

SUMMARY

During the first dekad of November 2007, the seasonal rain over the southern half of the country favored agricultural activities, crops at different stages of development. On the other hand, the normal sunny might have favored harvest activities. However, the cold mid night and morning weather condition over some highland areas might have a negative impact on cereals at seed filling stages. The observed normal to above normal rains over Somali, SNNPR, eastern Ethiopia, southern & western Oromia, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella might have a positive impact on crops at pre maturing stages, although, it might have a negative impact on crops at full maturity and harvesting activities. Heavy fall has been reported that caused crop damage in Bore and Jinka. The moist condition reduced the cold mid night and morning weather, hence favored the normal growth of crops.

During the second dekad of November 2007, most of the seasonal rain benefiting areas like southern and southwestern parts of the country received light to medium amount of rainfall. Thus, the situation might have a significant contribution for water requirement of crops, that are sown lately, and crops, which have not complete their growth stages. Besides, the observed moist condition over northern, western and eastern Ethiopia including pocket areas of Afar could have a positive impact for the availability of pasture, drinking water and the development and growth of perennial crops over pastoral and agro pastoral areas.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 11-20 NOVEMBER 2007, 2007

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of southern SNNPR received 100-200 mm rainfall. Part of southern SNNPR, parts of southern and pocket areas of central and western Oromia and pocket area of eastern Beshangul-Gumuz experienced 50-100 mm rainfall. Parts of southern SNNPR, eastern half of Beshangul-Gumuz and parts of western half of Amhara and parts of western and southern and pocket area of central Oromia exhibited 25-50 mm rainfall. Gambela, most of Somali, parts of southern, eastern and western Oromia, western and central Beshangul-Gumuz, western, northwestern and eastern SNNPR and northeastern Tigray and part of eastern and southeastern and margin of western half of Amhara received 5-25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced little or no rainfall.

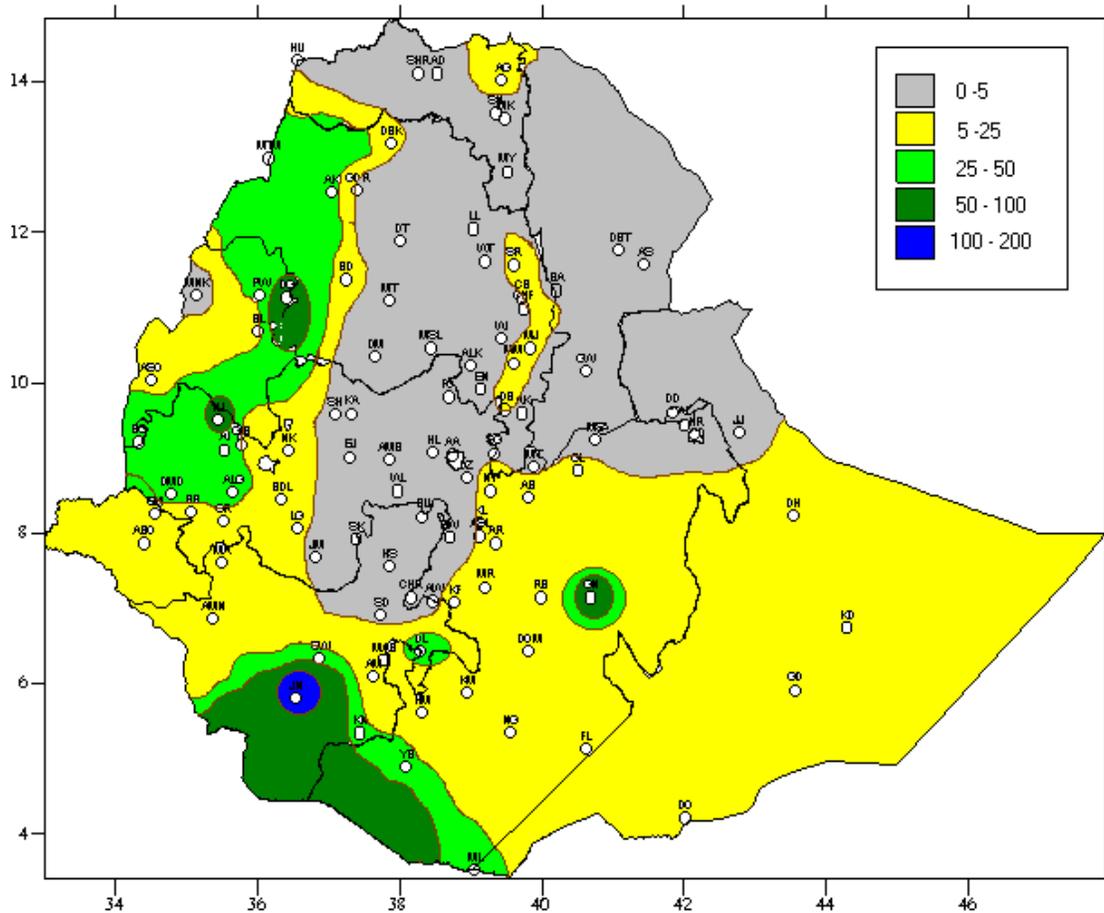


Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 November 2007)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Gambela and Beshangul-Gumuz, parts of southern, central and western Oromia, southwestern and southern SNNPR, southern Somali, southeastern & western half of Amhara and northeastern Tigray experienced normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

