

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of July 2007, kiremt rainfall strengthened over the western part of the country and central Ethiopia. In addition in northeastern and eastern part of the country the rainfall distributed widely to cover most part of the country. Thus, this rainfall situation could have a positive contribution for the existing Meher crops. On the other hand eastern, northeastern part of the country received rainfall in some places. Therefore, this rainfall condition could have a significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of aforementioned parts of the country. Most of our station reported heavy fall greater than 30mm though some station reported above 50mm heavy fall like A/ketema, Assosa, Bahir Dar, Bati, Chagni, Cheffa, Combolcha, Dubti, Ejaji, Enawary, Meiso and Mytsemeri. 60.9, 103, 57.7, 59.6, 55.5, 66.3, 54.3, 58.6, 84.6, 51.3, 50.2 and 59.2 respectively. This heavy fall caused damage on bean and badly crop in Mehal Meda.

During the second dekad of July 2007 the intensified season's (Kiremt) rainfall over northern half of the country and central Ethiopia would have a positive contribution for the ongoing meher agricultural activities. However, heavy rainfall exhibited over northwestern, western, northeastern and northern parts of the country. This situation would have a negative impact for crops, which are found at emergence stage. According to the reporting stations, most parts of the country exhibited within the range of (30-73.2) mm of rainfall in one rainy day. To mention some of them above 50 mm of rainfall, Bati, Majete, LimuGenet, Arjo, Metema, and Mankush reported 52.2, 53.0, 53.5, 58.3, 59.4 and 73.2 mm in one rainy days respectively.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 July 11-20, 2007

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Some part of western and pocket areas of eastern Benshangul-Gumuz, some part of western and pocket areas of eastern Amhara, pocket areas of western and central Oromia and northern SNNPR received 100-200mm rainfall. Most part of Amhara, some parts of southern and eastern Benshangul-Gumuz, most part of western and some parts of northern and central Oromia, some parts of western and southeastern Tigray and pocket areas of northern Somali experienced 50-100mm rainfall. Some parts of western, central and eastern Oromia, northern and eastern Tigray, northern SNNPR, northern Somali and most part of Afar exhibited 25-50mm rainfall. Gambela, some parts of northern SNNPR, central, southern and eastern Oromia and northern Somali received 5-25 rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

