1-10 November 2008 Vol. 17 No. 31 **Date of issue November 13, 2007**

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of October 2008, unseasonable rainfall observed over southwestern, south and eastern parts of the country strengthened and distributed over most parts of the country except northwestern and western lowlands of the country. As a result, crop damage was reported from Zway, MekaneSelam, Abomsa, Alge, and Ginir.

During the first dekad of November 2008, the observed heavy and unseasonal rainfall might have a negative and a positive impact on different parts of the country. Regarding heavy fall, from central Oromia (Zway & Adami Tulu), eastern Oromia (Alemaya & Jijiga), western Oromia (Alge) and southern Oromia (Dolo Mena) observed within the range of 62-143 mm. in one rainy day. The situation has a positive impact for early sown crops which were at different phenological stages. On the other hand, the aforementioned heavy fall might have a negative impact on Meher crops which were at ripening and full ripening stages. In relation to crop phenological report, some station observed crop damage due to heavy fall. Bati, Hosanna, Majete reported damage on Teff, Alge reported damage on Nug and Teff, Shambu reported damage on Teff, Maize & Pea crops and Wegel Tena reported damage on wheat, Barely and Beans which were at full ripeness stage. Besides, the exhibited heavy fall within the range of (20-40mm) in some areas of Afar would have significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agropastoral areas.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 NOVEMBER 2008

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of central Oromia and adjoining areas of SNNPR received 200-300 mm rainfall. Tigray, northeastern Amhara and western Afar, and pocket areas of central, southeastern and southern Oromia, northern SNNPR received 100-200 mm of rainfall. Much of Oromia, SNNPR, Gambela, eastern and southeastern Amhara, southern and southwestern Afar, southern Tigray, and northwestern Somalia experienced 50-100 mm of rainfall. Much of northeastern and central Tigray, Afar, central and northwestern Amhara, and Southern, southwestern and northwestern Somalia received 25-50 mm, while the rest parts of the country exhibited rainfall amount less than 25 mm.

