

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of April 2006, the observed rainfall amount and distribution over most parts of Belg benefiting areas of the country could have significant positive contribution for the ongoing agricultural activities. Nevertheless in some areas like northern (Mekele, Michew), northeastern (Bati, Majete, Sirinka), central (Arsi Robe, Bui, kulumsa, Ziway), southern (Awassa, DoloMena, Moyale, Sodo, Bale Robe) and eastern (Alemya, Harar, Meiso) parts of the country exhibited heavy rainfall ranging from 30 – 75 mm in one rainy day. From the aforementioned areas, Bati, Harari, Meiso, and Moyale recorded heavy fall for 2- 3 days in the ten days period. This condition indicates the erratic nature of rainfall distribution observed in some areas. Besides, some areas like Ziway, and Ginir reported some damages due to heavy fall. On the other hand, the observed below normal rainfall over south and southeastern Somali could have a negative impact for the availability of pasture and drinking water in the areas. Moreover, the deficient moisture condition over Gambella, and western Oromia could exacerbate the moisture stress condition which persisted during the preceding dekads, thereby negatively affecting the water requirement of the existing crops and other vegetation like perennial plants, grasses and bushes. Pursuant to the crop phenological report, sowing of wheat was underway in some areas of southern midlands of Oromia like KibreMengist. With regard to air temperature, Assayta, Dubti, Mankush, Metema, Pawe and Semera experienced extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.0 – 40.5⁰ C during the dekad under review.

During the second dekad of April the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Tigray, Amhara, few areas of western, central, and southern Oromia and SNNPR would have a conducive condition for Belg season agricultural activities. Although many parts of the country experienced below normal rainfall, some areas observed near normal rainfall at the end of the dekad for 2-3 days. Among the reporting stations, some areas like Sodo, Mekele, Jinka, Konso, Enewari, Negelle, Nekemte, Hosanna, Ginir and Sirinka recorded heavy rainfall ranging from 30 – 83.4 mm in one rainy day. We did not receive crop damage due to heavy fall. Pursuant to the crop phenological report, maize and Teff is at third leaf stage in southern Oromia (DoloMena), Teff is at third leaf stage in southern Amhara (Majete) and Barely is at third leaf stage in eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena). Regarding extreme maximum temperature, DireDawa, Methara, Gode Pawe, Mankush, Assayta, Dubti, Metema and Semera recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.5 – 40.8⁰ C.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 April 11-20, 2006

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Pocket areas of eastern Amhara, isolated places over western, southern and southeastern Oromia and northern SNNPR received rainfall amount 50 -100mm. Pocket areas of eastern Tigray, Amhara, western Oromia, most parts of southern Oromia and eastern half of SNNPR experienced 25 – 50 mm of rainfall. Gambella, Somali eastern Benshangul-Gumuz, Much of Tigray, Amhara, western Oromia, some areas of eastern and central Oromia, western parts of SNNPR, received rainfall amount 5 – 25mm. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

