NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY
TEN DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

During the third dead of January 2007, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over most parts of Beg growing areas of the country, could favor early Beg season's agricultural activities like land preparation, and sawing activities particularly in areas like South Tigris, eastern Amphora including SNNPR where Beg activities start earlier. More over, it would have a positive impact for perennial crops in southwestern parts of the country. Regarding extreme minimum temperature, there was a significant improvement of extreme minimum temperature i.e. rises in amount in most parts of frost prone areas comparing with the previous dead. This situation would have a positive impact for perennial crops, which are not collected yet. Among the reporting stations, Dangla, Debre Brhan, Mehal Meda and Wegel Tena recorded extreme minimum temperature below 5^0C.

During the first dekad of February 2007, the observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern Afar, eastern and southern Oromia, southern Amhara and central parts of eastern Ethiopia and the exhibited below normal rainfall over eastern Tigray would have a positive contribution for the ongoing Belg season agricultural activities. Moreover, it would have positive impact in areas like southern Amhara, highlands of SNNPR, where Belg activities like land preparation and sowing activities of short and medium cycle crops starts earlier. Besides, the observed wet moisture condition over the aforementioned areas decreases the extreme minimum temperature from frost prone areas. Regarding heavy fall, Weliso, Jinka and Kofelle reported heavy fall 30.1, 32.7 and 59.0 respectively in one rainy day. With regard to air temperature, there was a significant improvement of extreme minimum temperature i.e. rise in amount in most parts of frost prone areas. No station reported extreme minimum temperature below 5^0C. Thus this situation would have positive impact for normal growth and development of plants...

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

1.1 RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig. 1)

Only some parts of southwestern SNNPR received 50-100mm rainfall. Western, northern and eastern SNNPR, southern and pocket areas of Oromia and pocket areas of northern Somali exhibited 25-50mm of rainfall. Western and eastern SNNPR, western, central, northern and southern Oromia, pocket areas of northern Somli and southeastern Amahra experienced 5-25mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

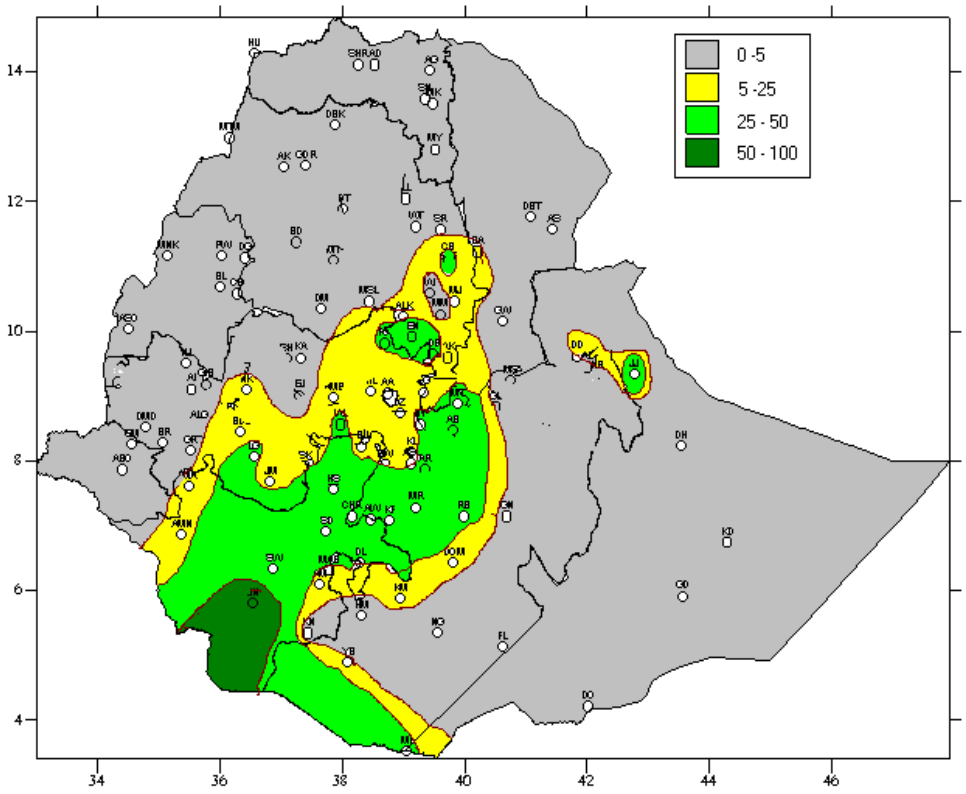

Fig 1. Rainfall distribution in mm (1-10 February, 2007)

1.2RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Most parts of southern, northern, western and eastern SNNPR, western, central, northern and eastern Oromia, southeastern Amharic, western Tip of Afar and pocket areas of northern Somali received normal to above normal rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall.

