

1-10 March 2010 Vol.20 , No.7 Date of issue March, 12 2010

SUMMARY

During the third dekad of February 2010, normal Belg rains were strengthened over Belg growing areas of Rift valley and the adjoining areas, much of SNNPR, central and eastern portions of the country, eastern and southern Amhara, western and southern Oromia, central and eastern Somalia, eastern Tigrya, Bensahgul-Gumuz, Gambela. The situation might have favor Belg agricultural activities, perennial crops and availability of pasture and drinking water.

During the first dekad of March 2010, Belg rain bearing weather system was strengthened over most Belg growing areas of the country. As result of this, most of Oromia, SNNPR, Somali, Harari, eastern and central Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray and Afar observed light to moderate rainfall. The situation would have positive impact on Belg land preparation and sowing activities, perennial crops and availability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 1-10 March, 2010

1.1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Eastern and some parts of southern Oromia and pocket area of eastern Amhara received 100 – 200 mm of rainfall. Eastern Amhara, northern Somali, eastern and southern Oromia Receive 50 – 100 mm of rainfall. Most parts of SNNPR, central and sothern Oromia and some parts of Somali exhibited 25–50 mm of rainfall. Afar, eastern and southern Tigray, eastern Amhara, western margin of SNNPR and southern Oromia received 5 -25 mm of rainfall. The rest parts of the country experienced little or no rainfall.

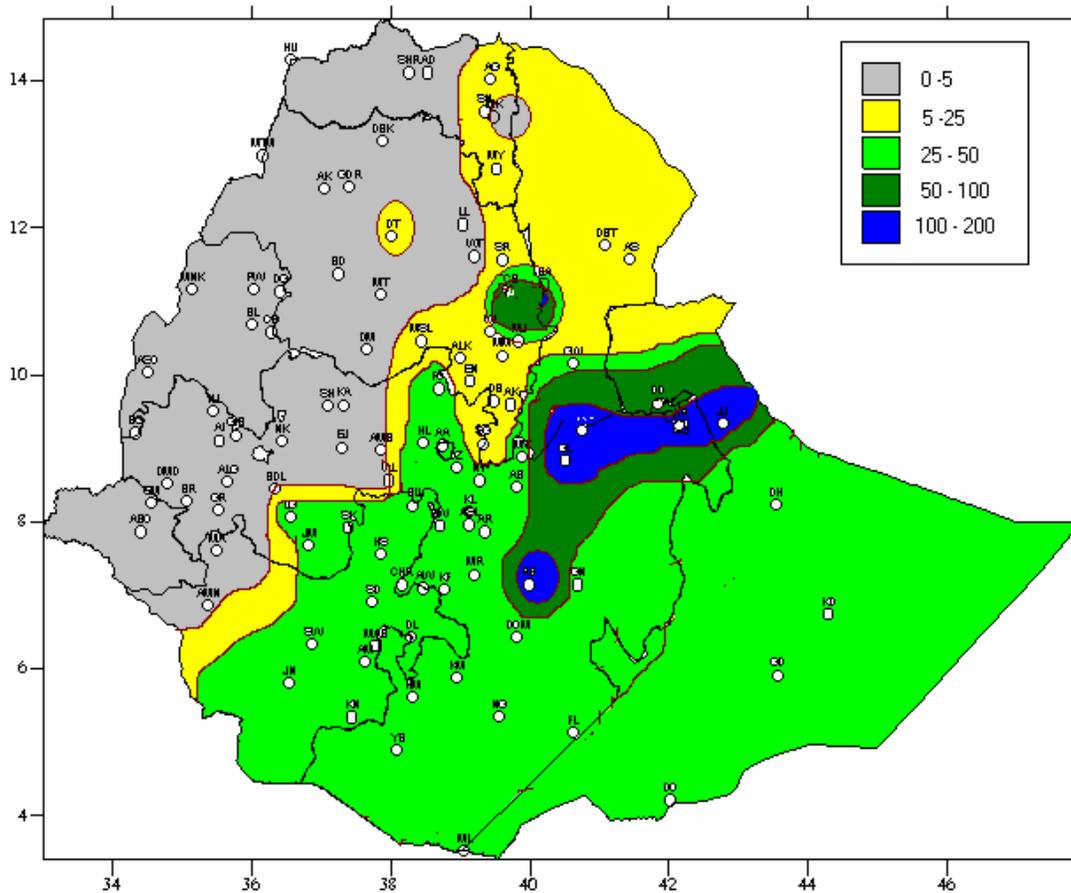


Fig 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 March, 2010)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Southern half of Afar, southern and eastern Oromia, eastern half of SNNPR, eastern and pocket areas of Amhara pocket area of eastern Tigrai, norther Somali and cenral parts of the country received normal to above normal rainfall while the rest of the country received below to much below normal rainfall.

