1-10 February 2008 Vol. 18 No. 4 **Date of issue February 12, 2008**

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of January 2008, the intensification of rain bearing system resulted in rainfall over northeastern, central and eastern parts of the country. The situation would have a positive impact on land preparation of Belg growing areas. Moreover, the exhibited rainfall distribution over southwestern and the adjoining areas of rift valley would have a positive impact for pasture and the availability of drinking water. However, it could have a negative impact for areas that were not yet completed their harvest and post harvest activities. Besides, the Bega's dry and sunny weather condition over most parts of the country would have a positive impact on harvest and post harvest activities.

During the first dekad of February cloudy condition was observed over most parts of the country. Some areas of southwestern, central and northeastern parts of the country exhibited little rainfall. Generally, little to moderate amount of rainfall was experienced over some areas of western and central Oromia, SNNPR and eastern Amhara. The situation might have favored the seasonal agricultural activities like land preparation over areas where Belg agricultural activities start earlier. Moreover, some lowland areas exhibited extreme maximum temperature above 35^0C. Among the reporting stations: Gambela, Gode, Mankush, Pawe and Semera recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from (35^0C-40.5^0C) for two-ten consecutive days. This condition could exacerbate the stress due to moisture deficiency by increasing the rate of evapotranspiration. Besides, the observed dry weather condition over most parts of the country might have a negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 February 2008

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Some areas of southern SNNPR received (25-50) mm of rainfall. Most parts of SNNPR, Pocket areas of eastern and southeastern Amhara and pocket areas of central Oromia exhibited 5-25 mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

.

