

11-20 February 2010 Vol.20 , No.5 Date of issue Feb,25 2010

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of February, 2010 due to strengthening of rain bearing weather phenomenon, there was extended and heavy falls over Rift Valley areas, north eastern, eastern and southern parts of the country. As a result of this, north and southern Amahara, much parts of Oromia, southern Afar, eastern half of SNNPR and northern Somali. The situation indicated normal dekadal rainfall distribution which would have positive impact on Belg land preparation, availability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, the rest of the country were dominated by partially cloudy condition which contributes in reducing the water demand of perennial plants.

During the second decade of February 2010 due to the extended belg rain bearing system over southern and eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, adjoining area of Afar, most parts of Oromia, northern Somali, SNNPR also southern parts of Gambela and Benshangul-Gumuze received rainfall. The situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities where the season normally started earlier and its also favored land preparation and sowing activities over Belg growing areas of the country as well as availabilities of pasture and drinking water over northeastern low lands of the country.

On the other hand, dry and sunny conditions were dominated over northeastern, northwestern and southeastern parts of the country. The situation might have imposed negative impact on Belg agricultural activities of the aforementioned areas.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 11-20 Feb, 2010

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of eastern Oromia received 50-100 mm. pocket areas of eastern, central and southeastern Oromia received 25-50 mm. Most parts of Oromia, SNNPR, Gambela and parts of southern Amhara and adjoining areas of Afar, northern and southwestern Somalia, southwestern Benshangul- Gumuz received 5-25mm, while the rest parts of the country received little or no rain.

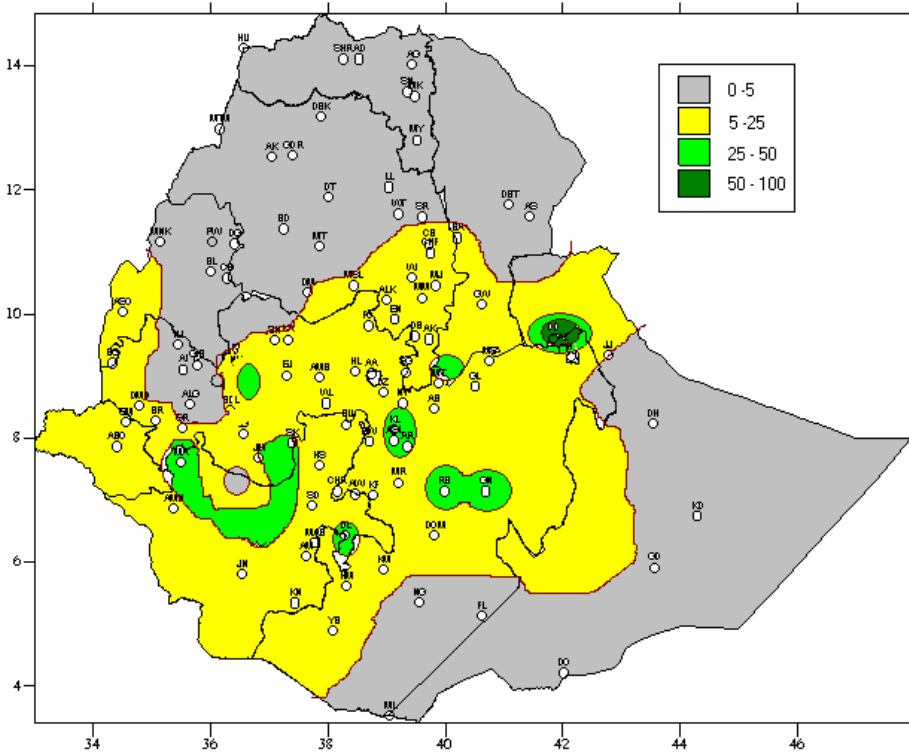


Fig 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 Feb, 2010)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of Oromia, SNNPR, Gambela, southern Afar, southern and eastern Amhara, northern Somalia and southwestern Benshangul Gumuz and pocket areas of northeastern Tigray received normal to above normal rainfall while the rest parts of the country experienced below normal to much below normal rainfall.