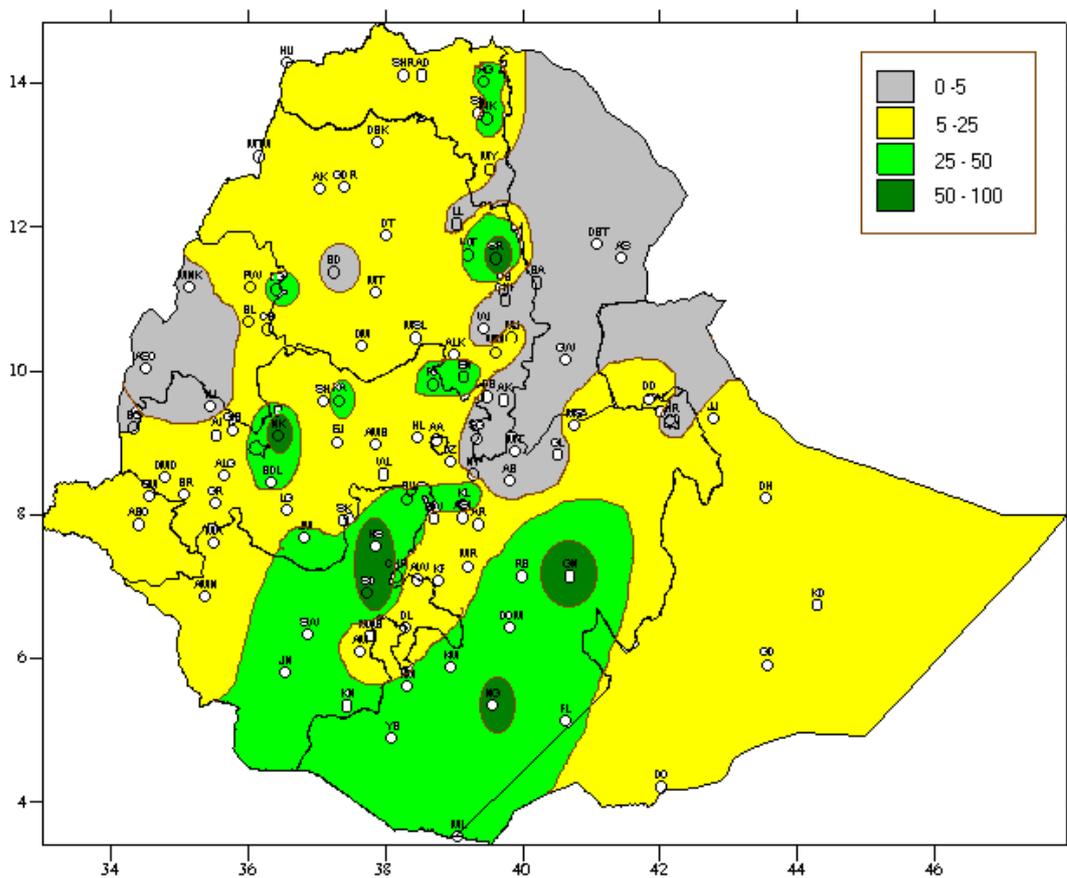


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20, April 2006)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Normal to above normal rainfall distribution was experienced over much of Amhara, Tigray, south and southeastern Oromia, parts of central and western Oromia. Eastern half of SNNPR, eastern Benshangul-Gumuz and parts of southeastern Somali exhibited normal to above normal rainfall. There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.

