NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN-DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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SUMMARY

During the third decade of March 2010, the rain producing system was active overArabian Sea and Indian Ocean that gave moisture to Belg benefiting areas of the country. As a result at the end of the decade most of Belg benefiting areas of central, eastern and southern Oromia, eastern parts of SNNPR, Harari, much of Somali, eastern Amhara and Afar received normal to above normal rainfall. The situation might have favored Belg crops that are found at different phenological stages, perennial plants, land preparation and sowing of long cycle crops, improvement of pasture and availability of water over south eastern Somali pastoral and agro pastoral of the country.

During the first decade of April 2010, rain bearing meteorological phenomena decreased from eastern portions of the country and shifted to the rift valley and adjoining areas of western portion of the country, in line with this central and southern Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray, western and central Oromiya and southern portions of SNNPR would receive better rains. Chercher and Welliso reported heavy fall 44.0 and 50.0mm for one rainy day respectively. The situation might have favored belg crops that are found at different phenological stages, water perennial plants, land preparation and sowing of long cycle crops, improvement of pasture and availability of water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, eastern and southern portions of the country, Benshangul-Gumuz, eastern portions of the country experienced little amount of rainfall that might have led to moisture stress on improvement of pasture and drinking water over postural and agro pastoral afforementioned areas.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 April 2010

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Parts of southwestern margin of SNNPR, pocket areas of western, southern Oromia received 50-100 mm of rainfall. Much of SNNPR, parts of western, southern, central Oromia pocket areas of central, eastern and some parts of southern margin of Amhara, 25-50 mm of rainfall. Much of Oromia, much of central southern and eastern Amhara, parts of southwestern SNNPR, eastern Tigray and adjacent areas of Afar, eastern Gambela and eastern parts of Benishangul-gumz received 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

