1-10 April 2008 Vol. 18 No.10 **Date of issue April 13,2008**

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of March 2008, observed cloud coverage increasing over most parts of the country. This situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities. On other hand, over southwestern parts of the country recorded up to 30.0 mm rainfall in the last day of the dekad. In addition, over western part of the country exhibited light rainfall. Moreover, parts of central and eastern Ethiopia, western and eastern Amhara and eastern Tigray experienced little rainfall.This situation might have positive impact for Belg agricultural activities like land preparation over southwestern parts of the country and availability of pasture and drinking water for other hand maximum temperature recorded up to 44.0 ^{0}c over low lands of southwestern and northeastern parts of the country, which might have negative impact on pasture and drinking water availabilities over postural and agro pastoral areas.

During the first dekad of April 2008, the observed rainfall amount and distribution over most parts of Belg benefiting areas of the country was increased comparing to the preceding dekad. Thus, this situation could decrease the exhibited dry weather situation during the preceding dekad. Moreover it could favor the ongoing Belg agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities in some areas of western, southwestern, central and eastern parts of the country. Morover, the observed rainfall over some areas of eastern Ethiopia and southern Oromia could have a positive contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water in lowlands of southern Oromia and eastern Ethiopia. With regard to heavy rainfall, some areas like Addis Ababa, Jinka, NuraEra, DebreZeit, Hirna, DireDawa, Konso, Nazreth and Ankober received 30.8, 31.4, 38.0, 38.0, 51.2, 54.8, 70.3, 72.5 and 80 mm of heavy rainfall in one rainy days respectively. Generally this rainfall situation could have a positive impact for the ongoing Belg agricultural activities and long cycle crops. Thus farmers are advised to continue the ongoing Belg agricultural activities.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 April 1-10, 2008

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas if western Oromia received 100-200mm of rainfall. Southern half of SNNPR, parts of southern and western Oromia, Gambela and pocket areas of northern Somali experienced 5—100mm of rainfall. Much of western Amhara, Pocket areas of northern Tigray, Benshangul-Gumuz, parts of western, central and southern Oromia, northern half of SNNPR, experienced 25-50mm of rainfall. Much of Tigray, parts of northwestern and most parts of south eastern Amhara,central and southern Oromia and parts of northern Somali received 5-25mm of rainfall .while the rest parts of the country exibited little or no rainfall.

