11-20August 2013 Vol. 24 No.23 Date of issue 22 August, 2013

SUMMARY

During the first dekade 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 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 SNNPR, including southern highlands of Oromia, Dire Dawa and Hariri 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.

During the second dekad of August 2013, most parts of Kiremt rain benefiting parts of the country received extended and sufficient rain. In line with this Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, western, central Oromia and including southern highlands of Oromia, eastern parts of the country, Afar, parts of SNNPR and northern Somali experienced light to heavy rain falls with good in amount and even in distribution. The situation was conducive for seasonal agricultural activities and favored water requirement of different short cycle Meher cereals crops, pulse crops and oil crops, long cycle Meher crops found at stage of high demand for water, perennial plants and pasture drinking water availability in pastoral and agro pastoral areas. On other hand, frequent heavy falls over some areas of the country in general and north eastern in particular result in flooding that have caused loss of human and livestock lives, damage on different crops and properties. In addition to these, the exhibited flood and excess moisture might have result in water logging problems over areas, where the soil is heavy with poor drainage system.

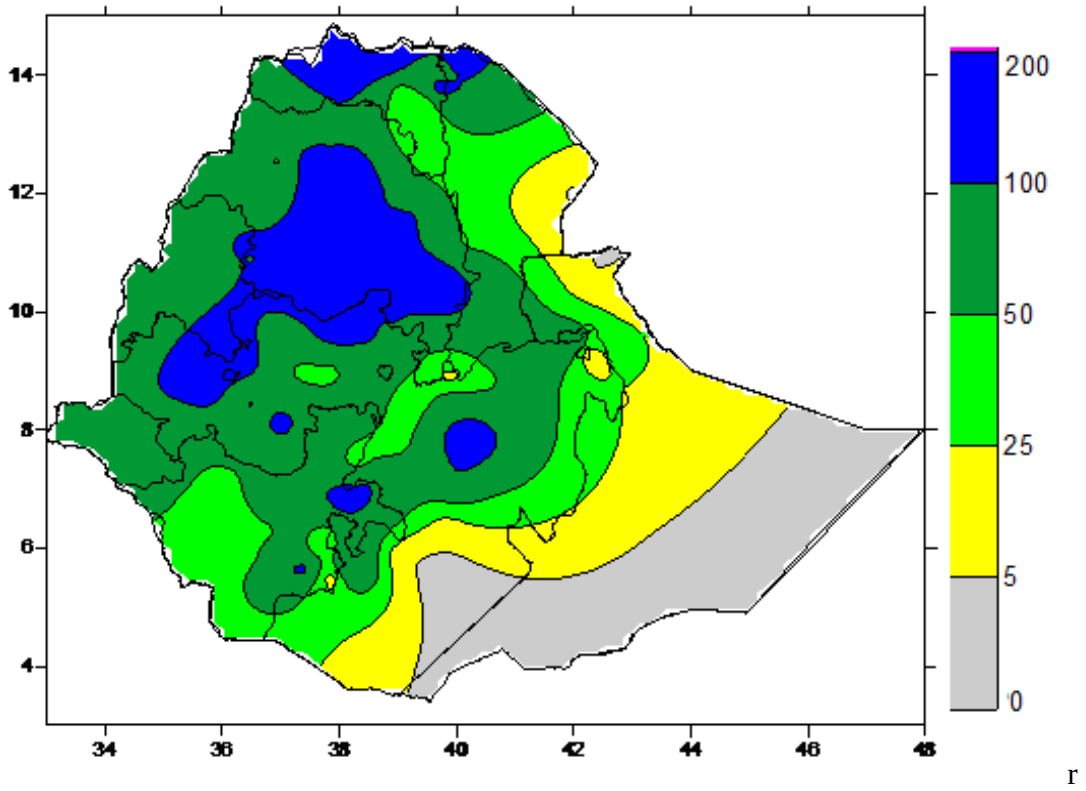

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Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 August 2013)

