

# NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY

## TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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### SUMMARY

During the third dekad of May 2006 the observed good rainfall condition over western half of the country, pocket areas of central and southern Oromia, and northern Somali favored season's agricultural activities. Thus the crop conditions were in good a shape over most parts of crop growing areas. As the NDVI picture indicates, there was an improvement of vegetation cover over eastern highlands, southeastern lowlands, particularly during the third dekad of May. Nevertheless pursuant to the crop phenological report some pocket areas reported crop damage due to adverse weather condition; Bedelle reported Maize crop damage due to heavy fall with strong wind; Aira reported banana fruit damage due to torrential rainfall with strong wind; Dangla reported falling of trees due torrential rainfall; Alge reported crop damage on irrigated farm.

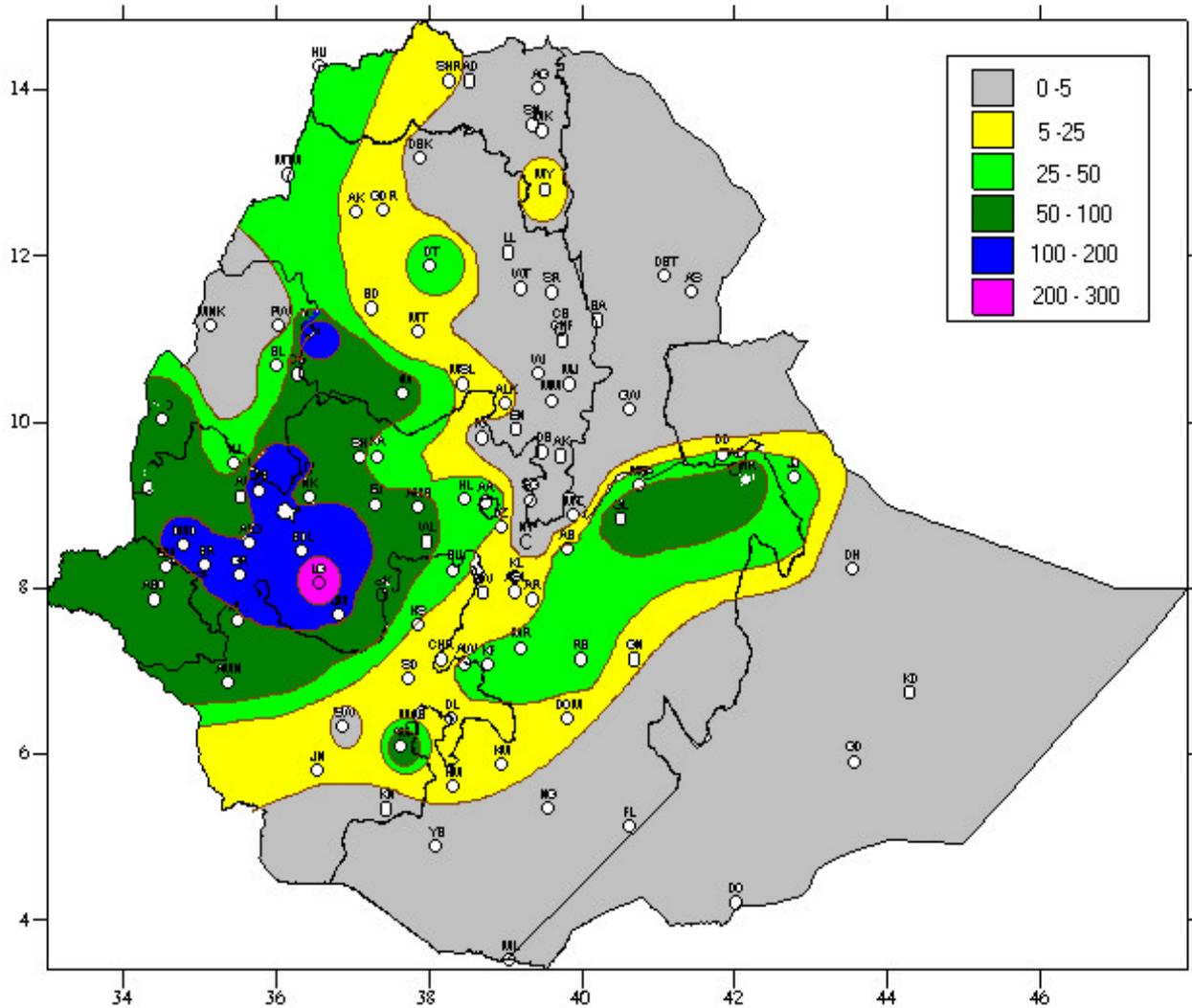
During the first dekad of June 2006 the observed below normal rainfall over Tigray, most parts of Amhara, central Oromiya and southern parts of Benishangul – Gumuz could have negative impact on land preparation and sowing activities of teff, wheat, barley, pulses and vegetable crops. Besides it could affect the water requirement of the existing growing crops particularly in areas where there was prolonged deficient condition during the preceding dekads like parts of eastern and southeastern Amhara including central Oromiya. On the other hand the continues and better rainfall condition observed over Benishangul-Gumuz, western Amhara, western and eastern Oromiya, Gambela and most parts of SNNPR favored the normal growth and development of plants in the areas. Nevertheless some areas like Ayra, Gore, Alge, Harer, Bedelle, Gelemso, Gimbi, Chagni, Dembi Dolo, Damgila and Arba Minch exhibited heavy falls ranging from 30-66mm in one rainy day. As a result some areas like Dangla reported perennial crop like trees damage due to heavy fall and strong wind. In accordance with the crop phenological report, sowing of maize was under way in some areas of northwestern Amhara (Dangla), Central Ortomia (Fiche) and western SNNP (Mirab Abaya).