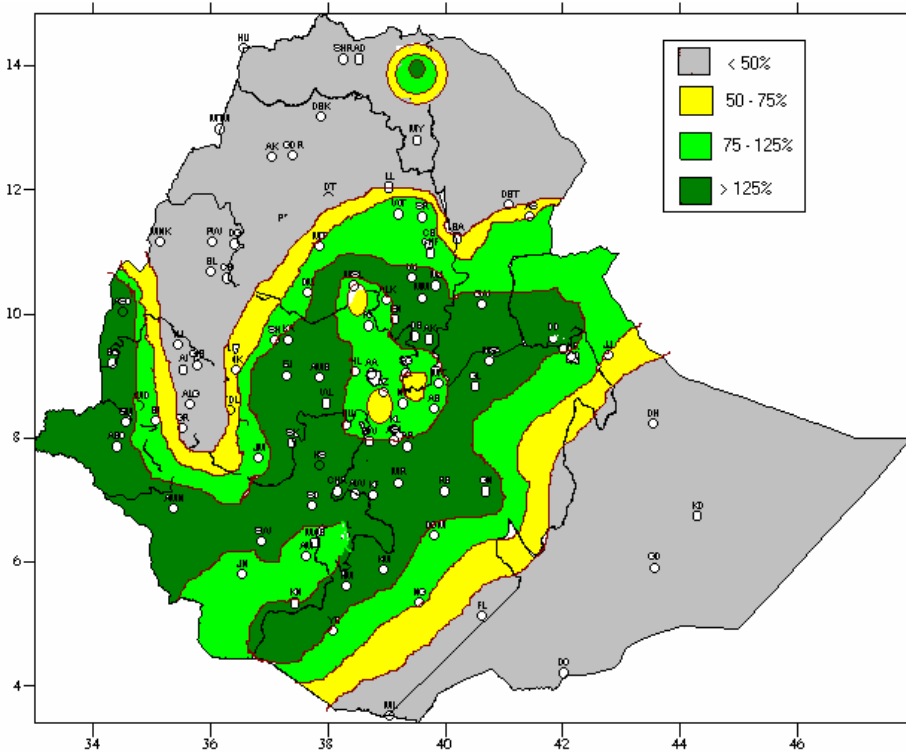


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 Feb, 2010)

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 in the low lands of the country recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35°C. Gambella, Humera, Mankush, Pawe, Elidar, Gewane, Mytsebre and Semera reported 42.5, 40.8, 41.0, 38, 35.6, 39.2, 35.5, and 36.0°C, respectively.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Due to the extended Belg rain bearing system over southern and eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, adjoining area of Afar, most parts of Oromia, northern Somali, SNNPR also southern parts of Gambela and Benshangul-Gumuzze received rainfall. The situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities where the season normally started earlier and its also favored land preparation and sowing activities over Belg growing areas of the country as well as availabilities of pasture and drinking water over northeastern low lands of the country.

On the other hand, dry and sunny conditions were dominated over northeastern, northwestern and southeastern parts of the country. The situation might have imposed negative impact on Belg agricultural activities of the aforementioned areas.

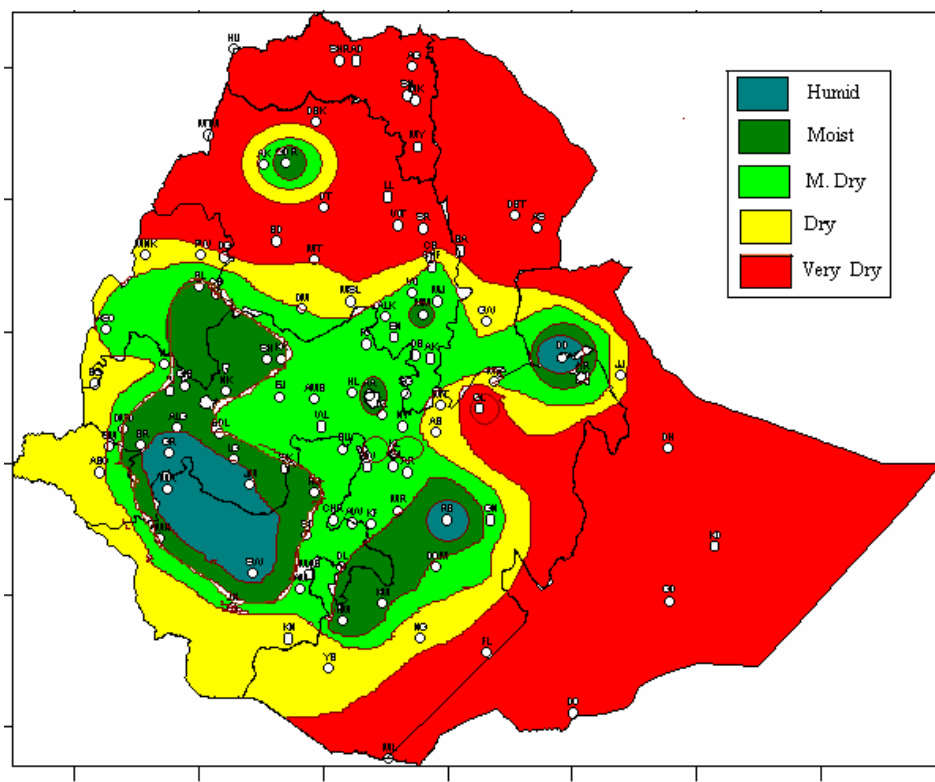


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 Feb, 2010)

As indicated on moisture map above, parts of western and southern Oromia, parts SNNPR, eastern margin of Gambela, pocket areas of Amhara, Dire Dawa and Harari experienced humid to moist moisture condition, while much of Oromia, parts of southern and eastern areas of Amhara, parts western half of Benishangul gumuz, parts of eastern Gambela, southern tip of Afar exhibited moderately dry condition. The situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities as well as availability of drinking water and pasture.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days, Belg rain bearing meteorological system will be expected to strengthen over central, southwestern and adjong area. As a result, southern and western Tigray, eastern Amahara and adjoining areas of Afar, most parts of Oromia, Gambela, northen pats of Somali and SNNPR expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall. The expected moisture situation will have a positive impact on Belg agricultural activities such as sowing and land preparation of Belg crops as well as crops that are found atn emergency stage and perennial crops. On the other hand, the expected better rainfall will also favor the availability of pasture and drinking water over northeastern eastern and southeastern pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country.