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

11-20 August 2013

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Northern tip of Afar, central and northern Tigray, southern and central Amhara parts of southern eastern Benshangul-Gumuz, parts of western, northern and pocket areas of southern Oromia and pocket areas of northeastern SNNPR received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Western and eastern Tigray, northern and southern Afar, western, parts of northern, eastern and southern of Amhara, Gambela, most of Benshangul-Gumuz, parts of northern, eastern and southern SNNPR and most Oromia received 50- 100 mm of rainfall. Southern Tigray, central and parts of northern Afar, northern Somali, parts of southern and eastern SNNPR and parts of southern, central and eastern Oromia received 25-50 mm of rainfall. Parts of eastern Afar, central Somali and part of southern tip of Oromia received 5-25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced little or no rainfall.

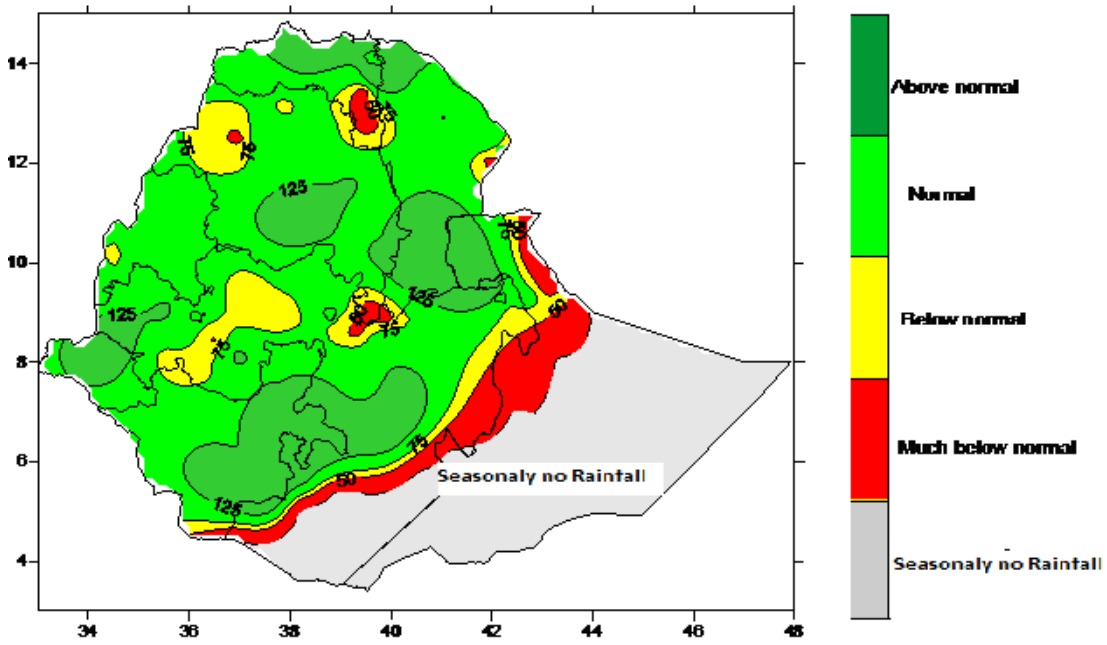

Fig2. Percent of normal rainfall distribution (11-20 August 2013, 2013)

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 parts of kiremt rain benefiting areas except some part of southern Tigray, parts of western and southern tip of Amhara and some parts of western and central Oromia experienced normal and above normal rainfall.