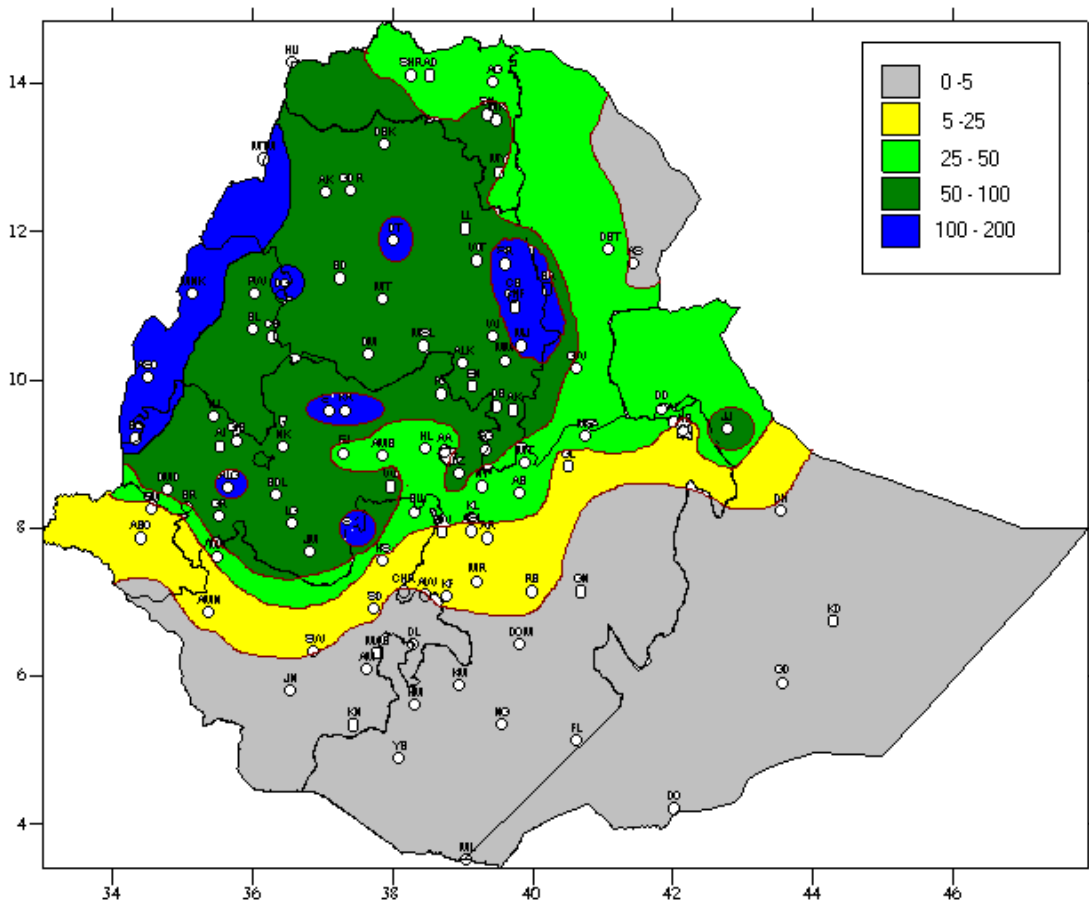


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11- 20 July, 2007)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Afar, some parts of western, central, northern and eastern Oromia, western Benshangul-Gumuz, western and eastern Amhara, eastern and western tip of Tigray and some part of northern Somali received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

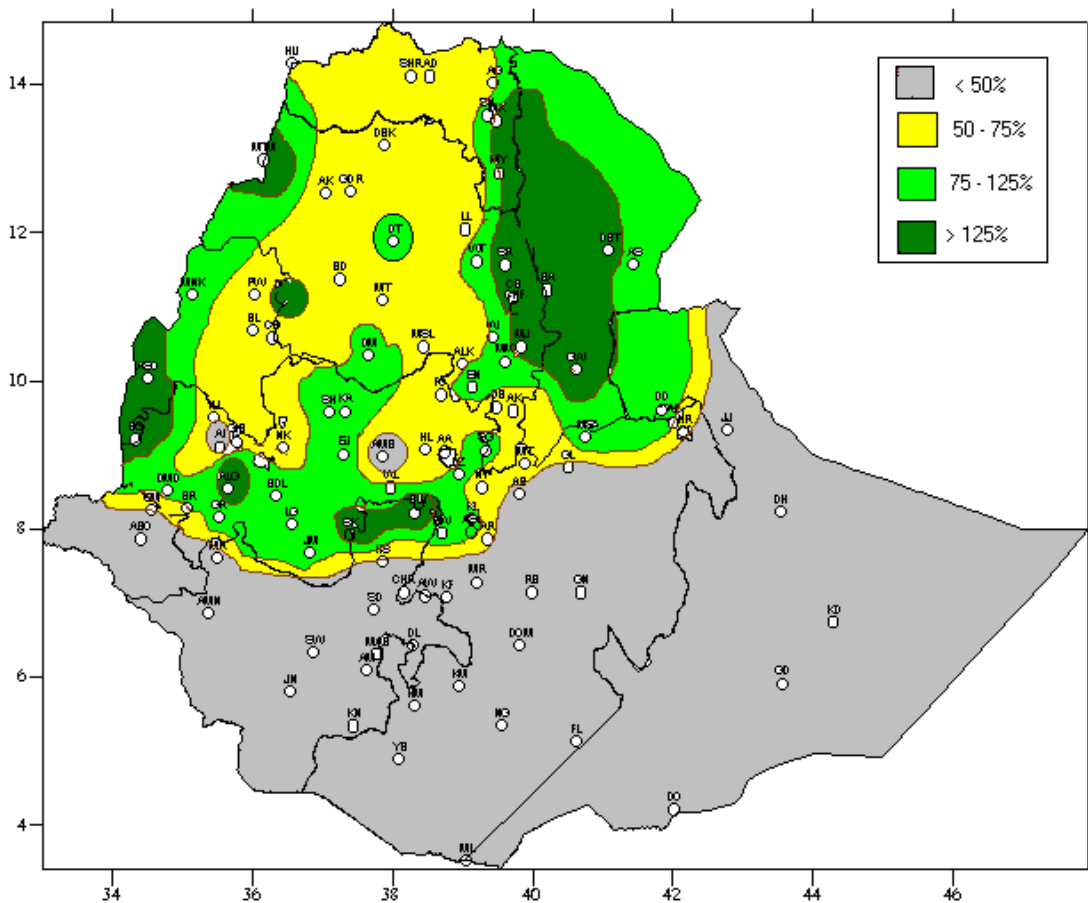


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11- 20 July, 2007)