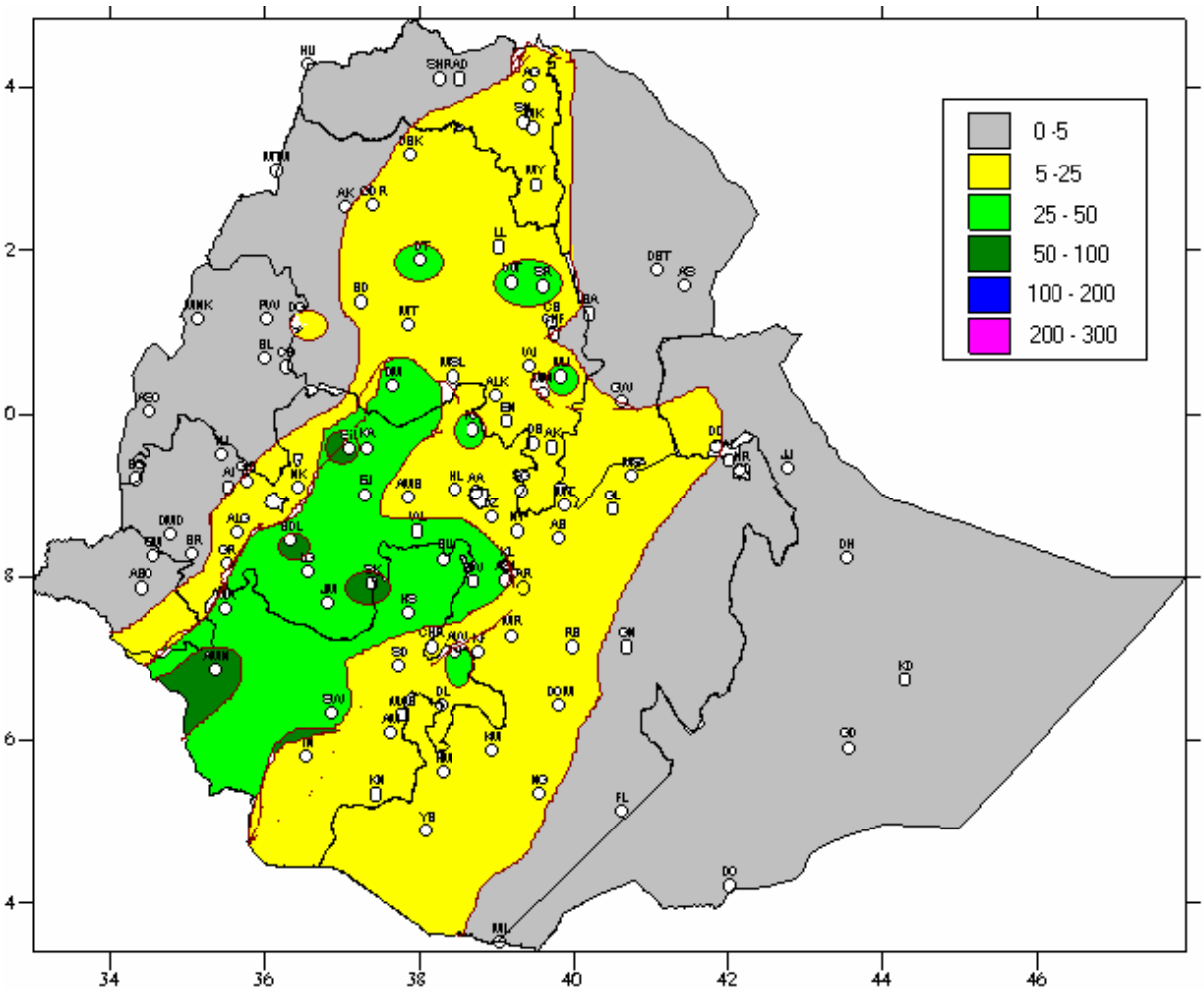

Fig 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 April 2010)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Eastern half of Amhara, pocket areas of central, western and eastern Oromia, pocket areas of eastern Tigray and eastern Benishangul gumz received normal to above normal rainfall, while the rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

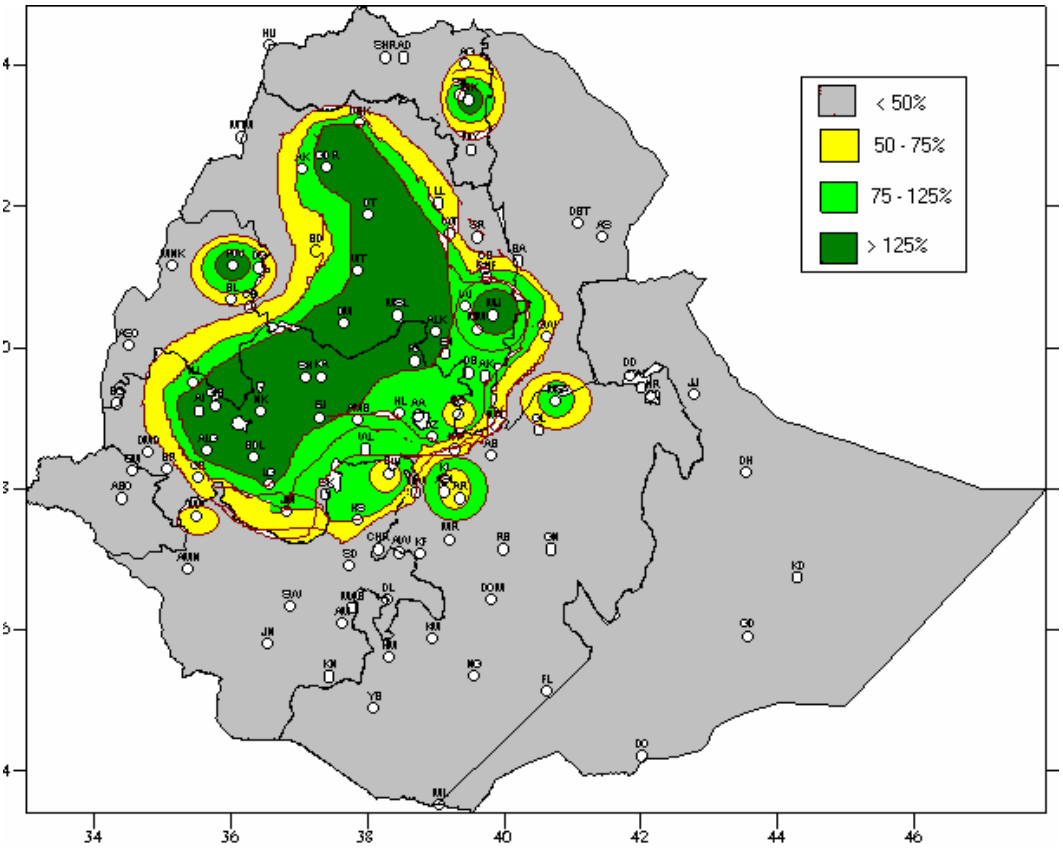

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 April 2010)

