

# **NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY**

## **TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN**

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### **SUMMARY**

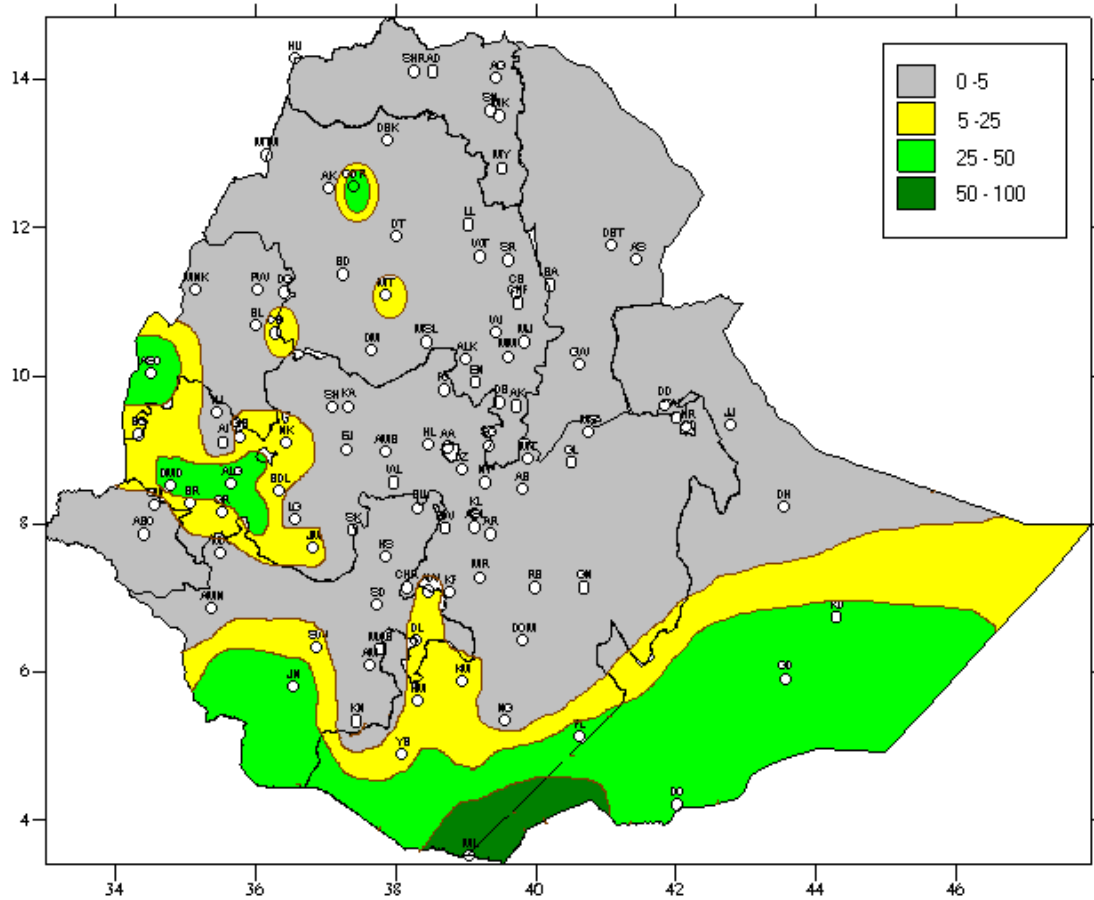
During the third dekad of October 2006, with the exception of northeastern Afar most parts of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall. Thus, this condition could favor crops, which are found at different phenological stages and the recently sown crops. Nevertheless, some areas exhibited 30.6-74.4mm of heavy falls. Besides, heavy falls observed over the highlands resulted in the overflows of Wabi Shebelle River and caused crop damage and livestock losses. Moreover it causes crop damage (maize, teff, bean and lentil) in some areas of Oromia and SNNPR like Bedelle, Abomsa, Ginager and Jinka. In addition to this some areas like Kulumsa and Wegel Tena reported water logging on crop fields.

During the first dekad of November 2006 the observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern and south eastern Somali, western and southern Oromia, southern and western Benshangul- Gumuz and some pocket areas of western and eastern Amhara could favor for the availability of pasture and drinking water particularly southern Oromia, southern and south eastern Somali which is rainy season at this time of the year. Besides this normal to above normal rainfall condition could have a positive contribution for crops that are found at different phenological stage. Nevertheless some areas reported heavy fall greater than 30 mm. For instance Moyale and Hagera Mariam recorded 35.4 and 38.9 mm of rainfall in one rainy day respectively.