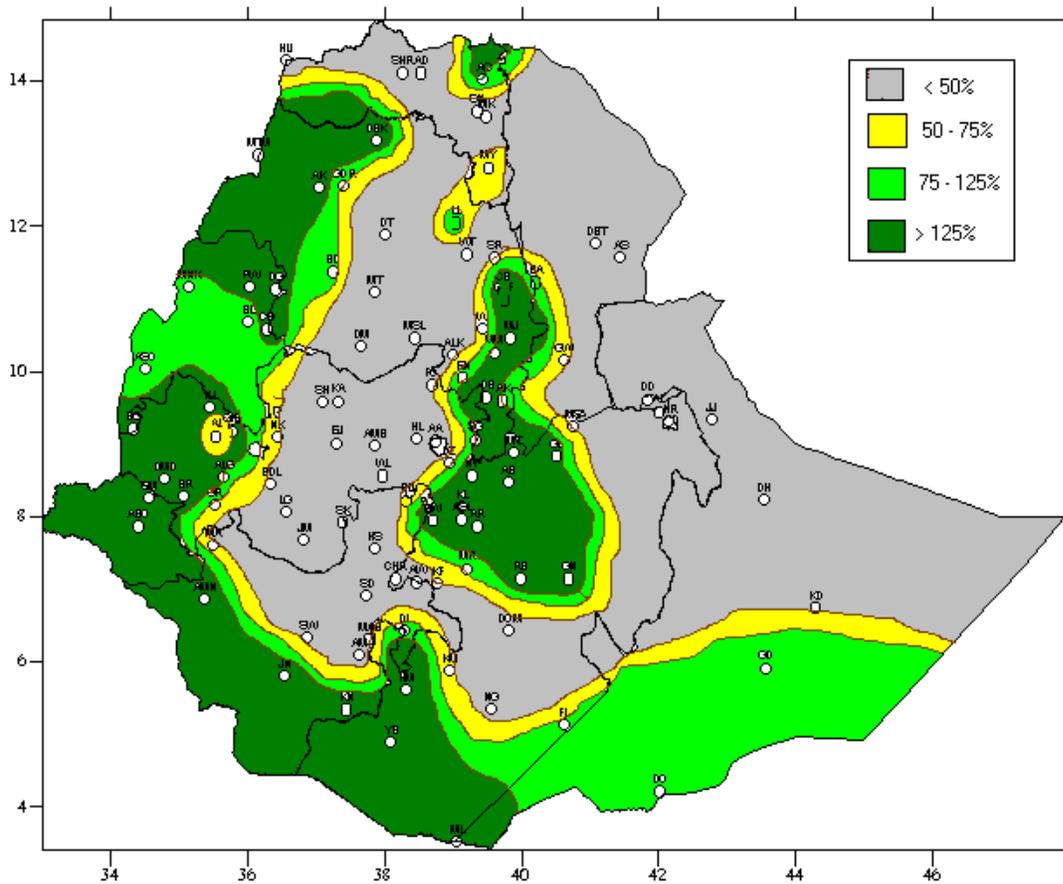


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 November 2007)

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

1.1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations recorded extreme minimum temperature below 5° C for 4-10 days. Alemaya, Debre Birhan, Wegel Tena, Mehal Meda, Fiche, and Arsi Robe recorded extreme minimum temperature as low as -3.0, -2.8, -2.0, -0.2, 0.5 and 1.5 ° C respectively. The situation might slightly affect the normal performances of cereals over the aforementioned areas.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF NOVEMBER 2007

For the coming ten days SNNPR, most parts of Somali and Oromia will have near normal rainfall whereas, central Ethiopia, Amhara, Tigray and Benishangul-Gumuz highlands are likely to get little and unseasonal rainfall at few places in association with increase in cloud coverage. On the other hand, the Bega's dry and sunny weather condition will prevail over Afar and lowlands of western parts of the country.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The seasonal rain benefiting areas like southern and southwestern parts of the country received light to medium amount of rainfall. Thus, the situation might have a significant contribution for water requirement of crops, that are sown lately, and crops, which have not complete their growth stages. Besides, the observed moist condition over northern, western and eastern Ethiopia including pocket areas of Afar could have a positive impact for the availability of pasture, drinking water and the development and growth of perennial crops over pastoral and agro pastoral areas.