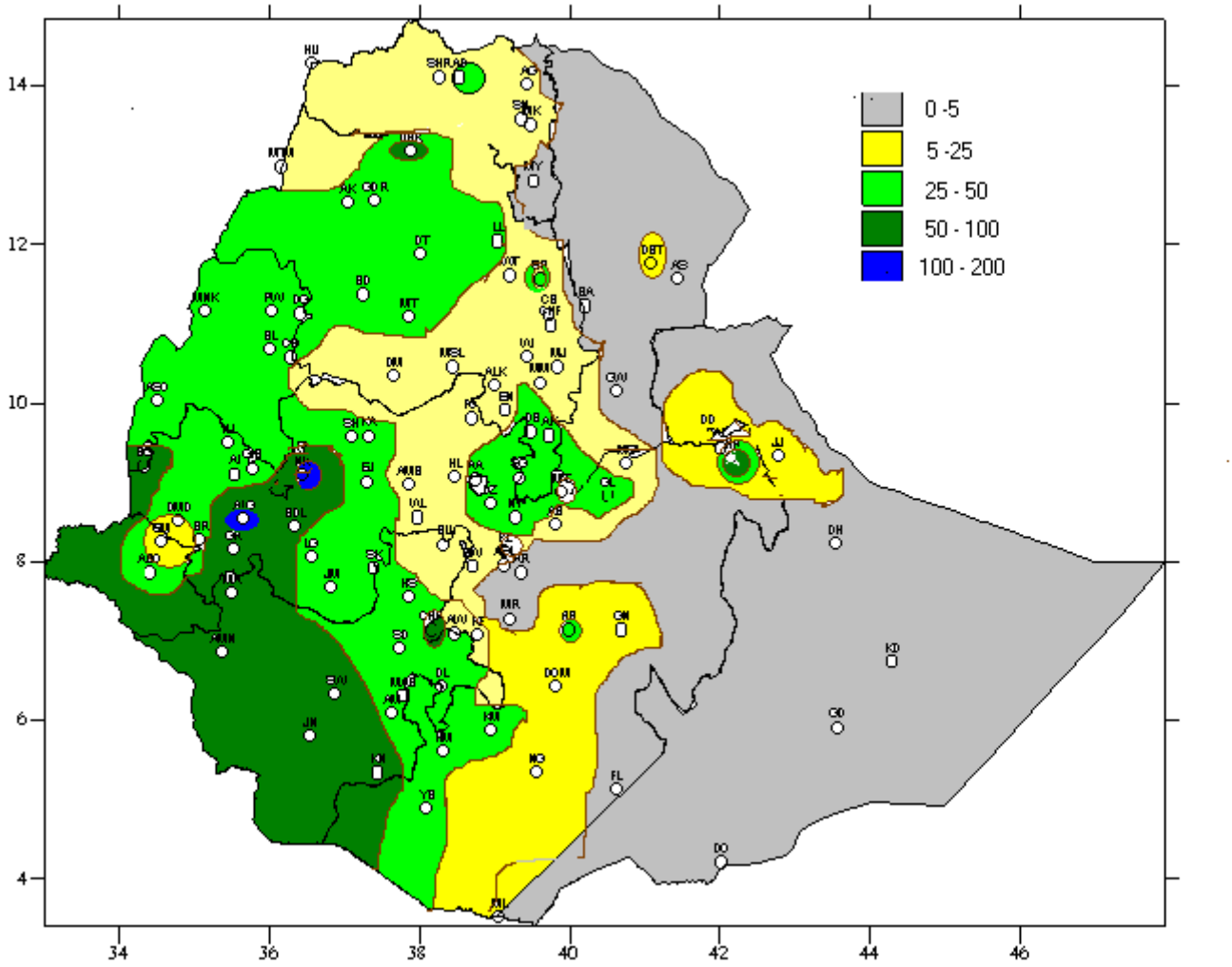


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 April, 2008)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Much of Tgiray, Amhara, Bensahngul-Gumuz, western and central Oromia, Gambela, SNNPR, parts of western Afar, received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced below to much below normal rainfall.

