

NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY

TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

P.BOX 1090 ADDIS ABABA TEL 512299 FAX 517066 E-mail nmsa@ethionet.et

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SUMMARY

During the third dekad of March 2007, the observed rainfall amount and distribution over most parts of Belg growing areas (observed in 5-10 rainy days in most areas) had a positive contribution for crops in terms of water requirement. Besides, in accordance with the adverse conditions report, Alge, Blate and Sekoru reported vegetable crops (onion and tomato) and cash crop (Tobacco) including stimulant and fruit crops (coffee, Mango and Avocado crops) damage during the third dekad. Some pocket areas of Belg growing areas experienced rainfall exceeding 30 mm in one rainy day. Among the reporting stations Robe, Majete, and Dembi Dolo recorded 34.9, 37.5 and 42.2 mm of heavy rainfall in one rainy day, respectively.

During the first dekad of April 2007 the observed rainfall amount and distribution over most parts of Belg growing areas (observed in 3-7 rainy days in most areas) had a positive impact for Belg season agricultural activities. It has also a positive contribution for the existing crops, which were sown earlier during the beginning of the season. However, some stations like Ly-Bir, Sirinka, Arjo, and Konso recorded 33.0, 37.0, 38.7, and 76.8 mm heavy fall in one rainy day respectively. As a result some areas reported crop damage due to heavy fall. For instance among the reporting stations, Shambu reported potato crop damage due to heavy fall and Konso reported water logging on crops field.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

2.1 April 1-10, 2007

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of western and eastern Oromia, eastern Amhara and southern SNNPR received 50-100mm rainfall. All parts of Gambela, most parts of western, southern and pocket areas of eastern Oromia, northwestern, western and southern SNNPR, tip of southern and pocket area of eastern Amhara and eastern Tigray exhibited 25-50mm rainfall. Most parts of eastern and southwestern Benshangul-Gumuz, most parts of central, eastern, southern and western Oromia, most parts of Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray, western Afar and northern Somali experienced 5-25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country received little or no rainfall.

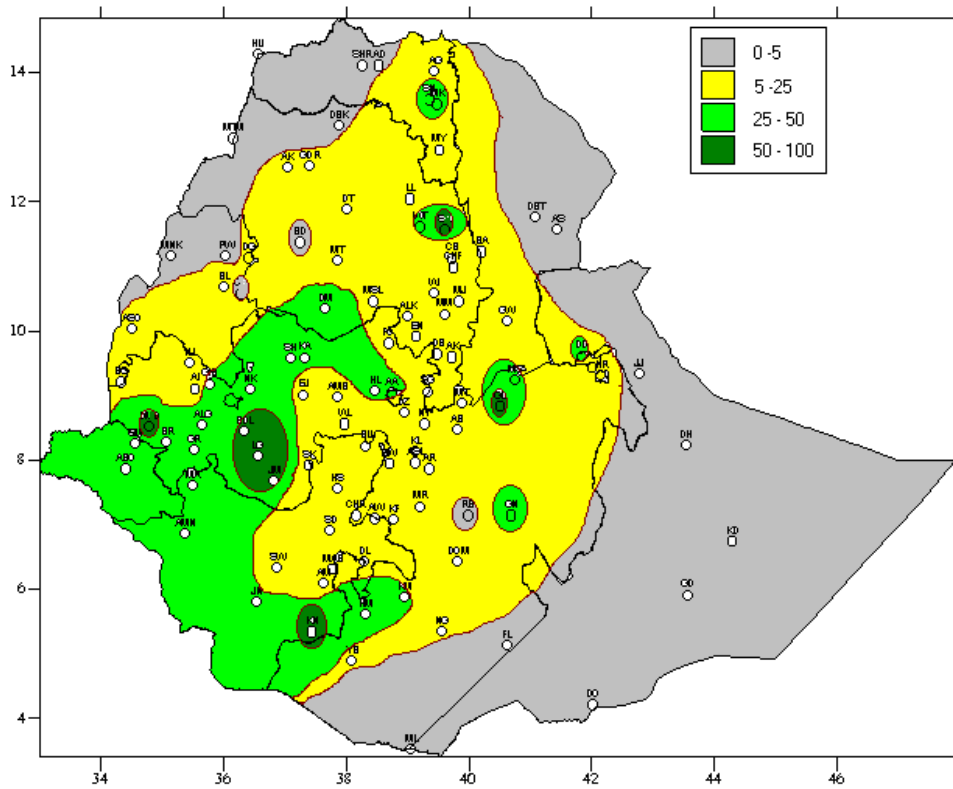


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1- 10 April, 2007)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of western Amhara and Pocket areas of eastern Amhara and Tigray, Most parts of Gambela, western and central Oromia and some areas of southern Oromia and Pocket area of eastern Oromia and Northern Somali exhibited normal to above normal rainfall .The rest parts of the country exhibited below to much below normal rainfall.

