

# NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

## TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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### SUMMARY

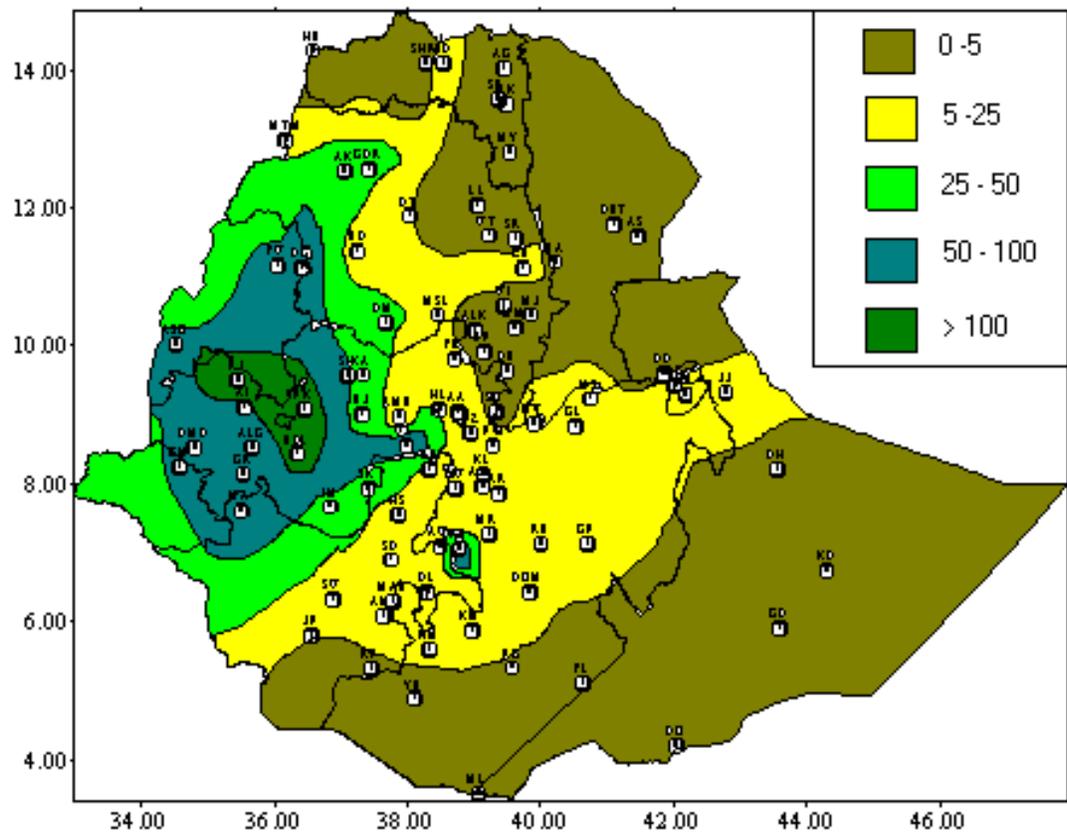
During the third dekad of May 2004, the observed below normal rainfall condition in most parts of the country could cause water stress on the recently sown crops and result in wilting. Besides, the dry weather condition that persisted during the month over Tigray, Amhara, northern Somali, most parts of Oromiya and SNNPR created moisture depletion on the existing crops growing on the field. For instance, Ziway and Sodo reported total drying and partial drying of maize crop due to water stress during the third dekad of May, respectively. However, the dry weather that persisted over some areas of Belg growing areas (northeastern highlands) could favour crops, which were ready for harvest. On the contrary, observed normal to above normal rainfall distribution over some areas of western Oromiya, Benishangul Gumuz, and northern tip of SNNPR had positive impact on the recently sown long cycle crops. The erratic rainfall condition over some lowland areas of southeastern, northeastern and southern lowlands of the country could favour the occurrence of pests. Thus, attention should be required for those areas in order to mitigate the effect of adverse situation.