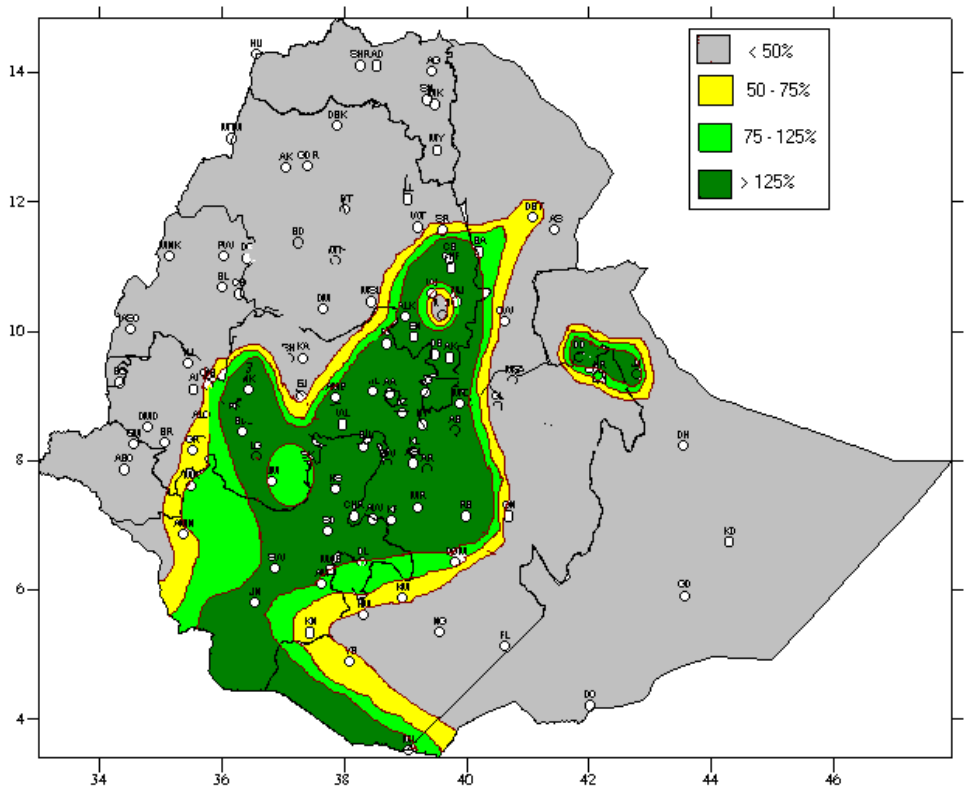

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (1-10 February, 2007)

Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal
50—75% -- below normal
75—125% --- Normal
> 125% ---- Above normal

1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some areas of Assyata, Dubti, Semera, Metema and Gambela recorded extreme maximum temperature as high as 35.5, 36.2, 36.4, 39.0 and 40.0 ^{0}C respectively.

2. WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE SECOND DEKAD OF FEBRUARY 2007

In the coming dekad, dry, sunny and warm weather condition is expected to predominately prevail over the major portion of the country. Nevertheless, there will be light to moderate rain-shower that fall at the same place of Belg rain-Benefiting region, particularly covering SNNPR, and western and southern Oromia. In general, portion of SNNPR, southern and western Oromia and eastern Amhara will get rains despite below normal rainfall amount and likely to dominate the region on the other hand, much of northern, western, northeastern lowland as well as southeastern Ethiopia will experienced the Bega dry weather condition.

3. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

The observed normal to above normal rainfall over southern Afar, eastern and southern Oromia, southern Amhara and central parts of eastern Ethiopia and the exhibited below normal rainfall over eastern Tigray would have a positive contribution for the ongoing Belg season agricultural activities. Moreover, it would have positive impact in areas like southern Amhara, highlands of SNNPR, where Belg activities like land preparation and sowing activities of short and medium cycle crops starts earlier. Besides, the observed wet moisture condition over the aforementioned areas decreases the extreme minimum temperature from frost prone areas. Regarding heavy fall, Weliso, Jinka and Kofelle reported heavy fall 30.1, 32.7 and 59.0 respectively in one rainy day. With regard to air temperature, there was a significant improvement of extreme minimum temperature i.e. rise in amount in most parts of frost prone areas. No station reported extreme minimum temperature below 5^0C. Thus this situation would have positive impact for normal growth and development of plants...

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

The expected little rainfall over some areas of southern parts of SNNPR, southern and western Oromia and the anticipated below normal rainfall over most parts of the country will decrease the wet moisture condition, which observed during the previous dekad. Thus this situation would have a negative impact for the ongoing Belg agricultural activities like land preparation and sowing activities. Therefore farmer should take proper attention in using water harvesting technique in order to minimize the negative effect due to moisture stress.

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