1.3. TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations restricted to the north eastern and 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 40.0, 43.0, 37.0, 40.0, 35.6, 37.0 and AwashArba and 35.5^{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 of August 2013, most parts of Kiremt rain benefiting parts of the country received extended and sufficient rain. In line with this Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, western, central Oromia and including southern highlands of Oromia, eastern parts of the country, Afar, parts of SNNPR and northern Somali experienced light to heavy rain falls with good in amount and even in distribution. The situation was conducive for seasonal agricultural activities and favored water requirement of different short cycle Meher cereals crops, pulse crops and oil crops, long cycle Meher crops found at stage of high demand for water, perennial plants and pasture drinking water availability in pastoral and agro pastoral areas. On other hand, frequent heavy falls over some areas of the country in general and north eastern in particular result in flooding that have caused loss of human and livestock lives, damage on different crops and properties. In addition to these, the exhibited flood and excess moisture might have result in water logging problems over areas, where the soil is heavy with poor drainage system.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming third dekade of August 2013, as current situation of meteorological phenomenon favor kiremt rain have been indicated, extended rain covering much kiremt rain benefiting areas will be expected. As a result of this, normal to above normal rainfall will be expected over western Amhara and Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, western and central Oromia and northern part of SNNPR. While, near normal rainfall will be expected over eastern Amhara and Tigray, eastern Oromia, southern SNNPR, Hariri, Dire Dawa and northern Somali. The situation will expected to favor, the ongoing seasonal agricultural activities such as, proper use of agricultural inputs, Meher crops found at different phase of growth, short cycle recently sown Mehere crops, perennial plants and particularly satisfying water requirement of long cycle Meher crops like maize found at flowering and grain feeling stages of need high water amount and pasture and water availability in pastoralist and agro pastoralist areas. In addition to these, the expected unusual heavy falls with thunderstorm and hailstorm over some places may

cause flood and flash floods over flood prone and steep slope areas which may cause damage to crops, livestock properties and even human life if appropriate measures not are taken. Moreover, there may be also 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.

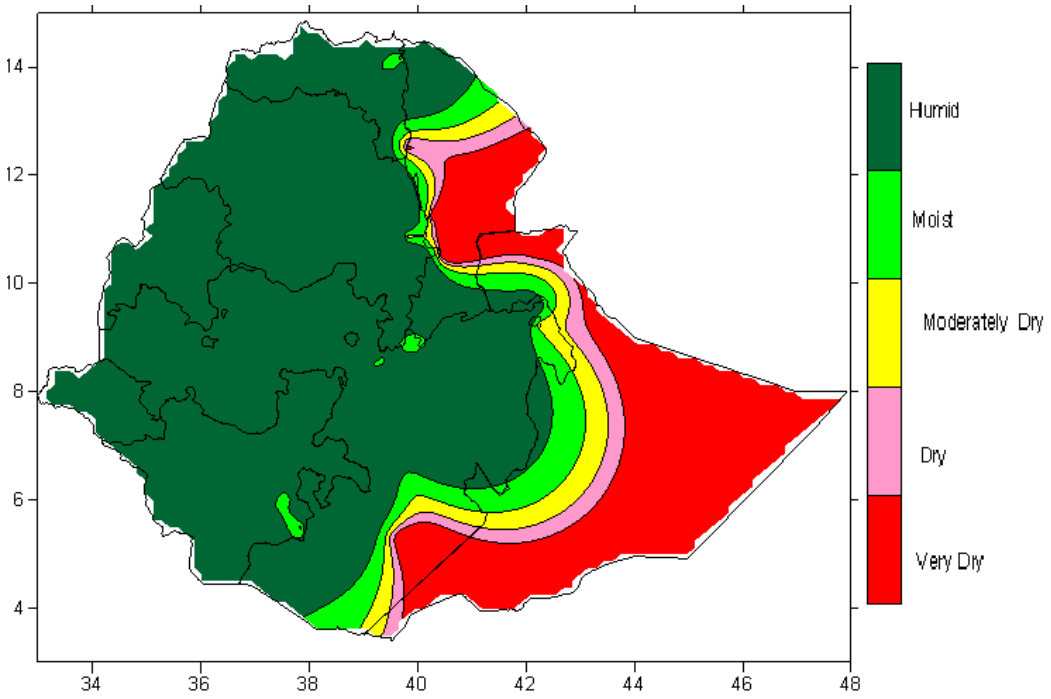

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 July 2013)

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, Parts of southern Afar northern Somali and southern Oromia exhibited dry to very dry condition, which might have a negatively affect the season's agricultural activities.