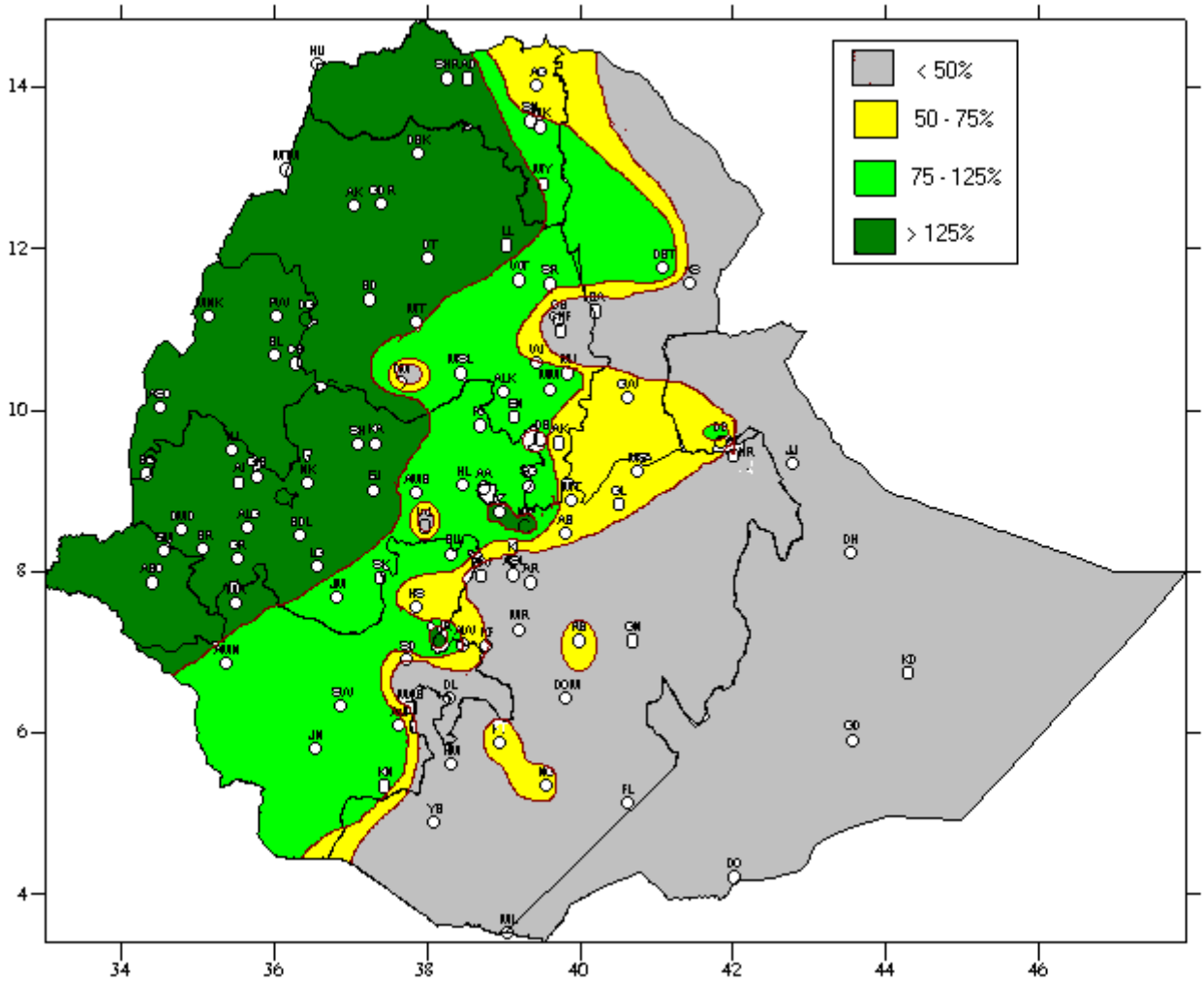


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 April, 2008)

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

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations recorded extreme Maximum temperature above 35^{o} C for 3-11 consecutive days, comparing to Last dekad the extreme Maximum was decreased. DireDawa, Mystemere, Gode, Semera, Assayta, Mille, Gambella, Dubti, Mankush, Metema, and Humera recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 37.0, 38.0, 38.8, 39.4, 39.5, 40.5, 40.5, 40.5, 40.8, 41.6, and 44.0 respectively.

1 WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OD APRIL 2008

For the coming ten days, the Belg rain-bearing systems are expected to have better strength and normal position over western and southern half of the nation. As a result, western and southern Oromia, SNNPR, Gambella, Bensahngul-Gumuz, and western Amhara, are likely to get normal rainfall. Besides, eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, central and eastern Oromia, southern as well as western border of Afar and much of Somali will receive close to normal rainfall despite the fact that there will be below normal rainfall over some sections of aforementioned areas on the other hand, western Tigray and much of Afar will have below normal rainfall.

