1-10August 2013 Vol. 24 No.22 Date of issue 13 August, 2013

SUMMARY

During the third dekade of July, rain bearing meteorological phenomena farther strengthened over much of kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country. As a result, Amhara, Tigray, Gambella, Benshangul-gumz, western, central, eastern and high lands of southern Oromia, SNNPR, Dire Dawa, Harari, Afar and northern Somali received light to heavy rainfall. This situation might have a positive contribution for the ongoing Meher agricultural activities, water requirement for perennial plants, improvement of pasture and drinking water availability over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. However, heavy rainfall ranging from 40.5 - 116.0 mm exhibited in one rainy day over western, northeastern and central parts of the country.

During the first decade of August 2013, most of Kiremt rain benefiting areas received light to heavy rainfall. As a result, much of Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, western, central Oromia northern parts of SNNPR and few areas of northern Somali received the decadal rainfall. Southern Tigray, much of Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, western, central Oromia, and few areas of southern highlands of Oromia, northern parts of NNPR and central and southern Afar received normal to above normal. The situation was conducive for the seasonal agricultural activities, which might have favored sowing activities of different Meher crops, satisfying the water demand of long cycle Meher crops and perennial plants, pasture and drinking water availability. While, northern Tigray, Gambella, Afar, southern parts of NNPR, including southern high lands of Oromia, Dire Dawa and Harari received from 5-50 mm of dekadal rainfall for 1-6 days. However, frequent heavy fall accompanied by hailstorm range from 30.9 to 52.2 mm was reported over some of the stations resulted in flooding that have damaged crops and properties.

