NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN-DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

P.BOX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 512299 FAX 517066 E-mail **nmsa@ethionet.et**

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SUMMARY

During the third dekad of May 2013, rain bearing meteorological events were strengthened over most belg growing areas ,as a result of this, better performance of rainfall observed over western and southwestern parts of the country where Kiremt rain starts earlier. More over much of Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, Benshangul-Gumuz, Gambela SNNPR, Dire Dawa and Harrari receive better rainfall amount and distribution. The situation might have favored Belg crops not fully matured, water requirement of perennial plants, long cycle crops like Maize, sorghum and finger Millrt, availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas and land preparation and sowing of Meher crops. With regard to heavy rainfall, some pocket areas of the country experienced heavy fall within the range of 31.5-74.5 mm in one rainy day in line with this some stations reported crop damage and soil erosion during the dekad.

During the first dekad of June 2013, rain bearing meteorological phenomena brings better rainfall amount over western portion of the country as a result western, southwestern, northwestern as well as high lands of eastern and southern parts of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall. More over Gambela, SNNPR, southern Tigray, western Amhara, Beshangul-Gumuz, western and central Oromia exhibited rainfall ranging from 30.1-236.8 mm for 5-10 days. The situation favored Meher agricultural activities, such land preparation and sowing Meher normally sown earlier, water satisfaction for perennial plants and long cycle crops and availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country.

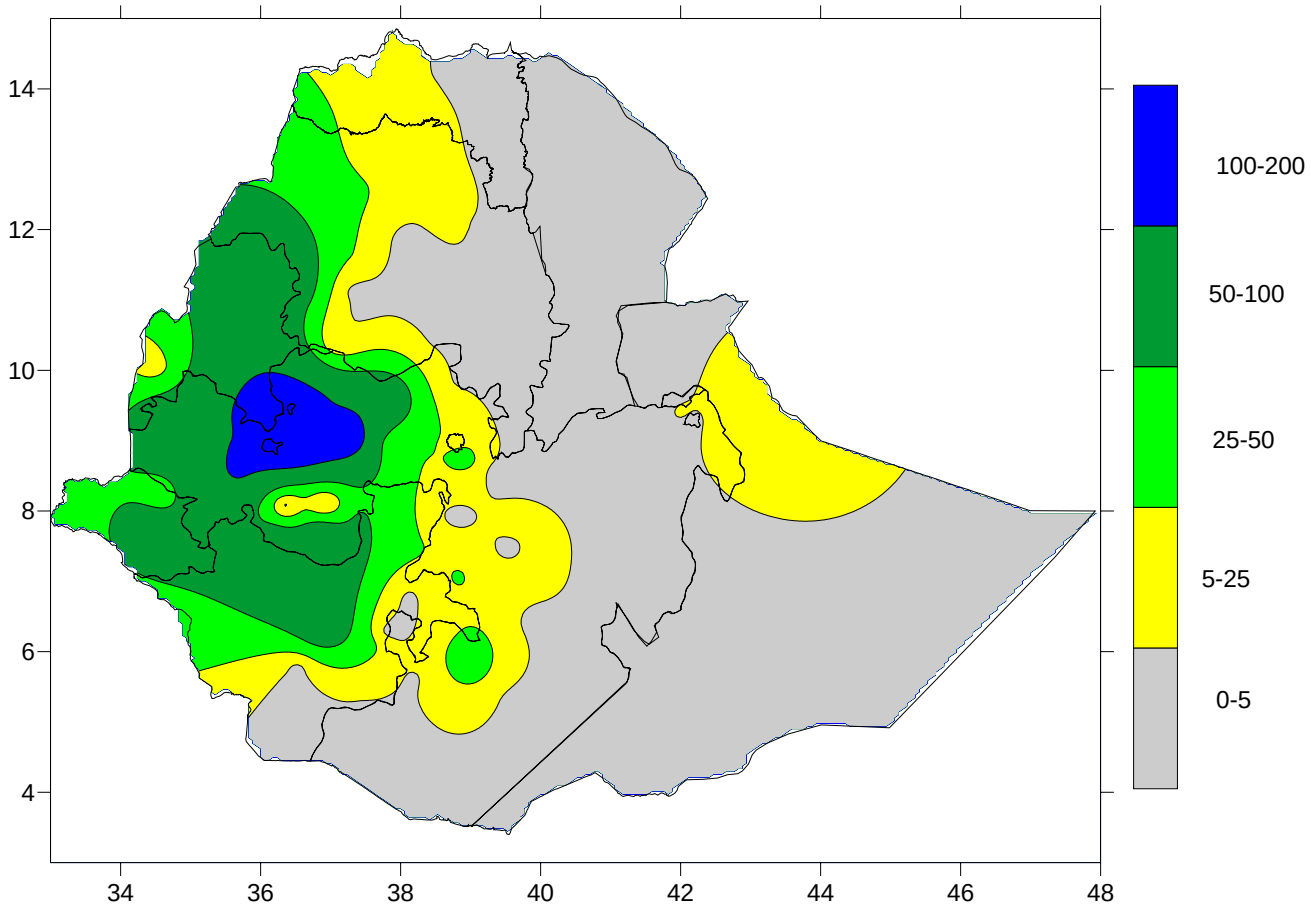

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 June 2013)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1-10 June 2013