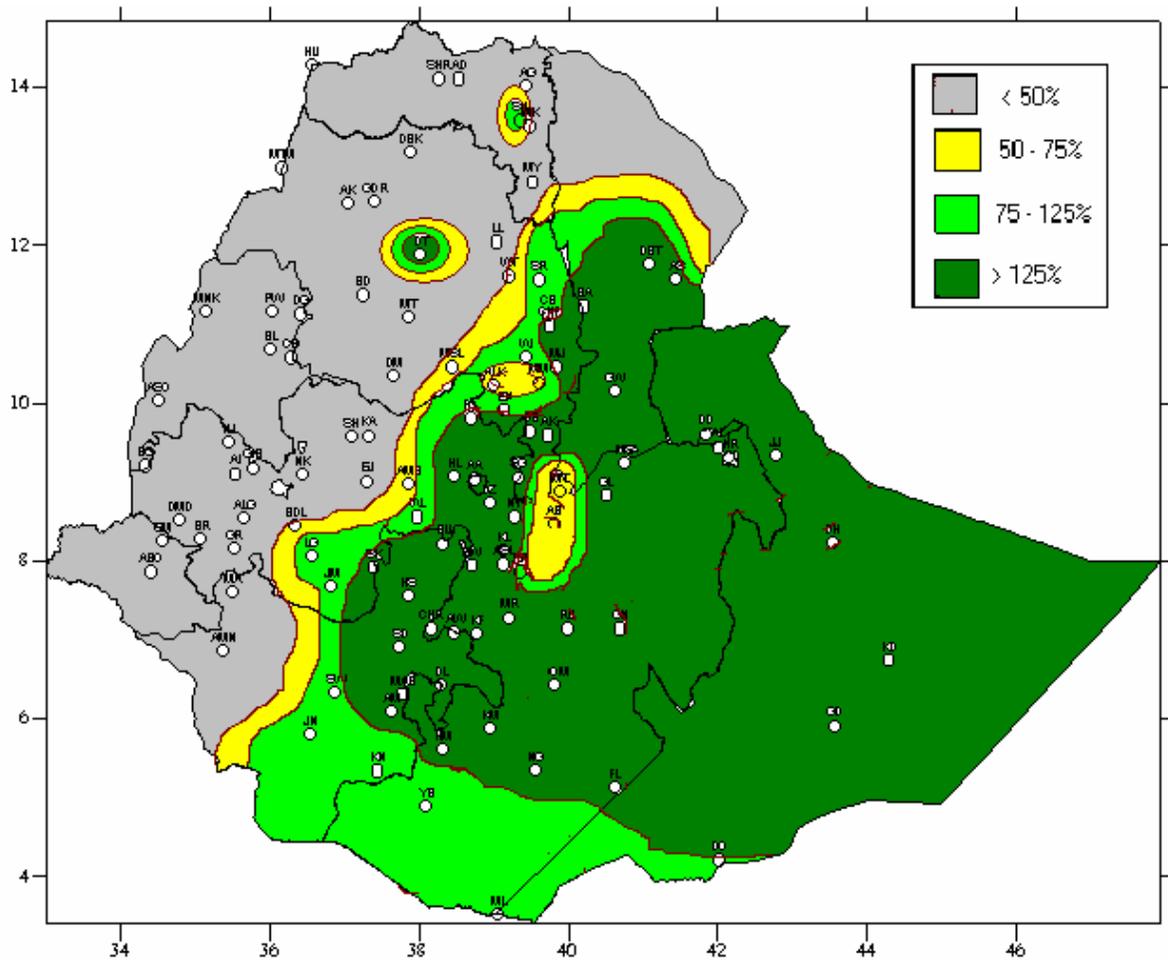


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 March, 2010)

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 in the low lands of the country recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35°C. Sherkole, Sirba-Abaye, Bullen, Chagni, Gambella, Humera, Mankush, Pawe, Elidar, Mytsebren and Semera reported 35, 39.2, 35, 35, 42.5, 42.0, 42.6, 41.8, 35.9, 36.0, and 36.0 °C, respectively.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Belg rain bearing weather system was strengthened over most Belg growing areas of the country. As result of this, most of Oromia, SNNPR, Somali, Harari, eastern and central Amhara, eastern and southern Tigray and Afar observed light to moderate rainfall. The situation would have positive impact on Belg land preparation and sowing activities, perennial crops and availability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the country.