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

1.1 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations recorded extreme maximum temperature 35° C and above for 2-10 consecutive days. Assayta, Semera Elidar, Metema, Methera and Gode recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 40.0, 40.0, 39.6, 35.5, 35.0 35o C respectively.

1 WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE THIRD DEKAD OF JULY 2007

The rain-bearing systems are expected to attain better strength across central, north, northeast and west Ethiopia. As a result, wide spread rainfall activity is highly likely to dominate much of Benshangul-Gumuz, Amhara, Tgray and Afar Region as well as central Oromiya and northern portion of SNNPR. Thus, normal to above normal rain with possibility of heavy rain showers will be prevailed over the aforementioned region. Besides, parts of Gambella, western SNNPR and Oromia well get near normal rains despite the fact that some places will experience below normal rain. On the other hand, east Ethiopia that includes, east, Roomy. Harare, Somali and Dire Dawa are likely to get near normal rains though some place will continue to experience deficient rains. Dry and coldness will predominantly prevail across the southern margins and southeast Low lowlands of the nation.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The intensified season's (Kiremt) rainfall over northern half of the country and central Ethiopia would have a positive contribution for the ongoing meher agricultural activities. However, heavy rainfall exhibited over northwestern, western, northeastern and northern parts of the country. This situation would have a negative impact for crops, which are found at emergence stage. According to the reporting stations, most parts of the country exhibited within the range of (30-73.2) mm of rainfall in one rainy day. To mention some of them above 50 mm of rainfall, Bati, Majete, LimuGenet, Arjo, Metema, and Mankush reported 52.2, 53.0, 53.5, 58.3, 59.4 and 73.2 mm in one rainy days respectively. Pursuant to crop phonological report, sowing activities of teff underway in northeastern (Bati) and at emergence stage in southern Amhara (Alem Ketema & Majete) and at third leaf stage in northwestern (DebreTabor). Sowing of wheat was underway in northeastern Amhara (Wege Tena), at emergence stage in southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya) and at third leaf stage in northwestern Amhara (DebreTabor). Maize was at ninth leaf vegetative stage in western Oromia (Ayou), eastern Benshangul-Gumuz (Bullen and Chagni) and at emergence stage in southeastern Amhara (Majete) northeastern Benshangul-Gumuz (Pawe). Sorghum was at emergence and tillering stages at Bensahngul-Gumuz (Assosa and Pawe). Barely was at emergence stage in southern Amhara (Mehal Meda) and at third leaf stage in northwestern Amhara (DebreTabor). Millet was at emergence stage southwestern Amhara (Dangla) & eastern Bensahgul-Gumuz (Chagni) and at third leaf stage ineastern Bensahngul-Gumz (Bulloen). Sowing activities of beans were underway in northeastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) and at emergence stage in southern Amhara (Shola Gebeya, Mehal Meda, and Kachise). Sowing activities of peas was underway in northeastern Amhara (Wegel Tena) and in western Oromia (Ayou) while at emergence stage in northeastern Amhara (Bati.).

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Benshangul-Gumuz, central Oromia, SNNPR, Amhara, and some areas of Tigray and Afar would create favorable condition for meher agricultural activities like sowing activities and for crops which are at different phonological stages, Nevertheless the expected heavy fall together with hail storm over some areas of western and central Oromia, Benshangul-Gumuz, some areas of Amhara would have a negative impact on crops field particularly over low-lying areas and near river banks. Thus, farmer is advised to take proper attention in order to minimize the negative effect due to excess of moisture condition. Besides, the expected below normal rainfall over eastern Oromia, Harari, Somali and DireDawa would have a negative impact on the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas. Therefore, proper water harvesting techniques need to be designed to minimize the risk due to the expected deficient moisture condition.