1-10 OCTOBER 2008 VOL. 18 NO. 28 DATE OF ISSUE OCTOBER 14, 2008

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of September 2008 the decadal rainfall activity covered SNNPR, Gambella, most of Oromia and Amhara, eastern half of Tigray, northern Benshangul-Gumuz, southern and central Afar consequently received normal to above normal rainfall. The situation might have favored the growth and development of crops over Meher growing areas; on the other hand, it was conducive for availability of pasture and water.

During the first dekad of October 2008, normal to above normal rainfall was observed over much of Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, and adjoining areas of western and southern Oromia, Gambela, southern half of SNNPR, southern Oromia and southern Somali. The situation might have a positive impact on Meher crops that are at grain-filling stages and for general agricultural activities, pasture and drinking water availabilities. On the other hand, occasional heavy fall observed over some areas of Amhara, Tigray, Benshangul-Gumuz and Gambela. Among reporting stations: Ayekel, Assosa, Adele, Bahirdar, Hagermariam, Moyale and Sheraro recorded 51.7, 36.1, 30.3, 36.9, 68.3, 49.3 and 36.8 mm of rainfall in one rainy day respectively.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 October1-10, 2008

1.1.1 Rainfall Amount (Fig 6)

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

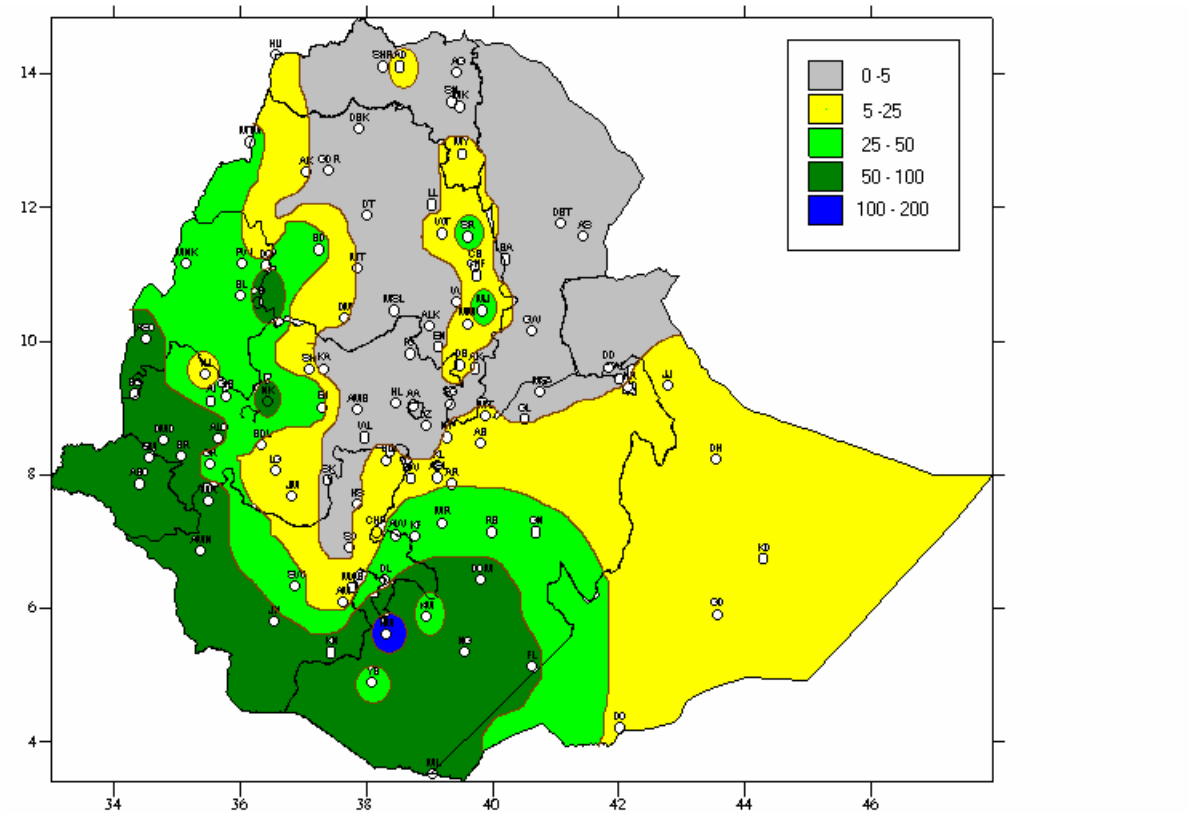


Fig. 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 October 2008)