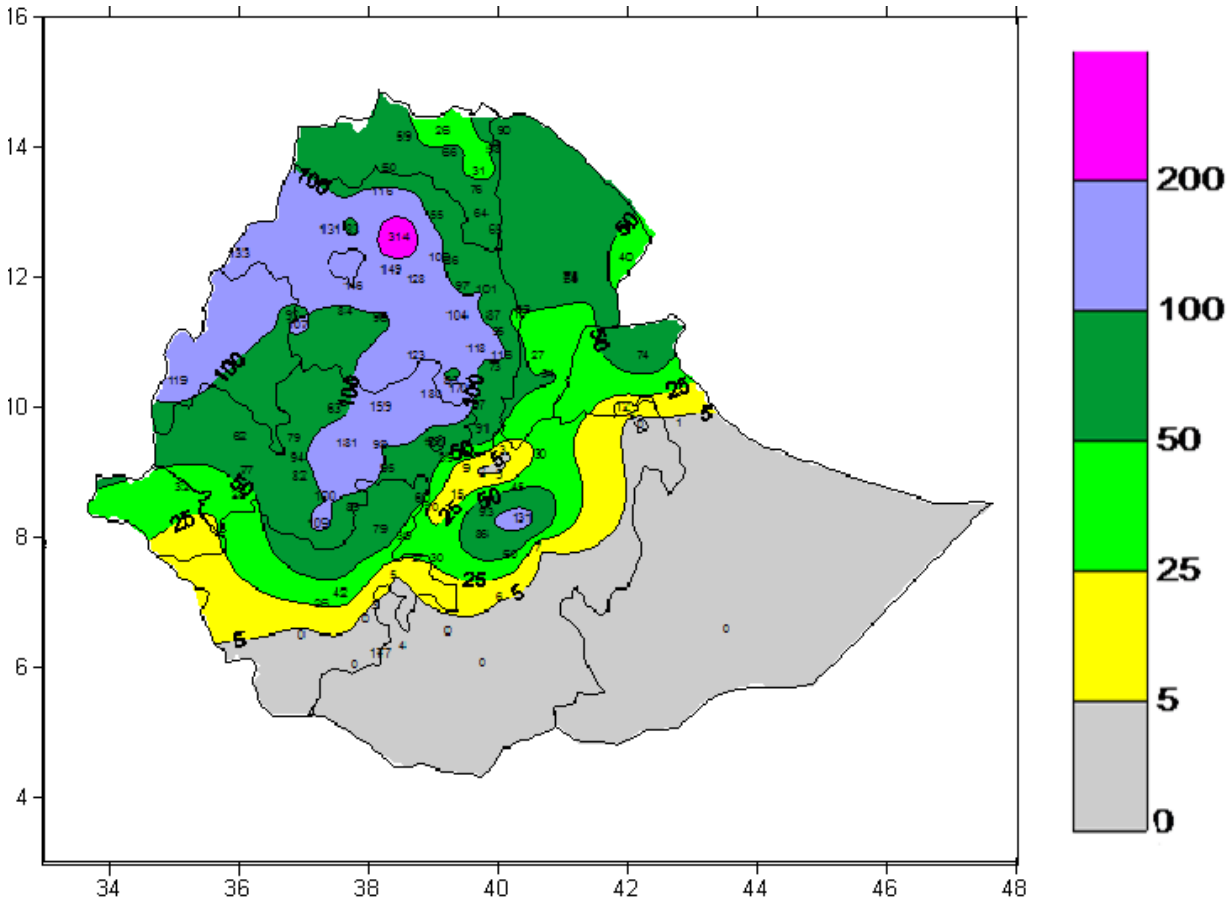

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 August 2013)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1-10 August 2013

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of northern and south western Amhara received 200- 300 mm of rainfall. Most of Amhara, eastern margin of Benshangul-Gumuz, parts of western Oromia, and pocket area of western Afar received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Parts of central Tigray, northern tip and western margin of Afar, parts of northeastern and southern Amhara, parts of western central and eastern Oromia, western half of Benshangul-Gumuz and pocket area of northern SNNPR received 50-100 mm of rainfall. Eastern half of Tigray, parts of Afar, northern Somali, northern half of SNNPR received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Most of Gambella and parts of SNNPR, southern Oromia and Somali received 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced little or no rainfall.