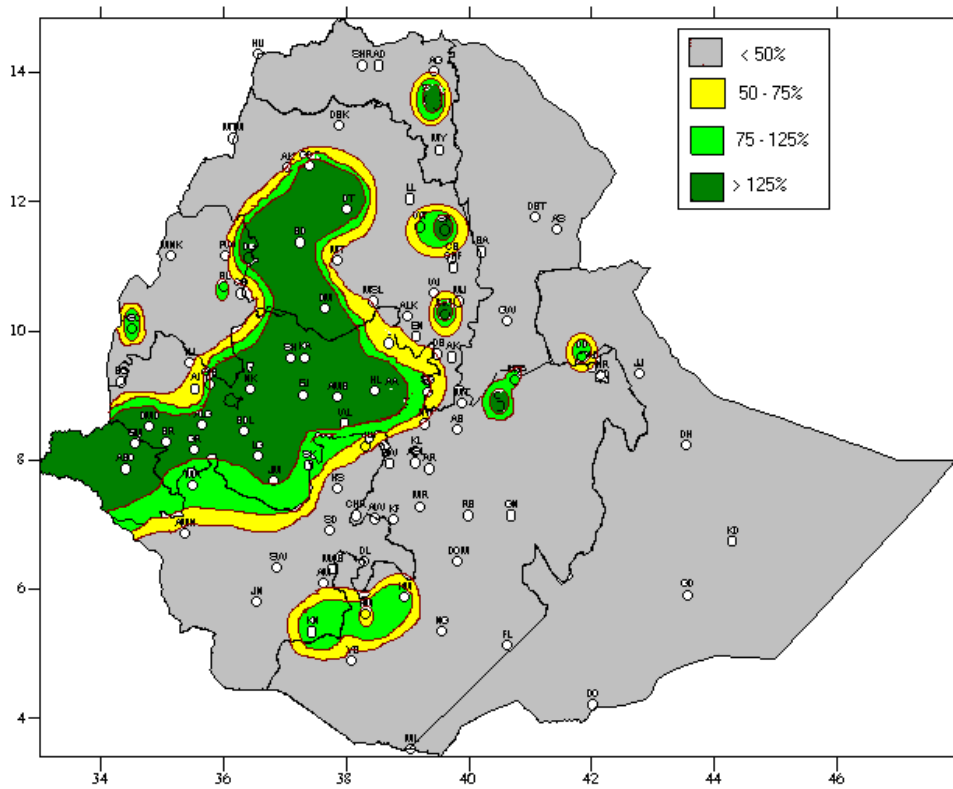


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1- 10 April 2007)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal

50—75% -- below normal

75—125% --- Normal

> 125% ---- Above normal

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some station recorded extreme maximum temperature above 35⁰C for 2-10 consecutive days. Arba Minch, Dire Dawa, Methara, Mytsmere, Pawe, Gode, Dubti, Assiyta, Mankush, Metema, Semera and Gambela exhibited extreme maximum temperature as high as 36.0, 36.0, 37.5, 38.2, 39.6, 40.0, 41.0, 41.5, 41.5 42.3, 42.5 and 43. ⁰C respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF APRIL 2007

For the up coming ten days, the seasonal rain-bearing systems are expected to attain better strength over the major Belg growing areas. As a result, the Belg rain will be in a good shape both in temporal and spatial distribution. In general, eastern Tigray and Amhara, Much of Oromia, Harrari, Dire Dawa, northern half of Somali and SNNPR will get normal to above normal rainfall. Besides, Afar, southern Somali, Gambella, Benshangul-Gumuz as well as western Amhara and Tigray will receive nearly normal rainfall. On the Other hand, western and northwestern lowlands will be under dry weather conditions.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed rainfall amount and distribution over most parts of Belg growing areas (observed in 3-7 rainy days in most areas) had a positive impact for Belg season agricultural activities. It has also a positive contribution for the existing crops, which were sown earlier during the beginning of the season. However, some stations like Lyber, Sirinka, Arjo, and Konso recorded 33.0, 37.0, 38.7, and 76.8 mm heavy fall in one rainy day respectively. As a result some areas reported crop damage due to heavy fall. For instance among the reporting stations, Shambu reported potato crop damage due to heavy fall and Konso reported water logging on crops field.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated wide spread rainfall distribution over south and southeastern lowlands due to the expected moisture incursion towards our country would have a positive impact for pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the aforementioned areas. Thus this situation would have indispensable contribution for sowing activities of crops like sorghum, chick peas, Maize, wheat, and teff over agro pastoral areas of Yabelo, Negele, Moyale and Mega while it would favor the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral areas.

The expected normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Belg crop productive areas like eastern half of Tigray and Amhara, much of Oromia, Harari, Dire Dawa, northern half of Somali and most parts of SNNPR would create conducive condition in some areas like central (Kofelle, Ziway, Weliso, Nazreth) eastern (Meiso, Gelemso, Alemya,) northeastern (Majete, Ejaji, Bati) southern (much of SNNPR) in areas where sowing of haricot bean, maize, sorghum, Millet, and root crops is a normal practice under normal circumstance.

However, the expected heavy rain fall over some pocket areas of the aforementioned areas would result in crop damage crops in low lying areas, near river banks and in areas where the soil type is clay. In order to minimize the risk, proper attention should be given ahead of time over sensitive areas. The predictable near normal rainfall over Gambela, Benshangul-Gumuz and western Tigray and Amhara would have a positive contribution for land preparation and sowing activities of long cycle crops and pre Meher season agricultural activities in the areas. Nevertheless the expected below normal rainfall over some areas of the above mentioned areas would hamper the normal season's agricultural activities of the areas. Therefore appropriate attention should be given for water harvesting activities particularly over the lowland areas of the aforementioned areas to minimize the risk to some extent.