1.12 Rainfall Anomaly (Fig 2)

Gambella, southern half of SNNPR, western half of Tigray, parts of western and southern Oromia western Benshangul-Gumuz, and southwestern Somali and part of western and pocket areas of eastern Amhara, received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below normal to much below normal rainfall.

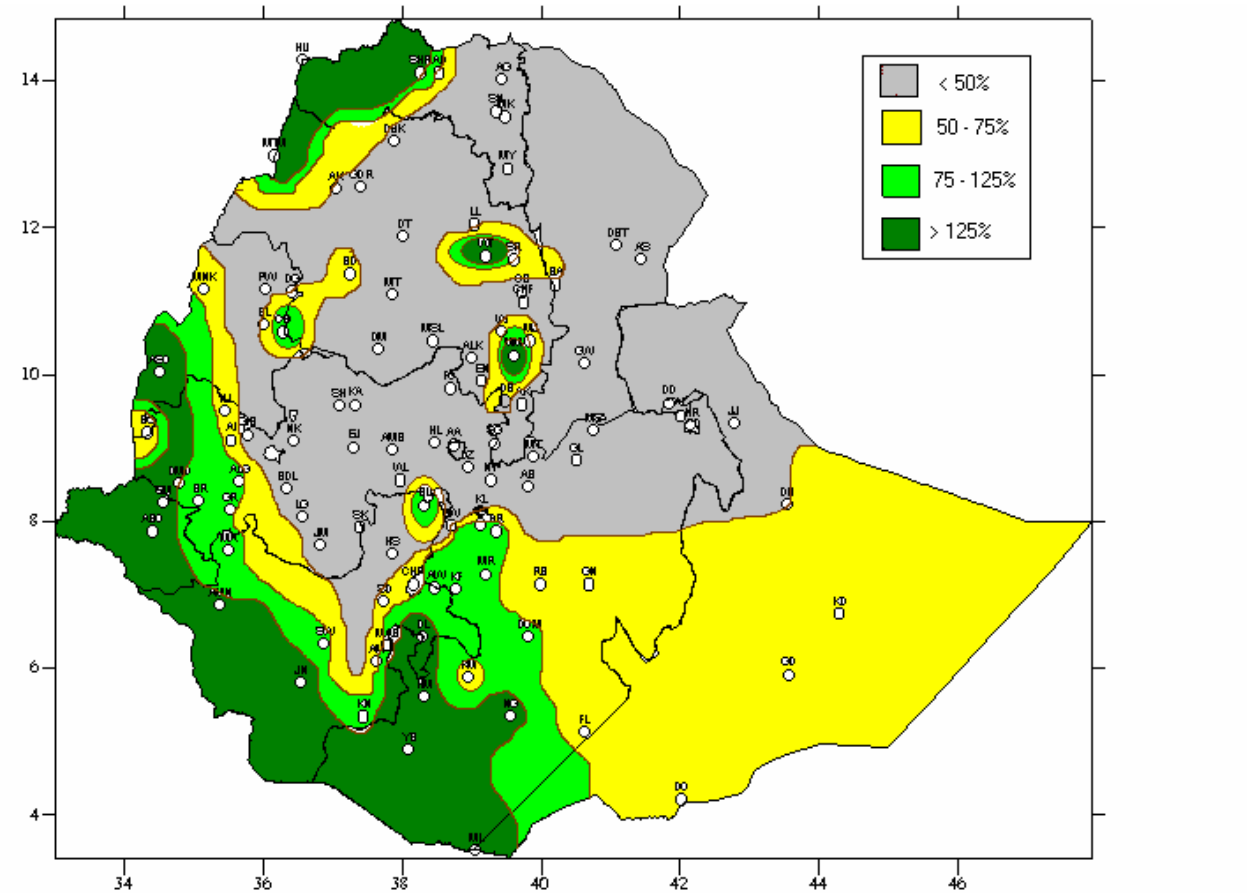


Fig. 2 Percent of normal (1-10 October 2008)

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