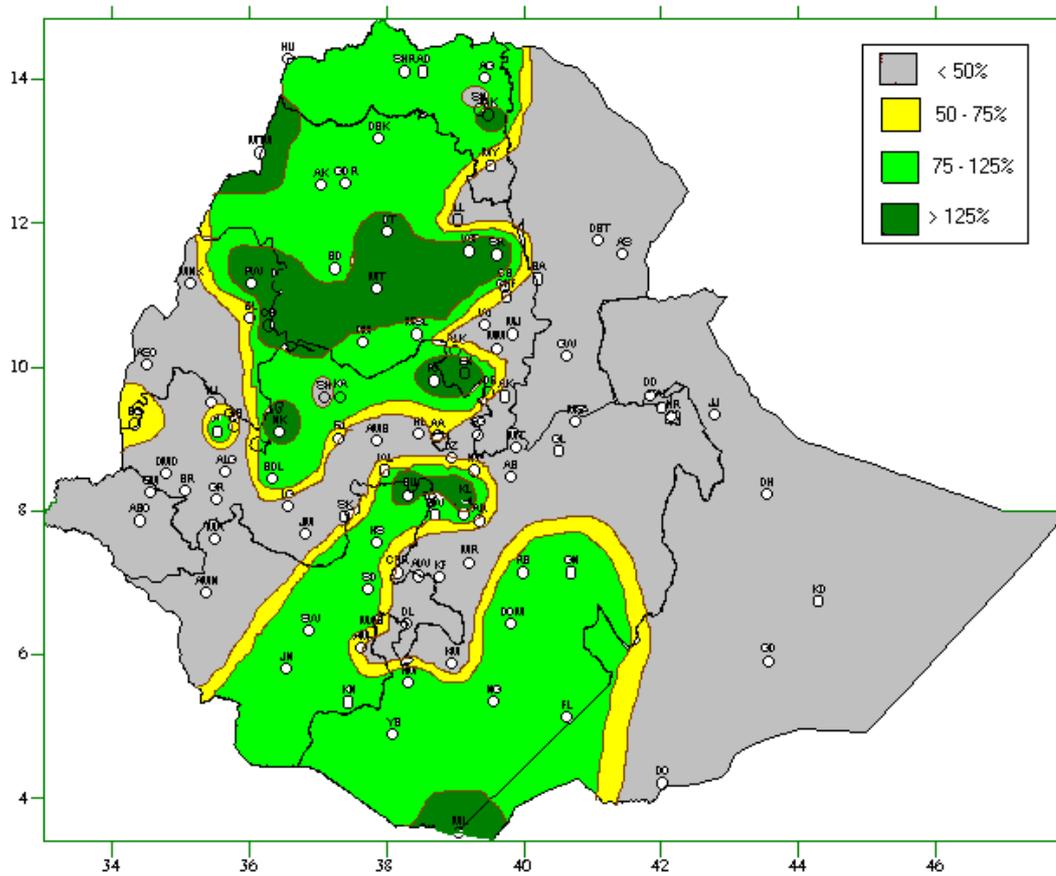


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 April, 2006)

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

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Regarding extreme maximum temperature, DireDawa, Methara, Gode Pawe, Mankush, Assayta, Dubti, Metema and Semera recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 35.5, 38.0, 39.0, 39.0, 40.5, 41.0, 41.0 41.6, and 40.8 respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF APRIL 2006

Wet weather activity is expected to continue across the major Belg-growing regions of the country. As a result, much of Oromia and SNNPR are likely to get normal to above normal rains with occasional heavy rains at places. Besides, eastern Tigray and Amhara as well as south Afar, Dire Dawa, Harari and central regions of Somali will have near – normal rains at some places. On the other hand, Occasional rains will fall across southeast lowlands despite the fact that many places will continue to experience dry situations. Nevertheless, Gambella, western parts of Amhara, as well as the adjoining regions of Benshangul – Gumuz.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over the areas of much of Tigray, Amhara, few areas of western, central, and southern Oromia and SNNPR would have a conducive condition for Belg season agricultural activities. Although many parts of the country experienced below normal rainfall, some areas observed near normal rainfall at the end of the dekad for 2-3 days. Among the reporting stations, some areas like Sodo, Mekele, Jinka, Konso, Enewari, Negelle, Nekemte, Hosanna, Ginir and Sirinka recorded heavy rainfall ranging from 30 – 83.4 mm in one rainy day. We did not receive crop damage due to heavy fall. Pursuant to the crop phenological report, maize and Teff is at third leaf stage in southern Oromia (DoloMena), Teff is at third leaf stage in southern Amhara (Majete) and Barely is at third leaf stage in eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena). With regard to air temperature, DireDawa, Methara, Gode, Pawe, Mankush, Assayta, Dubti, Metema and Semera recorded extreme maximum temperature ranging from 35.5 – 40.8⁰C

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated seasonal rainfall covering much of Belg growing areas will create favourable situation for the ongoing agricultural activities that is both for Belg and recently planted meher crops. However, the expected torrential rainfall over some areas in northeastern, central, eastern, and southern parts of the country may result in soil erosion and water logging damaging crops. Thus activities of reducing soil erosion on sloping farm lands and activities of reducing the problem of water logging on low-lying farm lands near river banks should be considered as important to reduce crop damage. On the other hand the anticipated occasional rainfall over southern Somali may not have significant positive contribution for pasture and drinking water availability on the expected rain is a localized one covering isolated places combined with the expected high temperature and the soil low capacity of storing moisture. Moreover, the expected occasional rainfall over Gambella, neighboring areas of SNNPR, western margins Oromia over Benshangul-Gumuz, western Amhara and western Tigry may have negative effect on land preparation through which may not have a significant damage if the condition does not persist.