

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the third dekad of July 2004, the observed normal to above normal rainfall distribution over Gambela, most parts of Amhara, northern, eastern and parts of western margin of SNNPR, western half of Tigray, parts of western, central and southern Oromiya, parts of northern Somali and much of Benishangul-Gumuz favored season's agricultural activities. Nevertheless some areas of western, central and northeastern highlands exhibited heavy falls ranging from 30 - 69 mm in one rainy day. Among the reporting stations Bahir Dar, Dangila, Nekmte, Mankush, Nejo, Arsi Negele, Pawe, Zeway, Bati, Gambela, Robe and Sawla received 62, 59, 57.2, 51.2, 48.2, 47.4, 46, 43.7, 43.6, 43, 40.7 and 40 mm of heavy fall in one rainy day, respectively. This situation resulted in crops damage and livestock loss in some areas of central, western and northern Oromiya (Alge, Arsi Negelle, Woliso and Fitcha) during the dekad under review.

During the first dekad of August, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Meher growing areas favored season's agricultural activities. Nevertheless, most parts of western half of the countries exhibited heavy falls greater than 30 mm. Even some areas experienced heavy fall repeatedly two to three days. Among the reporting stations Adama (31 and 43.3 mm), Senkata (34.5 and 64.4 mm), Shire(32.6 and 32.4 mm), Gelemso(38.6 and 78.3 mm), Nekemte (48.0 and 53.1 mm) , Bahir Dar(45.9 and 39.8 mm) and Bullen(33.3, 51.4 and 78.8mm) exhibited heavy falls ranging from 31 - 78.8 mm. As result some areas reported crop damage and livestock loss. In accordance with the crop phenological report sowing of pulses and cereals like teff and wheat was underway in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena and Bati), western Oromiya (Shambu), eastern Oromiya (Gelemso) and northern SNNPR (Hosaina). On the other hand maize was being harvested in some areas of southern Oromiya (Kebre Mengist) and northeastern SNNPR (Soddo). Kibre Mengist reported partial drying on maize field due to water stress. On the other hand Shambu reported slight hail damage on the recently sown wheat crop.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Most parts of Meher growing areas received falls ranging from 50 - 200 mm. Western margins of Tigray, northwestern Amhara, parts of eastern half of Afar, parts of eastern Oromiya, parts of SNNPR and pocket areas of western and central Oromiya including pocket area of eastern Amhara experienced 25 - 50 mm of rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest of the country.