Partial drying of Sorghum at flowering stage over Assosa, slight damage of Millet at flowering stage due to disease over Bullen and extreme minimum temperature caused crop damage on Barley and Soybeans over Wegel Tena. On the other hand, heavy fall caused damage on fully matured crops.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The anticipated near normal rainfall over western, central and eastern Oromia, SNNPR, most parts of Somali, Gambella and southern Oromia would have a positive contribution for crops like wheat, teff, millet and sesame which have not completed their growing stage and also for perennial crops over some areas like Arsi Robe, Dolomena, Fiche, Gelemso, Hossaina, Nejo and Sokoru. The expected little and unseasonal rainfall over central Ethiopia, Amhara, Tigray, Benshangul- Gumuz highland areas would have a negative impact on harvest and post harvest activities over most Meher benefiting areas. Therefore, farmers required to harvest matured crops on time. Besides, after harvesting the harvested crops must be placed in proper way in order to minimize post harvest losses. Moreover the grains should have appropriate moisture before being placed in storage areas.

Table 1. Crop Phenological Report for the Second dekad of November 2007

Station name	Region	Zone	Woreda	Major Crops			Phases		
				1	2	3	1	2	3
Aris Robe	Oromia	Mirab Arsi	Robe	teff	wheat	-	Ta	Tl	-
Alemkema	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Alemkema	Teff	-	-	H	-	-
Assosa	Benishagul	Assosa	Assosa	Sorghum	-	-	Fl	-	-
Ayehu	Amahara	Mirab Gojam	Ankossa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bedelle	Oromia	Illubabor	Bedlle	Maize	-	-	-	-	-
Bullen	Benishagul	Metekel	Bullen	Millet	Nug	Maize	Ta	Bu	R
Bui	SNNPR	Guarage	Sodo	Teff	Wheat	Sorghum	Ta	Ea	Ta
Chagni	Amahara	Awi	Guagnua	Maize	Millet	Nug	R	Fl	Fl
Chira	Oromia	Jimma	Gera	-	Sorghum	Teff	-	-	-
Dangila	Benishagul	Awi	Dangila	Millet	-	-	Sh	-	-
Debre Tabor	Amahara	Dabub Gonder	Debre Tabor	Wheat	Barely	Teff	-	-	-
Dolomana	Oromia	Bale	Mena	Maize	Sea same	-	Ta	Fl	-
Enewary	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Mortenajiru	Wheat	Teff	-	Fl	R	-
Fitche	Oromia	Semen Shoa	Girarjarso	Teff	Wheat	Beans	Ta	Ea	Fl
Gelemeso	Oromia	Mira Haraghe	Habro	maize	-	Teff	Fr	-	Sh
Hossaina	SNNPR	SNNPR	Lemu	Barely	-	-	-	-	-
Kachise	Oromia	Mirab Shoa	Gindeberet	Beans	Teff	-	H	R	-
Lalibela	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Lasta	barely	-	-	Fl	-	-
Limugent	Oromia	Jimma	Limukosa	Rice	Teff	-	Fl	Fl	-
Majate	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Mizan antakiya	Teff	-	Maize	F	-	Wr
Mehal Meda	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Gira mider	Teff	-	-	R	-	-
Nedjo	Oromia	Mira Wollega	Nedjo	-	Sorghum	Millet	-	R	Fl
Pawe	Benishagul	Metekele	Pawe liyu	Maize	Sorghum	Sea same	R	Ta	R
Shaura	Amahara	SemenGonder	ALEF.T	Maize	Millet	-	H	Ta	-
Shambu	Oromia	HoroWollega	Horo	-	Wheat	Barely	-	-	Ea
Shire	Tigray	Mirab Tigray	Endasilasie	Maize	Teff	-	H	R	-
Sirinka	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Habru	Teff	Maize	Millet	-	-	-
Sokoru	Oromia	Jimma	Sokoru	Maize	Teff	-	H	H	-
Shola gebeya	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Hagaramariam	Wheat	Beans	-	-	-	-
Wagel Tena	Amahara	Semen Wollo	Delanta	Wheat	Beans	Peas	Fl	H	H
Waliso	Oromia	D.Mirab Shoa	Waliso	Maize	Nug	Teff	-	-	R
Ziway	Oromia	Misrak Shoa	Jidocombolcha	Maize	Wheat	-	-	-	-

Key :

P/S= Plant/Sow

Em=emerge

Tl=Third leaf

Fl=Fifth leaf

Sl=Seventh leaf

Yr=Yellow ripe

Nl= Ninth leaf

El= Elongation

Ta = Tassel

Ti=Tiller

Sh=shoot

Bs= Berry soft

Bh= Berry hard

Ph= Pin heading

Ea= Earing

He= Heading

Bu= budding

Fl=Flower

R = ripeness

Cr= Consumer ripeness

Gr= Green ripeness

Wr= Wax ripeness

Yg r= yellow green ripeness

Lgr =light green ripeness

Dr= dark ripeness

Fr= Full ripeness

H =Harvested

-Data not available

