

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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1-10, November 2004 Volume 14 No. 31

Date of issue: November 12, 2004

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of October 2004, with the exception of parts of southern Oromiya, pocket areas of central and western Oromiya as well as southern Somali much of Meher growing areas of the country experienced below normal rainfall. This situation facilitated the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities of long and medium cycle crops over much of Meher growing areas of the country like western, central and eastern Oromiya, northern SNNPR, Much of Amhara, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella. On the contrary, it had negative impact on the water requirements of the crops that are attaining at flowering stage over eastern margin of Amhara. Regarding air temperature, the highlands of Amhara (Ambamariam, Debre Birhan, Enewary, Mehal Meda, Wegel Tena), Tigray (Adigrat), and Oromiya (BaleRobe, Meraro, Fitcha, Kofele and Alemaya) exhibited extreme air temperature below 5⁰C from two to ten days.

During the dekad under review (1-10 November 2004) Gambella, western, central and parts of eastern Tigray, northern Amhara, southern half of SNNPR, southern Oromiya, southern Somali as well as pocket areas of southern Oromiya and eastern Benishangul-Gumuz exhibited normal to above normal rainfall while the rest portions of the country received below normal rainfall. Regarding rainfall amount, Dolo Mena, Sawla, Negelle, Arba Minch, Masha, Mirab Abaya, Kibre Mengist, Hagere Mariam, Gambella, Yabello and Moyalle recorded 99.1, 98.3, 93.8, 66.8, 52.3, 52, 51.6, 45.2, 45, 34.9 and 30.5mm of rainfall, respectively. This better rainfall condition had positive impact on the enhancement of the availability of pasture and drinking water over southern Oromiya, southern SNNPR and southern Somali. Besides, it favored the ongoing agricultural activities over the above Agro pastural areas. The observed sunny and dry weather condition over eastern and western Amhara, northern SNNPR, central, eastern and western Oromiya facilitated the on going harvest and post harvest activities of medium and long cycle crops that are being performed over the above mentioned areas. On the other hand, the observed wet weather situation over northern Amhara, Gambella, western, central and parts of eastern Tigray may negatively affect the on going harvest and post harvest activities. Regarding air temperature, some highland areas of northeastern and southern Amhara as well as central and eastern Oromiya experienced extreme air temperature below 5 C from two to ten days. Some station like Debre Zeit, Alamaya, Debre Brehan, Fitcha, Meraro and Wegel Tena recorded minimum air temperature from -0.3 to 5.0 C.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT
1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Southern half of Gambella, southern half of SNNPR, parts of southern Oromiya, pocket areas of southwestern Somali received 50-100 mm, parts of southern Oromiya and southern Somali, northern Gambella received 25-50 mm, parts of Southern Somali, parts of western Amhara, pocket areas of western Oromiya as well as pocket areas of eastern Benishangul-Gumuz received 15-25 mm, parts of western Oromiya, western and central Tigray received 5-15 mm while the rest parts of the country received below 5 mm of dekdal rainfall.

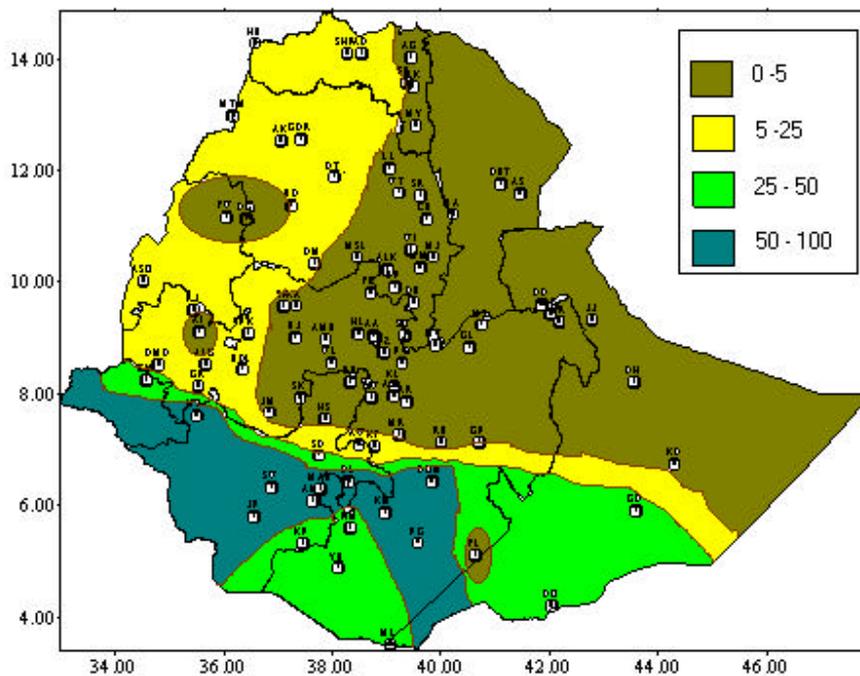


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10, November 2004)

1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Gambella, western, central and parts of eastern Tigray, northern Amhara, southern half of SNNPR, southern Oromiya, southern Somali as well as pocket areas of southern Oromiya and eastern Benishangul-Gumuz exhibited normal to above normal rainfall while the rest portions of the country received below normal rainfall.