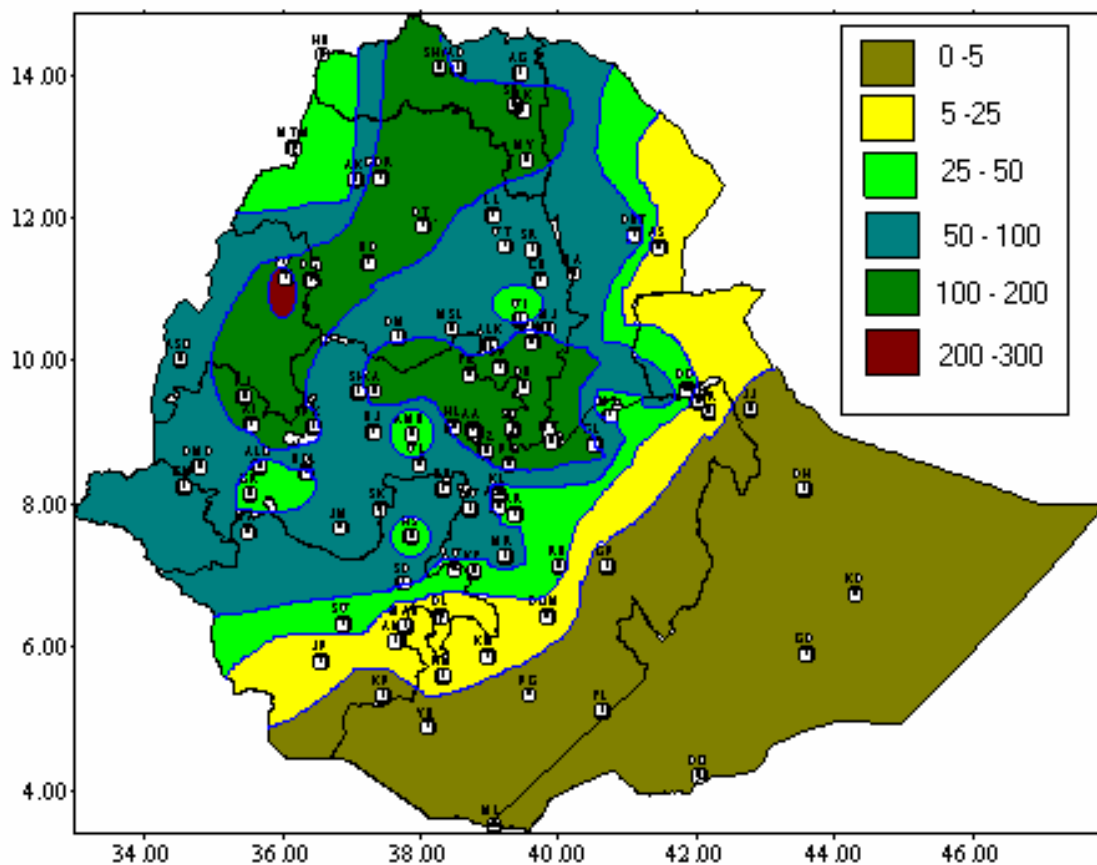


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10, August 2004)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of Meher growing areas exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. Below to much below normal rainfall has been observed over pocket areas of central Amhara, northern SNNPR and central Oromiya including parts of eastern Oromiya and parts of central SNNPR.

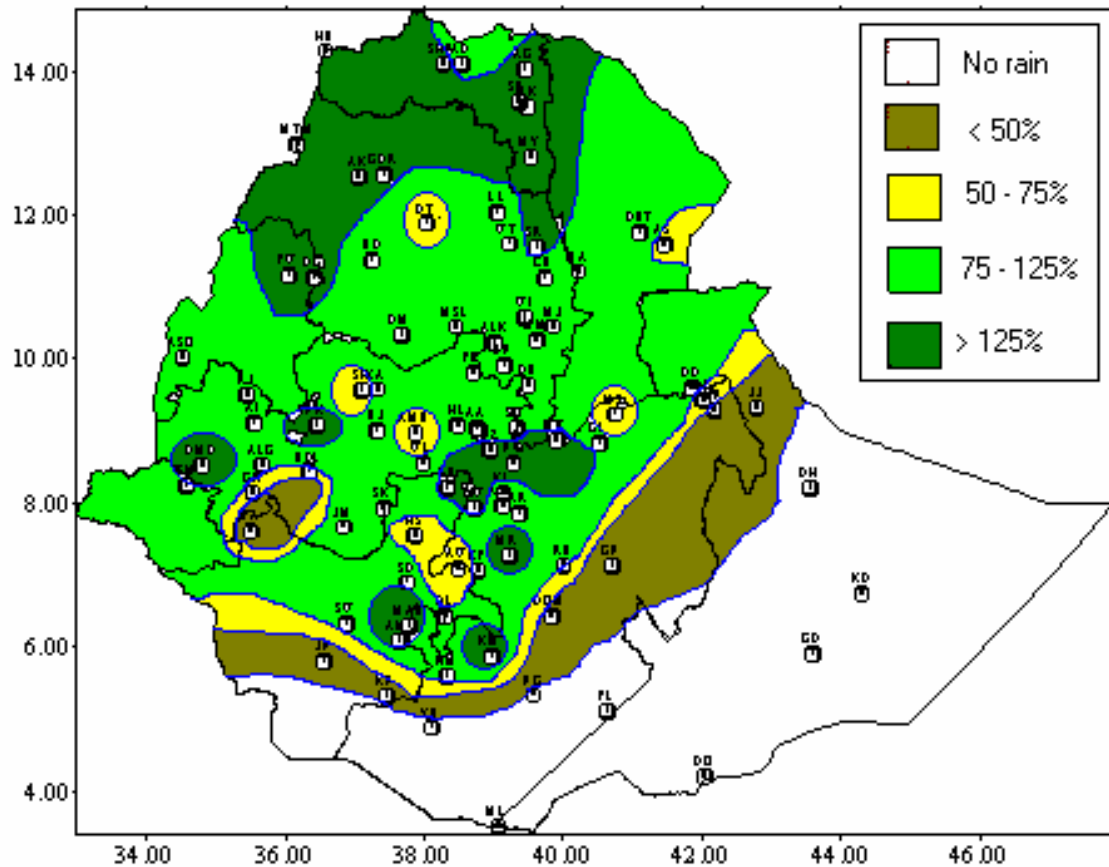


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10, August 2004)