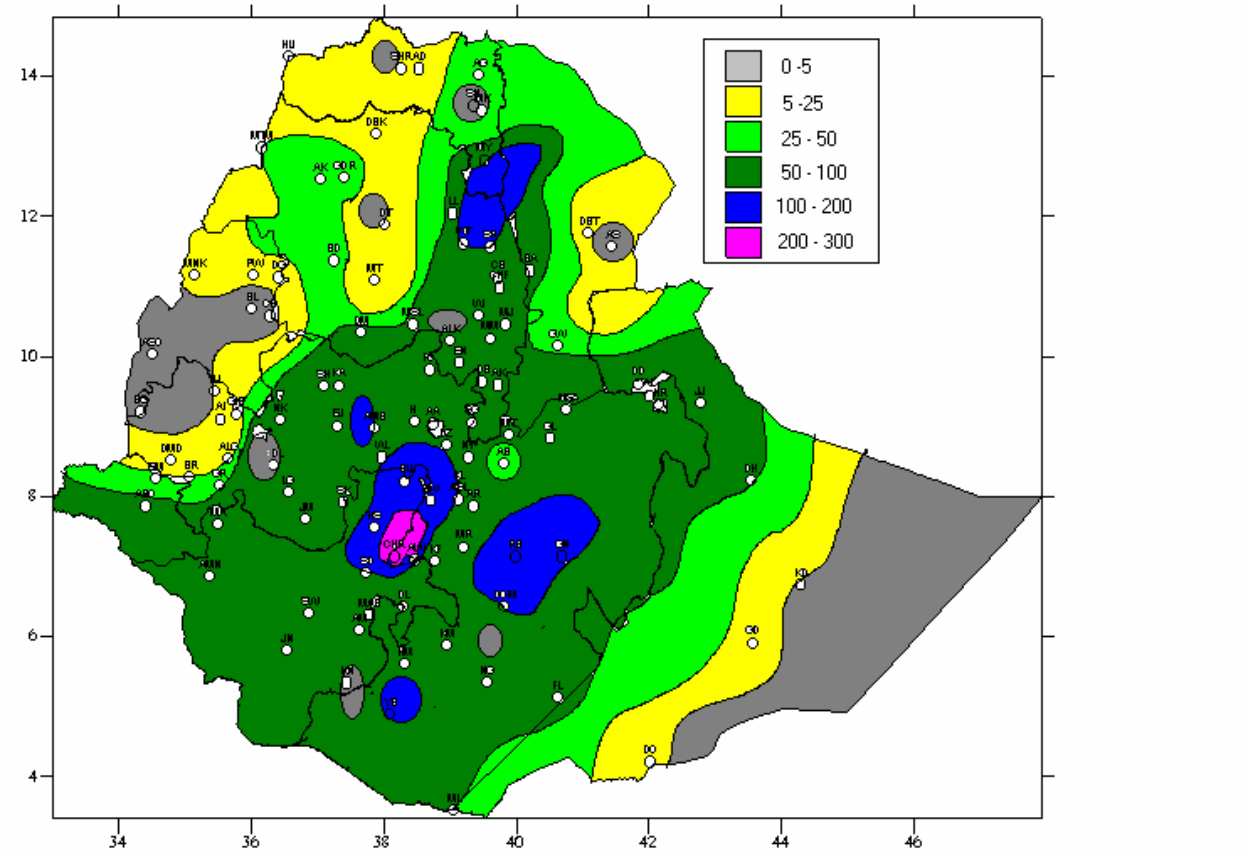

Fig 1 . Rainfall distribution in mm (1- 10 November 2008)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

With the exception of pocket areas of western Oromia, eastern, eastern Benshangul-Gumuz, north western SNNPR, central Amahra and eastern Afar and southeastern Somali, the rest most parts of the country received normal to above normal rainfall.

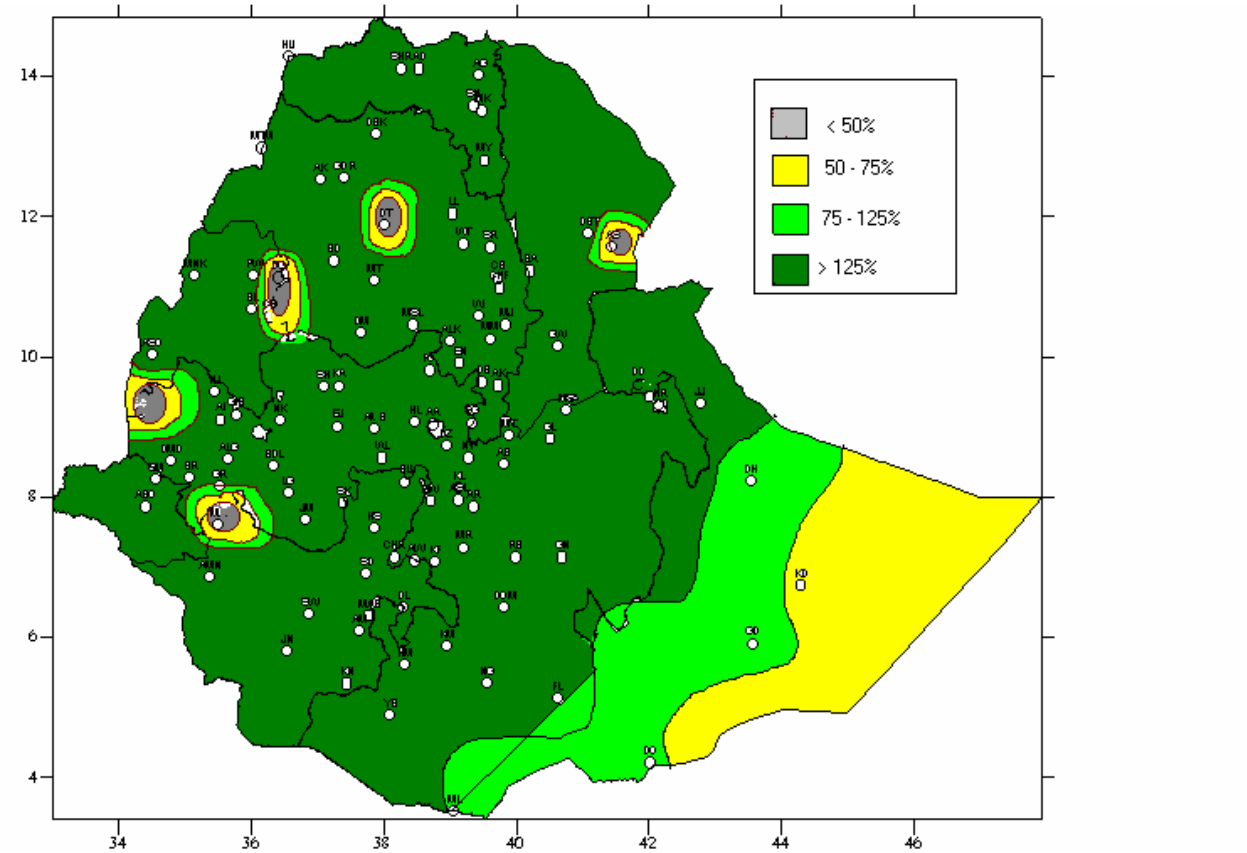

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 November 2008)

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 maximum temperature 35^{o} C. Among reporting stations Semera, Humera, Dubti, Assyta, and Gambella recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 39.2, 38.5, 37.5, 36.0 and 35.5 ^{o}C respectively.