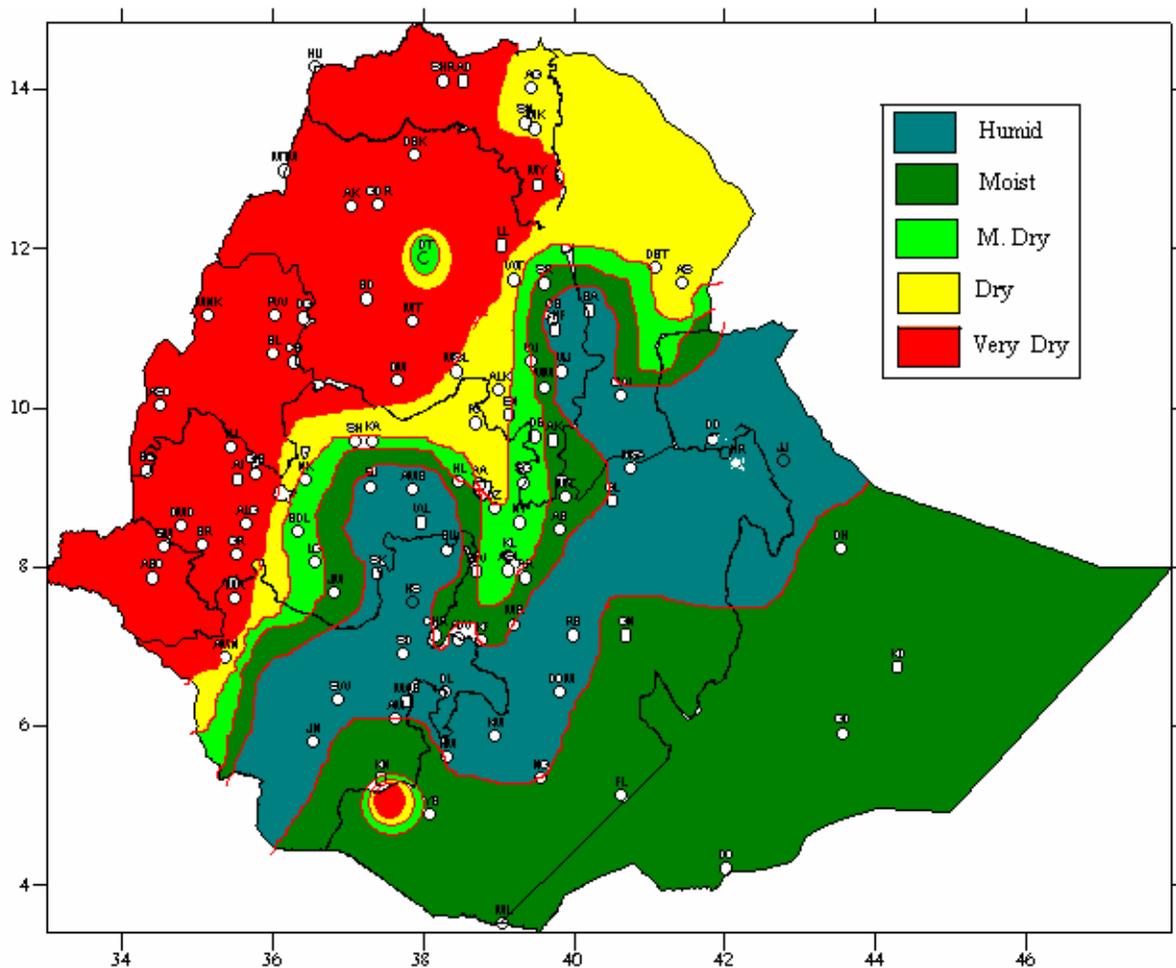


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (1-10 March, 2010)

As indicated on moisture map above, most parts of southern, southeastern Oromia, most parts of Somalia, SNNPR , Dire Dawa and Harari and some parts of Amhara and southern portions Afar experienced humid to moisture condition, while pocket areas of southern Afar, northern Somalia, southeastern Amhara and southeastern Benshangul gumuz exhibited moderately dry condition while the rest parts of the country experiences dry to very dry condition The situation might

have favored Belg agricultural activities of belg growing areas of southern and southeastern portions of the country as well as availability of drinking water and pasture.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days, rain bearing weather system indicats the amount and distribution of Belg rainfall expeced to reduce over most Belg rain benefiting areas of the country. In general, much of SNNPR, central, eastern and southern Oromia, much of Somali, eastern Tigray and Amhara will receive near normal rainfall. The situation will favor Belg agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities, for perennial crops and availability of pasture and drinking water over the country.

On the other hand, dry and sunny conditions will dominate over much of Tigray and Amhara, Benshangul-Gumuz, Afar and Gambela. The situation will have a negative impact on general agricultural activities and avilability of pasture and water over pastoral and agro-pastoral aforementioned areas.