## **1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT**

### **1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)**

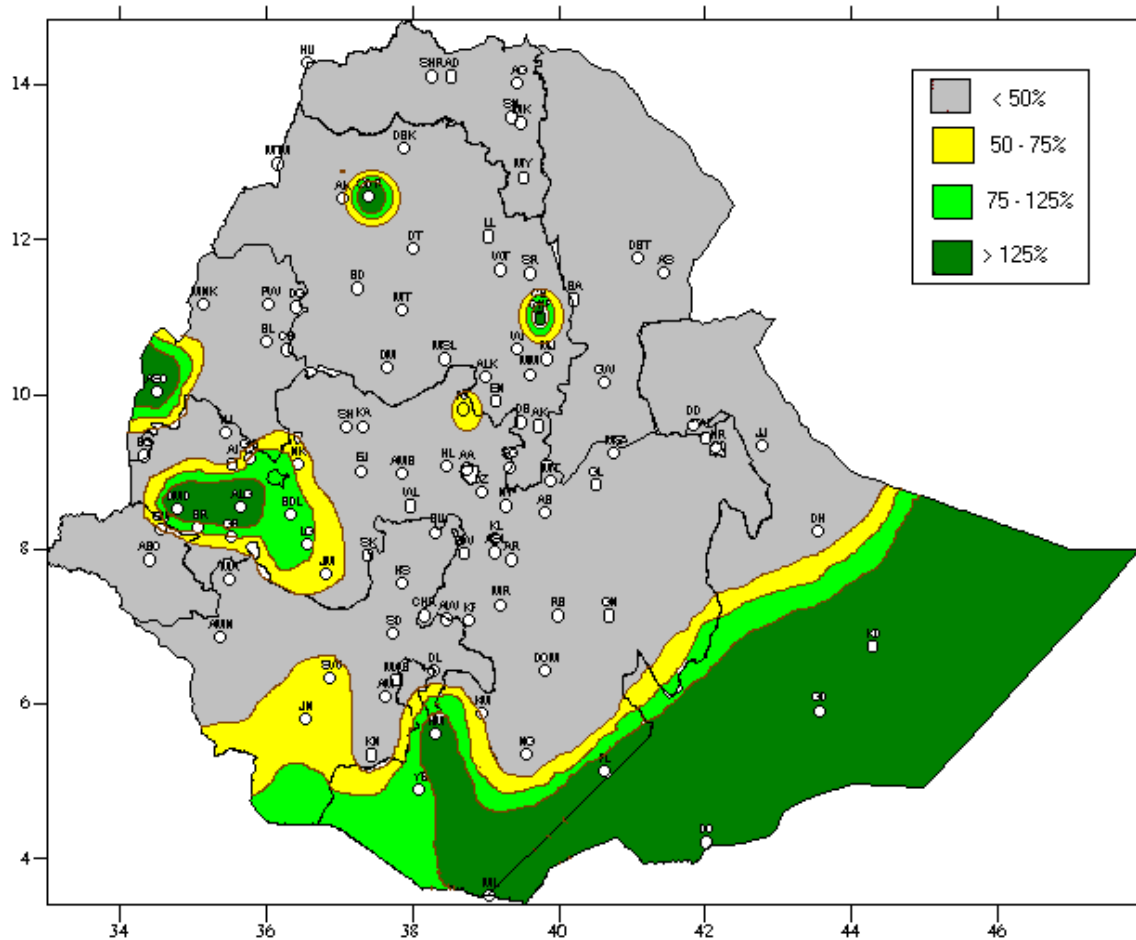
Southern margin of Oromiya and southwestern tip of Somali received 50-100mm rainfall. Most parts of south and southwestern Somali, some part of southern and pocket area of western Oromia, southern SNNPR, western tip Benshagul-Gumuz and pocket area of northern Amhara exhibited 25-50mm rainfall. Some parts of eastern and western Somali, southern and western Oromia, few areas of southwestern Benshagul-Gumuz including pocket areas of central and southwestern Amhara experienced 5-25mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.



**Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 November, 2006)**

## 1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most part of southern, southeastern Somali, southern and parts of western oromia, western Benshangul-Gumuz, pocket area of SNNPR and pocket area of northern Amhara received normal to above normal rainfall. Below to much below normal rainfall has been observed over the rest parts of the country.



**Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 November 2006)**

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

### 1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas of central, eastern and north-eastern highlands like Debre Zeit, Koffele, Shola Gebeya, Alemaya, Debre Birhan, Enaway and Wegel Tena exhibited extreme minimum temperature less than 5°C lowering up to -2.5°C (Debre Birhan). Besides some areas like Koffele, Fitcha, Debre Birhan and Wegel Tena recorded extreme minimum temperature less than 5°C for 5-9 days.

## 2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF NOVEMBER 2006

For the upcoming ten days, the Bega’s dry, sunny and windy weather conditions are expected to continue in similar manner over various portion of the country. As a result, Tigray, Afar, much of Amhara, Benishangul – Gumuz and central Oromia will be under dry and sunny weather conditions. In association with this, night time and early morning temperature is expected to fall along some high grounds. On the other hand, southern and western Oromiya, Gambella, southern half of SNNPR and southern Somali will get close to normal rainfall. Besides, western Amhara, pocket areas of northern SNNPR highlands of eastern Oromiya will have light rain showers over few places and its amount will be below normal.

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

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

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern and south eastern Somali, western and southern Oromia, southern and western Benshangul - Gumuz and some pocket areas of western and eastern Amhara could favor for the availability of pasture and drinking water particularly southern Oromia, southern and south eastern Somali which is rainy season at this time of the year. Besides this normal to above normal rainfall condition could have a positive contribution for crops that are found at different phenological stage. Nevertheless some areas reported heavy fall greater than 30 mm. For instance Moyale and Hagere Mariam recorded 35.4 and 38.9 mm of rainfall in one rainy day respectively. Pursuant to crop phenological report Teff was at tasseling stage in some areas of western Oromia (Shambu), northern Oromia (Fitcha) while it was at flowering stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Enewary) and central Oromia (Arsi Robe). Moreover it was at ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Limugenet), southern Amhara (Alem Ketema), Western Benshangul-Gumuz (Assosa), eastern Benshangul-Gumuz (Dangla), eastern Oromia (Gelemso) and western Amhara (Motta). Wheat was at tillering stage in some areas of central Oromia (Arsi Robe) while it was a tillering and flowering stage in some areas of eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena), southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya, Enewary) and northern Oromia (Fitcha). Moreover it was at wax and full ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Gimbi). Maize was at wax ripeness stage in some areas of western Oromia (Algea) and eastern Benshangul-Gumuz (Dangla). Millet was at flowering stage in some areas of western Oromia (Limu Genet). Sorghum was at tasseling stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Alem Ketema). Barley was at flowering stage in some areas of southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya). Beans were at flowering stage in some areas of Eastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) while it was at ripeness stage in some areas of Western Oromia (Chira), northern Oromia (Fitcha) and southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya) Nug was at green ripeness stage in some areas of western Benshangul-Gumuz (Assosa) and Eastern Benshangul-Gumuz (Bullen). Sesame was at budding stage in some areas of Southern Oromia (Dollomena).

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

The anticipated dry and sunny weather condition over Tigray, Afar, most part of Amhara, Benshangul Gumuz and Central Oromia would favor current season's agricultural activities like harvest and post harvest activities in areas where crops are ready to harvest. On the other hand the expected below normal rainfall condition over south western Amhara, some highland areas of western and eastern Oromia northern part of SNNPR and northern Somali would have a negative impact on water requirement of crops which have not completed their phenological stage and recently sown crops in the areas. The expected near normal rainfall condition over southern Somali, southern parts of SNNPR, Gambela and Borena areas would have a positive contribution for perennial crops and crops which are found at different phenological stage. Besides, in southern Somali it would favor the availability of pasture and drinking water of pastoral and agro pastoral areas. However as we have mentioned above those areas which is expected to have be low normal rainfall (less moisture) together with hot weather condition that would favor the development of crop pest and disease. Thus proper attention should be given for those sensitive areas. More over the expected dry and windy Bega's weather condition might favor for the spread of fire over the areas if there is un proper use of fire in the areas. Therefore proper attention should be given in using fire particularly over harvested and storage sites.