1.1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

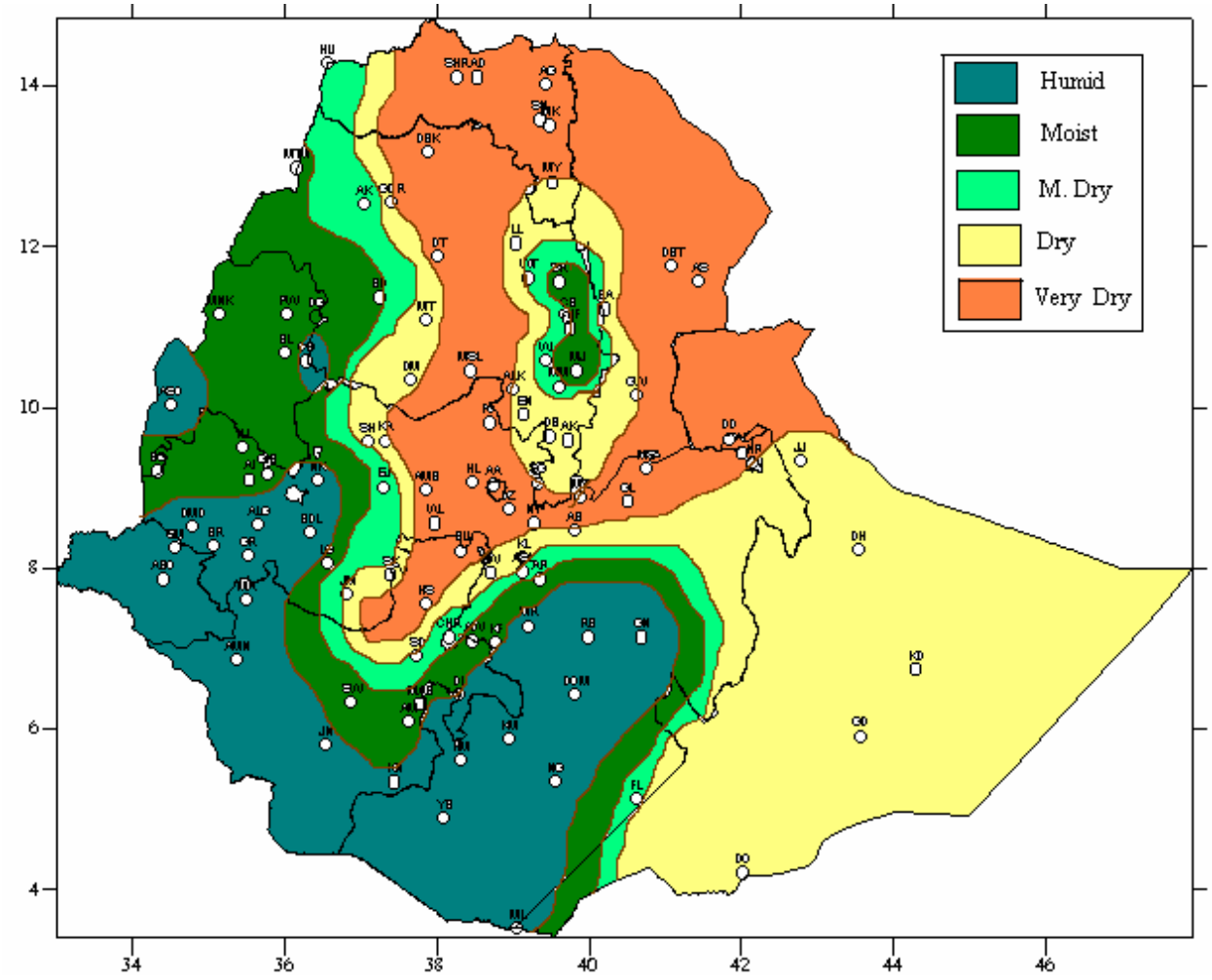
Some stations recorded extreme maximum temperature 35^{o} C and above during the season. Assayta, Dubti, Gode, Mille, Semera, Diradawa, Methehara, Gambela, Humera, and Sheraro recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 40.0, 40.0, 37.4, 39.5, 40.0, 35.2, 36.0, 36.0, 38.5, and 36.5 ^{o} C respectively.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDTIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