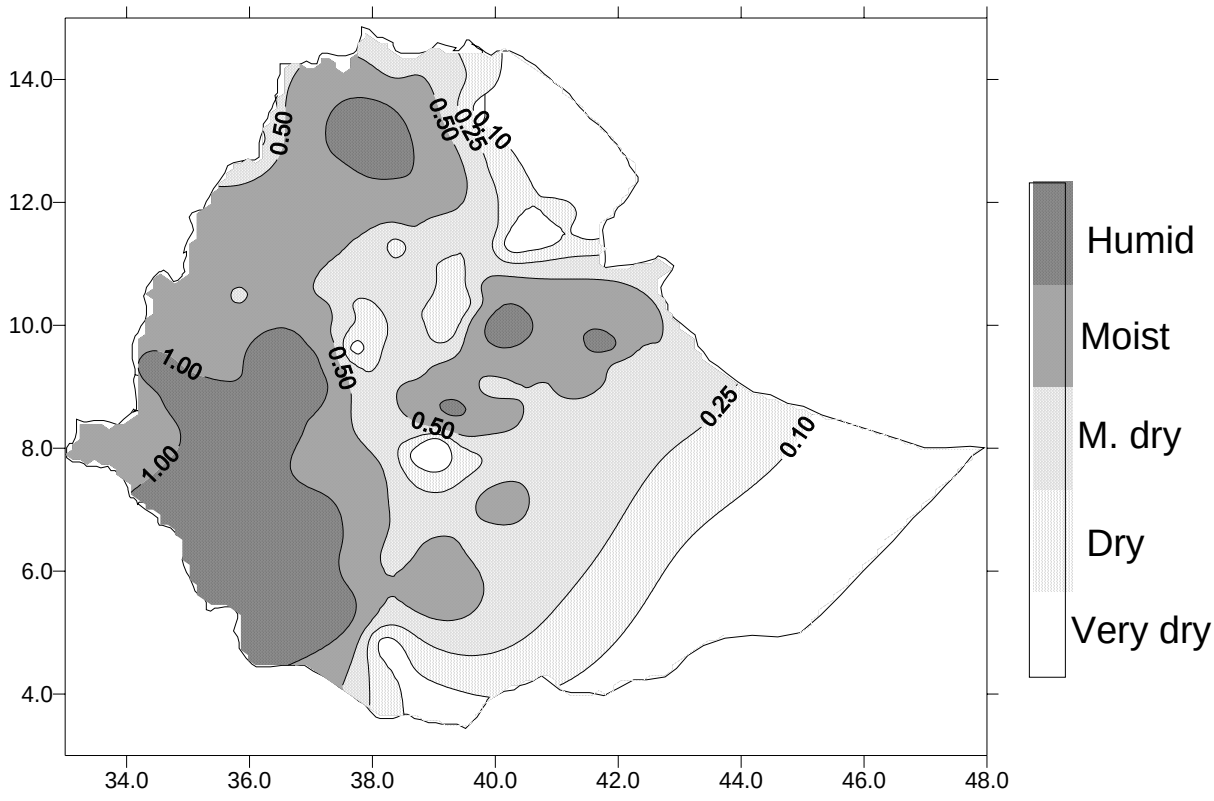
3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed rainfall amount and distribution over most parts of Belg benefiting areas of the country was increased comparing to the preceding dekad. Thus, this situation could decrease the exhibited dry weather situation during the preceding dekad. Moreover it could favor the ongoing Belg agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities in some areas of western, southwestern, central and eastern parts of the country. Moreover, the observed rainfall over some areas of eastern Ethiopia and southern Oromia could have a positive contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water in lowlands of southern Oromia and eastern Ethiopia. With regard to heavy rainfall, some areas like Addis Ababa, Jinka, NuraEra, DebreZeit, Hirna, DireDawa, Konso, Nazreth and Ankober received 30.8, 31.4, 38.0, 38.0, 51.2, 54.8, 70.3, 72.5 and 80 mm of heavy rainfall in one rainy days respectively. Generally this rainfall situation could have a positive impact for the ongoing Belg agricultural activities and long cycle crops. Thus farmers are advised to continue the ongoing Belg agricultural activities.

In addition to the first dekad of April 2008, the analysis of moisture status (the relationship between total dekadal rainfall and the dekadal total reference evapotranspiration) as indicated in fig3. Better moisture condition observed over western half of the country, eastern Amhara, much of SNNPR, western Amhara and Tigray and some areas of central Ethiopia and eastern Oromia comparing to the preceding dekads. This better moisture situation could have significant contribution the ongoing Belg agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities and for late sown crops due to deficient moisture. Besides, the exhibited moderately dry moisture condition over some areas of eastern Tigray, southern Afar, western Oromia and northern Somali would have a positive impact for the availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the aforementioned areas.

Fig .3 Moisture Status for (1-10 April 2008)



3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated rain-bearing system dominates over western and southern half of the country. Thus normal rainfall expected over western and southern Oromia, SNNPR, Gambella, Bensahngul-Gumuz, and western Amhara. This rainfall situation would create conducive condition for Belg agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities and for long cycle crops as well. Besides, the expected rainfall over southern Oromia will have a positive impact for the availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Moreover, the anticipated near normal rainfall over eastern Tigray and Amhara,central and eastern Oromia, southern and western border of Afar and much of Somali would favor the ongoing Belg agricultural activates and for the late sown crops due to the deficient moisture which observed during the preceding dekad . Moreover it would have a positive impact for the availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agropastoral areas of Somali.