On the other hand, some stations recorded extreme minimum temperature below 5^{o} C for 2-5 days. Kofelle, Dangla, Debre Brhan and Mehal Meda, recorded extreme minimum temperature as low as 2.4, 3.5, 1.8 and 1.5 ^{o}C respectively. The situation might slightly affect the normal performances of cereals over the aforementioned areas.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed heavy and unseasonal rainfall might have a negative and a positive impact on different parts of the country. Regarding heavy fall, from central Oromia (Zway & Adami Tulu), eastern Oromia (Alemaya & Jijiga), western Oromia (Alge) and southern Oromia (Dolo Mena) observed within the range of 62-143 mm. in one rainy day. The situation has a positive impact for early sown crops which were at different phenological stages. On the other hand, the aforementioned heavy fall might have a negative impact on Meher crops which were at ripening and full ripening stages. In relation to crop phenological report, some station observed crop damage due to heavy fall. Bati, Hosanna, Majete reported damage on Teff, Alge reported damage on Nug and Teff, Shambu reported damage on Teff, Maize & Pea crops and Wegel Tena reported damage on wheat, Barely and Beans which were at full ripeness stage. Besides, the exhibited heavy fall within the range of (20-40mm) in some areas of Afar would have significant contribution for the availability of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agropastoral areas.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

Generally, the coming dekad of 11-20 November 2008 unseasonal rainfall will not expected in most parts of the country. As a result, the weather condition will be favorable for harvest and post harvest activities of meher crops. Thus farmers are advised to harvest fully matured crops on time and should be placed in safe storages. On the other hand, the expected near normal rainfall over SNNPR, Oromia and southern parts of Somali will favor the general agricultural activities, availability of pasture and drinking water in pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country. The anticipated dry and sunny weather condition over the rest parts of the country would favor harvest and post harvest activities. Therefore, the concerned personnel advised to take care of precautious and appropriate measures for the ongoing harvest and post harvest activities.

Table1. Crop Phenological report for 1-10 November 2008

Station name	Region	Zone	Woreda	Three Major Crops of given area			Growth Phases		
				1	2	3	1	2	3
Adet	Amhara	Mirab Gojiam	Yelma &Denas	Maize	Barely	Teff	H	H	R
Aykel	Amhara			Barely	Teff	-	H	Fl	-
Ale.ketema	Amaha	Semen Shao	Alemketema	Teff	-	-	R	-	-
Bedelle	Oromia	IluAbabor	Bedlle	Maize	Teff	-	H	R	-
Chira	Oromia	Jimma	Gera	-	Teff	-	-	Fl	-
Dangila	B.shangul	Awi	Dangla	Maize	Teff	-	H	R	-
Debr.Tabor	Amahara	Dabub Gonder	Debre Tabor	-	Beans	-	-	H	-l
Dilla	SNNPR			Coffe	-	-	Fr	-	-
Fich	Oromia	Semen Shao	Girarjarso	Teff	Wheat	-	Ta	Wr	
Gelemso	Oromia	Mirab Hareghe	Habro	-	-	Teff	-	-	Fl
Hossaina	SNNPR	SNNPR	Lemu	Maize	Wheat	-	Fr	Wr	-
Kachisie	Oromia	Mirab Shoa	Gend beret	Teff	-	-	Fl	-	-
Meh. Meda	Amahara	Semen Shoa	Gira mider	Wheat	Barely	Maize	Fl	H	-
Mek/selam	Amahara			Wheat	Teff	-	Fr	Fr	-
Nedjo	Oromia	Mb wellega	Nedjo	Maize	Sorghum	Millet	H	R	Fl
Pawe	Benishagul	Metekal	Pawe Liyu		Sorghum	-	H	R	
Shambu	Oromia	HoroWolleg	Horo	Teff	Millet	Peas	Fl	Ti	R
Shaura	Amhara	Semen Goner	Alef.T	Maize	Teff	-	Fr	Fr	-
Sirinka	Amhara	Semen Wello	Habru	Teff	Maize	Millet	Fl	Wr	Fl
Sokoru	Oromia	Jimma	Limukosa	Maize	Teff	-	Fr	Fl	-
WegelTena	Amhara	Semen Woll	Delenta	Wheat	Barely	Beans	Sh	Sh	Fl
Woliso	Oromia	DM.Shoa	Woliso	Maize	Nug	Teff	H	H	R

Key:

- = Data not available

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

Fl= Flower
Ph= Pin heading
Ea= Earing
He= Heading
Bu= Budding R =Ripeness
Cr= Consumer ripeness
Gr= Green ripeness
Wr= Wax ripeness
Ygr= yellow green ripeness
Lgr = light green ripeness
Dr= Dark ripeness
Fr= Full ripeness
H = Harvested