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Some parts of southern Benshangul-Gumuz and western Oromia exhibited 100-200 mm of rainfall. Much of SNNPR,Beshangul –Gumuz, western Oromia, Gambela SNNPR and some parts of western Amhara received 50-100 mm of rainfall. Western Tigray, western Amahra, western parts of SNNPR, western Gambela, and southwestern Oromia received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Much of western Tigray, Amhara, central and southwestern Oromia, northern Somalia and southern SNNPR received 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

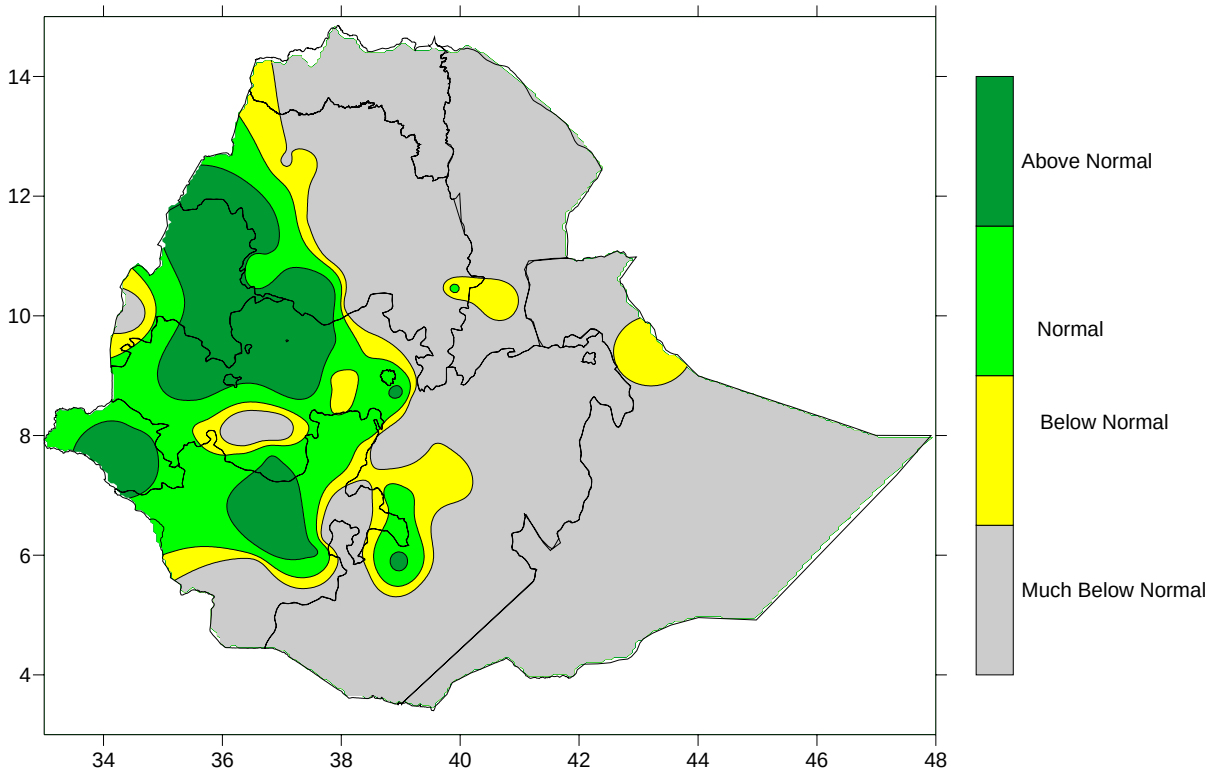

Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1-10 June 2013)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

< 50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

>125% ---- Above normal

1.2. RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Much of Benshangul-Gumuz, western and central Oromia, Gambela, SNNPR exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country received below normal too much below normal rainfall.

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations reported extreme maximum temperature greater than 35^{o}C. Among the reporting stations: Dire Dawa, Gode, Metehara, SAbela, Cheffa, Elidar, Error, Gambela, Gewan, Mytsebre, Nura era, Quara, Semera and Tisitsika recorded 35.5 to 43.7 ^{o}C. The situation might have a certain negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and productivity and physiological activities of livestock.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The dekad under review, rain bearing meteorological phenomena brings better rainfall amount over western portion of the country as a result western, southwestern, northwestern as well as high lands of eastern and southern parts of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall. More over Gambela, SNNPR, southern Tigray, western Amhara, Beshangul-Gumuz, western and central Oromia exhibited rainfall ranging from 30.1-236.8 mm for 5-10 days. The situation favored Meher agricultural activities, such land preparation and sowing Meher normally sown earlier, water satisfaction for perennial plants and long cycle crops and availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country.