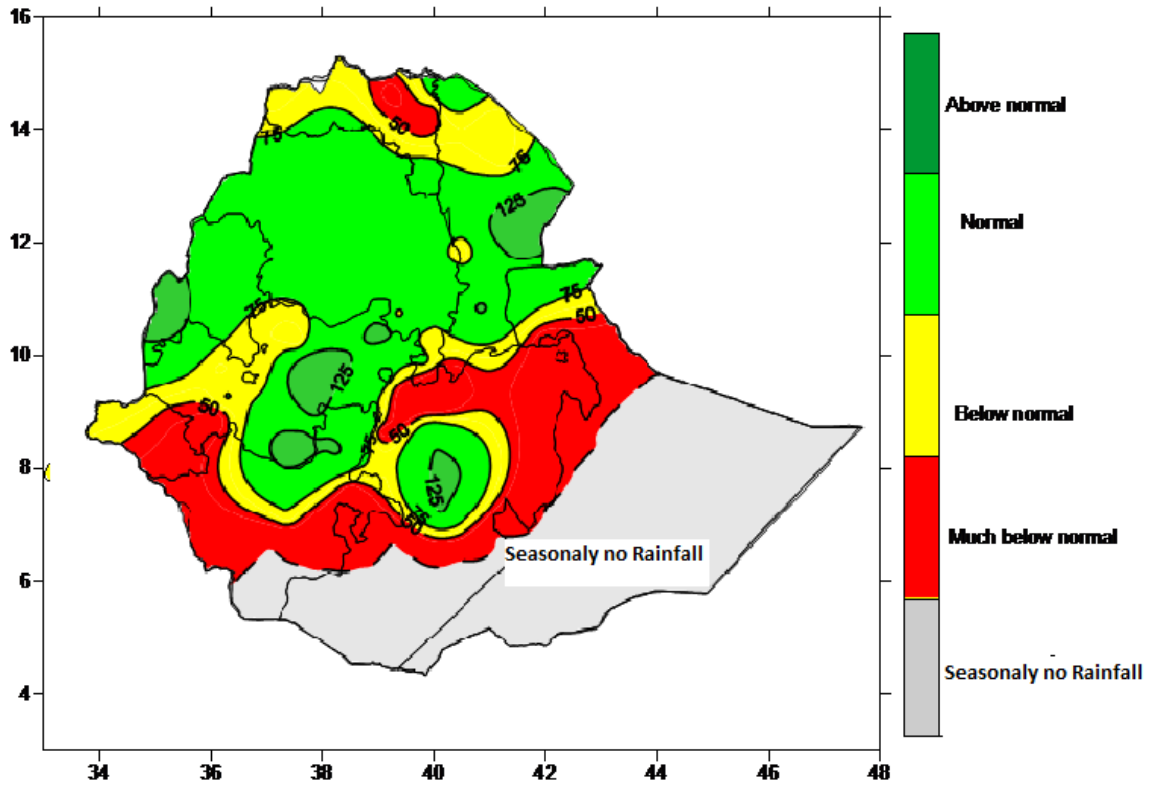

Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (1-10 August 2013, 2013)

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)

Most of Amhara, southern half of Tigray, most of Afar, most parts of central and eastern and parts of western and southern Oromia and eastern half of Benshangul-Gumuz, parts of northern SNNPR and Somali exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced much below to below normal rainfall.

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations found in the north eastern low lands parts of the country reported extreme maximum temperature greater than 35^{o}C. Among the reporting stations: Dubti, Elidar, Gewane, Mille, Semera, Gode and Aysha recorded 40.2, 41.0, 37.2, 38.5, 35.3 and 36.0^{o}C respectively. The situation might have a negative impact on the physiological activities, the normal growth and development of plants and cause heat stress which reduces feed intake and products of livestock.

2.0 AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1. VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

In dekade under review, most of Kiremt rain benefiting areas received light to heavy rainfall. As a result, much of Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, western, central Oromia northern parts of SNNPR and few areas of northern Somali received the decadal rainfall. Southern Tigray, much of Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, western, central Oromia, and few areas of southern highlands of Oromia, northern parts of NNPR and central and southern Afar received normal to above normal. The situation was conducive for the seasonal agricultural activities, which might have favored sowing activities of different Meher crops, satisfying the water demand of long cycle Meher crops and perennial plants, pasture and drinking water availability. While, northern Tigray, Gambella, Afar, southern parts of NNPR, including southern high lands of Oromia, Dire Dawa and Harari received from 5-50 mm of dekadal rainfall for 1-6 days. However, frequent heavy fall accompanied by hailstorm range from 30.9 to 52.2 mm was reported over some of the stations resulted in flooding that have damaged crops and properties.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming second dekade of August 2013, normal to above normal rainfall will be expected over western Amhara and Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, western and central Oromia and northern half of SNNPR. While, near normal rainfall will be expected over eastern Amhara and Tigray, Afar, eastern Oromia, Hariri, Dire Dawa and northern half of Somali. The situation will expected to favor, the ongoing seasonal agricultural activities such as, sowing, proper use of agricultural inputs, satisfying water requirement of long cycle Meher crops found at flowering and grain feeling stages which are at high water demand, short cycle recently sown Mehere crops, perennial plants and pasture and water availability in pastoralist and agro pastoralist areas. In addition to these, the expected heavy falls with hailstorm over some areas may cause flood and flash floods over flood prone and steep slope areas. Moreover, also there may be probability of water logging problems in areas of heavy soil with poor drainage system and where soils already saturated particularly in areas benefiting both Belg and Kermit rain. Hence, we would like to advice farmers and concerned bodies to take care and follow proper farming methods and precautious and appropriate measures.

