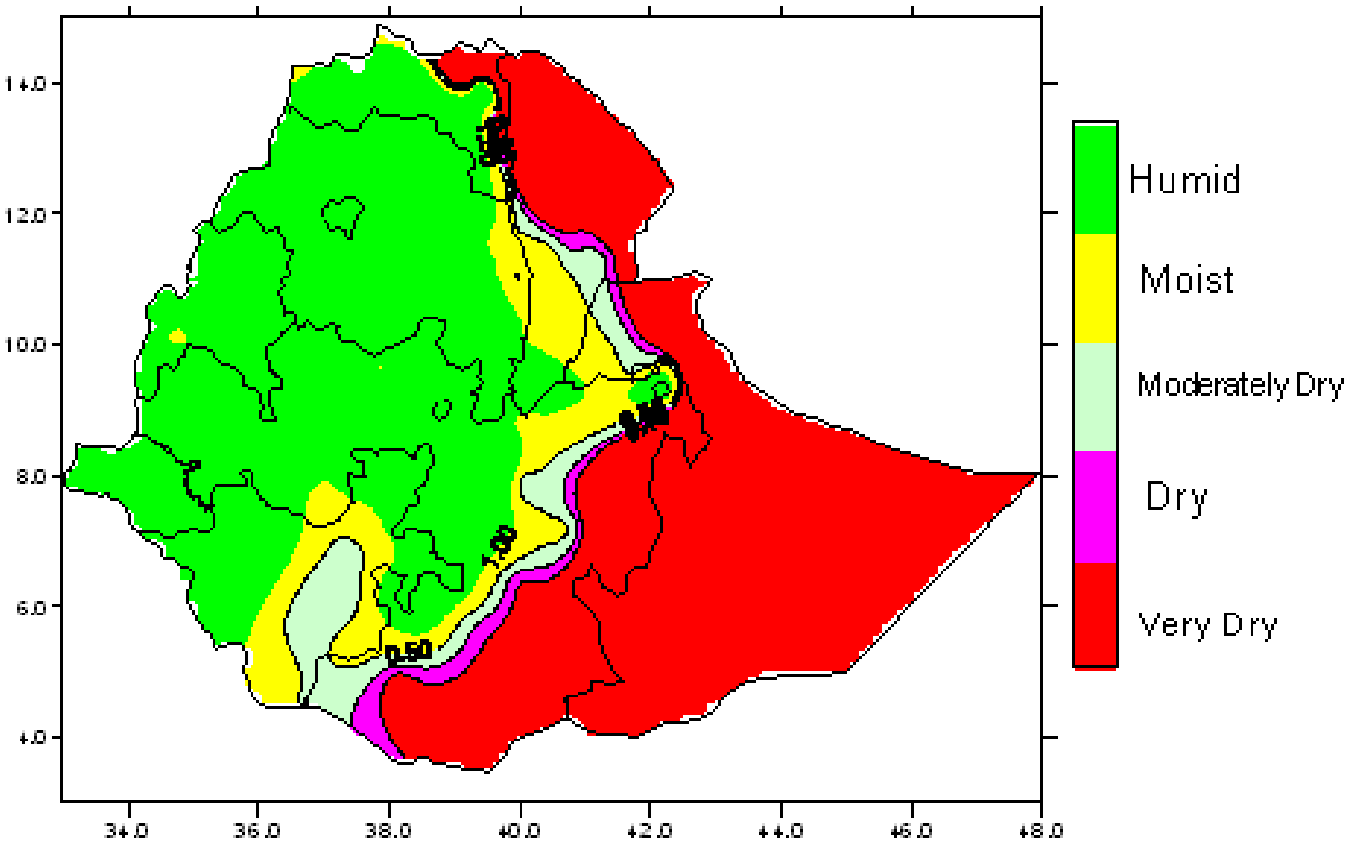

Fig3. **Moisture status for July 11-20/2008**

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days western & central Amahara, western and central Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, western & central Oromia, Gambella & northern half of SNNPR expected to get normal & above normal rainfall. The condition will fovour the ongoing Meher agricultural activities. On the other hand, there will be a chance of occurrence of heavy fall in some places of the aforementioned areas. Farmers and the concerned agricultutral personnels are required to take of the impact and prepar themselves to minimize the risk especially over for steep slope areas.

In addition, eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, Afar, eastern Oromia including Bale highlands, DireDawa, Harar, northern Somali, Southern SNNPR & highlands of southern oromia will get near normal rainfall. The condition will have positive impact for meher agricultural activities and also on availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. However, below normal rainfall expected over some pocket places of the aforementioned areas, hence we advice farmers wisely utilize the water obtained from the rain as well as use water harvesting techniques.

Table 1. Crop Phenological report for the second dekad of July 2008

Station name	Region	Zone	Woreda	Major Crops			Phases		
				1	2	3	1	2	3
Adet				Maize	Barley	Teff	9l	3rdl	Em
Aira	Oromia	Wellega		-	-	-	-	-	-
Aris Robe	Oromia	Mirab Arsi	Robe	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alemkema	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Alemkema	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assosa	Benishagul	Assosa	Assosa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ayehu	Amahara	Mirab Gojam	Ankosha	-	-	-	Fl	-	-
Bati				-	Peas	Teff		Em	P/s
Bedelle	Oromia	Illubabor	Bedlle						-
Bullen	Benishagul	Metekel	Bullen	Maize	Millet	-	-	Tl	-
Bui	SNNPR	Guarage	Sodo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chagni	Amahara	Awi	Guagnua	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chira	Oromia	Jimma	Gera	Maize	-	-	Wr	-	-
Dangila	Benishagul	Awi	Dangila	Maize	Teff	-	Em	Em	-
Debre Tabor	Amahara	Dabub Gonder	Debre Tabor	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debre Birhan	Amahara			Barley			Tl		
Dolomena	Oromia	Bale	Mena	Wheat	-	-	Em	-	-
Dilla	SNNPR			Maize	-	-	Wr	-	-
Enewary	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Mortenajiru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fitche	Oromia	Semen Shoa	Girarjarso		-	-	-	-	-
Gelemeso	Oromia	Mira Haraghe	Habro	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ghion				Maize	Nug	-	Fl	Bu	-
Gimbi	Oromia			Maize	Teff	-	Fl	P/s	-
Hossaina	SNNPR	SNNPR	Lemu	Maize	Teff	-	Fl	P/S	-
Kachise	Oromia	Mirab Shoa	Gindeberet	-		-	-	-	-
Lalibela	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Lasta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Limugent	Oromia	Jimma	Limukosa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Majate	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Mizan antakiya	Maize	-	-	Fl	-	-
Mehal Meda	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Gira mider	Teff	-	-	P/S	-	-
M.selam				Maize	Sorghum	Millet	Ta	Sh	Ti
Nedjo	Oromia	Mira Wollega	Nedjo	Barley	Bean	-	-	-	
Pawe	Benishagul	Metekele	Pawe liyu	-		-	-	-	-
Shaura	Amahara	SemenGonder	ALEF.T	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shambu	Oromia	HoroWollega	Horo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shire	Tigiray	Mirab Tigray	Endasilasie	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sirinka	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Habru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sokoru	Oromia	Jimma	Sokoru	Maize	-	-	Ni	-	-
Shola Gebeya	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Hagaramariam	Wheat	Bean	-	Em	Em	-
Wagel Tena	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Delanta		-	-	-	-	-
Ziway	Oromia	Misrak Shoa	Jidocombolcha	Wheat	Bean	-	Em	Em	-

Key :

P/S= Plant/Sow
Em=emerge
Tl=Third 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
Bu= budding
He= Heading
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