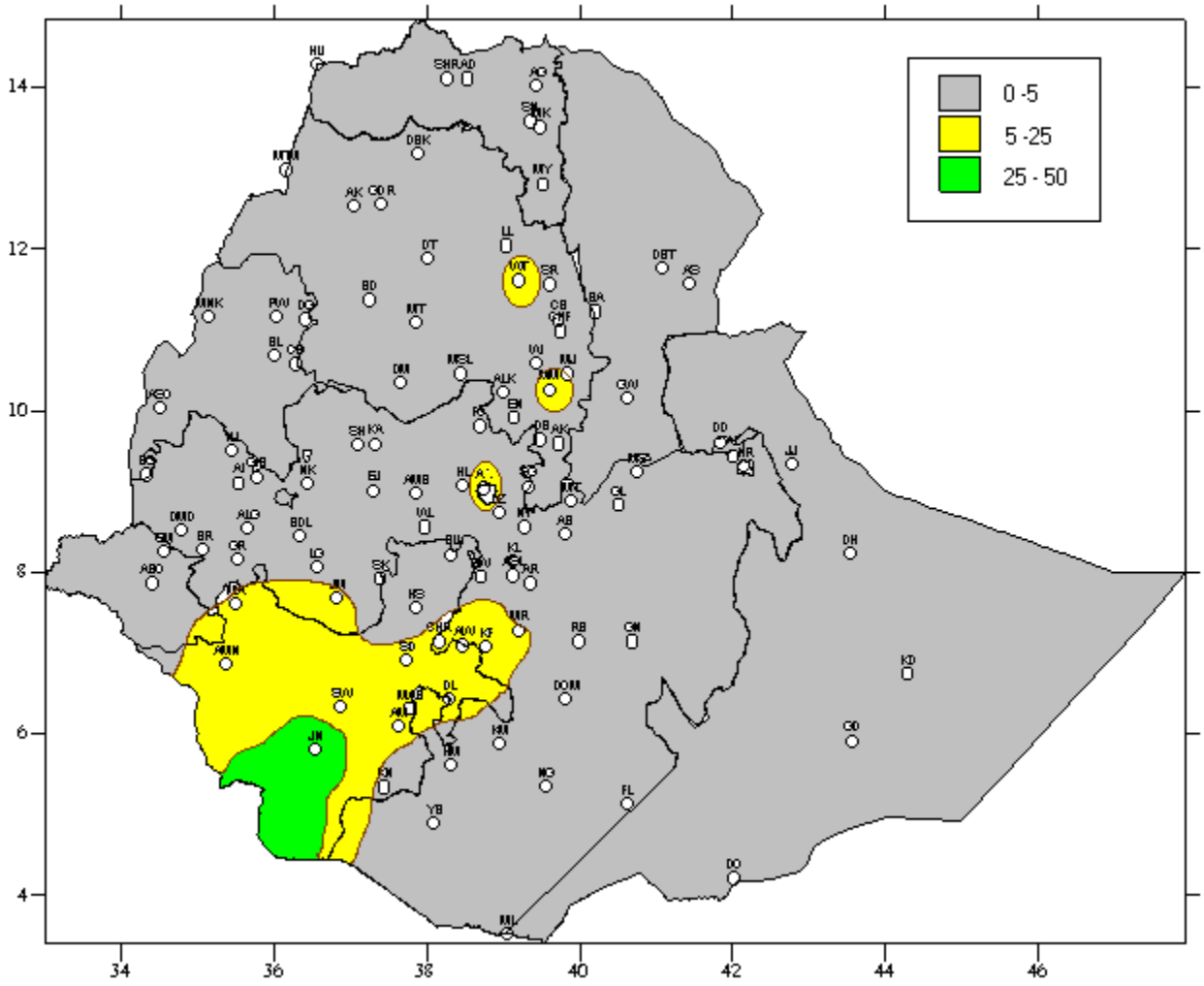

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 February 2008)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Some parts of southern SNNPR, Pocket areas of northeastern SNNPR, pocket areas of eastern Amhara and pocket areas of central Oromia exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country received below normal to much below normal rainfall**.**