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 during the dekad under review.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF AUGUST 2004

There are enhanced probabilities of getting normal to above normal rains across many places of Gambela, western and northern SNNPR, central and western Oromiya, Benishangul Gumuz, Amhara and Tigray regions. Besides, the dekadal rain will attain near normal categories over portion of Afar, eastern Oromiya, Harar, Derae Dawa and northern Somali. The rain will, however, be below normal at some localities. On the other hand light rain showers are likely to fall occasionally across southern SNNPR and Oromiya. Also, heavy rain showers accompany with thunders, lightning and hail are anticipated to occur at some places of central western half, northeastern and eastern Ethiopia.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Meher growing areas favored season's agricultural activities. Nevertheless, most parts of western half of the countries exhibited heavy falls greater than 30 mm. Even some areas experienced heavy fall repeatedly two to three days. Among the reporting stations Adama (31 and 43.3 mm), Senkata (34.5 and 64.4 mm), Shire(32.6 and 32.4 mm), Gelemso(38.6 and 78.3 mm), Nekemte (48.0 and 53.1 mm) , Bahir Dar(45.9 and 39.8 mm) and Bullen(33.3, 51.4 and 78.8mm) exhibited heavy falls ranging from 31 - 78.8 mm. As result some areas reported crop damage and livestock loss. In accordance with the crop phenological report sowing of pulses and cereals like teff and wheat was underway in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena and Bati), western Oromiya (Shambu), eastern Oromiya (Gelemso) and northern SNNPR (Hosaina). On the other hand maize was being harvested in some areas of southern Oromiya (Kebre Mengist) and northeastern SNNPR (Soddo). Sorghum was at tillering and shooting stages in some areas of eastern Amhara (Bati), western and eastern Oromiya (Alge, Nedjo, Asosa, Dembi Dolo, Chefa, Aira and Gelemso) while at tasseling stage in some areas of western Oromiya like Gimbi. Maize was at tasseling and flowering stages over some areas of western and southern Oromiya (Alge, Aira, Gimbi, Bedelle and Dembi Dollo) including some areas of northern Benishangul Gumuz (Chagni) while at wax ripeness stage in some areas of eastern Oromiya (Gelemso). Wheat and barley were at early vegetative stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Kulumsa, Kachise and Shambu) and eastern Amhara like Lalibela. Teff was at emergence stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Adama, Kachise and Gimbi) and eastern Amhara like Sirinka while it was at third leaf stage in some areas of western and eastern Amhara (Dangila and Kombolcha) and western Oromiya like Bedelle. Millet was at tillering in some areas of western Oromiya and western Amhara (Nejo and Chagni). Nug was at elongation stage in some areas of central and western Oromiya (Kachise and Asosa) whereas at flowering stage in some areas of central Oromiya like Woliso. Moreover pulse crops were at flowering and budding stages in some areas of central and northern Oromiya, respectively. Kibre Mengist reported partial drying on maize field due to water stress. On the other hand Shambu reported slight hail damage on the recently sown wheat crop.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DAKAD

The anticipated enhance and wide spread rainfall over most parts of Meher growing areas would favor the recently sown pulses and cereal crops including crops at different phenological stages. However, the expected continuation of widespread and heavy falls particularly over western half of the country would result in crop damage in low lying areas and on crop fields near river banks. Moreover it would result in water logging on crop fields which have already reached at saturation level due to the abundant falls observed during the preceding dekad and in areas where the soil type is clay which will not allow the water to percolate easily to the ground. Thus, it would be a good idea to take proper precaution ahead of time in sensitive areas. In addition to that, the expected extension of better rainfall over some areas of eastern Ethiopia would ease the stress condition due to the deficient falls observed during the previous dekads. On the contrary the expected below normal rainfall over most parts of Afar, southern half of SNNPR, northern half of Somali, Harari and Dire Dawa would exacerbate the stress condition in eastern highlands and agro pastoral areas of southern Oromiya and parts of northern Somali. Besides, it would negatively affect the availability of pasture and drinking water in pastoral areas of the aforementioned areas. Additionally the expected erratic nature of rainfall together with the wet condition with sunny intervals would favor the outbreak of pest and diseases. Therefore, proper attention should be given in sensitive areas known as breeding areas of migratory pests.