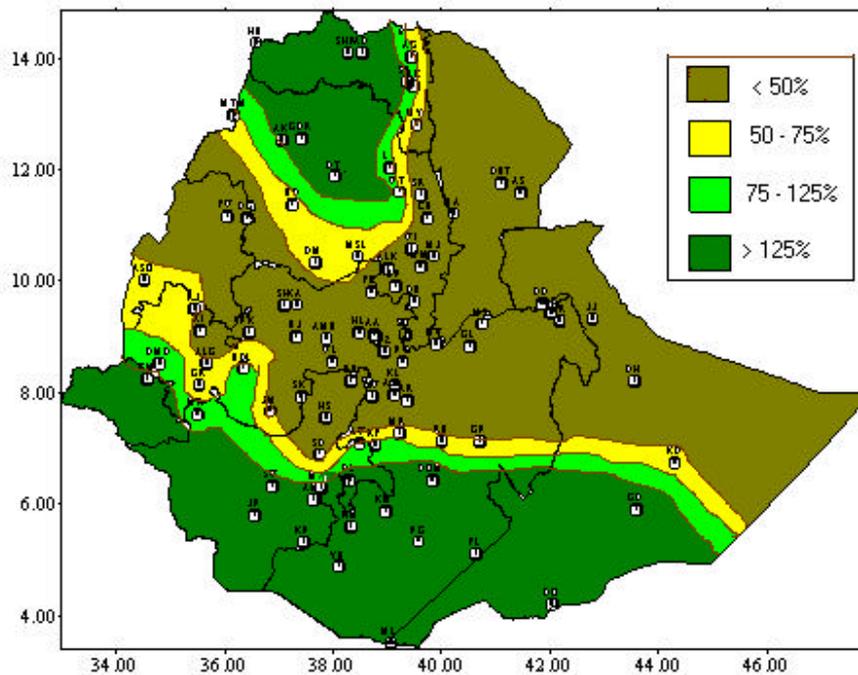


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10, November 2004)

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

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some highlands of central and eastern Oromiya (Debre Zeit, Fitcha, Meraro and Alemaya) northeastern and southern Amhara (Wegel Tena and Debre Brehan) experienced extreme minimum air temperature less than 5 C from two to seven days.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF NOVEMBER 2004

Under normal condition, November is dry over most parts of the country. But, occasionally, mid-Latitude troughs penetrate to the tropics and interact with the troughs in the tropical region. In the coming ten days, due to the intrusion of temperate latitude trough to the tropics, there will be an interaction between temperate and tropical air masses. In association with this, we expect moisture increase over most parts of the country. During the coming ten days Gambela, west and south Oromiya, southern SNNPR and Somali experience normal to above normal rainfall. In addition to this, there would be a gradual moisture increase and unseasonal light shower over Tigray, Amahara, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, central and eastern Ethiopia.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed better rainfall condition over southern Somali, southern Oromiya and southern SNNPR was suitable for the availability of pasture and drinking water. The pronounced sunny and dry weather condition over eastern and western Amhara, northern SNNPR, central, eastern and western Oromiya facilitated the on going harvest and post harvest activities that are being performed of medium and long cycle crops. Regarding phenological reports, maize was at full ripeness stage over western Amhara, western Oromiya while at flowering stage over southeastern Oromiya. Sorghum was at ripeness stage over western and eastern Oromiya as well as southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz and at flowering stage over eastern Amhara and western Oromiya as well as northern SNNPR. Teff was at ripeness stage over western, eastern and central Oromiya, southern Amhara, eastern and southwestern Benishangul-Gumuz while at flowering stage over northern Benishangul-Gumuz. Wheat was at ripeness stage over southern Amhara and central Oromiya while at flowering stage over central Oromiya and northeastern Amhara and at earing stage over western Oromiya while at tasseling stage over some areas of central Oromiya. Nug was at dark ripeness stage over some areas of central Oromiya and at green ripeness stage over southwestern Benishangul Gumuz. Beans was at ripeness stage over southern and northeastern Amhara and peas was at flowering stage over some areas of northeastern SNNPR.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over Gambella, western Oromiya, SNNPR will have positive impact on Meher crops that are attaining at flowering stage. On the contrary, it adversely affects the on going harvest and post harvest activities that are being performed over the aforementioned areas. Besides, the expected unseasonable rainfall over Amhara, Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz, central and eastern Ethiopia will have negative influence on harvest and post harvest activities in areas where there is no proper storage mechanism and vulnerable to crops that are not stored properly. Thus, farmers are advised to under take appropriate measures to avoid and minimize the expected adverse condition that leads to production loss. However, the anticipated normal to above normal rainfall distribution over southern Oromiya and southern portions of SNNPR as well as northern Somali will have significant contribution to the availability of pasture and drinking water. It also satisfies the water requirements of the crops over agro pastoral areas.