During the first decked of October 2008 the moisture condition over Meher growing areas were conducive in fulfilling the water requirements of Meher crops that are found at different phenological phases and the general agricultural activities over western, central & southern Oromia, SNNPR, Benishangul-gumuz, Gambela, western and eastern parts of Amhara.
Pursuant to crop phenological report, please see table1 for detailed information.

Fig. 3 Moisture status for October1-10, 2008)



2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

During the first decked of October 2008 the moisture condition (fig.3) over Meher growing areas were conducive in fulfilling the water requirements of Meher crops that are found at different phenological phases and the general agricultural activities over western, central & southern Oromia, SNNPR, Benishangul-gumuz, Gambela, western and eastern parts of Amhara. Pursuant to crop phenological report, please see table1 for detailed information.

Table1. Crop Phenological report for 1-10 Oct, 2008

Station name	Region	Zone	Woreda	Three Major Crops of given area			Growth Phases		
				1	2	3	1	2	3
Aykel				-	Teff	-	-	Sh	-
A/Ketema				Teff	-	-	Ta	-	-
Arsi Robe				Teff	Wheat	Barely	Sh	Em	Sh
Chagni	Amhara	Awi	Gungnua	Maize	Millet	Nug	Wr	Ti	El
Chira	Oromia	Jimma	Gera	-	Teff	-	-	Ta	-
Beti									
Dangila	B.shangul	Awi	Dangla	Maize	Teff	-	Fl	Sh	-
D. Brhan	Amhara	Semen Shoa		Barely	-	-	H	-	-
Dolomena				Maize	Seaseme	-	Em	Em	-
Dilla				Coffee	-	-	Bh	-	-
Fitche	Oromia	Semen.Shoa	Girar Jarso	Tefff	Wheat	Beans	Sh	Ea	Fl
Lalibela				Barely	-	Sunflower	Fr	-	Fl
Kachisie				Teff	-	-	Ta	-	-
Majete				Teff	-	Maize	Fr	-	Wr
Meh. Meda	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Gira mider	Wheat	Barely	Beans	Sh	Ea	-
M/Selam				Wheat	Teff	Beans	Ea	Ta	Fr
Nedjo	Oromia	Mb wellega	Nedjo	Maize	Sorghum	Millet	Fr	Fl	Fl
Shambu	Oromia	HoroWolleg	Horo						
Pawe	Beni.Shan			Maize	Sorghum	-	Fr	-	-
Shahura				Maize	Teff	-	Wr	Ta	-
Shiraro				Seaseme	Sorghum	Millet	Fr	Fl	Fl
Sirinka	Amahara	Sem wello	Habru	Teff	Maize	Millet	Ta	Fl	Ta
WegelTena	Amhara	Semen Woll	Delenta	Wheat	Barely	Beans	Ti	Sh	Fl
Sokoru	Oromia	Jimma	Sokoru	Maize	Teff	-	Wr	Sh	-
Ziway	Oromia	Mis. shwa	Jidombolch	Maize	Wheat	-	Wr	Fl	

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