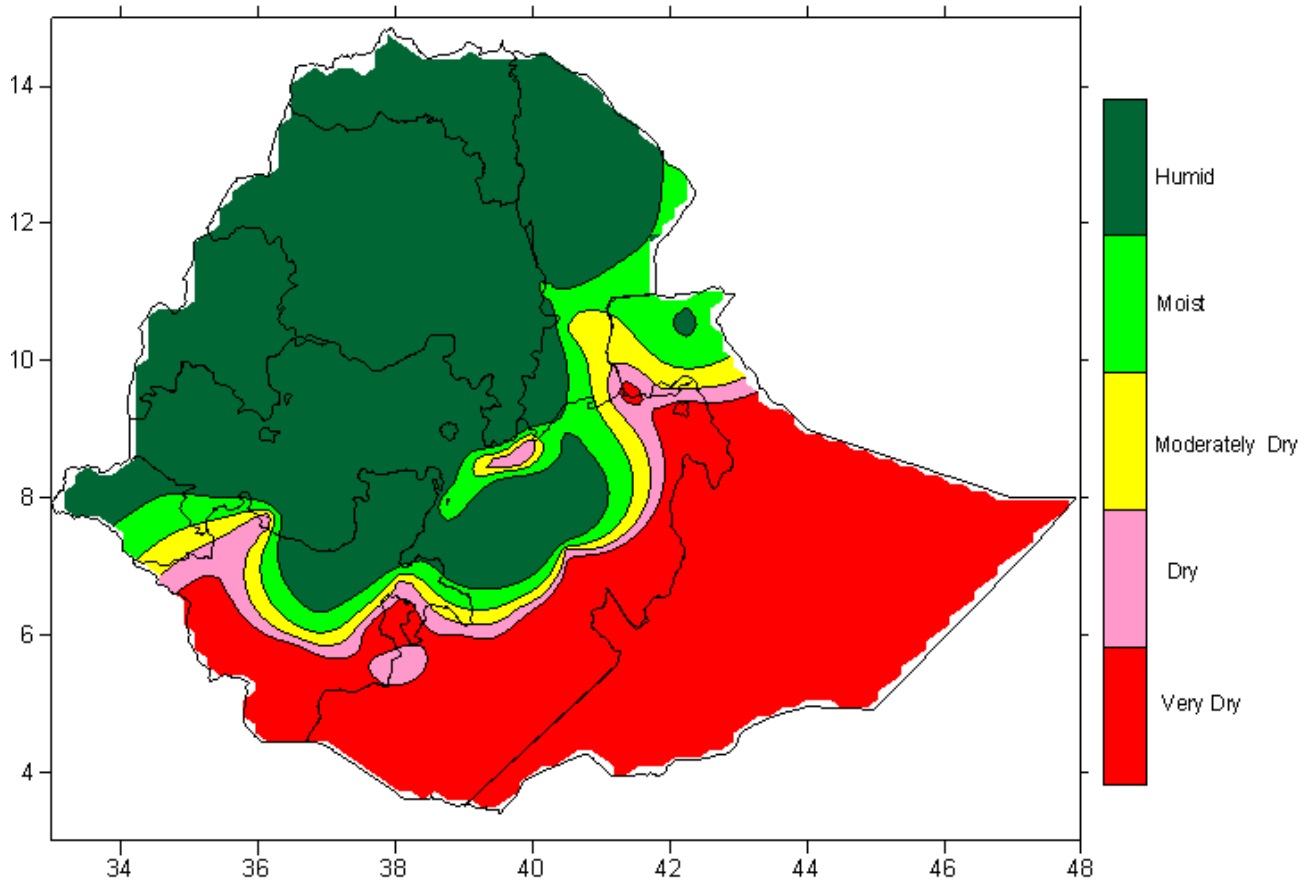

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 July 2013)

As indicated on the moisture status map above, most of Kiremt rain benefiting areas of the country experienced moist to humid moisture condition, which might have favored the ongoing seasons agricultural activities, water requirement of perennial plants, availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. While, southern half of Gambella, most parts of SNNPR and southern Oromia exhibited moderately dry to very dry condition, which might have a negatively affect the season's agricultural activities.