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 and western border of the country recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35 ^{o}C. Gode, Dire Dawa, Methara, Assayita, Aysha, Chagni, Dubti, Elidar, Errer, Gambella, Gewane, Mankush, Mytsebre, Nejo, Pawe, Sherkole, Sirba Abaya and Awash Arba, reported 38.8, 35.8, 38.0, 40.5, 36.0, 36.0, 41.0, 39.1, 36.5, 44.5, 42.2, 42.2, 37.5, 36.6, 40.0, 37.5, 39.2 and 38.0 ^{o}C respectively. While, Debre Tabour reported a minimum temperature as low as 3.0°C. The situation might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and livestock.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Rain bearing meteorological phenomena decreased from eastern portions of the country and shifted to the rift valley and adjoining areas of western portion of the country, in line with this central and southern Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray, western and central Oromiya and southern portions of SNNPR would receive better rains. Chercher and Welliso reported heavy fall 44.0 and 50.0mm for one rainy day respectively. The situation might have favored belg crops that are found at different phenological stages, water perennial plants, land preparation and sowing of long cycle crops, improvement of pasture and availability of water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. On the other hand, eastern and southern portions of the country, Benshangul-Gumuz, eastern portions of the country experienced little amount of rainfall that might have led to moisture stress on improvement of pasture and drinking water over postural and agro pastoral afforementioned areas.

As indicated on moisture map belowe, Most of SNNPR, western, central and pocket areas of eastern Oromia, southern and parts of eastern Amhara, pocket area of northern Tigray and pocket area of eastern Benshagul Gumuze experienced humid to moist moisture condition, while much of Oromia and eastern half of Amhara and Tigray and pocket areas of southern Oromia exhibited moderately dry condition. The situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities as well as availability of drinking water and pasture.

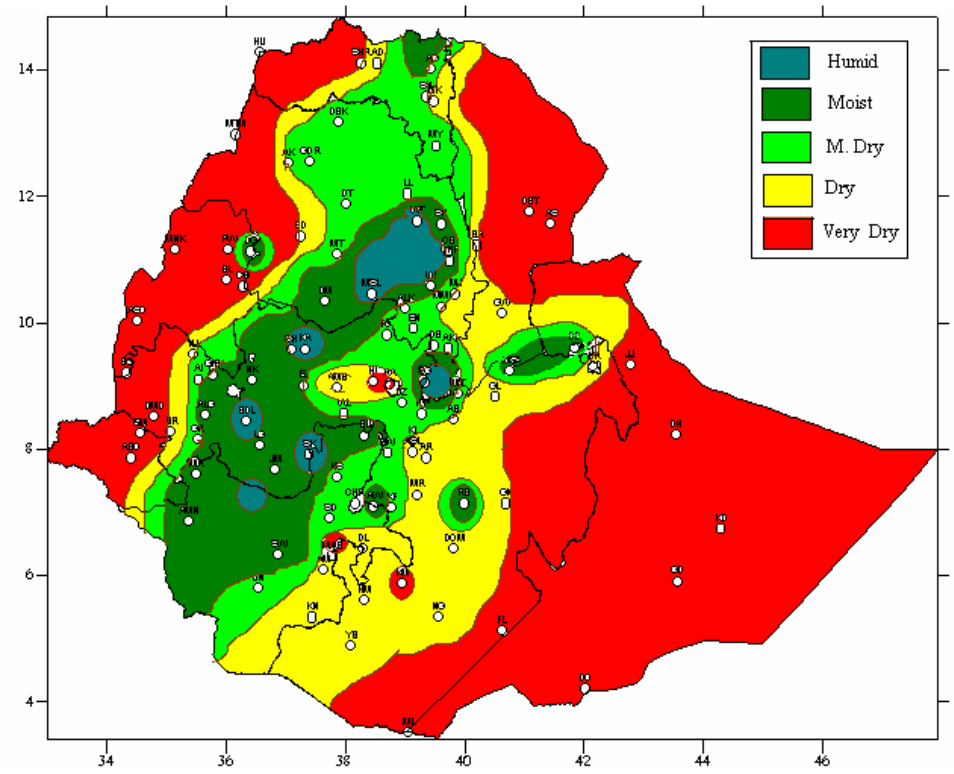

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 April 2010)

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days central, southern and eastern Oromia, SNNPR, much of Somali, eastern Amhara and adjoining areas of southern Afar and eastern Tigray expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall. The condition will have a positive impact for perennial plants, Belg agricultural activities, land preparation and sowing of long cycle crops and availability of pastor and drinking water over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. On the other hand, Gambela, western Oromia, Benshangul-Gumuz, western Amhara and western Tigray expected to have below normal rainfall, moreover over parts of the afforementioned areas daily maximum temperature expected to be higher. Hence, the situation may cause slight moisture stress on perennial plants, Belg agricultural activities, pasture and drinking water availabilities over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.