During the first dekad of June 2004, with the exception of western Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, parts of western and central Oromiya including few areas of eastern Oromiya most parts of the country exhibited below to much below normal rainfall. Thus, this condition could result in water stress on the existing crops in the field at this time of a year. Besides, it could exacerbate the deficient moisture condition persisted over most parts of Tigray, parts of eastern Amhara and SNNPR including parts of northern Somali and eastern Oromiya. For instance, Combolcha and Sodo reported slight wilting and partial drying due to water stress on sorghum and maize field, respectively. On the contrary some areas of western and central Oromiya reported heavy falls ranging from 30 – 40 mm. Among the reporting stations Bedelle, Woliso, Arsi Negele, Nekemte and Nedjo recorded 30, 32, 33.8, 38.4 and 40 mm of rainfall in one rainy day. With regard to temperature, there was no significant temperature anomaly as compared to that of the long years mean in most places. In accordance with the crop, phenological report, harvesting of teff was on progress in some areas of eastern Amhara (Majete). On the other hand sowing of cereals and pulses was under way in some areas of eastern, western and central Oromiya including western Amhara and Harari.

## 1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

### 1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

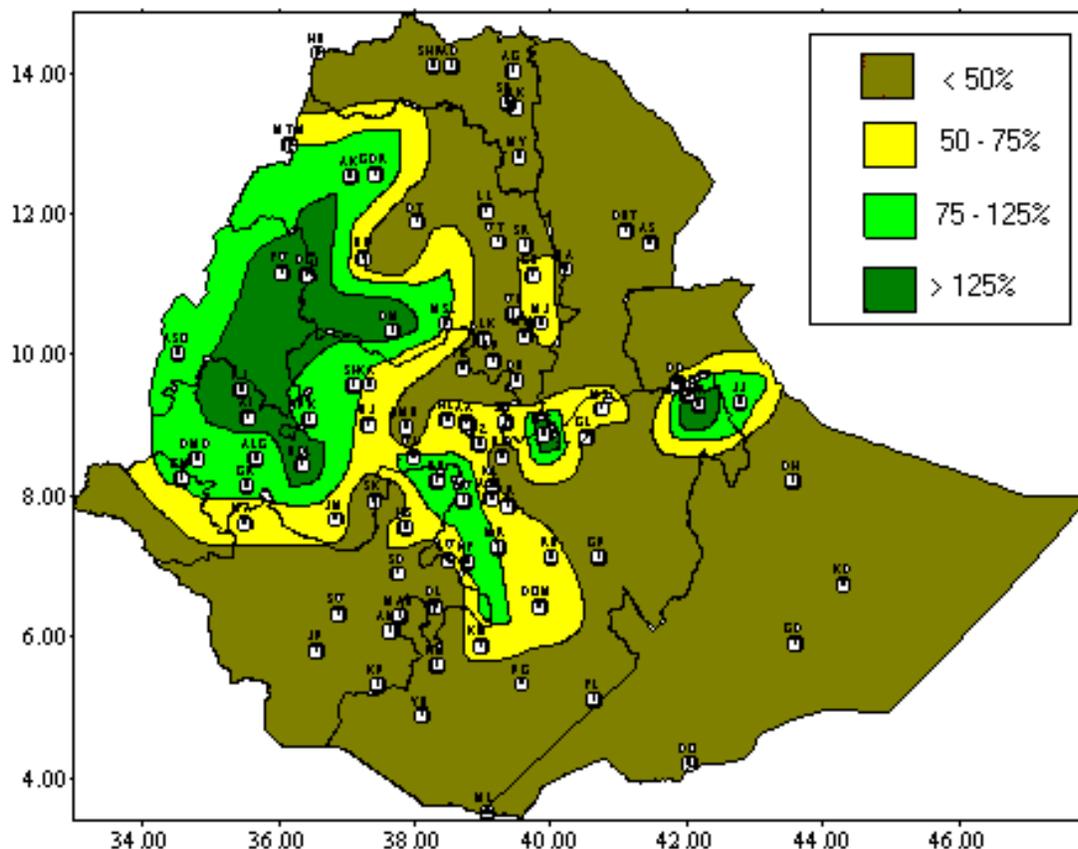
Few areas of western Amhara, most parts of Benishangul Gumuz, parts western Oromiya and few areas of eastern Gambela received falls ranging from 50 – 100 mm; few areas of Oromiya exhibited fall greater than 100 mm; parts of western Amhara few areas of central Oromiya most parts of Gambela and northwestern SNNPR received falls in the range of 25 – 50; most parts of central and eastern Oromiya parts of eastern half of Amhara, eastern and central SNNPR few areas of central and western Tigray including few areas of northern Somali experienced 5 – 25 mm of rainfall while there was little or no rainfall for the rest of the country.



**Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10, June 2004)**

**1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)**

Most parts of western half of Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, western and pocket areas of central and eastern Oromiya including pocket areas of northern Somali and southern tip of Afar exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. The rest of the country experienced below to much below normal rainfall.



**Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10, June 2004)**

Explanatory notes for the legend:  
 <50 -- Much below normal  
 50—75% -- below normal  
 75—125% --- Normal  
 > 125% ---- Above normal

### 1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

There was no significant temperature anomaly as compared to that of the long years mean in most places.

## 2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF JUNE 2004

In the coming ten days, the Kiremt rain bearing systems are expected to strengthen. Generally, central and western Oromiya, Benshaingul-Gumuz, Gambella and SNNPR will have near normal rainfall over much of the areas. Furthermore, pocket areas of the aforementioned places will get above normal rainfall. Besides, western Amhara, and Tigray as well as eastern Ormiya and its adjoining areas are anticipated to get rainfall amount close to normal. Although dry weather condition will dominate over eastern Tigray and Amhara, southern tip of SNNPR and Oromiya, light to moderate rain showers is expected for a few days within the forecast period. In contrast, dry and sunny weather conditions are anticipated to dominate over Afar and the adjoining lowlands.

### **3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

#### **3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE**

The observed below normal rainfall over most parts of the country could result in water stress on the existing crops in the field at this time of a year. Besides, it could exacerbate the deficient moisture condition persisted over most parts of Tigray, parts of eastern Amhara and SNNPR including parts of northern Somali and eastern Oromiya. For instance, Combolcha and Sodo reported slight wilting and partial drying due to water stress on sorghum and maize field, respectively. On the contrary some areas of western and central Oromiya reported heavy falls ranging from 30 – 40 mm. Among the reporting stations Bedelle, Woliso, Arsi Negele, Nekemte and Nedjo recorded 30, 32, 33.8, 38.4 and 40 mm of rainfall in one rainy day. With regard to temperature, there was no significant temperature anomaly as compared to that of the long years mean in most places. In accordance with the crop, phenological report harvesting of teff was on progress in some areas of eastern Amhara (Majete). On the other hand sowing of cereals and pulses was under way in some areas of eastern, western and central Oromiya including western Amhara and Harari. Maize was at emergence stage in some areas of eastern Amhara, central Oromiya while at ninth leaf stage in some areas of western Oromiya and northern parts of SNNPR. Sorghum was third leaf and tillering stages in some areas of western and eastern Oromiya including eastern Amhara. Nug was at emergence stage in central Oromiya.

#### **3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD**

The anticipated near normal rainfall over central and western Oromiya including Benishangul – Gumuz would have positive impact for season's agricultural activities since those areas received normal to above normal rainfall during the preceding dekad which could maintain the stored soil moisture before. Besides, the expected near normal rainfall over Gambela and SNNPR would ease the prolonged deficient condition particularly over southern half of SNNPR and would also facilitate conducive environment for land preparation in areas where land preparation is still going on. The expected near normal rainfall over western portion of Tigray and Amhara would have positive contribution to season's agricultural activities over the areas. However, deficiencies expected over eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara and eastern Oromiya may increase moisture stress. The anticipated deficient and erratic rainfall over southern SNNPR and Oromiya would favour the occurrence of pest and diseases. Thus, those areas needing attention in order to tackle the problem ahead of time to minimize the risk.