

11-20 February, 2012 Vol. 23 No.5	Date of issue February 22, 2012
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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of February 2012 dry, windy and sunny Bega weather condition was prevailed over most parts of the country. The situation might have favored harvest and post harvest activities. Moreover, Bega cool weather condition was dominated especially over central and eastern high lands of the country. As a result of this, Koffele, Debre Brehan and Alemaya reported a minimum temperature of -2.5, -0.8 and -0.5°C respectively. The situation would have a negative impact on the normal growth, development and products of plants and livestock.

During the second dekad of February 2012, some parts of southern and western Oromia and SNNPR received little rainfall. The situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities, perennial plants, pasture and drinking water availability in pastoral and agro pastoral areas and land preparation of long cycle crops. While most parts of the country prevailed windy, dry and sunny weather condition. The situation might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and live stock.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

11-20 February 2012

RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket areas of southwestern SNNPR exhibited 5-25 mm of rainfall, while the rest parts of the country experienced little or no rainfall.

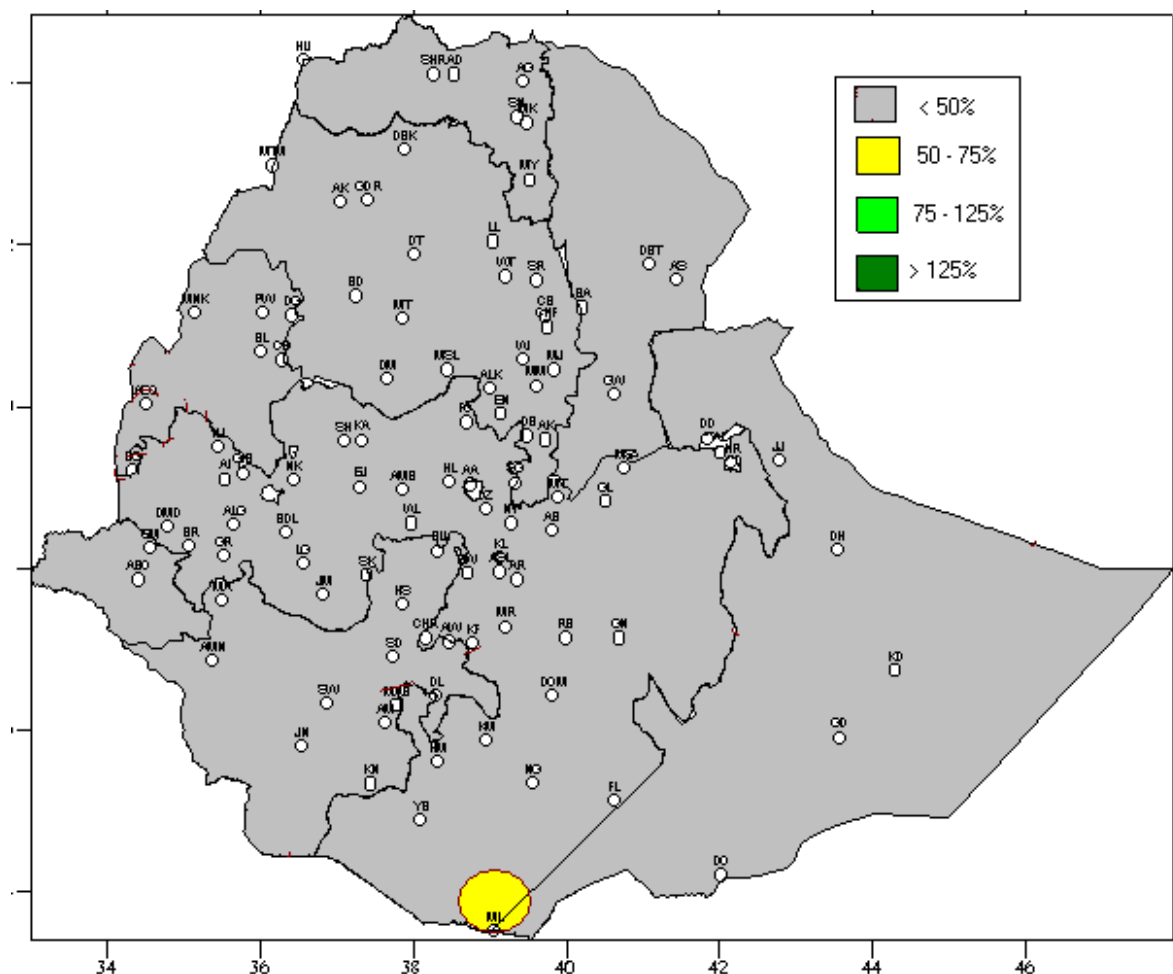


Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 February 2012)