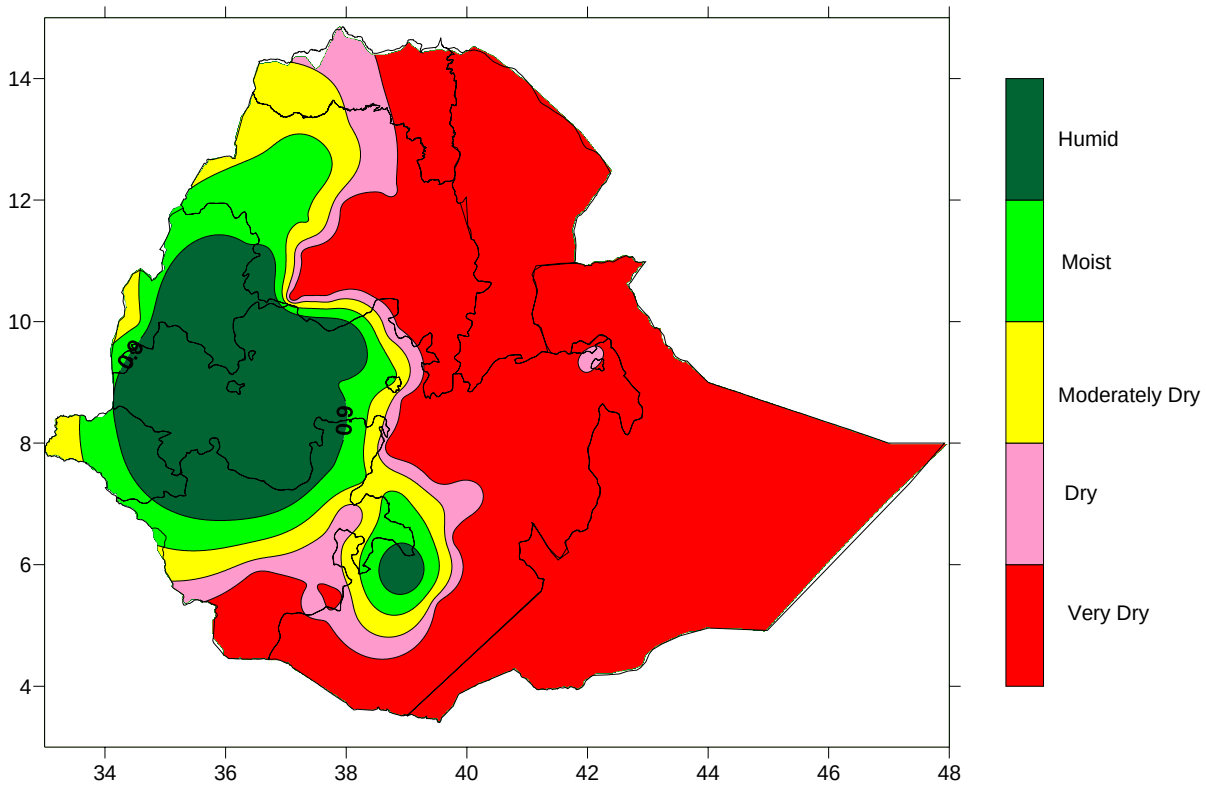

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 June 2013)

As indicated the moisture status map above, most of SNNPR, Gambela, southwestern Oromia, western Amhara experienced moist to humid moisture condition. While, some parts of southeastern SNNPR, southwestern Oromia, western Tigray and Amhara exhibited moderately dry condition, which might have favor water availability for perennial plants and drinking water and pasture over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. The rest parts of the country experienced dry to very dry moisture condition.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

On the coming ten days, rain bearing meteorological phenomena brings better rainfall amount over western portion of the country ,as a result western Tigray and Amhara, Beshangul-Gumuz, western and central Oromia, much of SNNPR, Gambela, will expect normal to above normal rainfall, while few places of eastern Oromia, northern Somalia, eastern Tigray and Amhara will expect rainfall. This might have favored land preparation and sowing of some short cycle Meher crops which normally sown in June such as Nug, Line seed, Barely, Wheat, beans, peas and Belg crops not attended full maturity, availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country, water satisfaction for perennial plants and long cycle Meher crops. We would like to advice farmers in general and DAs in particular to inform farmers not hesitate to plant early to give chance for double cropping of some grains like chickpeas, lentil, etc. which can grow on moisture residues in the soil during the end of the season. Moreover, the high lands of western portion of the country will expect heavy falls which have might cause flash flood. Farmers and concerned bodies should give proper attention to the flood prone and low laying areas of the country to reduce the risks.