## 1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

### 1.1 JUNE 1-10, 2006

#### 1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

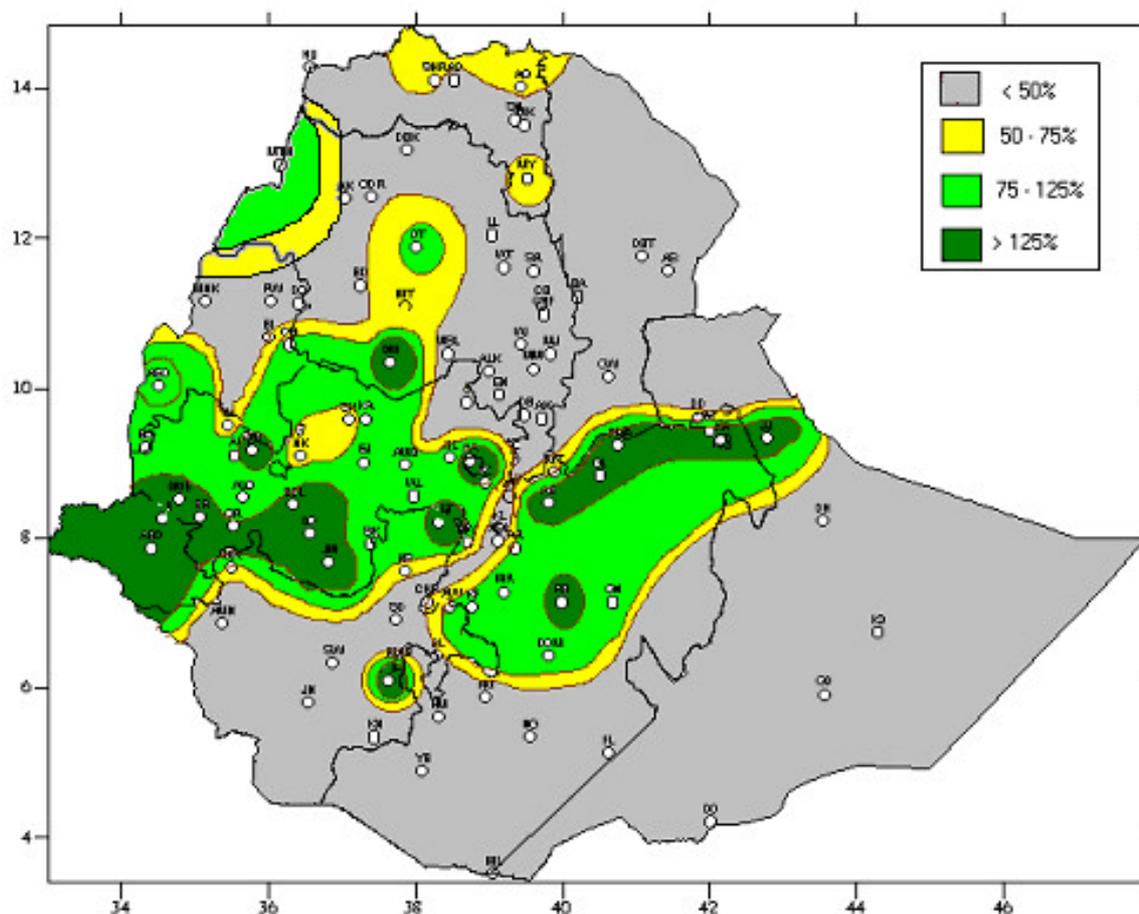
Pocket areas of western Oromia (Limu Genet) received 200-300 mm of rainfall; pocket areas of western Amhara and Oromia received 100-200mm of rainfall; Gambella, parts of southwestern Amhara, western Oromia and SNNPR; pocket areas of eastern Oromia experienced 50-100 mm of rainfall; parts of western Tigray, Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz central Oromia, SNNPR and few areas of eastern Oromia exhibited 25 – 50 mm of rainfall; parts of western and southern Tigray, Amhara, parts of central eastern and southern Oromia, much of eastern SNNPR experienced 5-25mm of rainfall . There was little or no rainfall for the rest parts of the country.



**Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1 – 10 June, 2006)**

### 1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Gambella, Pocket areas of southwestern Amhara; parts of southwestern Benshagul-Gumuz; most parts of western, Central, and eastern Oromia and some parts of western SNNPR received normal to above normal rainfall. While the rest parts of the country exhibited below to much below normal rainfall.



**Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1 – 10 June, 2006)**

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

### 1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Meisso, Gode Gambella Cheffa, Metema, Shewa Robit and Dire Dawa, recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 35.5, 35.5, 36.2, 36.4, 37.0, 37.6, and 37.8 °C, respectively.

### 2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SCEOND DEKAD OF JUNE 2006

In general for the coming ten days, western Tigray, western Amhara, western and central Oromia, Bensahgul-Gumuz, northern parts of SNNPR, including Gambella, are expected to get normal to above normal rainfall. On the other hand, eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara, eastern and southern Roomier, northern Somali, Afar and southern portion of SNNPR are mostly anticipated to have below normal rainfall. Few places are likely to get close to normal rainfall. Dry weather condition will dominate southern Somali region.

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

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

The observed below normal rainfall over Tigris, most parts of Amhara, central Oromiya and southern parts of Benishangul – Gumuz could have negative impact on land preparation and sowing activities of teff, wheat, barley, pulses and vegetable crops. Besides it could affect the water requirement of the existing growing crops particularly in areas where there was prolonged deficient condition during the preceding dekads like parts of eastern and southeastern Amhara including central Oromiya. On the other hand the continues and better rainfall condition observed over Benishangul-Gumuz, western Amhara, western and eastern Oromiya, Gambela and most parts of SNNP favored the normal growth and development of plants in the areas. Nevertheless some areas like Ayra, Gore, Alge, Harer, Bedelle, Gelemso, Gimbi, Chagni, Dembi Dolo, Damgila and Arba Minch exhibited heavy falls ranging from 30-66mm in one rainy day. As a result some areas like Dangla reported perennial crop like trees damage due to heavy fall and strong wind. In accordance with the crop phenological report, sowing of maize was under way in some areas of northwestern Amhara (Dangla), central Oromia (Fitcha) and western SNNP (Mirab Abaya). It was at emergence stage in some areas of western Oromia (Sokoru, Alge, Gimbi) and eastern Amhara (Bati) while it was at ninth leaf and tasseling stage in some areas of eastern and western Oromia (Gelemso, Bedelle, Aira and Chira). Moreover it was at wax ripeness stage in some areas of midlands of Oromiya (Dolo Mena). Sorghum was at emergence stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Bati) while at third leaf stage in some areas of western Oromia (Assosa, Aira). Teff was at ripeness stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Sirinka, Majete). Beans was at sowing stage in some areas of central Oromiya (Fitcha) and peas were at ripeness stage in some areas of Arsi Robe.

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

The anticipated better and above normal Kirmet rainfall condition over western parts of the country like western Tigray and Amhara, western and central Oromia, Bensahgul-Gumuz, northern parts of SNNPR and Gambela would create significant favorable contribution in areas where sowing activities of cereals like teff, maize, sorghum, wheat and barely including plus crops are under question like central Oromia (Kulumsa, Nazreth, Arsi Robe, Meraro, Ziway, Weliso, Ambo, Fitcha, Mehal Meda, Cheffa, Kachise Debre Birhan) western and northwestern (Shambu, Nekemte, Gimbi and Gidaya). On the contrary, the expected below normal rainfall over eastern Tigray, eastern Amhara eastern and southern Oromia, northern Somali, Afar and southern SNNPR would have negative impact on water requirement of crops which are at different phonological stages. Besides, it would hamper sowing activities of Teff, maize, sorghum, wheat and barely including pulses, in areas like Gelemso, Jijiga and Alemaya where sowing activities are the major practice at this time of the year. The expected relatively rise in maximum temperature over the above mentioned areas would increase the rate of evapotranspiration. Besides, little rainfall together with sunny intervals would create favorable condition for the outbreak of pest and disease. Thus, the concerned personnel should undertake appropriate measures to minimize the effect of adverse weather condition (the risk) ahead of time. Besides, proper attentions should be given for appropriate water harvesting techniques in the aforementioned areas where deficient rainfall is expected.