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 over eastern, western, northwestern and southwestern lowlands of the country recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35°C. Among the reporting stations: Lare, Gambela, Mankush, Awash Arba, Sawla, Chagni, Pawe, Gawane, Gode, Metehara, Aira, Tepi, Arba Mich, Aman, Blate, Mirab Abaya and Hara recorded, 42.5, 41.5, 40.5, 40.5, 40.4, 39.2, 39.0, 38.4, 38.0, 38.0, 37.0, 36.5, 36.0, 36.0, 35.5 and 35.0°C respectively, while Alemaya, Debre Berhan, Koflle, Debre Zite, Mehal Meda, Wegel Tena, Jimma, Adigrat, Arsi Robe, Bati, Machiew, Combolcha, Fitch and Bale Robe, recorded extreme minimum temperature as low as -2.5, -2.5, -1.5, 0.0, 0.5, 0.7, 0.8, 1.0, 2.5, 3.5, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 4.0°C. These extreme situations might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and livestock.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

During the dekad under review, some parts of southern and western Oromia and SNNPR received little rainfall. The situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities, perennial plants, pasture and drinking water availability in pastoral and agro pastoral areas and land preparation of long cycle crops. While most parts of the country prevailed windy, dry and sunny weather condition. The situation might have a negative impact on the normal growth and development of plants and live stock.

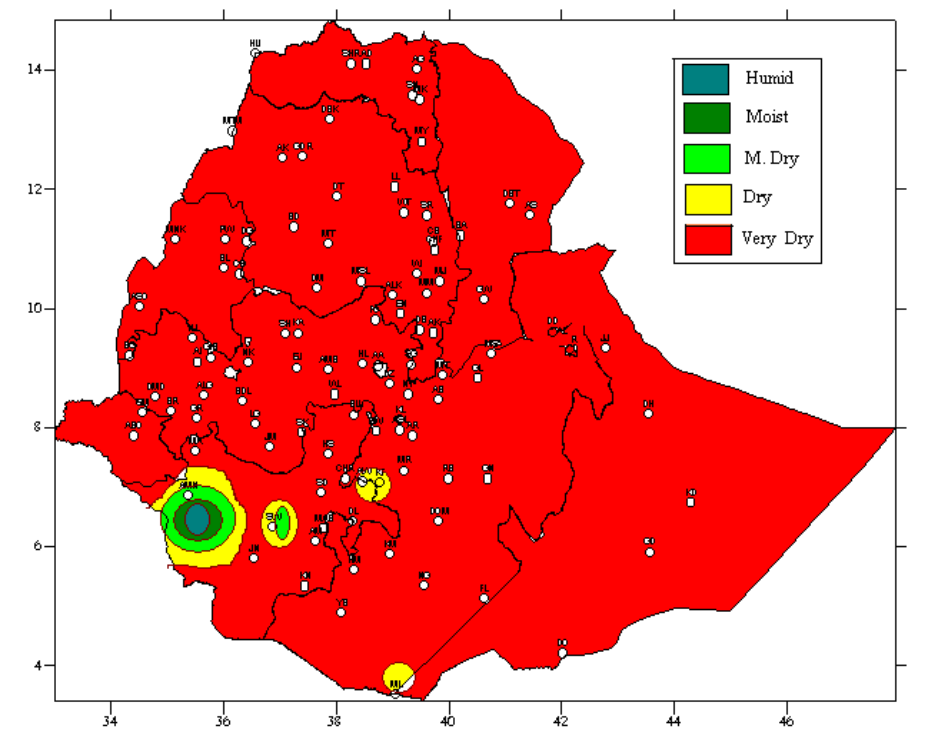


Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 February 2012)

As indicated on moisture map above, Pocket areas of southwestern SNNPR experienced humid to moist moisture condition while the rest parts of the country exhibited dry to very dry moisture statuses. This might have a negative impact on the availability of drinking water and pasture, water requirement for perennial plants and land preparation in areas where Belg agricultural activities start early.

2.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming ten days, rain bearing meteorological phenomena will expect to improve over southern south western and western parts of the country. As a result, some parts of western Oromia, SNNPR and adjoining areas of southern Oromia will expect near normal rainfall, while, few places of central and southern Oromia, southeastern Amhara and Gambella will expect little amount of rainfall. The situation will favor seasonal agricultural activities, availability of pasture and drinking water for pastoral and agro pastoral, perennial plants and land preparation for long cycle crops. On the other hand, the rest parts of the country will expect dry and sunny weather condition which might have negative impact on seasonal agricultural activities, perennial crops pasture and drinking water availability of pastoral and agro pastoral on line to the dry and windy weather condition their might have cause for the occurrence of forest fire so the concerned person must give attention in areas where forest fire is prone.