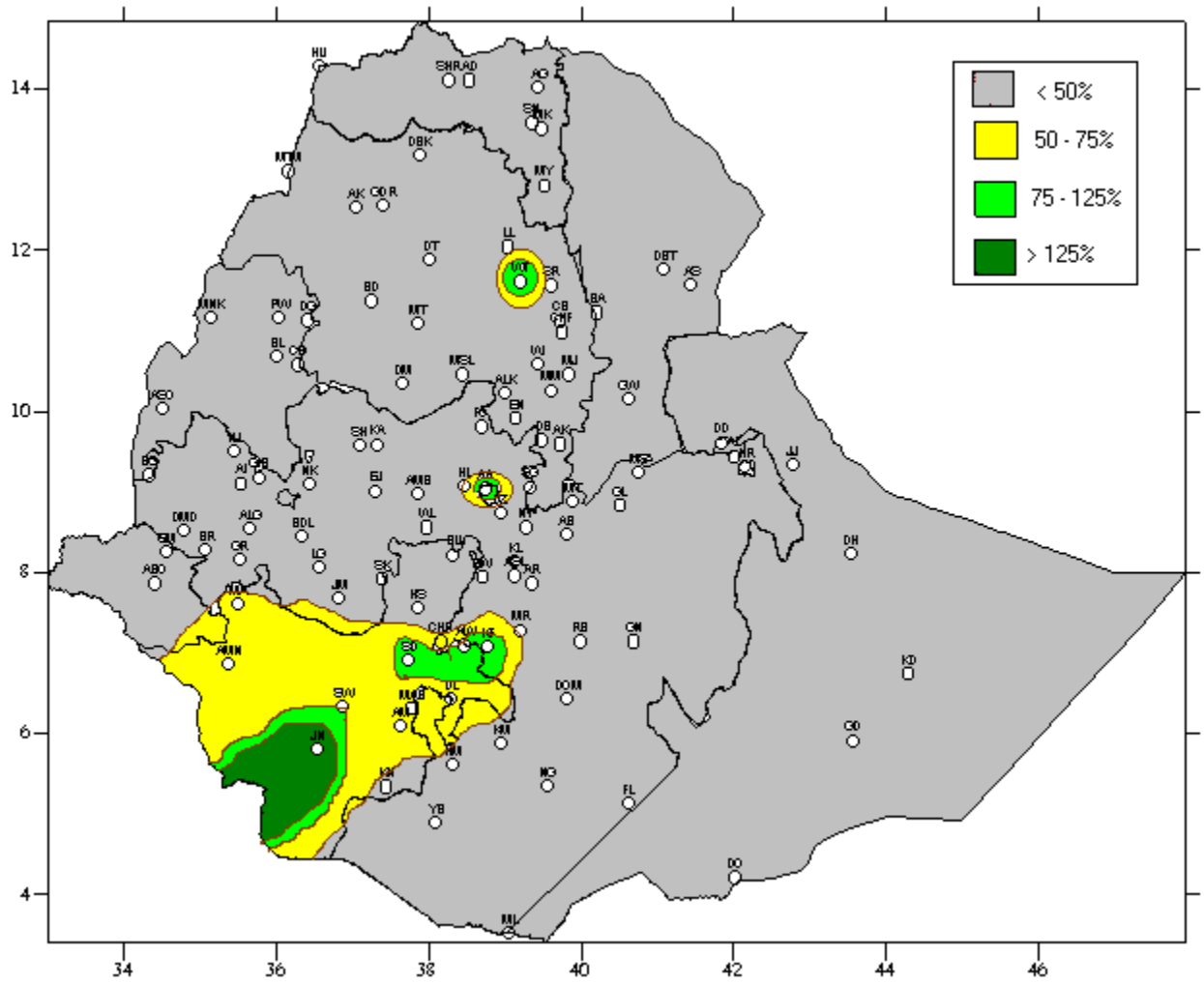

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 February 2008)

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 above 35^{o} C for 2-10 consecutive days. Pawe, Gode, Mankush, Metema, Humera, Gambella recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 36.0, 37.0, 37.5, 39.0, 39.5 and 40.5^{0}C respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF FEBRUARY 2008

For the coming ten days, dry and sunny weather condition is expected to dominate over much of the nation. In line with this, the daily maximum temperature will exceed at lowlands of the country. However, relative moisture intrusion is anticipated during mid of the dekad. Resulted in wet weather situation across southwestern and central, northeastern as well as eastern high grounds. In general, Gambela, western Oromia and SNNPR will get near normal rainfall. Besides, eastern Amhara, southernOromia, central and eastern Ethiopia will receive light rain art few places, the amount will be below normal. Otherwise, the rest parts of the country will be under dry and sunny weather condition**.**

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Cloudy condition was observed over most parts of the country. Some areas of southwestern, central and northeastern parts of the country exhibited little rainfall. Generally, little to moderate amount of rainfall was experienced over some areas of western and central Oromia, SNNPR and eastern Amhara. The situation might have favored the seasonal agricultural activities like land preparation over areas where Belg agricultural activities start earlier. Moreover, some lowland areas exhibited extreme maximum temperature above 35^0C. Among the reporting stations: Gambela, Gode, Mankush, Pawe and Semera recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from (35^0C-40.5^0C) for two-ten consecutive days. This condition could exacerbate the stress due to moisture deficiency by increasing the rate of evapotranspiration. Besides, the observed dry weather condition over most parts of the country might have a negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The expected dry and sunny weather condition over north, northwestern, southeastern and northeastern lowlands would have a negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas. However, the anticipated little rainfall over south, southwestern, northeastern, and central and eastern highlands could have a positive impact on the season's agricultural activities.

Generally, the anticipated near normal rainfall over Gambela, western Oromia and SNNPR and the expected little rainfall over eastern Amhara, central, eastern Ethiopia and southern Oromia would favor the Belg agricultural activities and the availability of pasture and drinking water. Besides, the anticipated dry weather condition with occasional cloudy condition over western Tigray and Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz and southern Afar will have a negative impact on perennial crops, availability of pasture and drinking water as well.